## MEMS MS22 Optical Switch Module

## Operation Manual



## Contents

1. PRODUCT OVERVIEW ..... 3
1.1 MEMS $2 \times 2$ Optical Switch ..... 3
2. SWITCH OPERATION .....  5
2.1 Pin Assignments ..... 5
2.2 Power Pins (Pins 3 \& 4) ..... 7
2.3 Ground Pins (Pins 5 \& 6) ..... 7
2.4 Reset Pin (Pin 16) ..... 7
2.5 Electrical Specifications ..... 7
2.6 Environmental Specifications ..... 7
3. MECHANICAL DIMENSIONS .....  8
4. RS232 INTERFACE ..... 9
4.1 RS232 Control Line Connection ..... 9
4.2 RS232 Parameters ..... 9
4.3 RS232 Command Set ..... 9
5. TTL INTERFACE ..... 13
5.1 Data Inputs D0 - D5 (Pins 1, 2, 7, 8, 11 and 12) ..... 13
5.2 Busy (Pin 13) ..... 13
5.3 Alarm (Pin 14) ..... 13
5.4 Strobe (Pin 15) ..... 13
5.5 Parallel Digital I/O Logic Table ..... 14
5.6 TTL Control Procedure ..... 14
5.7 Parallel Digital I/O Timing Diagram ..... 15
6. HANDLING FIBEROPTIC COMPONENTS AND CABLES ..... 16
6.1 Handling Fiber Optic Cables. ..... 16
6.2 Storing Optical Connectors ..... 16
6.3 Cleaning Optical Connectors ..... 16
6.4 Mating Optical Connectors ..... 17

## 1. Product Overview

This manual is intended for use with the following part numbers:

| MS-1315TT-22 |
| :--- |
| MS-1315TT-22-PC |
| MS-1315TT-22-APC |
| MS-1315RS-22 |
| MS-1315RS-22-PC |
| $M S-1315 R S-22-A P C$ |

### 1.1 MEMS 2x2 Optical Switch

Newport's MEMS $2 \times 2$ Optical Switch is based on a micro-mechanical system (MEMS) chip. The MEMS chip consists of an electrically movable mirror on a silicon support. The $2 \times 2$ MEMS chip has two axes of rotation. Voltages applied to the MEMS chip cause the mirror to tilt along one or both axes, which changes the coupling of light between two input fibers and two output fibers.

There are three configurations of $2 \times 2$ switches:

- MEMS 2x2 Switch (standard configuration), 2 switch states

- MEMS 2x2 Add Drop Switch, 2 switch states

- MEMS 2x2 Blocking Switch, 4 switch states



## 2. Switch Operation

### 2.1 Pin Assignments

The MEMS Optical Switch Module (Size 2 and Size 3) operates through a 16 -pin connector. The pin assignments for RS-232 and TTL control interfaces are listed in tables 1,2 , and 3 respectively. The electrical connector is a Molex 87833-1620 male connector, which mates with the female connector 87568-1694 or 51110-1651.

## Warning!

Failure to ensure that the electrical connections are made properly can damage the module. Beware that if the electrical jumper has the same type of connector on both ends, special care must be taken to ensure that the correct end is plugged into the module. If the electrical jumper is reversed, damage will occur to the switch module because this will connect power to pins on the module that will become damaged if a voltage is applied.

Do not apply voltages to any pin labeled ' NC '. Any voltage applied to these pins can cause immediate and catastrophic damage to the switch. Applying a voltage greater than the maximum rating or any voltage to a pin labeled ' NC ' will void the switch warranty.

Figure 1. Defined Electrical Pin-out for MEMS Switch Module (Size 2 and Size 3)

(Units in mm)

## Molex Pin Assignment:

Please note that Molex's pin assignment for the mating Molex connector, 87568-1694, is reversed compared to device pin assignment.

