

Circulators understanding how they work

Simple explanation of passive Optical Circulators

Circulators can be used to send optical signals through a single fibre in two directions.

- Optical circulators have 3 ports that allow light to travel in one direction only.
- Light entering Port 1 will have large loss on Port 3 and only exit Port 2 with minimal loss.
- Light entering Port 2 will have large loss on Port 1 and only exit Port 3 with minimal loss.
- Light entering Port 3 will have large loss at Port 1 and Port 2
- Port 1 is the 1310 or 1550 Tx port
- Port 3 is the 1310 or 1550 Rx port
- Port 2 is connected to One Single mode optical fibre
- Optical circulators need to have their wave length of operation specified before purchase

