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Operating Manual



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Before starting operation of the device

HINWEIS: Read this operating manual attentively! It contains important information about installation, ambient conditions and maintenance of the device. Keep this operating manual for future use and for handover in the event of a change of owner. A PDF version of this manual is available to download on the ASTRO website (there may be a more recent version). The ASTRO company confirms that the information in this manual was correct at the time of printing, but it reserves the right to make changes, without prior notice, to the specifications, the operation of the device and the operating manual.

Symbols and conventions used

Symbols used in these instructions

Pictograms are visual symbols with specific meanings. You will encounter the following pictograms in this installation and operating manual:

Warning about situations in which electrical voltage and non-observance of the instructions in this manual pose a risk of fatal injuries.

Warning about various dangers to health, the environment and material.

Warning about thermal dangers (risk of burns).

Warning about high laser radiation emitted from a device, connector or adapter (risk of eye damage).

Recycling symbol: indicates components or packaging materials which can be recycled (cardboard, inserts, plastic film and bags). Used batteries must be disposed of at approved recycling points. Batteries must be completely discharged before being disposed of.

This symbol indicates components which must not be disposed of with household rubbish.

Proper use

The splicer has been designed for splicing Silica-based optical fibres for telecommunications. Do not attempt to use this machine for other applications. Misuse of the machine may result in electric shock, fire and/or serious personal injury. Modification of the devices or use for any other purpose is not permitted, and will immediately void any guarantee provided by the manufacturer.

Target group of this manual

The target group for installation and starting operation of the ASTRO optical transmission technology are qualified experts who have training enabling them to perform the work required in accordance with EN 60728-11 and EN 62368-1. Unqualified person are not allowed to install and start operation of the device.

















Device description

Scope of delivery

- Strap for splicer
- Lithium battery
- Power supply unit
- Power cord
- Cooling tray
- Case
- Strap for case
- Replacement electrodes
- Brush
- Fibre stripper
- Dropcable Stripper
- Leaflet

About splicing

The AFS-GS61 Fusion Splicer is built for fibre fusion with low splice loss and ensures splice long-time stabilization. Splice loss depends on certain conditions like fibre preparation, splicing parameters, fibre condition, variation after splicing etc.

The standard principle of splicing is not complicated. Firstly the splicer finds the fibre core and aligns it correctly and then it splices the fibre with the arc generated by the electrodes. There are two major technologies to ensure high-quality splice, LID (Local Injection and Detection) and CDS (Core Detection System), which is also widely known as PAS (Profile Alignment System).

The AFS-GS61 with PAS technology is designed for splicing many types of optical fibres. It is small in size and light in weight, making it suitable for any operating environment. It is easy to operate and it splices fast while maintaining low splice loss.

Splice modes

Use SM splice mode for standard SM fibre (ITU-TG.652) splicing. It completes in 9 seconds and is the quickest mode for SM fibre splicing.

Use AUTO splice mode if fibre type is not identified. Splice takes longer but it covers most conventional fibres splicing for the following reasons:

- AUTO mode first identifies fibre type by analyzing fibre profile, and then unique splicing condition is chosen for the type of fibre. The types of fibres covered by AUTO are all the conventional fibres, such as SMF (G652), NZDSF (G655), MMF (G651), etc. The AUTO modes takes longer for the above processes but is recommended if fibre type is not sure.
- AUTO mode comes with automatic arc calibration function, which observes the splicing process and feedback adequate heat power information to the next splice.

Automatic arc calibration function

This function calibrates the arc power at every splice. When the automatic arc calibration function is enabled, performing the Arc calibration function before a splice operation is not necessary. The automatic arc calibration function works in AUTO modes only. It doesn't work in the standard splice modes. When using those modes, performing arc calibration before splicing is strongly recommended.

HINWEIS: You will find more information on how to choose the right splice mode in chapter "Configuring the device via the LCD screen".



AFS-GS61 splicer

Front:

[I] TFT screen



Right side:

- [2] SD card slot
- [3] Locking of Lithium battery compartmen
- [4] Battery

Left side:

[5] DC input (10-12 V



Upper side:

- [6] Heating compartment for shrinking of splice protection
- [7] Wind protection
- [12] Control panel (see figure 3)
- [9] Strap locks



Figure 1: AFS-GS61



- [14] Electrode cover
- [15] Ocular
- [16] V-roove

Elements beneath the wind protection



Figure 2: AFS-GS61, wind protection opened

Elements of the control panel

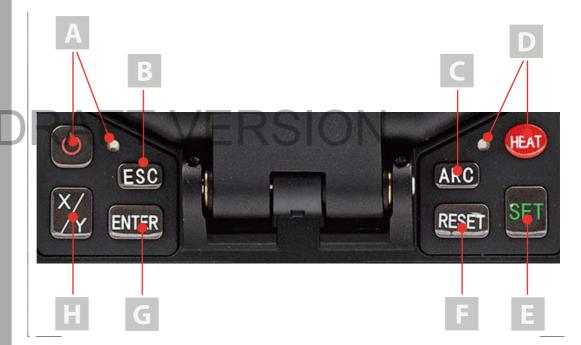


Figure 3: AFS-GS61, control panel

HINWEIS: The screen of the AFS-GS61 is touch sensitive. Thus it is possible to execute the functions of the control panel's buttons also by pushing the relevant screen buttons.



[A] Power on/off button and control LED[B] ESC button (cancel current action)

[D] Heat button and control LED

[C] ARC button (???)

[G] Enter button
[H] Switch screen button

The AFS-GS61 features a CE marking. This confirms that the product conforms to the relevant CE directives and adheres to the requirements specified therein.







To avoid any hazardous situations to the extent possible, you must adhere to the following safety information:

ACHTUNG: Failure to observe this safety information may result in personal injury due to electrical and thermal dangers!

Proper use

Only use the device at the approved operating sites and in the ambient conditions allowed (as described in the following), and only for the purpose described in the section "Proper use".

Before starting operation of the device

HINWEIS: Read this operating manual attentively! It contains important information about installation, ambient conditions and maintenance of the device. Keep this operating manual for future use and for handover in the event of a change of owner or operator. A PDF version of this manual is available to download on the ASTRO website (there may be a more recent version).

- Check the packaging and the device for transport damage immediately. Do not start operation of a device that has been damaged.
- Transporting the device by the power cable may damage the mains cable or the strain relief, and is therefore not permitted.