## Warning! Please refer to the warning on page 7.

Table 1. RS-232 Pin Assignment

| PIN \# | Name | Description | Direction | Specification | Unit |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | NC | No Connection |  |  |  |
| 2 | NC | No Connection |  |  |  |
| 3 | Vcc | Power Supply | IN | +12 | VDC |
| 4 | Vcc | Power Supply | IN | +12 | VDC |
| 5 | GND | Signal \& Power Ground |  |  |  |
| 6 | GND | Signal \& Power Ground |  |  |  |
| 7 | NC | No Connection |  |  |  |
| 8 | NC | No Connection |  |  |  |
| 9 | 232TX | RS232 TX | OUT | -15 to +15 | VDC |
| 10 | 232RX | RS232 RX | IN | -15 to +15 | VDC |
| 11 | NC | No Connection |  |  |  |
| 12 | NC | No Connection |  |  |  |
| 13 | /BUSY | Normally pulled high. While a module is busy, it will be pulled low. | OUT | LVTTL | VDC |
| 14 | /ALARM | Normally pulled high. While a module has logged alarms, it will be pulled low. | OUT | LVTTL | VDC |
| 15 | NC | No Connection |  |  |  |
| 16 | /RESET | Low level active for hardware reset. | IN | LVTTL | VDC |

## Warning! Please refer to the warning on page 7

Table 3. TTL Pin Assignment

| Pin \# | Name | Description | Direction | Specification | Unit |
| :---: | :---: | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | D0 | Data 0 Input | IN | LVTTL | VDC |
| 2 | D5 | Data 5 Input | IN | LVTTL | VDC |
| 3 | Vcc | Power Supply | IN | +5 | VDC |
| 4 | Vcc | Power Supply |  |  | VDC |
| 5 | GND | Signal \& Power Ground | IN | LVTTL | VDC |
| 6 | GND | Signal \& Power Ground | IN | LVTTL | VDC |
| 7 | D4 | Data 4 Input |  |  |  |
| 8 | D1 | Data 1 Input | IN | LVTTL | VDC |
| 9 | NC | No Connection | IN | LVTTL | VDC |
| 10 | NC | No Connection | OUT | LVTTL | VDC |
| 11 | D2 | Data 2 Input | OUT | LVTTL | VDC |
| 12 | D3 | Data 3 Input | Normally pulled low. While a module is <br> busy, it will be pulled high. | Normally pulled low. While a module <br> has logged alarms, it will be pulled high. | OU |
| 13 | IBUSY | LVTTL | VDC |  |  |
| 14 | /ALARM | Falling edge active to synchronize <br> command execution. | IN | LVTTL | VDC |
| 15 | /STROBE |  |  |  |  |

### 2.2 Power Pins (Pins 3 \& 4)

The power pins 3 \& 4, named VIN in the pin assignment tables above, are the power supply pins to the MEMS optical switch module. It is recommended that both of these pins should be connected to the supply voltage.

### 2.3 Ground Pins (Pins 5 \& 6)

The signal \& power ground pins 5 \& 6, named GND in the pin assignment tables above, are tied together electrically inside the module and share both pins. It is recommended that both pins are connected to ground and not left floating.

Please note that case ground is floating and is not connected to the ground pins. Also, it is not necessary to ground the case.

### 2.4 Reset Pin (Pin 16)

The reset pin is a LVTTL input. It is an optional pin and it is not required to be used, in order to operate the switch. If it is not desired to use this pin, then this pin can be left floating. If the reset pin is to be used, then this pin should be left in the logic high state for normal switch operation. If the reset pin is set to logic low, then the switch module will be reset.

### 2.5 Electrical Specifications

## Table 4. Electrical Specifications

| Parameter |  | Logic Low | Logic High | Damage <br> Threshold | Unit |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Latching Type |  | Non-latching |  |  |  |
| Input | RS232 Interface | $<0.5$ | +5.0 | $-30 / /+30$ | VDC |
|  | LVTTL Interface $^{2}$ | $<0.4$ | 2.4 to 3.3 | $-0.5 / /+3.8$ | VDC |
| Output | RS232 Interface | -5 | +5.0 | $-15 / /+15$ | VDC |
|  | LVTTL Interface ${ }^{2}$ | $<0.4$ | 2.9 to 3.3 | $-0.5 / /+4.6^{2}$ | VDC |
|  |  | Minimum | Typical | Maximum |  |
| Vcc Power <br> Supply Voltage | RS232 | 10.8 | 12.0 | 13.2 | VDC |
|  | TTL type | 4.75 | 5.0 | 5.25 | VDC |
|  | RS232 |  | 1.0 | 1.3 | W |
|  | TTL type |  | 0.4 | 0.7 | W |

