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Compact splice enclosure with improved access to adapters

Abstract

A splice enclosure that may include a body portion, a lower portion, an adapter portion, and a splice portion. The adapter portion may be configured to pivot relative to the body portion between a first adapter portion position and a second adapter portion position. The splice portion may be configured to pivot relative to the body portion between a first splice portion position and a second splice portion position. The adapter portion may be configured to be disposed between the splice portion and the lower portion when the splice portion is in the first splice portion position and the adapter portion is in the first adapter portion position such that the splice portion is configured to block access to the adapter portion. The splice portion also may be configured to permit access to the adapter portion when the splice portion is pivoted to the second splice portion position such that the adapter portion is configured to be selectively pivoted to the second adapter portion position so as to provide improved access to an adapter that is configured to be coupled with the adapter portion.

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Background/Summary

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION (1) This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 63/285,576 filed Dec. 3, 2021, the disclosure of which is hereby incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.

TECHNICAL FIELD

(1) The present disclosure generally relates to fiber optic cable systems. More particularly, the present disclosure relates to fiber optic cable systems for providing fiber to the premises.

BACKGROUND

(2) Optical networks are becoming prevalent in part because service providers want to deliver high bandwidth communication capabilities to customers. Optical networks are a desirable choice for delivering high speed communication data because they may not need to employ active electronic

devices, such as amplifiers and repeaters, between a central office and a subscriber termination. The absence of active electronic devices may decrease network complexity and/or cost and may increase network reliability.

(3) FIG. 1 shows an exemplary network **300** deploying passive fiber optic lines. As shown in FIG. 1, the network **300** may include a central office **310** that connects a number of end subscribers **315** (also called end users **315** herein) in a network. The central office **310** may additionally connect to a larger network such as the Internet (not shown) and/or a public switched telephone network (PSTN). The network **300** may also include one or more fiber distribution hubs (FDHs) **330** having one or more optical splitters (e.g., 1-to-8 splitters, 1-to-16 splitters, or 1-to-32 splitters) that generate a number of individual optical fibers that may lead to the premises of an end user **315**. The various lines of the network can be aerial or housed within underground conduits.

(4) The portion of network **300** that is closest to central office **310** is generally referred to as the F1 region, where F1 is the “feeder fiber” from the central office. The F1 portion of the network may include a distribution cable having, for example, 12 to 48 optical fibers. However, alternative implementations may include fewer or more optical fibers. The portion of network **300** that includes an FDH **330** and a number of end users **315** may be referred to as an F2 portion of network **300**. Splitters used in an FDH **330** may accept a feeder cable having a number of optical fibers and may split those incoming fibers into, for example, 216 to 432 individual distribution fibers that may be associated with a like number of end user locations.

(5) Referring to FIG. 1, the network **300** includes a plurality of breakout locations **325** at which branch cables are separated out from main cable lines **320**. Breakout locations **325** can also be referred to as tap locations, drop cable locations, splice locations or branch locations. Branch cables can also be referred to as drop cables, drop lines, breakout cables or stub cables. Branch cables are often connected to drop terminals **304** that include connector interfaces for facilitating coupling the fibers of the branch cable to a plurality of different subscriber locations. Breakout locations **325** are often enclosed by a field mounted enclosure which protects optical splices (e.g., fusion or mechanical splices) or other types of optical couplings (e.g., connectorized optical couplings) provide at the breakout location **325**. Since breakout locations are often provided at mid-span locations on the main cable being accessed, it may be desirable provide field mounted enclosures that are readily mountable at mid-span access locations without requiring the main cable to be “threaded” lengthwise through the enclosure.

(6) It may be desirable to provide a splice enclosure where a splice tray is configured to permit access to an adapter holder when the splice tray is pivoted to a second position such that the adapter holder can be pivoted to a second position so as to provide improved access to an adapter that is configured to be coupled with the adapter holder and to optically couple a terminated fiber with a fiber of a drop cable.

(7) It may be desirable to provide a compact splice enclosure that provides: (1) improved access to an adapter plate that is configured to receive connectors; (2) a three layer design providing fiber storage, a patching field, and a splice field; and (3) double sealing for improved environmental protection.

SUMMARY

(8) Fiber optic networks can extend to multi-dwelling units such as apartment buildings and condominiums. FIG. 2 shows a fiber optic network including a cable **350** routed into a multi-dwelling unit **352**. Within the multi-dwelling unit **352**, branch cables/fibers are optically coupled to the fibers of the cable **350** at optical coupling locations (e.g., fusion splices, mechanical splices or connectorized optical couplings). The optical coupling locations can be enclosed within one or more wall boxes that are typically equipped with doors/covers that can be opened to provide easy access to the optical coupling locations. The wall boxes are typically provided at different floors of the multi-dwelling unit with each wall box having optical coupling locations corresponding to a plurality of different subscribers (e.g., each resident on a given floor).

(9) One example embodiment of the present disclosure relates to a splice enclosure which includes a main body, a cover, a spool module, an adapter plate, and a splice tray. The main body defines a chamber having an opening. The cover may be pivotably affixed to a top side of the main body. The adapter plate may be configured to be pivotably affixed to a post of the lower spool hub. The cover may be configured to selectively open and close access to the chamber of the main body wherein the cover is configured to pivot open in a first direction. In embodiments, the adapter plate includes an adapter and the adapter plate is configured to pivot open in a second direction to provide improved access to a port of the adapter. In embodiments, the adapter plate and adapter are disposed between the splice tray and the lower spool hub when the splice tray and the adapter plate are pivoted down to a closed position. In embodiments, the splice tray defines a perimeter which is substantially commensurate with the opening of the main body.