Installation, operation, maintenance

- The electrical connection conditions must correspond to the specifications on the device type plate.
- The ambient temperatures specified in the technical data must be complied with, even when climatic conditions change (e.g. due to sunlight). If the device overheats, the insulation used to isolate the mains voltage may be damaged.
- The device and its cable may only be operated away from radiant heat and other sources of heat.
- To avoid trapped heat, ensure there is good ventilation on all sides.
- No objects may be placed on the device.
 - The device does not feature protection against water and may therefore only be operated and connected in dry rooms. It must not be exposed to spraying or dripping water, to condensation, or to similar sources of moisture.
 - All adhere to all applicable national safety regulations and standards.
 - The device is operational when connected to the mains power or if the provided Lithium battery is charged and inserted into the battery compartment of the device.
 - Excess mechanical loads (e.g. falling, impacts, vibrations) may damage insulation used to provide protection from mains voltage.
 - High excess currents (lightning strike, surges in the power utility grid) may damage insulation used to provide protection from mains voltage.
 - If there is no information about intended use (e.g. operating site, ambient conditions), or the operating manual does not include the corresponding information, then you must consult the manufacturer of this device to ensure that the device may be installed. If you do not receive any information on this from the manufacturer, do not start operating the device.
 - Verify that the product is set to match the available line voltage, the correct fuse is installed, and all safety precautions are taken.
 - Do not operate the instrument in the presence of flammable gases or fumes.
 - Operating personnel must not remove instrument covers. Component replacement and internal adjustments must be made only by qualified service personnel.
 - Stop using the device when it malfunctions. (See section "Maintenance and repair").
 - Users must disconnect the AC power cord from the AC adapter inlet or the wall socket (outlet) immediately if they observe the following or if the splicer receives the following faults: Fumes, bad smell, noise, or overheat. Liquid or foreign matter falls into cabinet. Splicer is damaged or dropped. If this occurs, ask our service center for repair. Leaving the splicer in a damaged state may cause equipment failure, electric shock or fire and may result in personal injury, death or fire.







	Use only the AC adapter / battery charger designed for this splicer. Using an improper AC power source may cause fuming, electric shock or equipment damage and may result in personal injury, death or fire.
	Do not disassemble or modify the splicer, AC adapter or battery. In particular, do not remove or bypass any electrical or mechanical device (e.g. a fuse or safety switch) incorporated into the design and manufacturing of this equipment. Modification could cause damage that may result in personal injury, death, electric shock or fire.
	Never operate the splicer in an environment where flammable liquids or vapors exist. Risk of dangerous fire or explosion could result from the splicer's electrical arc in such an environment.
	Do not use compressed gas or canned air to clean the splicer. They may contain flammable materials that could ignite during the electrical discharge.
	Do not touch the electrodes when the splicer is on and power is supplied to the unit. The electrodes generate high voltage and high temperatures that may cause a severe shock or burn. NOTE: Arc discharge stops when the wind protector is opened.
	Safety glasses should always be worn during fibre preparation and splicing operation. Fibre fragments can be extremely dangerous if it comes into contact with the eye, skin or is ingested.
	Check the AC power source before use: Proper AC power source is AC 100-240 V, 50-60 Hz. Proper DC power source is DC10-12V. Improper AC or DC power source may cause fuming, electric shock or equipment damage and may result in personal injury, death or fire.
	AC generators commonly produce abnormally high AC output voltage or irregular frequencies. Measure the output AC voltage with a circuit tester before connecting the AC power cord. Such abnormally high voltage or frequency from a generator may cause fuming, electric shock or equipment damage and may result in personal injury, death or fire. Make sure the generator is regularly checked and serviced.
	Do not modify, abuse, heat or excessively pull on the supplied AC cord. The use of a damaged cord may cause fuming, electric shock or equipment damage and may result in personal injury, death or fire.
F	The AFS-GS61 uses a three-prong (core) AC cord that contains an earthed ground safety mechanism. The splicer MUST be grounded. Use only the supplied three-prong (core) AC power cord. NEVER use a two-prong (core) power cord, extension cable or plug.
	Connect AC power cord properly to the splicer (inlet) and wall socket (outlet). When inserting the AC plug, make sure there is no dust or dirt on the terminals. Engage by pressing the female plug into the splicer (inlet) and the male plug into the wall socket (outlet) until both plugs are fully seated. Incomplete engagement may cause fuming, electric shock or equipment damage and may result in personal injury, death or fire.
	Do not short-circuit the terminals of AC adapter and optional battery. Excessive electrical current may cause personal injury due to fumes, electric shock and equipment damage.
	Do not touch the splicer, AC power cord and AC plugs with wet hands. This may result in electric shock.
	Do not operate splicer near hot objects, in hot temperature environments, in dusty/humid atmospheres or when water-condensation is present on the splicer. This may result in electric shock, splicer malfunction or poor splicing performance.
	When using Li-ion battery, follow the instructions below. Failure to follow these may result in explosion or personal injury. Do not charge battery with other methods than instructed. Do not discard battery into an incinerator or fire. Do not charge or discharge battery near a flame or under direct sunlight. Do not excessively shake or jar the battery. If battery leaks of liquid residue, be careful handling the battery so the liquid does not get in skin or eye contact. If it reaches contact, immediately wash skin or eyes thoroughly and see the doctor. Dispose of the battery and call the service center for replacement. If charge did not complete in four hours or the Charge LED is constantly on, immediately stop charging and call the service center for repair.
	Do not store splicer in any area where temperature and humidity are extremely high. Possible equipment failure may result.
	Do not touch protection sleeve or tube-heater during heating or immediately after completion of heating. Their surfaces are very hot and touching these may result in skin burn.
	Do not place the splicer in an unstable or unbalanced position. The splicer may shift or lose balance, causing the unit to fall. Possible personal injury or equipment damage may result.









	The splicer is precision adjusted and aligned. Do not allow the unit to receive a strong shock or impact. Possible equipment failure may result. Use supplied carrying case for transportation and storage. The carrying case protects the splicer from damage, moisture, vibration and shock during storage and transportation.
	Operating personnel is not allowed to remove instrument covers. Component replacement and internal adjustments must be made only by qualified service personnel.
	Fiber residues resulting from connector assembly or splicing work should be collected in separate containers and disposed of. Fine fibers can penetrate the eyes and skin and cause inflammation.
	To prevent possible oral ingestion of fiber residues, no food or beverages should be consumed in the areas where splicing work is performed.
Mai	ntenance
	Turn the splicer off and disconnect the AC power cord before replacing electrodes.
	Follow the below listed instructions for handling electrodes. Use only specified electrodes. Set the new electrodes in the correct position. Replace the electrodes as a pair. Failure to follow the above instructions may cause abnormal arc discharge. It can result in equipment damage or degradation in splicing performance.
	Do not use any chemical other than pure alcohol (99% or greater) to clean the objective lens, V-groove, mirror, LCD monitor, etc., of the splicer. Otherwise blurring, discoloration, damage or deterioration may result.
	The splicer requires no lubrication. Oil or grease may degrade the splicing performance and damage the splicer.
	The operating display only shows whether the DC current, which supplies the device components, has been disconnected. However, operating displays (on the power supply unit or the device) that are not lit up in no way indicate that the device is completely disconnected from the mains.
Rep	Read carefully: EN 60728 - Part 1 Safety requirements: No service work during thunderstorms. air Repairs may only be performed by the manufacturer. Improperly performed repairs may result in considerable dangers for the user. If malfunctions occur, the device must be disconnected from the mains and authorized experts must be consulted. The device may need to be sent to the manufacturer.