1. Pullup to Vin or Vout on customer equipment.
2. If driving the input or output with 5 V TTL logic, install a 220 - 1000 ohm resistor in series to limit input current. The damage threshold is 6 VDC with this drive configuration.

### 2.6 Environmental Specifications

Table 5. Environmental Specifications

| Parameter | Specification | Unit |
| :--- | :--- | :---: |
| Operating Temperature | -5 to 70 | ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ |
| Storage Temperature | -40 to 85 | ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ |

## 3. Mechanical Dimensions

Figure 2. Size 2 Mechanical Dimensions
(Units: mm)


## 4. RS232 Interface

### 4.1 RS232 Control Line Connection

To control the switch module with RS232 control, the TX port from the control computer needs to be connected to the RX port on the RS232 module. Similarly, the RX port on the computer needs to be connected to the TX port on the switch module, as shown below in figure 4.

Figure 4. RS232 TX and RX control line connection diagram


### 4.2 RS232 Parameters

The RS232 baud rate is $115,200 \mathrm{bps}$ with 8 data bits, 1 stop bit and no parity. All RS232 ASCII commands use <CR> as the terminator character. And the RS232 ASCII responses use <LF> and <CR><LF>> as the terminator character. Table 6 lists the conventions used in this manual for RS232 control.

## Table 6. Conventions

| Convention | Meaning |
| :--- | :--- |
| $(\ldots)$ | Enclosure for a variable. The '(' and ')' characters are not part of the data. |
| $[\ldots\|\ldots\| \ldots]$ | Have one or none |
| $\{\ldots\|\ldots\| \ldots\}$ | Must have one |
| 'and' | 'and' is a comment |
| $\langle$ SP $\rangle$ | Separator that is a space character |
| $\langle\mathrm{CR}\rangle$ | Carriage return as a terminator |
| $\langle\mathrm{LF}\rangle$ | Line feed |

### 4.3 RS232 Command Set

Table 7. RS232 Serial Port (ASCII) Command Set

| Command | Description |
| :--- | :--- |
| ID? | Queries the switch's identification string |
| CF? | Queries the input/output channel dimensions of the switch |
| EO | Sets the echo option |
| ER? | Queries the system status/error |
| I1 | Sets the state of the optical switch to the output channel N |
| I1? | Queries the output channel |
| PK | Sets the optical switch to parking state |

ID?

| Description | Queries the switch's identification string. |
| :--- | :--- |
| Parameters | None |
| Reply | Four string values |
|  | 1. Device manufacturer name |
|  | 2. Device model name |
|  | 3. Device firmware number and version |
|  | 4. Device serial number |
| Example | (Send) $:$ ID?<CR> <br>  <br>  <br>  <br>  <br>  <br> (Receive) $:<$ LF $>$ MS1x36, FW97198 Rev.C4, <br> 60AOM2D0001<CR><LF>> |

CF?

| Description | Queries the input/output channel dimensions of the switch. |
| :--- | :--- |
| Parameters | None |
| Reply | Two numerical values <br> 1. Maximum input channels <br> 2. Maximum output channels |
| Example | (Send):CF?<CR> <br> (Receive) $:<$ LF>1, $32<C R><$ LF>> |

