



Replacing RF Port F Connectors

VIAVI OneExpert CATV (ONX-620 / ONX-630)

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ONX RF Ports F-81 Adapter Barrel Style Connector

The ONX-CATV has two RF ports with field replaceable barrel style connectors. The ONX ships with two F-81 splice style adapters rated to 3 GHz. These F-81 adapters are 1.2 in (307mm) long with a 0.5 in (132mm) distance between either end and the tightening nut. They are shipped installed into the RF ports to the recommended torque specification of 20 in-lbs (1.6 ft-lbs).



After some use these F-81 adapters may need to be replaced. When replacing these adapters, an F-81 adapter with similar dimensions and specifications is recommended.

Reason for RF Port Aluminum Collars and F-81 considerations

Since early 2017 all ONX models are built with aluminum collars around the RF port F-81 barrel-connectors. These collars were added to provide additional mechanical protection from lateral forces which could break the F connector and/or the RF port on the ONX. These collars work by reinforcing the base of the connector and help distribute forces over a bigger area. The height of the collar accommodates the F-81 barrel-connector that was originally shipped with the ONX, but has some margin to accommodate other, similarly sized and rated, F-81 barrel-connectors. It is important to ensure that ONX RF port F-81 barrel-connector replacements have enough length to pass through the aluminum collar and screw in far enough to close any gaps. Seating the connector properly into the ONX RF port prevents off-air signals from leaking around the F-81 barrel-connector. Also, the F-81 barrel-connector used should not be so long that when tightened it leaves a loose collar. The reinforcing strength provided by the collar requires the collar to be firmly held in place by the F-81 barrel-connector inserted into the ONX's RF ports. A loose collar will not properly strengthen the F-81 barrel-connector, making it more susceptible to breaking when stressed.



ONX-CATV's RF port aluminum collars



RF ports with collars between the F-81 barrel-connectors and ONX body



F-81 barrel-connectors come in many different forms based on their intended application. The ONX uses an F-81 splice style F connector, like the one shown here on the far-left. It is recommended that replacement F connectors be of similar length to minimize any negative impacts.

Replacing the F Connector

Start by removing the current F-81 adapter and collar (if present). If needed use a 7/16 wrench, turn the F connector counterclockwise until the adapter is completely out of the ONX RF port. Retain the collars if not replacing them with new ones.

Place the new F-81 adapter through the collar and screw the adapter into the ONX RF Port by turning clockwise. Make sure the collar is between the ONX and the F connector nut, as shown in the picture below. Tightening the F-81 adapter into the RF port to the torque specification of 20 in-lbs (1.6 ft-lbs) is recommended, which is about hand tight plus another quarter turn.



WARNING: Do NOT overtighten the F-81 adapter into the ONX's RF port, this can lead to permanently broken RF ports. Also, it is not recommended to use power tools when removing or replacing the F-81 adapters.

For Further Assistance:

If further assistance is needed please contact Viavi Technical Assistance Center (TAC) at:

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