(10) In embodiments, an aperture in the splice enclosure is configured to receive an upstream cable portion. The upstream cable portion includes a plurality of bypass optical fibers and a plurality of terminated optical fibers. The lower spool hub and an upper spool hub are configured to store an excess length of the plurality of terminated fibers which are wound around the upper spool hub and the lower spool hub. The plurality of bypass fibers are configured to be routed out of the main body as a first downstream cable via a second aperture in the splice enclosure.

(11) In embodiments, the terminated fibers are configured to be spliced to a first set of pig tails such that each terminated fiber is configured to be spliced to a corresponding pigtail in the first set of pigtails. The first set of pigtails is configured to be connected to a second set of pigtails at the adapter. The second set of pigtails are configured to be downstream.

(12) Embodiments provide a splice enclosure where a splice tray is configured to permit access to an adapter holder when the splice tray is pivoted to a second position such that the adapter holder can be pivoted to a second position so as to provide improved access to an adapter that is configured to be coupled with the adapter holder and to optically couple a terminated fiber with a fiber of a drop cable.

(13) According to various embodiments of the disclosure, a splice enclosure includes: a body configured to define a chamber having an opening; a cover configured to be pivotally coupled with the body so as to selectively close the opening; a spool module that includes a spool hub and a post; an adapter holder configured to be pivotally coupled with the post of the spool module; and a splice tray configured to be pivotally coupled with the spool module.

(14) According to various aspects of the above embodiments of the splice enclosure, the cover is configured to pivot relative to the body from a closed position that prevents access to the chamber to an open position that permits access to the chamber.

(15) According to various aspects of the above embodiments of the splice enclosure, the adapter holder is configured to pivot relative to the body between a first adapter holder position and a second adapter holder position.

(16) According to various aspects of the above embodiments of the splice enclosure, the splice tray is configured to pivot relative to the body between a first splice tray position and a second splice tray position.

(17) According to various aspects of the above embodiments of the splice enclosure, the adapter holder is configured to be disposed between the splice tray and the spool hub when the splice tray is in first splice tray position and the adapter holder is in the first adapter holder position such that the splice tray is configured to block access to the adapter holder.

(18) According to various aspects of the above embodiments of the splice enclosure, the main body includes an input aperture that is configured to receive an upstream cable.

(19) According to various aspects of the above embodiments of the splice enclosure, the upstream cable includes a bypass fiber and a terminated fiber.

(20) According to various aspects of the above embodiments of the splice enclosure, the main body includes an output aperture that is configured to receive a downstream cable that includes the

bypass fiber.

(21) According to various aspects of the above embodiments of the splice enclosure, the splice tray is configured to permit access to the adapter holder when the splice tray is pivoted to the second splice tray position such that the adapter holder is configured to be selectively pivoted to the second adapter holder position so as to provide improved access to an adapter that is configured to be coupled with the adapter holder and to optically couple the terminated fiber with a fiber of a drop cable.

(22) According to various aspects of the above embodiments of the splice enclosure, the splice tray includes an upper spool hub, and wherein the upper spool hub is configured to store an excess length of the plurality of terminated fibers.

(23) According to various aspects of the above embodiments of the splice enclosure, the splice tray comprises a splice holder.

(24) According to various aspects of the above embodiments of the splice enclosure, the splice holder is configured to receive a splice of the terminated fiber to a first pigtail.

(25) According to various aspects of the above embodiments of the splice enclosure, the first pigtail is configured to be connected to a second pigtail at the adapter holder.

(26) According to various aspects of the above embodiments of the splice enclosure, the second pigtail is routed from the adapter holder to outside of the splice enclosure.

(27) According to various aspects of the above embodiments of the splice enclosure, the splice tray is configured to define a perimeter which substantially covers the opening of the chamber.

(28) According to various aspects of the above embodiments of the splice enclosure, bypass fiber comprises a plurality of bypass fibers.

(29) According to various aspects of the above embodiments of the splice enclosure, the terminated fiber comprises a plurality of terminated fibers.

(30) According to various embodiments of the disclosure, a splice enclosure includes: a body portion configured to define a chamber having an opening; a cover portion configured to be pivotally coupled with the body portion so as to selectively close the opening; a spool portion configured to include a spool sub portion; an adapter portion configured to be pivotably attached to the spool portion; and a splice tray portion configured to be pivotably attached to the spool portion.

(31) According to various aspects of the above embodiments of the splice enclosure, the adapter portion is configured to pivot relative to the body portion between a first adapter portion position and a second adapter portion position.

(32) According to various aspects of the above embodiments of the splice enclosure, the splice tray portion is configured to pivot relative to the body portion between a first splice tray position and a second splice tray position.

(33) According to various aspects of the above embodiments of the splice enclosure, the adapter portion is configured to be disposed between the splice tray portion and the spool sub portion when the splice tray portion and the adapter portion are in the first positions such that the splice tray portion is configured to block access to the adapter portion.

(34) According to various aspects of the above embodiments of the splice enclosure, the body portion is configured to receive a terminated fiber.

