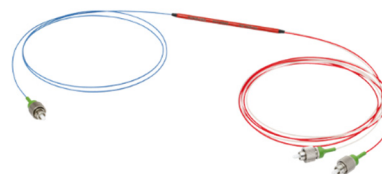


PFC850A



### Description

Thorlabs' PFC850A Fused Fiber Polarization Combiner/Splitter is designed to either combine or split linearly-polarized light. When used as a combiner, the linearly polarized inputs are combined into a single output with two orthogonal linear polarizations. When used as a splitter, an input with two orthogonal linear polarizations is split into two outputs each with a single linear polarization.

These polarization beam combiners are frequently utilized to combine the light from two pump lasers into a single fiber to increase the power input to an erbium-doped fiber amplifier or Raman amplifier.

### Specifications

PFC850A	
Center Wavelength	850 nm
Bandwidth	±15 nm
Extinction Ratio <sup>a</sup>	≥20.0 dB
Insertion Loss <sup>b</sup>	≤0.65 dB (Typ.)
Optical Return Loss (ORL) / Directivity <sup>b</sup>	≥60 dB
Max Power Level <sup>c</sup>	500 mW (With Connectors or Bare Fiber) 2 W (Spliced)
Fiber Type <sup>d,e</sup>	PANDA
Fiber <sup>d,e</sup>	Equivalent to PM 85-U25D
Port Configuration	1x2
Connector Key Alignment	White Port: Slow Axis Aligned Red Port: Fast Axis Aligned Blue Common Port: Slow Axis Aligned
Fiber Lead Length and Tolerance	0.8 m +0.075 m / -0.0 m
Connectors	2.0 mm Narrow Key FC/APC
Package Size	Ø0.12" x 2.95" (Ø3.2 mm x 75.0 mm)
Jacket	Ø900 µm Hytrel® Loose Tube
Pigtail Tensile Load	10 N
Operating Temperature Range	-40 to 85 °C
Storage Temperature Range	-40 to 85 °C



- Specified at room temperature with connectors and measured at the center wavelength with input through red or white port.
- Specified at room temperature without connectors and measured at the center wavelength with input through red or white port.
- Specifies the total maximum power allowed through the component. Device performance and reliability under high-power conditions must be determined within the user's setup. See Usage Tips for safety and handling information.
- Other fiber types may be available upon request. Please contact techsupport@thorlabs.com with inquiries.
- This device can be used with Thorlabs' PM780-HP fiber patch cables.

## Diagrams

Proper alignment for combining applications:

### Input Patch Cables



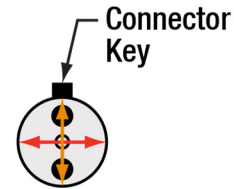
Keys Aligned to Slow Axis



### Fused Polarization Combiner



**White Port**  
Key Aligned to Slow Axis  
Slow-Axis Input Couples into Slow Axis



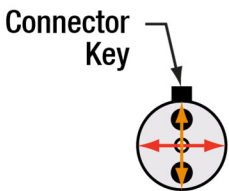
**Common Port (Blue)**  
Key Aligned to Slow Axis  
Combines Polarizations from Red and White Ports



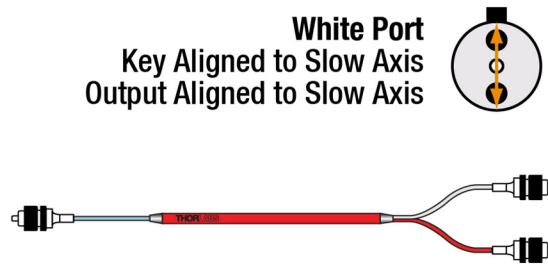
**Red Port**  
Key Aligned to Fast Axis  
Slow-Axis Input Couples into Fast Axis

Proper alignment for splitting applications:

### Fused Polarization Combiner



**Common Port (Blue)**  
Key Aligned to Slow Axis  
Input Polarizations Must be Linear and Orthogonal



**White Port**  
Key Aligned to Slow Axis  
Output Aligned to Slow Axis

**Red Port**  
Key Aligned to Fast Axis  
Output Aligned to Fast Axis

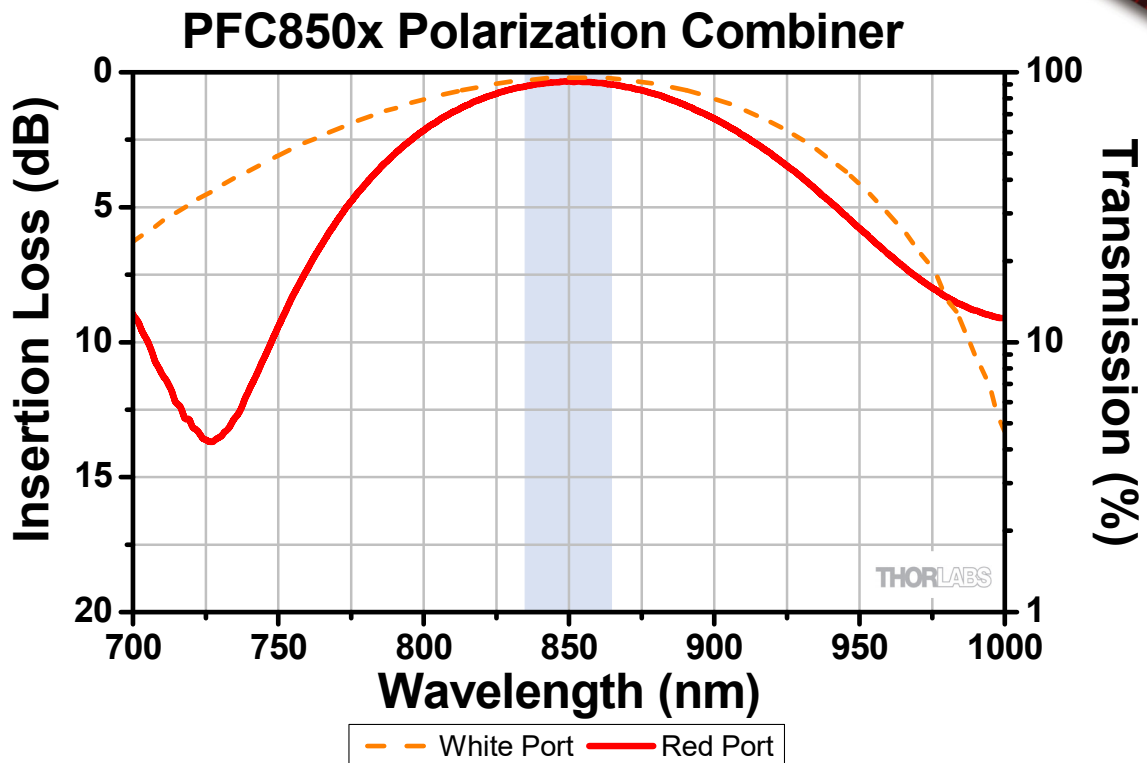
### Output Patch Cables



Keys Aligned to Slow Axis



## Performance Data



This plot shows the spectral performance of a typical 850 nm fused fiber polarization combiner. The blue-shaded region denotes the full operating wavelength range. All data were measured without connectors.

## Usage Tips

- 1) Before connecting a component to a system, make sure the light source is turned off. Inspect both the input and output fiber ends; debris or contamination on the end face can lead to fiber damage when operated at high powers.
- 2) After connecting the component, the system should be tested and aligned using a light source at low power. The system power can be ramped up slowly to the desired output power while periodically verifying all components are properly aligned and that coupling efficiency is not changing with respect to optical launch power.
- 3) Optical connectors can be removed and the device can be spliced into a setup for operation at higher optical powers. Fiber ends should always be cleaned and cleaved prior to splicing.