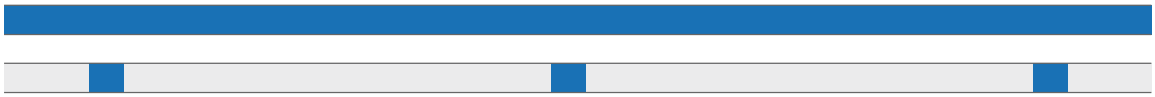
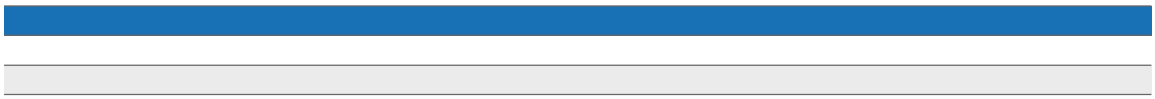
Changes to Band Marks FAQ

Berk-Tek, a Leviton company, will be instituting a change to the band marks on all of the Cat 6 and Cat 5e solid conductor LAN products that we manufacture. This document is intended to explain this superficial change, and that the products remain compliant with the applicable standards. This change does not impact our lines of industrial ethernet or patch cables.



Pair using Band Marks



Pair using Solid Colors

Q: What are band marks?

A: Band marks are colored markings applied to the otherwise white insulated conductor of a copper twisted pair. The color of the mark corresponds to the solid coloring of the other insulated conductor in the pair. For example, the blue pair would contain a conductor insulated with an all-blue insulation and a conductor insulated with a white insulation with periodic blue marks.

Q: What is the purpose of band marks?

A: Band marks were used to identify which insulated conductors were part of the same pair when cables had long lay lengths, such as those in Category 3, T1, and analog phone lines, and when long lengths of cable jacket were stripped off at connection points.

Q: Are band marks required?

A: No, ANSI/TIA 568.2-D Section 5.3.3. specifies that markings are not required if the lay length of the pair is less than 1.5 in. It further states that the solid-colored conductor can serve as the marking for the white conductor. All of Berk-Tek's products sold today contain twists that are less than the 1.5 in specified in the TIA document. Additionally, modern connectors do not require long lengths of the cable jacket to be removed, preventing technicians from 'losing' the paired conductors.

Q: Will this change impact the product performance?

A: No, all of the products will maintain their level of performance and quality that they are known for. This change is entirely superficial and will impact appearance only.

Q: Why is Berk-Tek making this change?

A: This will significantly reduce the amount of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in the inks used that are being released during the manufacturing process of our products, allowing us to manufacture the industry's best network infrastructure products in the most sustainable way possible. For more information on our sustainability efforts, please visit: https://www.leviton.com/sustainability

Q: What marking scheme will be implemented going forward?

A: All of our Cat 6 & Cat 5e solid-conductor LAN cables will use a solid color conductor (blue, orange, green or brown) paired with an all white conductor. This will match all of our existing Cat 6A cables that have always used this marking scheme.