(35) According to various aspects of the above embodiments of the splice enclosure, the splice tray portion is configured to permit access to the adapter portion when the splice tray portion is pivoted to the second splice tray position such that the adapter portion is configured to be selectively pivoted to the second adapter portion position so as to provide improved access to an adapter that is configured to be coupled with the adapter portion and to optically couple the terminated fiber with a fiber of a drop cable.

(36) According to various aspects of the above embodiments of the splice enclosure, the splice tray portion includes an upper spool hub, and wherein the upper spool hub is configured to store an excess length of the terminated fiber.

- (37) According to various aspects of the above embodiments of the splice enclosure, the adapter portion comprises an adapter plate.
- (38) According to various aspects of the above embodiments of the splice enclosure, the body portion includes an input aperture that is configured to receive an upstream cable, and wherein the upstream cable includes a bypass fiber and the terminated fiber.
- (39) According to various aspects of the above embodiments of the splice enclosure, the bypass fiber comprises a plurality of bypass fibers.
- (40) According to various aspects of the above embodiments of the splice enclosure, the terminated fiber comprises a plurality of terminated fibers.
- (41) According to various aspects of the above embodiments of the splice enclosure, the splice tray portion comprises a splice holder.
- (42) According to various aspects of the above embodiments of the splice enclosure, the splice holder is configured to receive a splice of the terminated fiber to a first pigtail.
- (43) According to various aspects of the above embodiments of the splice enclosure, the first pigtail is configured to be connected to a second pigtail at the adapter portion.
- (44) According to various aspects of the above embodiments of the splice enclosure, the second pigtail is routed from the adapter portion to outside of the splice enclosure.
- (45) According to various embodiments of the disclosure, a splice enclosure includes: a body portion; a lower portion; an adapter portion; and a splice portion. The adapter portion is configured to pivot relative to the body portion between a first adapter portion position and a second adapter portion position; the splice portion is configured to pivot relative to the body portion between a first splice portion position and a second splice portion position; the adapter portion is configured to be disposed between the splice portion and the lower portion when the splice portion is in the first splice portion position and the adapter portion is in the first adapter portion position such that the splice portion is configured to block access to the adapter portion; and the splice portion is configured to permit access to the adapter portion when the splice portion is pivoted to the second splice portion position such that the adapter portion is configured to selectively pivot to the second adapter portion position so as to provide improved access to an adapter that is configured to be coupled with the adapter portion.
- (46) According to various aspects of the above embodiments of the splice enclosure, the splice enclosure further includes a cover portion configured to be pivotably attached to the body portion.
- (47) According to various aspects of the above embodiments of the splice enclosure, the adapter portion is configured to be pivotably attached to the lower portion.
- (48) According to various aspects of the above embodiments of the splice enclosure, the splice portion is configured to be pivotably attached to the lower portion.
- (49) According to various aspects of the above embodiments of the splice enclosure, the body portion includes an input aperture that is configured to receive an upstream cable.
- (50) According to various aspects of the above embodiments of the splice enclosure, the upstream cable includes a bypass fiber and a terminated fiber.
- (51) According to various aspects of the above embodiments of the splice enclosure, the body portion includes an output aperture that is configured to receive a downstream cable that includes the bypass fiber.
- (52) According to various aspects of the above embodiments of the splice enclosure, the splice portion comprises a splice tray and includes an upper spool hub, and wherein the upper spool hub is configured to store an excess length of the terminated fiber.
- (53) According to various aspects of the above embodiments of the splice enclosure, the lower portion comprises a lower main spool.
- (54) According to various aspects of the above embodiments of the splice enclosure, the adapter portion includes an adapter plate and an adapter.

(55) According to various aspects of the above embodiments of the splice enclosure, the adapter is configured to optically couple the terminated fiber with a fiber of a drop cable.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

- (1) Further advantages and features of the present disclosure will become apparent from the following description and the accompanying drawings, to which reference is made. In which are shown:
- (2) FIG. 1 shows a prior art passive fiber optic network.
- (3) FIG. 2 shows an exemplary passive fiber optic network.
- (4) FIG. 3 shows an exemplary splice enclosure in accordance with various aspects of the disclosure with a cover in a closed position.
- (5) FIG. 4 shows the splice enclosure of FIG. 3 with the cover in an open position and side latches in an open position.
- (6) FIG. 5 shows the splice enclosure of FIG. 3 with the cover, a splice tray, and an adapter plate pivoted in an upper position.
- (7) FIG. 6 shows the splice enclosure of FIG. 3 with the cover and splice tray pivoted in the upper position, and the adapter plate pivoted in a stowed position.
- (8) FIG. 7 is a cross-sectional view along line 7A-7A in FIG. 3 when the enclosure is fully closed.
- (9) FIG. 8 is a cross-sectional view along line 7A-7A in FIG. 3 when the enclosure is partially closed.
- (10) FIG. 9 is a plan view of the splice enclosure of FIG. 3 with the cover in the open position.
- (11) FIG. 10 is an upper perspective view of the splice enclosure of FIG. 3 with the cover in an open position and showing the splice tray.
- (12) FIG. 11 is an upper side perspective view of the splice enclosure of FIG. 3 showing a spool module.
- (13) FIG. 12 is an upper side perspective view of the splice enclosure of FIG. 3 showing the spool module wherein the splice tray is pivoted up and adapter plate is pivoted down to the stowed position.
- (14) FIG. 13 is a rear perspective view of the splice enclosure of FIG. 3.
- (15) FIG. 14 is a side upper perspective view of the splice enclosure of FIG. 3.
- (16) FIG. 15 is an upper side perspective view of the splice enclosure of FIG. 3.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

(17) Reference will now be made in detail to presently preferred compositions, embodiments and methods of the present disclosure, which constitute the best modes of practicing the present disclosure presently known to the inventors. The figures are not necessarily to scale. It is to be understood that the disclosed embodiments are merely exemplary of the present disclosure that may be embodied in various and alternative forms. Therefore, specific details disclosed herein are not to be interpreted as limiting, but merely as a representative basis for any aspect of the present disclosure and/or as a representative basis for teaching one skilled in the art to variously employ the present disclosure.

