Networking and Other Equipment  >  PC Cable Tester and Tone and Probe Kit

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item #</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>List Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TKP100 Kit</td>
<td>Inductive Tone Generator and Probe Kit - Useful For Identifying Cable Runs</td>
<td>139.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>TKP100</td>
<td>PC Cable Tester Pro ATA</td>
<td>99.95</td>
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</tbody>
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Cable Testing Explained

Cable testing and cable ratings often are not understood by those that purchase network grade patch cords and equipment. The type of testing performed and the frequency of that testing often is the greatest factor in determining the cost of a cable that you buy. Often, patch cords that seem to be a good value may not be, due to the usage of low quality components and minimally compliant cable. Below is an explanation of the four most common forms of testing conducted on patch cords. Each is explained for you to decide on what best fits your application and budget.

L-com strives to provide a full selection of cable assemblies for all our customers. To make selection simple, we group our cables into one of three different categories to identify the type of compliant cable. Below is an explanation of the four most common forms of testing conducted on patch cords. Each is explained for you to decide on what best fits your application and budget.

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Patch Cord Certification Testing

Patch Cord Certification Testing is the best method to insure that the cables will meet all of the TIA/EIA-568-B.2 Standards for data transmission for Ethernet. The TIA/EIA-568-B.2 Standards cover many details and requirements for cable quality and performance. This test involves the direct connection of patch cords to a certification tester such as the Fluke Networks DSP4300 Series. The tester will check many aspects of cable performance such as continuity, NEXT, FEXT and Return Loss. Several certification testers exist on the market including Fluke Networks DSP4300 Series products. This type of tester features a Permanent Link adapter that connects from a workstation outlet to the telecom closet outlet.

**Network Channel Testing**

Network Channel Testing is a method used to verify performance from the workstation to the hub/switch including patch cords. Channel Testing is not accurate for individual patch cords. Both installers and IT professionals conduct this type of testing to ensure that the entire cable system is capable of handling network traffic. Channel Testing differs from Permanent Link Testing in that it includes the patch cords on both ends of the installation. Often, patch cords are overlooked as the cause of network failures.

**Permanent Link Testing**

Permanent Link Testing is the preferred method used by installers to certify a cable installation at a customer site. This type of testing verifies the installation by measuring many factors such as cable lengths, NEXT, FEXT and Return Loss. Several certification testers exist on the market including Fluke Networks DSP4300 Series products. This type of tester features a Permanent Link adapter that connects from a workstation outlet to the telecom closet outlet.

**Continuity Testing**

Continuity Testing is the most basic form of testing conducted on cables. These types of testers look for opens, shorts or crossed connections. For Ethernet, this type of testing does not confirm network transmission capability. The most common mistake in cable pin-out is an EIA588 A to B cross. A simple continuity tester such as L-com’s DXB64A can easily find this error without the expense of a certification tester.

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