Description of performance

telecommunications. It has the following characteristics:
5 inch TFT Monitor touch screen
6 motor core alignment, used for FTTH and FO backbone splicing
suitable for fibre types: MMF/G.651, SMF/G.652, NZ-DSF/G.655, BIF/G.657, erbium-doped fibre (EDF)
Either conventional sheathe clamping system or "fiber holder system (optional)" can be selected.
multi-in-one fibre clamp for bare fibre
crimp shrink protection heating
automatic splice control
battery time 180-200 splices with heating
5000 splice records in CSV format
The top cover of the case can be used as a working table.
HINWEIS: The splicer is equipped with an LCD monitor, manufactured in a high quality-controlled factory environment. However, some black dots may appear, or

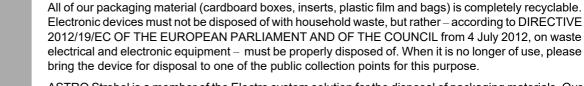
HINWEIS: The splicer is equipped with an LCD monitor, manufactured in a high quality-controlled factory environment. However, some black dots may appear, or red/blue/green dots may remain on the screen. The screen brightness may not appear uniformly depending on viewing angle. Note that these symptoms are not defects, but are nature of LCD.

HINWEIS: In the future software updates for the device may be available. Contact the ASTRO customer service for further information or visit the service section on the ASTRO website.

Warranty conditions

The general terms and conditions of ASTRO Strobel GmbH apply. You will find these in the current catalogue or on the Internet under "www.astro-kom.de".

Disposal



ASTRO Strobel is a member of the Electro system solution for the disposal of packaging materials. Our contract number is 80395.







The splice procedure

To achieve a stable low splice loss, please consider the following steps during the splice procedure.

Daily cleaning before splicing

Clean the V-grooves. You may do so by using a cotton bud.

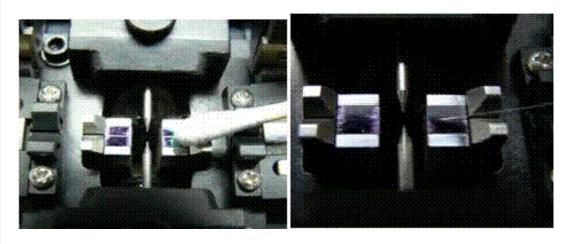


Figure 4: Cleaning the V-grooves

HINWEIS: Sometimes you may need a stripped fibre to clean the V-grooves.

Clean the clamp chips of the wind protector.

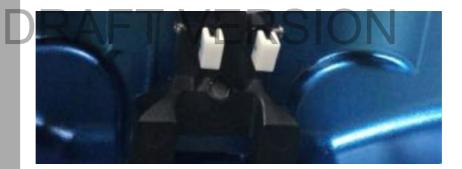


Figure 5: Cleaning the clamp chips

Clean the lens every week or when it's dirty.

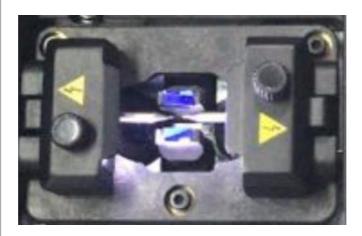


Figure 6: Cleaning the lens



HINWEIS: Do not touch the electrode tips (in this case electrodes do not remove from the splicer).

Clean the equipment before every splicing: Clean the blade of the stripper. Clean the cleaver pads and blade and rubber anvil.

Select the suitable splice mode

- When splicing only standard SM fibers (ITU-T G.652), "SM AUTO" mode is recommended.
- When splicing many types of fibers, "AUTO" mode is recommended, but splice speed is slow.
- Splicing speed of "SM FAST" mode is fast, but periodical Arc calibration is required.

Splicing procedure

Make sure the stripped fibre is free of coating debris or contamination. Use only 99% or better pure alcohol.

Do not allow the cleaved fibre ends to touch anything or become contaminated.



Figure 7: Cleaning the stripped fibre

Place the fibre end face between the V-groove edge and the electrode center.

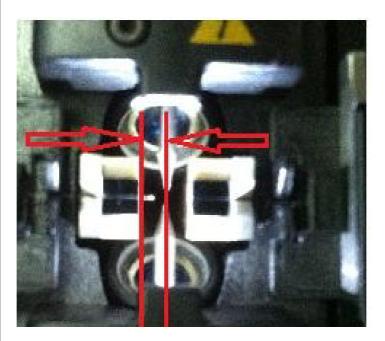
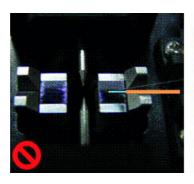
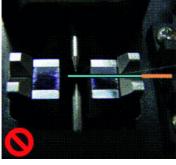


Figure 8: Placing the fibre



Figure 9 shows the right position of the fibre.





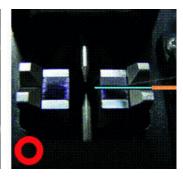


Figure 9: Placing the fibre

Place the fibre in the bottom of the V-groove for successful splicing. Make sure if the cleave length is correct. The fibre coating edge may hit the V-groove in case with shorter cleave length, and then the fibres may not be stuffing each other during arc discharge which results in worse splice loss. Figure 8 shows the correct cleave length in the right picture. Figure 10 shows a too short cleave length.

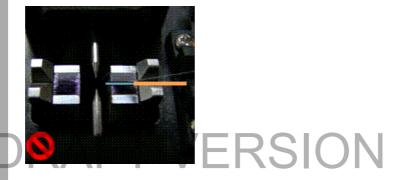


Figure 10: Too short cleave length

Do not put tension to the fibres, or the they may not be stuffed to each other during arc discharge and result in worse splice loss. Check the fibre angle and cleave shape. The fibers cleave angle affects splicing quality. Large cleave angles worsen splice loss.

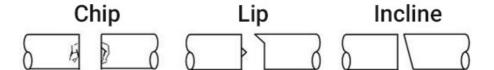


Figure 11: Fibre angles

Visually check the arc discharge with the monitor. In case the arc discharge is observed "wobbling" or "brightness changes", arc discharge may be unstable and the heat distribution to the fibres as well resulting in worsened splice loss. Perform "Stabilize Electrodes".

When the splicer indicates the following message "splice loss may be high" arc discharge is not stable. Electrodes should be stabilized to reform the arc discharge. Load prepared SM fibres onto the splicer in order to stabilize the electrodes. After completing it, re-splice the fibres.

Heating

Select the heater mode most suitable for the protection sleeve to be used. Each tube-heating mode is optimized for a type of protection sleeve. Other manufacturer's fibre protection sleeves may not shrink completely. At that time extend the heating time. Center the protection sleeve in the tube heater.







Basic operation

Mains power and battery operation

Mains power operation

The AFS-GS61 can be powered by using a power cord and the power adapter. To do so put the plug of the power adapter into the input jack [5] of the battery. Then connect the mains cable to the adapter and a wall outlet. Before detaching the power adapter from the splicer, turn off the device by clicking the power button. Use only the supplied AC power cord. Connect to ground with the ground terminal of the AC power cord.

Battery operation

HINWEIS: Check and make sure the remaining battery capacity is 20% or more before operation. Otherwise only few splices can be made!

If the battery is already inserted in the splicer, turn splicer on by clicking on the red power button. The Power source "Battery" is automatically identified and the remaining battery capacity is displayed on the "READY" screen.

To detach the battery from the device do the following:

Push the Lock/Unlock button on the right side of the AFS-GS61 to unlock the battery compartment. You can now pull the battery out the compartment (see figure 4 below).