(18) It is also to be understood that this present disclosure is not limited to the specific embodiments and methods described below, as specific components and/or conditions may, of course, vary. Furthermore, the terminology used herein is used only for the purpose of describing particular embodiments of the present disclosure and is not intended to be limiting in any way.

(19) It must also be noted that, as used in the specification and the appended claims, the singular form “a,” “an,” and “the” comprise plural referents unless the context clearly indicates otherwise. For example, reference to a component in the singular is intended to comprise a plurality of

components.

(20) The present disclosure relates generally to enclosures or terminals configured to be easily mounted at mid-span locations along the length of a fiber optic telecommunications cable. It is preferred for wall boxes in accordance with the principles of the present disclosure to be used for indoor applications such as multi-dwelling units, or commercial buildings where a plurality of subscribers is located. However, it will be appreciated that wall boxes in accordance with the principles of the present disclosure can be used for either indoor or outdoor applications wherever it is desired to easily mount an enclosure at a mid-span location of a telecommunications cable. Certain embodiments can be sealed for use in below grade applications (e.g., for use in hand holes).

(21) Embodiments provide a splice enclosure where a splice tray is configured to permit access to an adapter holder when the splice tray is pivoted to a second position such that the adapter holder can be pivoted to a second position so as to provide improved access to an adapter that is configured to be coupled with the adapter holder and to optically couple a terminated fiber with a fiber of a drop cable.

(22) FIGS. 3-15 show an enclosure **10** having features in accordance with the principles of the present disclosure. In embodiments, the enclosure **10** includes a cover **14**, a back side **16** (see FIG. 14), a top side **18**, a bottom side **20**, a right side **22** and a left side **24**. The enclosure **10** includes a main body **12** defined by the back side **16**, the top side **18**, a bottom side **20**, the right side **22** and the left side **24** which are integral to each other. In embodiments, the cover **14** is pivotably mounted to the top side **18** of the main body **12**. The cover **14** is movable between a first closed position (shown in FIG. 3), and a second open position (shown in FIG. 4) which allows access into the interior of the enclosure **10** from the cover **14** of the enclosure **10**. The main body **12** also defines bottom open regions (or apertures) **26** located proximate to one of the corners of the enclosure **10** and are defined, in this example, on the bottom side **20**. The enclosure **10** also includes a cable cover **28** that may be integral to the main body **12** to cover bottom open regions **26**. The enclosure **10** further includes a splice tray **30** that mounts to a lower portion (such as a lower spool module) **32** (See FIGS. 11 and 12) which is disposed in an interior chamber of the enclosure **10**. The splice tray **30** is accessible through the opening **36** (see FIG. 4) defined by the main body **12** when the cover **14** is open.

(23) For ease of explanation, the various sides of the enclosure have been described as being “top”, “bottom”, “right” and “left” sides so as to correspond with the orientation of the enclosure shown at FIG. 4. However, it will be appreciated that when used in the field, the enclosure can be mounted at any orientation. For example, if the distribution cable **98** is routed horizontally, the sides **18**, **20** would be oriented to define the left and right sides of the main body, and the sides **22**, **24** would be oriented to define the top and bottom sides of the main body.

(24) The cable cover **28** may be integral to the main body **12** of the enclosure **10** to facilitate positioning the enclosure **10** at a mid-span access location of a telecommunications cable **98**. The cable openings **26** may be provided at the top and/or bottom sides **18**, **20** of the enclosure **10** for allowing the portions of the telecommunications cable entering (**98**) and exiting (**101**) (see FIG. 9) of the mid-span access location to enter and exit the enclosure **10**.

(25) As shown in FIG. 4, the cover **14** is pivotably connected to the main body **12** at a vertical pivot axis **38** located generally adjacent a top side edge **40** of the main body **12**. In embodiments, the pivotable connection between the cover **14** and the main body **12** is provided by a hinge arrangement that includes a pair of hinge pins **42** integrally formed with either the main body **12** or cover **14**. A pair of hinge pin receivers **44** integrally formed with the other of the main body **12** or cover **14** receive hinge pins **42** to form the hinge arrangement. In embodiments, the hinge pin receivers **44** each include a pair of opposing, flexible arms that defines a pocket into which the hinge pins **42** can be snapped to provide the pivotable connection between the cover **14** and the main body **12**. The enclosure **10** also includes a fastening arrangement **52** (see FIG. 3) for securing the cover **14** in the closed position. The fastening arrangement **52** includes a fastener which secures

the cover **14** to the main body **12**. As shown in FIGS. 3-4, latching members **48** may be pivotably attached to the left side **24** and right side **22** of the main body **12**. When the cover **14** is in the closed position (see FIG. 3), each latching member **48** may also be pivoted to the closed position as shown in FIG. 3 wherein each latching member **48** exerts a force **51** (FIG. 7) on the cover **14** thereby compressing a seal (or gasket) **61** between the cover **14** and the main body **12**.