EO

| Description | Sets the echo configuration, and returns the current echo flag. 0 indicates that echo is off <br> 1 indicates that echo is on <br> When echo is on, the device will transmit every character that it receives from the RS232 interface. By default, echo is off. The echo setting is volatile. The default value is restored at startup. |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Parameters | Echo setting (numeric) |  |
| Reply | One numerical value 0 indicates that echo is off 1 indicates that echo is on |  |
| Example 1 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { (Send): EO<SP>1<CR> } \\ & \text { (Receive): }<\mathrm{LF}>1<\mathrm{CR}><\mathrm{LF} \gg \end{aligned}$ | Turns echo on. Indicates echo is on. |
| Example 2 | (Send): EO<SP>0<CR> <br> (Receive): <LF>0<CR><LF>> | Turns echo off. Indicates echo is off. |

ER?

| Description | Queries the system status/error. |
| :--- | :--- |
| Parameters | None |
| Reply | Error code. Refer to Table 8 for possible return codes. |
| Example | (Send) $:$ ER?<CR> <br> (Receive) $:<$ LF $>E R R 0001<C R><L F \gg ~ I n v a l i d ~ c o m m a n d . ~$ |

11

| Description | Sets the state of the switch to the output channel number $\boldsymbol{n}$ |
| :---: | :---: |
| Parameters | Two numerical values. The first number is the input channel number and the second number is the requested output channel. <br> 1. Input channel number ( $\mathbf{1}$ for $1 \times n$ ) <br> 2. Output channel number 0 to $n$ <br> The commanded output channel should be an integer from 0 to $n$, where $\boldsymbol{n}$ is the number of channels in the switch (ex. For a $1 \times 12$ switch, $\boldsymbol{n}$ is 12). Commanding the switch to position 0 will set the switch to the parking position. <br> Note for $2 \times 2$ Switches - Standard \& Add Drop: <br> Bypass State, set output channel number $=1$ <br> (Send) : I1<SP>1<CR> <br> Inserted State, set output channel number $=2$ <br> (Send) : I1<SP>2<CR> <br> Note for $2 \times 2$ Switches - Blocking: <br> Config 1, set output channel number $=1$ <br> (Send) : I1<SP>1<CR> <br> Config 2, set output channel number $=2$ <br> (Send) : I1<SP>2<CR> <br> Config 3, set output channel number $=3$ <br> (Send) : I1<SP>3<CR> <br> Config 4 , set output channel number $=4$ <br> (Send) : I1<SP>4<CR> |
| Reply | None |
| Syntax | I1<SP>(output channel number $n$ )<CR> <br> The output channel number is from 0 to $\boldsymbol{n}$. |
| Example 1 | (Send) : I1<SP>12<CR> Sets Switch to channel 12 |
| Example 2* | (Send) : I1<SP>0<CR> Sets Switch to the parking state |

* Command "I1 0" is supported starting from firmware 97198 Rev.C3.

11?

| Description | Queries the state of the switch |
| :--- | :--- |
| Parameters | None |
| Reply | A numerical value for the output channel number $\boldsymbol{n}$ will be returned. <br> A return value of 0 indicates that the switch is in the off state since power <br> up or is in the parking state (see Example 2). |
| Example 1 | (Send) $:$ I1? $<\mathrm{CR}>$ <br> (Receive) $:<\mathrm{LF}>12<\mathrm{CR}><\mathrm{LF} \gg$ |
| Example 2 | (Send) $:$ I1? $<\mathrm{CR}>$ <br> (Receive) $:<\mathrm{LF}>0<\mathrm{CR}\rangle<\mathrm{LF} \gg$ |

PK

| Description | Sets the switch to parking state |
| :--- | :--- |
| Parameters | None |
| Reply | None |
| Example | (Send) $:$ PK<CR> <br> (Receive) : |

The return codes for various error conditions are shown below in Table 8.

Table 8. MEMS 2x2 Switch Module Return Codes for RS232 Control

| Return Code | Description |
| :---: | :--- |
| +0 | Successful |
| ERR0001 | Invalid Command |
| ERR0002 | Value Out of Range |
| ERR0003 | Command Fail |

## 5. TTL Interface

## Warning!

All digital lines are LVTTL. The typical LVTTL voltage for the HIGH state is 3.3 V , and the damage threshold is 3.6 V . Do not apply a voltage higher than 3.6 V to any of the data pins or this will damage the internal PCB and repair will not be covered under warranty.