Figure 12: Pulling the battery out of the compartment

The capacity of the battery gradually decreases as nature even if it is not used. If the battery discharges completely, the battery may no longer be able to be recharged. Charge the battery before long time storage and after use. If a battery must be be stored for a long time, periodical charge of every six months is recommended regardless of battery charge level of the battery.

Follow below conditions for operation/charge/long time storage (1 week or longer).

Operation: -10 °C..+50 °C Charge: 0 °C...+40 °C

Long time storage: -20 °C...+30 °C

HINWEIS: The battery can be charged while the AC adapter is in power unit dock of the device, regardless if under operation or not.



Turning the splicer on

Press the Power on button and hold it until the green LED on the keypad lights up. The self test screen is displayed after all the motors reset to their initial positions. The power source type is automatically identified. If the battery is used, the remaining battery capacity is displayed.

Fibre preparation

Placing a protection sleeve over a fibre

First clean the optical fibre with alcohol-impregnated gauze or lint-free tissue approximately 100 mm from the tip. Then place the protection sleeve over the fibre.

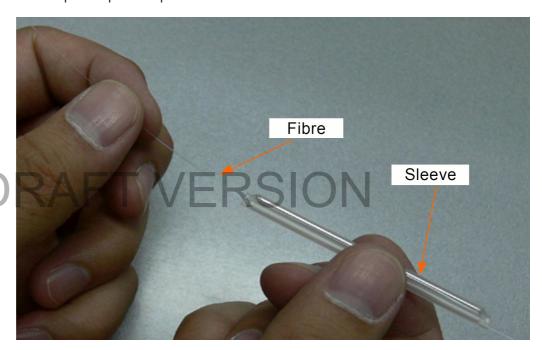


Figure 13: Placing a protection sleeve over the fibre

HINWEIS: Dust particulates can enter inside the protection sleeve and might result in a future fibre break or attenuation increase.

Make sure the fibre is passed into the protection sleeve.

When the protection sleeve core tube is longer than the length of the outer sheath, the excess part should be cut off to avoid micro bend after heating.





Stripping and cleaning the fibre

Strip the different parts of the fibre as shown below by using a stripping tool. The numbers in the illustration correspond to the three holes in the stripping tool, which are used one after another to strip the different parts of the fibre. The protection sleeve will later be placed over the core glass, the glas coating and the primary coating.

Clean the fibre with alcohol (Purity ≥ 99 %) impregnated gauze or lint-free tissue thoroughly.

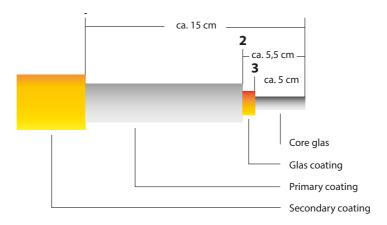


Figure 14: Stripping the fibre's outer coat

Fibre cleaving

To cleave the fibre you may use the ASTRO cleaver AFC-GW750.

- Open the magnetic locking mechanisms and the black bin of the cleaver.
- Place the stripped fibre into the black and close the magnetic locking mechanisms.
- Push the slider with the blade. The cleaved fibre ends are collected in the small bin on the right side of the cleaver.

HINWEIS: Clean the bin immediately after cleaving. Fibre ends may otherwise find their way into the operators eyes and can result in personal injury!



HINWEIS: Do not let the fibre end-face touch anything.

Do not put fingers in the driving area of the slide button as personal injury may result. After pushing it half way down, releasing the pressure on the cutting lever may result in bad cleaving quality.

Loading fibre into the splicer

Open the wind protector and sheath clamps. Place the prepared fibre onto the V-grooves so that the fibre tip is located between the v-groove edge and tip of electrode.

Hold the fibre with fingers and close the sheath clamp so that the fibre does not move. Make sure the fibre is placed in the bottom of the V-grooves. If the fibre is not placed properly, reload it.



Figure 15: Loading fibre into the splicer



Load another fibre in the same manner as described above. Close the wind protector.

HINWEIS: If the fibre coating has some memory curl, place it in a way that the curve of memory is turned upwards. Be careful to not bump the prepared fibre tips into anything to maintain fibre end-face quality.

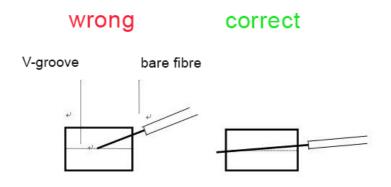
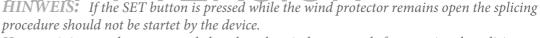


Figure 16: Fibre cleaving

HINWEIS: Keep the prepared fibre out of other stuff, in case of breaking the end face of fibre. After this step, the preparation steps are done. Close the windshield at last.

The splicing procedure

To assure a good splice, the optical fibre is observed with the image processing system of the AFS-GS61. However, there are some cases when the image processing system cannot detect a faulty splice. Visual inspection with the monitor is often necessary for better splicing yield. The standard operating procedure is described below.



However it is strongly recommended to close the wind protector before starting the splicing process to avoid personal injury caused by the arc that is used to splice the fibres!





After loading the fibres into the splicer, press the SET button and the fibres will move forward towards each other. The fibre motion stops at a certain position shortly after the cleaning arc is performed. Next, the cleave angle and end-face quality are checked. If the measured cleave angle is greater than its set threshold or fibre chipping is detected, the buzzer will sound and an error message warns the operator. The splicing procedure pauses. If no error message is displayed, the below stated end-face conditions are used for visual inspection. If observed, remove the fibre from the splicer and repeat the fibre preparation. These visual defects may cause a faulty splice.

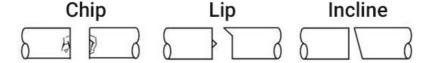


Figure 17: End-face conditions

- After fibre inspection, the fibres are aligned core-to-core or cladding-to-cladding. Cladding axis offset and core axis offset measurements can be displayed.
- After completion of the fibre alignment, arc discharge is performed to splice the fibres.
- Estimated splice loss is displayed upon completion of splicing. Splice loss is affected by certain factors stated in next page. These factors are taken into account to calculate, or estimate, splice loss. The calculation is based on certain dimensional parameters, such as MFD. If either the cleave angle measured or the estimated splice loss exceeds its set threshold, an error message is displayed. If the spliced fiber is detected as abnormal, such as "Fat", "Thin" or "Bubble", an error message is displayed. If no error message is displayed but the splice looks poor by visual inspection through the monitor, it is strongly recommended to repeat the splice from the beginning.

HINWEIS: The splice point sometimes looks a bit fatter than other parts. This is considered a normal splice, and does not affect splice loss.

To change threshold for estimated splice loss or cleave angle, see [Splice Mode] for details. Splice loss may be improved in some cases by additional arc discharges. Press the ARC button for an additional arc discharge (re-arc). Splice loss estimate and splice check are now performed again. Splice loss may be worsened in some cases by additional arc discharges (re-arcs). Additional arc discharge can be set to "disabled", or the number of additional arcs can be limited. The splicing result is automatically saved in the splicer memory.