(26) The structure described above provides a sealed relationship between the cover **14** and the main body **12** when the cover **14** is in the closed position. For example, in the embodiment shown in FIGS. 4, 7, and 8, the main body **12** can define a front edge **60** that extends generally around the perimeter of the opening **36** of the main body **12**. In embodiments, the front edge **60** of the main body **12** fits within a corresponding channel (or receptacle **62**) defined on the back side of the cover **14**. In embodiments, the gasket **61** can be provided within the channel **62** of the cover **14** so as to provide a seal between the cover **14** and the main body **12** when the cover **14** is closed-particularly when the latching members **48** are in their closed position as shown in FIG. 3.

(27) Referring to FIGS. 6 and 11, an example cable/fiber management structure is shown within the interior of the enclosure **10**. For example, as shown in FIG. 11, a lower spool hub **64** is shown integrally formed as part of the spool module **32**. The outer surface of the lower spool hub **64** acts as a bend radius limiter that is at least as large as a minimum bend radius requirement of the optical fiber desired to be stored around the lower spool hub **64** within the enclosure **10**. The spool module **32** also includes cable retention members **72** that project outwardly from an upper area of the lower spool hub **64**. The cable retention members **72** (see FIGS. 11 and 12) function to prevent cables looped around the lower spool hub **64** from migrating off of the lower spool hub **64**.

(28) The splice tray **30** also provides cable/fiber management within the interior of the enclosure **10**. Referring to FIGS. 4 and 10, the splice tray **30** includes a generally rectangular main panel **74** having optional rounded corners. A perimeter wall **78** projects forwardly from the main panel **74** and extends around the perimeter **75** of the main panel **74**. The optional rounded corners **77** of the main panel **74** may assist in fiber bend radius protection. An upper spool hub **76** also projects forwardly from the main panel **74**. The upper spool hub **76** has an outer curvature selected to provide bend radius protection to fibers **96** routed about the exterior of the upper spool hub **76**. In use, excess fiber can be looped around the upper spool hub **76** so as to form an elongated fiber storage loop at the front side of the main panel **74**. Fiber retention fingers **80** project outwardly from the upper spool hub **76** and inwardly from side retention members **82** which are integrally formed in main panel **74**. The fiber retention fingers **80** function to assist in retaining slack fibers within the area defined between upper spool hub **76** and the side retention members **82**.

(29) As shown in FIG. 10, a splice sleeve holder **86** can be mounted to (or integral to) the main panel **74** in a region adjacent to the upper spool hub **76** (i.e., in a region bound by the side retention members **82** and the perimeter wall **78**). The splice sleeve holder **86** is configured to hold splice sleeves used to provide mechanical support to a fusion splice formed between two optical fibers. One or more passages **90** can be defined through the main panel **74** for allowing optical fibers to be routed from the lower spool hub **64** disposed proximate to a back side of the splice tray **30** to the front side of the splice tray **30**.

(30) Referring to FIGS. 3 and 9, each of the bottom open regions **26** defined by the main body **12** is configured to allow a fiber optic cable to be mounted in a pass-through configuration within the enclosure **10**. In this pass-through configuration, a mid-span access location of the cable is located within the enclosure **10**, and upstream **99** and downstream **101** portions of the cable are routed in and out of the enclosure **10** through two of the bottom open regions **26**. As shown, the cable cover **28** may be integral to the main body **12** and may be half cylinders integral to the main body **12**.

(31) The enclosure **10** may be configured to be easily mounted to a vertical surface such as a pole or wall. In certain embodiments, one or more mounting flanges can be integrally formed with the main body **12** for allowing the enclosure **10** to be readily fastened to a wall, pole or other structure. In still other embodiments, the enclosure **10** can be used in combination with a separate bracket

arrangement that is pre-mounted to a structure, such as a wall or pole, and that receives or otherwise attaches to the enclosure **10** to allow the enclosure **10** to be readily mounted to the wall, pole or other structure.

(32) To mount the enclosure **10** at a corresponding mid-span location of a cable, the cable is initially prepared by stripping away the outer jacket of the cable for a desired length at the mid-span location. In one embodiment, about 4 feet of the outer jacket can be stripped away. The stripped portion **111** (FIG. **9**) of the cable can then be spooled around the lower spool hub **64**.

(33) To access fibers within the enclosure **10**, selected fibers from the multi fiber cable can be terminated proximate to the bottom open regions **26** so as to provide a length of terminated fiber within the enclosure **10**. The length of terminated fiber can be spooled around the lower spool hub **64** and then routed up above the splice tray **30** (via openings **90** defined in the splice tray **30**) around the upper spool hub **76** for storage purposes. When it is desired to splice one of the terminated fibers to a fiber of a distribution cable, the terminated fiber can be accessed from the upper spool hub **76** (which was routed through one of the openings **90** in the splice tray **30**). At the front side of the splice tray **30**, the terminated optical fiber can be spliced to a corresponding fiber of another cable (e.g., a distribution cable) with the splice being mounted at the splice sleeve holder **86** as shown at FIG. **10**. As indicated, excess fiber from the distribution cable can also be stored by wrapping the excess fiber around the upper spool hub **76** at the front side of the splice tray **30**. The fiber to which the terminated fiber is spliced is then routed into the enclosure **10** through one of the openings **90** of the splice tray **30** and the fiber is routed to an adapter portion (such as, for example, a pivotable adapter plate) **120** wherein a connector **110** is attached to the end of the fiber wherein the connector **110** is connected to one of one or more adapters (such as, for example, input ports) **102** connected to the adapter plate **120** (FIGS. **11**, **12**, and **15**).

