

toolcrib

Seatek Company's Vee-Twin 270 Cable Stripper by R. Winn Hardin

Having the right tool for the job can really make a difference on the jobsite, even when it comes to simple tasks like stripping wire.

When it comes to plastic or rubber jacketed multi-conductor copper cable or rigid fiber optic cable, most of us just reach for our handy pocketknife or a utility blade. Were taught to whittle away the jacket around multi-conductors, especially copper strand wires so that we don't score the copper wires underneath the sheathing. This can take time and still result in cuts in the individual conductors, introducing noise and potentially resulting in premature wire failure, or corrosion and other problems.

Seatek Co. Inc. (Stamford, CT) has an answer that is ingenious for certain installations such as running a 50 pair cable to a phone cabinet, or installing multiple stovetops or other large appliances in a restaurant or cafeteria using large, multi-conductor cable, or for a worker at an OEM operation that makes hundreds of electrical motors and other devices that need repetitive wire stripping.

At first glance, the **Vee-Twin 270 (VT-270)** precision cable stripper seems a bit ominous and, perhaps, even over-designed. But when you start working with it, its easy to see that it was designed with just enough functionality to make precision wire stripping incredibly easy. The **VT-270** is a combination



precision vice and moveable razor. The spring-loaded blade retracts into the central housing and a tunable silver dial moves the razor up or down in 0.0 10- or 0.025-inch increments.

After you find out the depth of the insulation on the cable, you release the dial lock and turn the dial to set the razor to the appropriate depth so that it cuts through the insulation and not into the individual conductors underneath. With the cable snug in the **VT-270's** jaws, you turn a separate lever to set the blade perpendicular to the cable, and then spin the **VT-270** around the cable, making a perfect circular cut. Then you lift and turn the lever again to set the razor so it cuts along the length of the cable, pull the cable through the **VT-270** and you can peel the insulation off like peeling the plastic wrapping off of beef jerky.

Because you have to know the depth of the insulation, which most technicians don't bother to find out, and because it takes time to

set the blade to the right depth, our crack team of electrical monkeys didn't think most contractors would use it for single cable cuts unless the cable needed to be stripped in place and access behind the cable is difficult. (If access is limited, the nifty twisting action of the **VT-270** around the cable can make stripping a lot easier than trying to whittle something at arm's reach and in the dark.)

Lastly.. .and this is a **BIG ONE...** if you're running multiple cables to a panel with diameters between 1/4" and 2 1/8" OD with insulation no deeper than 1/4", the **VT-270** turns an hour's worth of stripping into a few minutes. And if you've got a production line that's turning out electrical parts that need quick strips of the same depth and type, then the **VT-270** is a **MUST HAVE tool for your operation.**

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