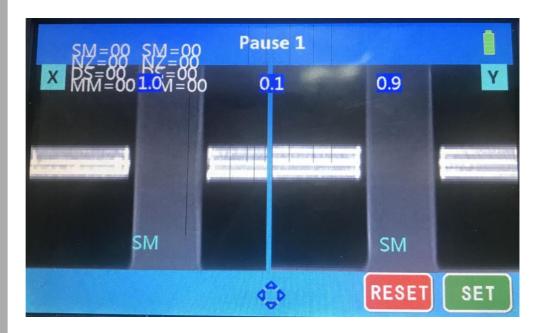


Figure 18: Splicing



Splice loss increase - cause and remedy

Symptom	Cause	Remedy
Core axial offset	Dust on V-groove or fibre clamp chip	Clean V-groove and fibre clamp chip.
Core angle	Dust on V-groove or fibre clamp chip	Clean V-groove and fibre clamp chip.
	Bad fiber end-face quality	Check if fibre cleaver is well conditioned.
Core step	Dust on V-groove or fibre clamp chip	Clean V-groove and fibre clamp chip.
Core Curve	Bad fibre end-face quality	Check if fibre cleaver is well conditioned.
	Prefuse power too low or prefuse time too short	Increase Prefuse Power and/or Prefuse Time.
MFD Mismatch	Arc power too low	Increase Arc Power and/or Arc Time.
Combustion	Bad fibre end-face quality	Check the cleaver.
	Dust still present after cleaning fibre or cleaning arc	Clean fibre thoroughly or increase Cleaning Arc Time.
Bubbles	Bad fibre end-face quality	Check if fibre cleaver is well conditioned.
	Prefuse power too low or prefuse time too short	Increase Prefuse Power and/or Prefuse Time.



Separation	Fibre stuffing too small	Perform Motor Calibration.
	Prefuse power too high or prefuse time too long	Decrease Prefuse Power and/or Prefuse Time.
Fat	Too much fibre stuffing	Decrease Overlap and perform Motor Calibration.
Thin	Arc power not adequate	Perform Arc Calibration.
	Some arc parameters not adequate	Adjust Prefuse Power, Prefuse Time or Overlap.
Line	Some arc parameters not adequate	Adjust Prefuse Power, Prefuse Time or Overlap.
DRAF	T VERS	ION



HINWEIS: A vertical line sometimes appears at the splice point when MM fibres or dissimilar fibres (different diameters) are spliced. This does not affect splice quality, such as splice loss or tensile strength.

Removing the spliced fibre
To remove the spliced fibre from the device, proceed as described below: Open the lids of the tube heater.
Open the wind protector.
Hold the left fibre with your left hand at the edge of the wind protector and open the left sheath clamp or fibre holder lid.
Open the right sheath clamp or fibre holder lid.
Hold the right fibre with your right hand and remove the spliced fibre from the splicer.
HINWEIS: Keep on holding the fibre until it is completely transferred to the tube heater.
Heating the protection sleeve
To heat the protection sleeve do the following:
Transfer the fibre with the protection sleeve to the tube heater. Protection sleeve is placed in the center of the tube heater.
Place the fibre with the protection sleeve in the middle of the tube heater. While placing it in the

tube heater, apply some tension on the fibre, so the tube heater lids automatically close. Then press the HEAT button to start the heating process. *HINWEIS*: *Make sure the splice point is located at the center of the protection sleeve.*

Make sure the strength member in the protection sleeve is placed downwards. Then red HEAT LED turns on. The buzzer beeps and the HEAT LED turn off when tube heating is completed.

Open tube heater lids and remove protected fiber from the tube heater. Apply some tension to the fiber while removing it from the tube heater.

HINWEIS: The protection sleeve may stick to bottom plate of the heater. Use a cotton swab to help remove the sleeve from heater.

Visually inspect the finished sleeve to verify no bubbles or debris/dust is present in the sleeve. Attach the Cooling Tray onto the splicer. Then remove the protected fibre from the splicer.

HINWEIS: Do not touch the shrunken sleeve after removing the fibre from the tube heater. It may be hot. Place the removed fibre into the cooling tray. Leave the fibre in the cooling tray until the shrunken sleeve is cooled down.





Maintaining a high splice quality

Cleaning and checking before splicing

Critical cleaning points and maintenance checks are described below.

Cleaning the V-grooves

If contaminants are present in the V-grooves, proper clamping may not occur, resulting in higher splice loss. The V-grooves should be frequently inspected and periodically cleaned during normal operation. To clean the V-grooves proceed as described below:

- Open the wind protector.
- Clean the bottom of the V-groove with an alcohol-impregnated thin cotton swab. Remove excess alcohol from the V-groove with a clean dry swab.
- If the contaminants in the V-groove cannot be removed with an alcohol-impregnated thin cotton swab, use a cleaved fibre end-face to dislodge contaminants from the bottom of the V-groove. Repeat the last step after this procedure.

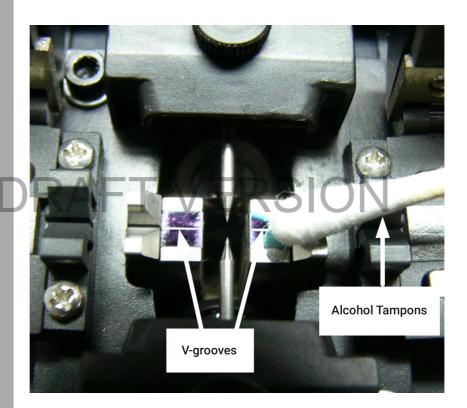


Figure 19: Cleaning the V-grooves

HINWEIS: Be careful to not contact the electrode tips. Do not use excessive force when cleaning the V-grooves. The V-groove arm may get damaged.

Cleaning the fibre clamp chips

If contaminants are present on the clamp chips, proper clamping may not occur, resulting in poor quality splices. The fibre clamp chips should be frequently inspected and periodically cleaned during normal operation. To clean the clamp chips do the following:

- Open the wind protector.
- Clean the surface of the chip clamp with an alcohol-impregnated thin cotton swab. Remove excess alcohol from the chip clamp with a clean dry swab.

Cleaning the Fibre Cleaver

If the circular blade or clamp pads of the fibre cleaver become contaminated, the cleaving quality could degrade. This may lead to fibre surface or end-face contamination, resulting in higher splice loss. Clean the circular blade or clamp pads with a cotton swab soaked with alcohol.



Periodical cleaning and checking

In order to maintain the splicing quality of the splicer, periodical inspection and cleaning are recommended.

Cleaning the lenses

If the lens's surface becomes dirty, normal observation of the core position may be incorrect, resulting in higher splice loss or poor splicer operation. Therefore, clean both of them at regular intervals. Otherwise, dirt may accumulate and become impossible to remove.

To clean the lenses do the following:

- Before cleaning the objective lenses, always turn off the splicer.
- Gently clean the lenses' (X-axis and Y-axis) surface with a dry and thin cotton swab. Using the cotton swab, start at the center of the lens and move the swab in a circular motion until you spiral out to the edge of the lens surface.

The lens surface should now be clean and free of streaks or smudges.

Turn on the power and make sure no smudges or streaks are visible on the monitor screen. Press the X/Y button to change the screen and check the state of the lens surface on both the X- and Y-screens. Perform a dust check.

HINWEIS: Do not hit or touch the tip of the electrode when cleaning it or remove the electrode before cleaning the lenses. It is recommended to clean the lenses when replace the electrodes.