(34) The adapter plate **120** has, in this example, adapters (such as, for example, output ports) **104** connected to adapter plate **120** to which connectors **110** can be connected. For example, pigtailed **145** can be routed to the input port **152** at bottom wall **20** and then a cable exits from the output port **114** at bottom wall **20** to a residence. For certain applications, all of the input ports **112** and output ports **114** at the bottom wall **20** may be used as well as the bottom open regions **26**. For example, for some applications, it may be desirable to pass two separate telecommunications cables (such as an input cable via one bottom open region **26** and an output cable via another bottom open region **26**) through the enclosure **10**. For other applications or to facilitate cable routing, the same telecommunications cable may be passed through one of the bottom open regions **26**, looped around the lower spool hub **64**, and then passed back through the other bottom open region **26** as an output cable, as shown in FIG. **9**.

(35) FIGS. **5**, **6**, **9**, **12**, and **15** illustrate the spool module **32** having the adapter plate **120** which is pivotably mounted to the spool module **32**. A plurality of input ports **102** and output ports **104** are mounted to the adapter plate **120**. The pivotable connection between the adapter plate **120** and the spool module **32** is provided by a hinge arrangement that may optionally include a pair of hinge pins **242** integrally formed with either the adapter plate **120** or a post **122** of the spool module **32**. In embodiments, a pair of hinge pin receivers **244** are integrally formed with the other of the adapter plate **120** and the post **122**. The hinge pin receivers **244** each include a pair of opposing, flexible arms **246** that defines a pocket into which the hinge pins **242** can be snapped to provide the pivotable connection between the adapter plate **120** and the post **122** of the spool module **32**. The connectorized ends **110** of the pigtailed **108** (see FIG. **9**) are preferably inserted within the input ports **102** of the adapter plate **120**. By plugging a connectorized end **110** of a drop cable into an output port **104** of adapter plate **120**, the drop cable can be optically connected to one of the fibers of the cable passed through the enclosure **10**.

(36) Referring to FIG. **15**, embodiments of the enclosure **10** of the present disclosure include a three-level design wherein the lower spool hub **64** is the first level. As shown in FIG. **15**, when the adapter plate **120** is pivoted down into its stowed position, the adapter plate **120** constitutes a

second level of the design such that the adapter plate **120** is disposed above the lower spool hub **64** (and below the splice tray **30**). The splice tray **30** is the third level of the design such that when the splice tray **30** is pivoted down to its closed position (shown in FIG. **4**), then the adapter plate **120** is disposed between the splice tray **30** and the lower spool hub **64**. Also, as shown in FIG. **5**, the adapter plate **120** pivots away from the splice tray **30** at hinge **219** to allow a user to have better access and better clearance around the connectorized ends **110** when the user must connect and/or disconnect the connectorized ends **110** from the adapter plate **120**. Without the pivoting feature of the adapter plate **120**, a user would find it difficult or impossible to connect and disconnect connectorized ends **110** to/from the adapter plate **120** in the lower or closed position of the adapter plate **120**. With reference to FIG. **15**, the hinge **209** for the splice tray **30** is disposed proximate to the edge of the main body **12** and the hinge **219** for the adapter plate **120** is disposed proximate to the top end of the post **122** such that splice tray **30** stays above the adapter plate **120** when both the splice tray **30** and adapter plate **120** are pivoted down in the stowed position. As a result of arranging the adapter plate **120** between the lower spool hub **64** and the splice tray **30**, the splice tray **30** maximizes its surface area (within the opening **36** of the main body **12**) with the upper spool hub **76** and the splice holder **86**. See FIG. **10**.

(37) It is also understood that there is also a plurality of input ports **112** and output ports **114** which are mounted to the main body **12**. See FIG. **9**. As previously noted, through the use of the enclosure **10**, certain fibers from a mid-span access location of a cable passed through the enclosure **10** are spliced to a plurality of fiber optic pigtails **108** having connectorized ends **110**. See FIGS. **9** and **10**. As previously noted with respect to the adapter plate **120**, the connectorized ends **110** of the pigtails **108** are inserted into the input ports **102** of the adapter plate **120**. See FIG. **9**. By plugging a connectorized end **110** of a drop cable into an output port **104** of the adapter plate **120**, the drop cable can be optically connected to one of the fibers of the cable which passes through an input port **112** and an output port **114** which are mounted onto the main body **12** in order to exit the enclosure **10**.

(38) Referring back to FIG. **8**, the bottom side **20** of the main body **12** is used to support the input ports **112** and the output ports **114** of the enclosure **10**. The adapter plate **120** may define an adapter axis that is generally parallel or aligned to the through-cable routing axes. In this way, drop cables optically connected to the adapter plate **120** can be routed away from the enclosure **10** in directions generally parallel to a through-cable that passes through the enclosure **10** via the input ports **112** and the output ports **114**.

