

Price of fiber optic patch cord connected to switch



AI Overview

Fiber optic patch cords typically cost between \$5 and \$50 per unit, depending on fiber type, length, and connector quality.

Price Ranges

Short multimode patch cords (OM3/OM4, 1–3 meters) generally cost \$5–\$15 each for standard LC-LC or SC-SC connectors. Single-mode OS2 patch cords are slightly more expensive, ranging from \$10–\$30 for similar lengths. Longer cords (5–15 meters) or specialty cables with armored jackets or LSZH (Low Smoke Zero Halogen) coatings can cost \$20–\$50 per unit. High-density connectors like MPO/MTP for multi-fiber applications are more expensive due to precise alignment requirements, often \$30–\$100 for pre-terminated assemblies.

Factors Affecting Cost

Fiber Type: Multimode (OM3/OM4) is cheaper and suitable for short intra-rack connections. Single-mode (OS2) is preferred for longer distances and backbone connections, costing more per meter.

Connector Type: LC connectors are common in enterprise networks and offer high port density. SC, ST, and MPO/MTP connectors vary in cost depending on complexity and fiber count.

Length and Jacket Type: Longer cords increase cost linearly. Armored or plenum-rated cables for harsh environments or fire safety add to the price.

Quality and Testing: Factory-tested cords with low insertion loss and return loss are more expensive but ensure reliable performance.

Buying Tips

Bulk purchases reduce unit cost significantly. Match fiber type and connector to your switch and transceiver specifications to avoid network issues. Consider future upgrades: investing in higher-quality or longer cords may save replacement costs later.

In summary, for a typical switch connection in a data center or enterprise network, expect to pay \$5–\$30 for standard LC-LC or SC-SC patch cords, with higher prices for longer lengths, armored cables, or multi-fiber MPO/MTP assemblies.

Article Content

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