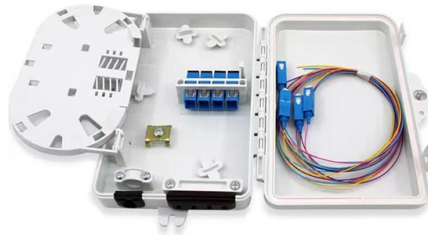


How to tell if an optical module is multimode



AI Overview

You can determine if an optical module is multimode by checking its labeling, connector color, wavelength, or datasheet specifications.

Visual and Label Indicators

Labeling: Look for markings on the module. Multimode modules are often labeled as MM or "multimode," while single-mode modules are labeled SM or "single mode".

Connector Color: Multimode SFPs typically have orange or aqua-colored connectors, whereas single-mode SFPs usually have yellow or blue connectors.

Pull Tab Color: Some modules use color-coded pull tabs: black for multimode and blue or yellow for single-mode.

Wavelength and Transmission Distance

Wavelength: Multimode modules generally operate at 850nm, suitable for short-distance transmission. Single-mode modules operate at 1310nm, 1330nm, 1490nm, or 1550nm, optimized for long-distance transmission.

Transmission Distance: Multimode modules are typically used for distances under 2 km, often within data centers, while single-mode modules can cover 2 km to over 100 km depending on the SFP type.

Datasheet and Manufacturer Specifications

Datasheet Check: The most reliable method is to consult the module's datasheet. Look for terms like MMF (Multimode Fiber) or SMF (Single-mode Fiber), which indicate the intended fiber type.

Product Codes: Some SFPs use codes such as SR for multimode short-range and LR for single-mode long-range.

Practical Tips

Patch Cable Color: Observing the connected fiber patch cable can provide clues: orange or aqua cables usually indicate multimode, while yellow cables indicate single-mode.

Avoid Mixing: Do not mix single-mode and multimode transceivers, as they operate at different wavelengths and can cause network issues.

By combining these methods—visual inspection, wavelength check, and datasheet verification—you can confidently determine whether an optical modu...

Article Content

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When in doubt, checking the cable specifications, looking at the color, and knowing the intended application can help you identify whether a fiber optic cable is single-mode or multimode.

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Discover how to identify if your SFP (Small Form-factor Pluggable) module is single-mode or multimode. Look for SM or MM labels, check color coding, and consult manufacturer specs

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For example, by simply replacing the pluggable optical transceiver, a media converter that was originally used in a multimode network can be re-configured to operate over a CWDM network. Perle SFP

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