Rotating the cleaver blade

If cleaving quality drops (usually after 1000 to 1500 cleaves), the blade may be worn. In this case the worn part of the blade can be rotated. Please follow the steps to adjust the blade angle:

- Use a 1,5 mm hex wrench to loosen the compression screw of the blade.
- Rotate the blade to the next scale number (generally there are 16 or 24 two types of blade).
- Hold the side-face of the blade and relock the screw to complete the adjustment.

RAFT VERSION

!

Replacing the blade

HINWEIS: During replacement, be careful not to touch the blades sharp edges to avoid personal injury!

When the blade circulation is used and you cannot improve the cleaving quality by changing the angle of the blade and adjusting the height of the stud, the blade needs to be replaced. To replace the blade do the following:

- Use a 1,5 mm hex wrench to remove the screw and gasket of the blade.
- Turn the blade to the tool holder side, then hold the side faces of the blade and take it out.
- Replace the used blade by a new one, and then screw the gasket and screw on.

HINWEIS: Avoid collisions of the blade with anything to prevent damage.





Configuring the device via the LCD interface

After powering up the device you will see the following screen:



Figure 20: Workbench menu

Here you will find the following information:

- Status bar: shows the status of the splicer and splicing process information; in case of the screen above: Ready for splicing
- Battery icon: displaying the battery level
- Fusion Mode: shows the fusion mode
- Para No.: shows the current splice parameters
- Heat Type: shows the temperature of the splicer
- Record No.: shows the total number of splices
- Run For: shows how many splicing and heating times the remaining battery power can support
- Green triangle: Press to start fibre splicing
- Button in the lower left corner: navigate to the main menu
- X/Y button: switch to the x/y view

Press the menu button on the device tor press the button in the lower left corner to enter the splicer's main menu. You will then see the following screen:



Figure 21: Main menu

To select one of the main menu items, press the corresponding icon on the touch screen. If you want to leave the main menu, press the little cross in the upper right of the screen or press the menu key on the top of the device again.



Shortcut Menu

By using the shortcut menu you can quickly enter some often used menus. Press the shortcut button on the screen and you will see the following screen:

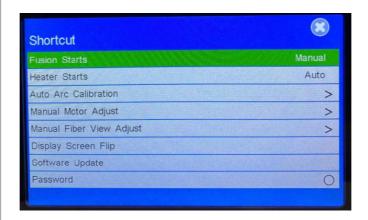


Figure 22: Shortcut menu

Fusion Starts

Here you can select the fusion mode. Press the "Fusion Starts" button and then choose "Manual" or "Auto".

Heater Starts

Here you can select the heatring mode. Press "Heater Starts" button and then choose "Manual" or "Auto".

DAUGARC Calibration VERSION

See chapter "Arc Menu".

Manual Motor Adjust

See chapter "Settings Menu".

Manual Fiber View Adjust

This function is used to move the fiber image positions up, down, left or right. Press the Enter-Key on the control panel of the device to enter the video interface. Press the Enter-Key again to switch between the X- and Y-fibers. Use the arrow keys on the control panel to shift the fibers up, down, left or right.

Display Screen Flip

This function can be used to flip the screen for operation from the opposite direction of the device. Touch the "Display Screen Flip" Button to rotate the view by 180°.

Software Update

Put a USB stick with an update file into the USB port of the device. Then press this button. Now you can update by pressing the Enter-Key on the control panel.



Fusion Mode Menu

the "Fusion Mode" menu is used to select and set the fiber splicing parameters and settings. Press "Fusion Mode" in the main menu and you will see the following screen:

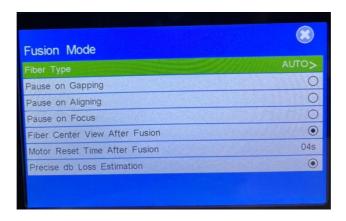


Figure 23: Fusion Mode menu

Fibre Type

Here you can adjust different fiber type splicing parameters. Press the "Fibre Type" button to show the following screen:



Figure 24: Fibre type sub-menu

Each sub-menu entry contains a group of splicing parameters. The name of the menu entries is composed by the part of the number, file name, pattern and state. A total of 40 groups of parameters can be selected. There are three modes (Auto, FAST and Normal). The "Auto" class of parameters is supposed to be used for experimental optimization within the factory and cannot be modified and recommended for new users. The values of "FAST" and "Normal" parameters can be modified. The "FAST" type reduces the fiber focusing process to make the fiber splicing speed faster.

The type represents which fiber is fused. The meaning of the abbreviations are as follows:.

SM: Single mode fiber

MM: Multi mode fiber

DS: Dispersion shifted fiber

NZDS: Non-zero dispersion-shifted fiber

The ON/OFF symbol on the right side shows if the group is currently used or not.



Press the button of a group to enter the "Set Paras" submenu. You should then see a screen like this:.

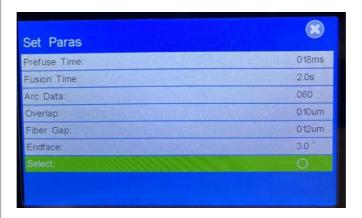


Figure 25: Set Paras sub-menu

The submenu consists of the following parameters:

- Prefuse Time: Prefuse time in total fusion process; a short time about 30 ms for SM, 16 ms for MM, It is not recommended for the new user to modify this parameter.
- Fusion Time: Fuse time in total fusion process; a long time 2.0 seconds for SM, 1.2 seconds for MM. It is not recommended for the new user to modify this parameter.
- Arc Data: Discharge current means that the discharge arc current intensity. The high value of the current corresponds to a greater arc, resulting in a higher temperature. The fiber is ablated more seriously. Press the arrow keys on the control panel of the device to increase or decrease the parameter value.
- Overlap: The pushing forward distance in fusion process. Press the arrow keys to increase or decrease the value of overlap.
 - Fiber Gap: The distance of fiber gap before fusing. Press the arrow keys to change it.
 - Endface: The angle between the fiber end and vertical direction is the end face. In the process of judging the fiber end face, the fiber end face should not be more than the maximum end face.
 - Select: It shows the using state of the currently viewed parameter group. Press this button to select or deselect this group.

Pause on Gapping

This means that during fiber splicing, after the optical fiber is forwarded to meet the gap, the program suspends operation and waits for further operation by the user. To continue splicing, press the SET-key on the control panel of the device. To interrupt splicing, press the RESET-key. Touch this option and the parameter value will be switched between "ON" and "OFF".

Pause on Aligning

This means the fiber movement is suspended at the end of the subsequent process of aligning. To continue splicing, press the SET-Key.

Touch this option and the parameter value will be switched between" ON" and "OFF".

Pause on Focus

This means the fiber movement is suspended at the end of the subsequent process of focusing. To continue splicing, press the SET-Key.

Touch this option and the parameter value will be switched between" ON" and "OFF".

Fibre Center View After Fusion

When this option is set to "ON", the fiber is aligned and the fiber is centered during the aligning process. When it is set to "OFF", the fiber is not aligned, and it may not be centered. Touch this option and the parameter value will be switched between "ON" and "OFF"



Motor Reset Time After Fusion

After the optical fiber is spliced, open the windshield and wait for a period of time until the motors are back to the initial position. The waiting time is "Motor Reset Time After Fusion". After selecting this option, use the arrow keys to change the parameter value.