To clarify, the digital lines are defined by the pin assignment in table 3 on page 9, and consist of all data inputs D0 - D5 (pins 1, 2, 7, 8, 11 and 12), the busy pin (pin 13), the alarm pin (pin 14), the strobe pin (pin 15), and the reset pin (pin 16).

### 5.1 Data Inputs D0 - D5 (Pins 1, 2, 7, 8, 11 and 12)

The data inputs D0 - D5 are LVTTL inputs and are used for channel selection. The channel number is defined in the logic table presented in section 6.5 below.

Please note that any unused data inputs must be tied to ground, and not left floating. A floating state on an unused data input could be mistaken as a high state and set the switch to an incorrect switch state. To assure accurate control of the switch, connect all unused data inputs to ground. For example, a $1 \times 4$ switch would utilize data inputs D0 and D1, but would not use D2 through D5. In this case, D2 through D5 should be connected to ground.

## $5.2 \quad$ Busy (Pin 13)

The busy pin is a LVTTL output that indicates whether the switch is busy or not. A high state indicates that the switch is busy conducting a switch, and commands should not be sent at this time. Please note that use of the busy pin is optional and is not needed in order to operate the switch. It can be helpful however to monitor and assure that the switch is not busy prior to sending a new switch command. If the busy pin is not going to be used, this pin can be left unconnected.

### 5.3 Alarm (Pin 14)

The alarm pin is a LVTTL output that indicates whether there is an error with the switch. A high state indicates that there is an internal processing or commanding error. Please note that the alarm pin is optional, and does not need to be used in order to operate the switch. It can be helpful to monitor though, to assure that no errors occur. If the alarm pin is not going to be used, then this pin can be left unconnected.

### 5.4 Strobe (Pin 15)

The strobe pin is a LVTTL input and acts like a 'Go' pin. This pin should be set to a high state when the switch module is not changing state. When a switch is desired, the strobe pin should be pulsed low. Upon the falling edge of the strobe pin, the switch module will read the data inputs D0-D5 and then change to the new switch state.

### 5.5 Parallel Digital I/O Logic Table

| Active Channel | D5 | D4 | D3 | D2 | D1 | D0 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| CH 01 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| CH 02 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| CH 03 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| CH 04 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| CH 05 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| CH 06 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| CH 07 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| CH 08 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| CH 09 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| CH 10 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| CH 11 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| CH 12 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| CH 13 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| CH 14 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| CH 15 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| CH 16 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| CH 17 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| CH 18 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| CH 19 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| CH 20 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| CH 21 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| CH 22 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| CH 23 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| CH 24 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| CH 25 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| CH 26 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| CH 27 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| CH 28 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| CH 29 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| CH 30 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| CH 31 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| CH 32 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| CH 33 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| CH 34 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| CH 35 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| CH 36 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| CH 37 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| CH 38 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| CH 39 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| CH 40 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| CH 41 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| CH 42 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| CH 43 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| CH 44 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| CH 45 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| CH 46 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| CH 47 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| CH 48 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| CH 49 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| CH 50 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| CH 51 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| CH 52 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| CH 53 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| CH 54 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| CH 55 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| CH 56 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |

### 5.6 TTL Control Procedure

The procedure to change the switch state via TTL control is as follows. Please note that all timing requirements in section 6.7 must be followed in order to assure a proper switch occurs:

1) Set the Strobe pin to high, and leave it high until a switch is desired.
2) Set the Data Input pins to the requested switch state.
3) Before commanding a switch, check the busy and alarm pins, if desired.
4) When a switch is desired, pulse the strobe pin low. On the falling edge of the strobe, the MEMS switch will move to the newly requested switch state.