(39) FIG. **13** shows the back side of the enclosure **10** and, in this example, shows the back side of the enclosure **10** having at least one pair of channels **136**. A bracket **130** may be affixed to a pole or other mounting surface via screws (not shown) which are received in apertures **132** in the bracket **130**. Once the bracket **130** is mounted to a pole or other mounting surface, then the enclosure **10** can be mounted to the bracket **130** by sliding the enclosure **10** onto the bracket **130**. Referring to FIG. **14**, an upper tab **141** on the bracket **130** defines a protrusion **140** which abuts the outside edge **142** of a flange **144** of the main body **12** in order to prevent the enclosure **10** from inadvertently slipping off of the bracket **130**. However, it is understood that the protrusion **140** may be implemented in a different position on the tab **141** so that the protrusion **140** abuts an inside edge **145** of the flange **144**.

(40) As an alternative to using screws in the bracket **130**, elongated apertures **146** on the bracket **130** can be used to thread a loop or metal or other material (not shown) through the bracket **130** (which is affixed to the enclosure as previously described) so that the loop can be attached to a pole.

(41) Wing brackets **138** are attached to the back side of the main body **12** as shown in FIG. **13**. Wing brackets **138** have, in this example, key holes that can be used to hang the enclosure **10** by screw, nails, or other headed fasteners.

(42) According to the above, an exemplary splice enclosure of the present disclosure includes a

main body **12**, a cover **14**, a spool module **32**, an adapter plate **120**, and a splice tray **30**. The main body **12** defines a chamber having an opening **36**. The cover **14** may be pivotally attached to a top side of the main body **12**. The adapter plate **120** may be configured to be pivotally attached to a post of the spool module **32**. The cover **14** may be configured to selectively open and close access to the chamber of the main body **12** wherein the cover **14** is configured to pivot open in a first direction. See FIG. 5. The adapter plate **120** is configured to pivot open in a second direction (see FIG. 5) to provide improved access to ports **102**, **104** of the adapter plate **120**. The adapter plate **120** is disposed between the splice tray **30** and the lower spool hub **64** when the splice tray **30** and the adapter plate **120** are pivoted down to a closed position. See FIG. 4. The splice tray **30** defines a perimeter **75** which is substantially commensurate with the opening **36** of the main body **12**. See FIG. 4.

(43) Therefore, it is understood that an aperture (bottom open region) **26** in a plurality of apertures (bottom open region) **26** is configured to receive an upstream cable portion. The upstream cable portion includes a plurality of bypass fibers and a plurality of terminated fibers. The lower spool hub **64** and the upper spool hub **76** are configured to store an excess length of the plurality of terminated fibers which are would around the upper spool hub **76** and the lower spool hub **64**. See FIGS. 9 and 10. The plurality of bypass fibers are routed out of the main body **12** via a second aperture (bottom open region) **26**. Referring to FIGS. 9 and 10, the plurality of terminated fibers are routed from the lower spool hub **64** to the upper spool hub **76** and then the terminated fibers are spliced to another set of corresponding terminated fibers at the splice holder **86** (see FIG. 10) defined on the splice tray **30**.

(44) Also, as described with reference to FIG. 10, the plurality of terminated fibers are configured to be spliced to a first set of pig tails **108** such that each terminated fiber is configured to be spliced to a corresponding pigtail in the first set of pigtails. As shown in FIG. 9, the first set of pigtails **108** is configured to be connected to a second set of pigtails at the adapter plate **120**. The second set of pigtails are configured to be downstream cables which are configured to be routed from the adapter plate **120** to the ports **112**, **114**. (See FIG. 8).

(45) While at least one example, non-limiting embodiments have been presented in the foregoing detailed description, it should be appreciated that a vast number of variations exist. It should also be appreciated that the exemplary embodiment or exemplary embodiments are only examples, and are not intended to limit the scope, applicability, or configuration of the disclosure in any way. Rather, the foregoing detailed description will provide those skilled in the art with a convenient road map for implementing the exemplary embodiment or exemplary embodiments. It should be understood that various changes can be made in the function and arrangement of elements without departing from the scope of the disclosure as set forth in the appended claims and the legal equivalents thereof.

Claims

1. A splice enclosure structurally configured to provide improved access to an adapter comprising: a body configured to define a chamber having an opening; a cover configured to be pivotally coupled with the body so as to selectively close the opening; a spool module that includes a spool hub and a post; an adapter holder configured to be pivotally coupled with the post of the spool module; a splice tray configured to be pivotally coupled with the spool module; wherein the cover is configured to pivot relative to the body from a closed position that prevents access to the chamber to an open position that permits access to the chamber; wherein the adapter holder is configured to pivot relative to the body between a first adapter holder position and a second adapter holder position; wherein the splice tray is configured to pivot relative to the body between a first splice tray position and a second splice tray position; wherein the adapter holder is configured to be disposed between the splice tray and the spool hub when the splice tray is in first splice tray