Precise dB Loss Estimation

Turn on this function and the fusion splicer will enlarge the fiber core image to estimate the fusion loss. This function is usually used for high loss requirement conditions.

Settings Menu

The "Settings" menu is used to set the data including the Battery Save Mode, Tension Test, Language, Date and Time etc.. Press "Settings" in the main menu and you will see the following screen:



Figure 26: Settings menu

Battery Safe Mode

When the option is turned on, if there is no operation within 10 minutes, the machine will automatically turn off to save battery power.

Tension Test

When this option is selected, the machine will impose a force of 2 N pulling on the fiber to test the quality of splicing. If the fiber brakes, it means the fusion failed. Press the radio button on the right side to switch the tension test ON or OFF.

Language

Language shows the display language currently used. If there are more than one language available, users can change the language via this menu, shown as below.



Figure 27: Language menu



Date and Time

Press this button to enter the interface of Date and Time as shown below. Press the arrow keys on the control panel of the device to move the selection cursor, and then press the arrow buttons on the screen to modify the selection value.

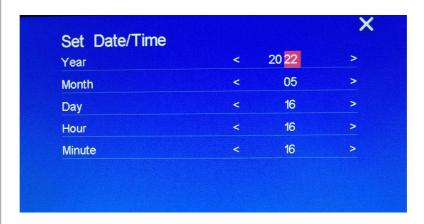


Figure 28: Date and Time menu

Buzzer

When this option is selected, there will be a beep sound when touching the screen. When it is off, there will be no sound in such operation. Press the radio button on the right side to switch the buzzer ON or OFF.

Brightness

Press this button to enter the interface of the camera brightness, as shown below. Press the arrow butons to modify the gain of the CMOS camera resulting in the change of the camera brightness. Press the button in the lower right corner to switch the CMOS camera sensor between X and Y.



Figure 29: Brightness adjustment

Temperature

Press this button to change the temperature unit between °C and °F.

Light Switch

Press the radio button on the right side to turn on/off the white working LED light. When users flip the display screen and splice from the backside of the splicer, the white working LED light must be turned off to avoid the light shining directly into the eyes.



Maintenance Menu

The Maintenance menu consists of the submenus Quick Optimization, Auto Camera Focus Adjust, Auto Push Motor Test, Auto LED Calibration etc., as shown below:



Figure 30: Maintenance menu

Quick Optimization

Press this button to do quick checking and optimization automatically for the fusion splicer. Load fiber and press the Enter button on the control panel of the device to start, as shown below:



Figure 31: Quick Optimization

Auto Camera Focus Adjust

When the fiber cutting is not good, or the V groove not clean, the fiber core image will become blurred, because the focus is deviated. To to make the fiber image focus well again. press the Enter button on the control panel of the device key to start.

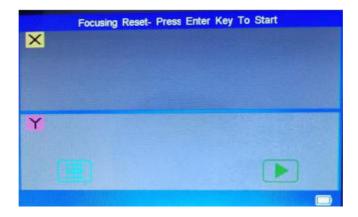


Figure 32: Focus adjustment



Auto Push Motor Test

This function imitates the distance of the push motor moving forward in the fusion process. Press the button to start.

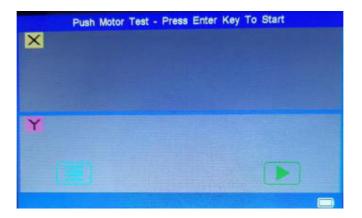


Figure 33: Motor test

Auot LED Calibration

Press the Start button in the lower right corner of the display to start the LED brightness calibration. It will adjust the X/Y view brightness automatically.



Figure 34: Auto calibration

Manual Motor Adjust

Motor adjust is used to check the motor performance and change the motor position. Press the "Manual Motor Adjust button. Now press the Enter button on the control panel of the device to enter the video interface. You will then see the following screen:

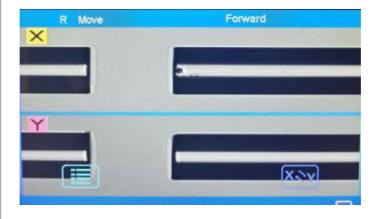


Figure 35: Manual motor adjust



Press the Enter button again to switch the Left, Right, ZX and ZY motors. Press the arrow keys on the control panel to move the motors UP/DOWN/BACK/FORWARD/FOCUSING to adjust the fiber position and images.

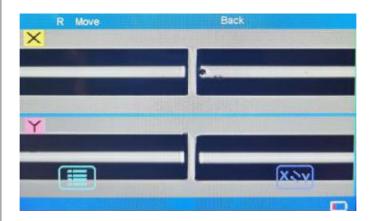


Figure 36: Manual motor adjust

Fusion Records

This option stores working parameters, fiber end face, the environment and date in each splicing. The machine can store 10000 groups of fusion records. By pressing the ENTER button you can display a page of fusion records. The page displays ten groups of fusion records, sequenced from top to bottom by the latest fusion time as shown below.



Figure 37: Fusion records

Press the arrow keys to navigate to the next or previous page.



Press the Enter button on the control panel to enter the page of fusion records as shown below:



Figure 38: Fusion records

Export Records

This option is used to export the fusion records memories stored in the machine. After a USB stick is inserted into the USB port, choose this option and press the button to confirm fusion records export. The program begins to test the USB port and then finds the records. If there's no record, the program will prompt an error.

Factory Reset

Press this button to reload the factory settings.

DRAFI VERSION

Arc Menu

This menu consists of the submenus Auto Arc calibration, Manual Arc Calibration, Electrodes Stabilization, Current Arc Count, Total Arc Count and Replace Electrodes, as shown below:

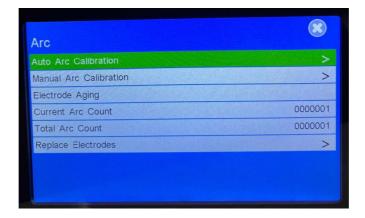


Figure 39: Arc menu

Auto Arc Calibrattion

Automatic Arc Calibration can automatically change the fusion parameters of Arc data until the test results meet the requirements on the basis of test results. The test interface is shown in Figure 40



below:



Figure 40: Arc calibration test interface

Load fibers and press teh ENTER button to start. It will discharge several times to adjust the Arc data until it is proper for fusion, Then "Calibration OK" will be displayed as shown below:



Figure 41: Arc calibration test interface

Manual Arc Calibration

Cut and clamp the fiber according to the splice procedure, and then press the ENTER button. The calibration program starts to run and test results are given. According to the test results, manually set the splicing parameters of the Arc data, and repeat the above steps until the test results meet the requirements. Parameter modification requirements: the default value is between 8-12. When the calibration result is larger than 12, one should reduce the Arc data value. Or one can choose Auto Arc Calibration directly as shown below.



Figure 42: Manual arc calibration



Electrode Aging

New electrodes discharge instability and the need for a certain number of times to stabilize the arc. This process is called electrode stabilization. After electrodes are replaced, enter this menu and then press the ENTER button to start stabilizing the electrodes. Don't open the windproof cover during this process.