### 5.7 Parallel Digital I/O Timing Diagram



Figure 7. Timing Diagram

## Notes:

1. $\mathrm{T}_{\mathrm{su}}$ is the minimum required data set-up time, relative to the falling edge of Strobe. The channel address [D5:D0](D5:D0) must remain stable preceding the falling edge of Strobe.
2. $T_{h}$ is the minimum required data hold time, relative to the falling edge of Strobe. The channel address [D5:D0](D5:D0) must remain stable preceding the falling edge of Strobe.
3. $\mathrm{T}_{\text {sto }}$ is the minimum required pulse width of Strobe

| Parameter | Description | Min | Max | Units |
| :---: | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathbf{T}_{\text {su }}$ | Setup time. The channel address ([D5:D0](D5:D0)) <br> must remain stable preceding the falling edge <br> of Strobe. | 100 | - | $\mu \mathrm{s}$ |
| $\mathbf{T}_{\mathbf{h}}$ | Hold time. The channel address ([D5:D0](D5:D0)) <br> must remain stable following the falling edge <br> of Strobe. | 100 | - | $\mu \mathrm{s}$ |
| $\mathbf{T}_{\text {stb }}$ | Strobe pulse width | 1 | - | ms |
| $\mathbf{T}_{\text {bsy }}$ | Switching time. During this period there may <br> be invalid optical transmission on all channel. | - | 30 | ms |

## 6. Handling Fiberoptic Components and Cables

Fiber optic components require special handling. Follow these guidelines when handling the cables and connectors.

### 6.1 Handling Fiber Optic Cables

To avoid cable damage and to minimize optical loss, follow these guidelines when handling fiber optic cables.

- Handle the fiber pigtail outputs carefully.
- The minimum bend radius for most optical cables is 35 mm . Never bend an optical cable more sharply than this specification. Optical performance will degrade, and the cable might break.
- Avoid bending the optical cable near a cable strain relief boot. Bending an optical cable near a strain relief boot is one of the easiest ways to permanently damage the optical fiber.
- Avoid bending the optical cable over a sharp edge.
- Avoid using cable tie wraps to hold optical cable. Tie wraps when tightened can create microbends or break an optical cable. Microbends can cause a dramatic reduction in optical performance.
- Do not pull on the bare fiber as this can break the fiber inside the component.
- Avoid using soldering irons near optical cables. Accidental damage can easily occur when a soldering iron is used near an optical cable. In addition, solder splatter can contaminate and permanently damage optical fiber connectors.
- To assure the most stable, repeatable optical performance after the optical cables have been connected, immobilize the cables using wide pieces of tape or another form of mechanical cushion.


### 6.2 Storing Optical Connectors

All switches that include optical connectors are shipped with dust caps covering those optical connectors. Optical connectors should remain covered at all times when the instrument is not in use.


Figure 8. Fiber optic component, connectors, and fiber pigtails

### 6.3 Cleaning Optical Connectors

Clean any exposed connector using a cleaning kit supplied by the connector manufacturer or highgrade isopropyl alcohol and a cotton swab. To clean with alcohol and a swab, dab the tip of a cotton swab in alcohol and then shake off any excess alcohol. The tip should be moist, not dripping wet. Stroke the swab tip gently across the surface of the connector and around the connector ferrule. Either allow the connector a minute to dry, or blow-dry the connector using compressed air. Be careful when using compressed air: improper use may deposit a spray residue on the connector.

### 6.4 Mating Optical Connectors

Follow these instructions when mating optical connectors.

- Clean both connectors prior to mating. Any small particles trapped during the mating process can permanently damage the connector.
- Smoothly insert the appropriate connector ferrule into the adapter. Do not allow the fiber tip to contact any surface. If the tip accidentally contacts a surface before mating, stop. Re-clean the connector and try again.
- Tighten the connector until it is finger tight or to the torque specified by the connector manufacturer. Do not over-tighten the connector as this can lead to optical loss and connector damage.
- Check the optical insertion loss. If the loss is unacceptable, remove the connector, re-clean both ends of the mate, and reconnect them. You may have to repeat this process several times before a low-loss connection is made.
- After you make the connection, monitor the stability of the optical throughput for a few minutes. Optical power trending (slowly increasing or decreasing) is caused by the slow evaporation of alcohol trapped in the connector. Continue to monitor optical power until it stabilizes. If the loss is unacceptable, re-clean the connectors and start again.