- position and the adapter holder is in the first adapter holder position such that the splice tray is configured to block access to the adapter holder; wherein the main body includes an input aperture that is configured to receive an upstream cable; wherein the upstream cable includes a bypass fiber and a terminated fiber; wherein the main body includes an output aperture that is configured to receive a downstream cable that includes the bypass fiber; and wherein the splice tray is configured to permit access to the adapter holder when the splice tray is pivoted to the second splice tray position such that the adapter holder is configured to be selectively pivoted to the second adapter holder position so as to provide improved access to an adapter that is configured to be coupled with the adapter holder and to optically couple the terminated fiber with a fiber of a drop cable.
2. The splice enclosure of claim 1, wherein the splice tray includes an upper spool hub, and wherein the upper spool hub is configured to store an excess length of the plurality of terminated fibers.
 3. The splice enclosure of claim 1, wherein the splice tray comprises a splice holder.
 4. The splice enclosure of claim 3, wherein the splice holder is configured to receive a splice of the terminated fiber to a first pigtail.
 5. The splice enclosure of claim 4, wherein the first pigtail is configured to be connected to a second pigtail at the adapter holder.
 6. The splice enclosure of claim 5, wherein the second pigtail is routed from the adapter holder to outside of the splice enclosure.
 7. The splice enclosure of claim 1, wherein the splice tray is configured to define a perimeter which substantially covers the opening of the chamber.
 8. The splice enclosure of claim 1, wherein the bypass fiber comprises a plurality of bypass fibers.
 9. The splice enclosure of claim 1, wherein the terminated fiber comprises a plurality of terminated fibers.
 10. A splice enclosure structurally configured to provide improved access to an adapter comprising: a body portion configured to define a chamber having an opening; a cover portion configured to be pivotally coupled with the body portion so as to selectively close the opening; a spool portion configured to include a spool sub portion; an adapter portion configured to be pivotally attached to the spool portion; a splice tray portion configured to be pivotally attached to the spool portion; wherein the adapter portion is configured to pivot relative to the body portion between a first adapter portion position and a second adapter portion position; wherein the splice tray portion is configured to pivot relative to the body portion between a first splice tray position and a second splice tray position; wherein the adapter portion is configured to be disposed between the splice tray portion and the spool sub portion when the splice tray portion and the adapter portion are in the first positions such that the splice tray portion is configured to block access to the adapter portion; wherein the body portion is configured to receive a terminated fiber; and wherein the splice tray portion is configured to permit access to the adapter portion when the splice tray portion is pivoted to the second splice tray position such that the adapter portion is configured to be selectively pivoted to the second adapter portion position so as to provide improved access to an adapter that is configured to be coupled with the adapter portion and to optically couple the terminated fiber with a fiber of a drop cable.
 11. The splice enclosure of claim 10, wherein the splice tray portion includes an upper spool hub, and wherein the upper spool hub is configured to store an excess length of the terminated fiber.
 12. The splice enclosure of claim 10, wherein the adapter portion comprises an adapter plate.
 13. The splice enclosure of claim 10, wherein the body portion includes an input aperture that is configured to receive an upstream cable, and wherein the upstream cable includes a bypass fiber and the terminated fiber.
 14. The splice enclosure of claim 13, wherein the bypass fiber comprises a plurality of bypass fibers.
 15. The splice enclosure of claim 10, wherein the terminated fiber comprises a plurality of

terminated fibers.

16. The splice enclosure of claim 10, wherein the splice tray portion comprises a splice holder.
 17. The splice enclosure of claim 16, wherein the splice holder is configured to receive a splice of the terminated fiber to a first pigtail.
 18. The splice enclosure of claim 17, wherein the first pigtail is configured to be connected to a second pigtail at the adapter portion.
 19. The splice enclosure of claim 18, wherein the second pigtail is routed from the adapter portion to outside of the splice enclosure.
 20. A splice enclosure structurally configured to provide improved access to an adapter comprising: a body portion that includes an input aperture that is configured to receive an upstream cable; a lower portion; an adapter portion; a splice portion; wherein the adapter portion is configured to pivot relative to the body portion between a first adapter portion position and a second adapter portion position; wherein the splice portion is configured to pivot relative to the body portion between a first splice portion position and a second splice portion position; wherein the adapter portion is configured to be disposed between the splice portion and the lower portion when the splice portion is in the first splice portion position and the adapter portion is in the first adapter portion position such that the splice portion is configured to block access to the adapter portion; and wherein the splice portion is configured to permit access to the adapter portion when the splice portion is pivoted to the second splice portion position such that the adapter portion is configured to selectively pivot to the second adapter portion position so as to provide improved access to an adapter that is configured to be coupled with the adapter portion.
 21. The splice enclosure of claim 20, further comprising a cover portion configured to be pivotably attached to the body portion.
 22. The splice enclosure of claim 20, wherein the adapter portion is configured to be pivotably attached to the lower portion.
 23. The splice enclosure of claim 20, wherein the splice portion is configured to be pivotably attached to the lower portion.
 24. The splice enclosure of claim 20, wherein the upstream cable includes a bypass fiber and a terminated fiber.
 25. The splice enclosure of claim 24, wherein the body portion includes an output aperture that is configured to receive a downstream cable that includes the bypass fiber.
 26. The splice enclosure of claim 24, wherein the splice portion comprises a splice tray and includes an upper spool hub, and wherein the upper spool hub is configured to store an excess length of the terminated fiber.
 27. The splice enclosure of claim 20, wherein the lower portion comprises a lower main spool.
 28. The splice enclosure of claim 20, wherein the adapter portion includes an adapter plate and an adapter.
 29. The splice enclosure of claim 20, wherein the adapter is configured to optically couple the terminated fiber with a fiber of a drop cable.
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