Current Arc Count

This option shows the Arc discharge times of current electrodes.

Total Arc Count

This option shows the total Arc discharge time since the fusion splicer started working.

Replace Electrodes

When replacing electrodes, choose this option. Then press the ENTER button to start. The device will power off automatically. Replace the electrodes and restart the device. The current arc count will be cleared to 0000000.



Figure 43: Replace electrodes

Heater Menu

The Heater menu is used to set Heat Mode, Heat Time, Heat temperature etc., as shown below:

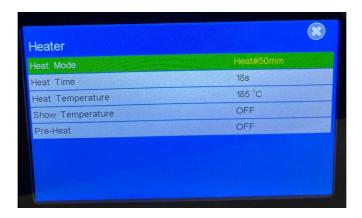


Figure 44: Heater menu



Heat Mode

Users can choose different heat modes according to different shrinkable sleeves (Heat#50 mm,Heat#60 mm etc.). Press the arrow keys on the control panel of the device to change the heat mode.

Heat Time

The heat time can be set according to specific heat shrinkable sleeves. Select this option and press the arrow keys on the control panel to change the time.

Heat Temperature

The heat temperature can be set according to specific heat shrinkable sleeves. Select this option and press the arrow keys on the control panel to change the temperature.

Show Temperature

You can turn on or off the Show Temperature function. If it is on, you can see the real-time temperature on the screen when heating.

Pre-Heat

Turn on this option and the fusion splicer will start heating in a low temperature in advance before formal heating. This will increase the formal heating speed.

Information Menu

In the Info. menu, users can inquiry the basic information of the fusion splicer, including battery capacity, outer temperature, software version, serial number of the device, last maintenance date etc., as shown below:

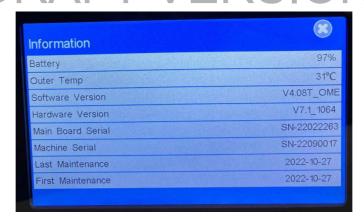


Figure 45: Information



Troubleshooting

If the device is not functioning correctly, please perform the following checks:

Error massage	Reason	Solution
Error message	1111	Solution
Please check fiber	The fibre is broken No fiber is loaded The fiber is far away from the electrodes: more tahn 2 mm	Shift the fibre image into the range of the screen.
Please reload fiber	The fiber is not completely loaded into the V groove.	Press the RESET key and reload the fiber in correct position.
Fusion failed	Fusion loss is very big or fusion broken.	Clean the V groove and fiber press foot. Check the fusion parameter an the motor overlap.
Electrodes do not discharge	The electrodes are dirty or damaged. Or the high-voltage board is fault.	Clean or replace the electrodes.
Please check L(R) end face	The end face of the fiber is bad, or the fibre is polluted, or the image is unclear.	Recut the fiber or clean the V groove, or increase the maximum endface value of the fusion parameters
Resetting push motors	The motor exceeds the range of operation reset to the original position.	Reload the fibre in correct position when resetting is completed.
Please close cover	The cover is opened.	Operate when the cover is closed.
X(Y) Image Light Error	Display lamp does not light or some other reasons.	Check the mirror lens or the image light.
(L,R) Fiber on Error position	The fiber is not completely loaded into the V groove or the fiber is dirty.	Reload or recut the fibre.

If the problem cannot be resolved, please contact the ASTRO customer service.

Replace electrodes

Repalcing an electrode

Arc produces high temperatures, melting the fiber, which will produce silicon oxide vapour and some deposite on the electrodes, causing arc instability. Therefore, users are recommended to replace electrodes when discharge has reached 3000 times.

Please replace the electrodes according to the following steps:

- Shut down the power.
- Loosen the setscrews of the electrodes cover (see left).
- Take out the electrode from the electrode holder.
- Clean the new electrode with tissue paper dipped in alcohol.
- Install the new electrode into the original position.
- Close the electrodes cover and tighten the screws.
- Close the windproof cover and power on the device.
- Perform an electrode aging (see chapter "Configuring the device, Electrodes).
- Run 3 times fiber fusion if the current fusion parameter is Auto mode. Otherwise run Arc Test or Arc Calibrate if the current fusion parameter is normal or calibrate.

HINWEIS: The replacement of the electrode should be performed gentle to avoid damage of the device!





Electrode aging

The electrodes arc begins to become unstable when the external environment such as the temperature and pressure change, especially when moving the device from low altitude to high altitude. When this happes, you should perform an electrode aging to stabilize the electrodes arc.

HINWEIS: Do not open the cover during electrode aging!

Software Update

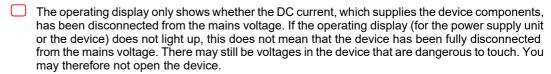
Insert the USB stick with the upgrade file into the USB interface of the device before software

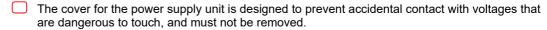
complete the upgrading. After upgrading you should restart the device. To perform the upgrade proceed as described below:
Copy the upgrade file named "boot.dat" to a USB stick, whose capacity must be more than 2 GB
☐ Insert the USB stick into the USB interface of the device.
Power on the device.
Press the Menu Button on the control panel of the device.
Select "Shortcut" and then "Software Update". Press the ENTER button. The upgrade process starts now.
After the upgrade is finished, pull out the USB stick from the device.

Maintenance and repair

HINWEIS: The device must only be operated with the original power supply unit!









A defective device may only be repaired by the manufacturer to ensure that components with the original specification are used (e.g. power cable, fuse). Improperly performed repairs may result in considerable dangers for the user or installer. If malfunctions occur, the device must therefore be disconnected from the mains and authorized experts must be consulted. The device may need to be sent to the manufacturer.







Technical data

ype		AFS-GS61
Order number		212 219
EAN-Code		4026187270988
Alignment		6 motors core alignment
Fibre type		SMF (G.652), MMF (G.651), DSF (G.653), NZ-DSF (G.655), BIF (G.657), EDF Cladding: 80~150 μm, Coating: 160-3000 μm
Cleave length	[mm]	8-16
Display	[inch]	5, touch screen
Splice loss	[dB]	$\begin{aligned} &MMF \leq 0.01(typical) \\ &SMF/BIF\;DSF/NZDSF/EDF \leq 0.02\;(typical) \\ &DSF/NZDSF/EDF \leq 0.04\;(typical) \end{aligned}$
Splice time	[s]	≤ 6 (SM fast mode)
Heating time	[s]	18, adjustable
Return loss	[dB]	≥ 60
Data storage		5000 splice records, 100 screenshots
Tension test	[N]	2
Protection sleeve	[mm]	40 - 60
Electrode life		5000 splices
Imaging system		Dual CMOS cameras, 250x (X oder Y), 125x (X and Y)
Power supply	[mAh]	5200, lithium battery
Battery life		≥ 350 splicing cycles
Data port		USB
Dimensions (L x W x H)	[mm]	156 x 141 x 156
Weight	[kg]	2,45 (with battery)
Ambient temperature	[°C]	-25 - +50 (operation) / -30 - +70 (storage)
Humidity	[%]	≤ 90
Altitude	[m]	0 - 5000
Wind speed	[m/s]	≤ 15



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