



## INSTRUCTION MANUAL



**ARMORED CABLE SLITTING TOOLS**

**AST-10 / AST-118**

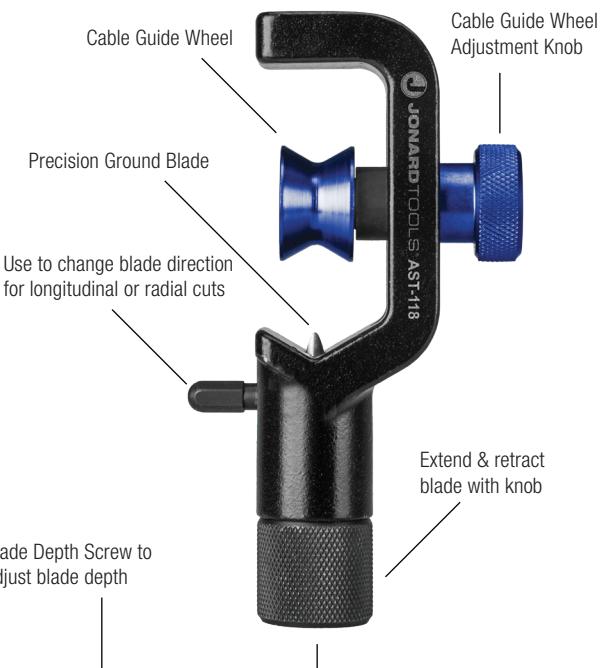
## **Introduction:**

The AST-118 and AST-10 are designed to gain mid span access by slitting open jacketed and jacket & armored fiber optic cables. The tools have an adjustable depth precision made blade that will cut through the toughest material while insuring no damage to the fibers. The tools can be set for Longitudinal cuts as well as radial cuts.

## **Instructions for Use:**

Prior to use check the cable and know its construction. Some cables have strength members in the center of the of the cable and others have the strength member in the outer jacket of the cable or have a "lay" on the outside of the jacket. If your cable has an external strength member or a strength member in the jacket of the cable you need to use care when working with this cable otherwise you run the risk of damaging the blade.

Setting the blade depth: To set the blade depth it is recommended to have a sample piece of cable to use for reference and testing. On the bottom of the black knurled knob is a set screw. This set screw adjusts the blade depth. Each mark on the bottom of the knurled knob represents approximately 0.040" of blade height adjustment. Counter clockwise rotation of the set screw increases the blade height while clockwise rotation reduces the blade height.



Now that the cable type is known, and the blade depth is set we can discuss how to properly use the tool.

## To Make a Longitudinal Cut:

1. Loosen the black knurled knob on the tool and move the blade position lever to the left when looking at the front of the tool.
2. Insert cable into tool, loosen the cable guide wheel adjustment knob (if necessary) and bring the guide wheel down onto the cable making sure the wheel is snug against the cable, then tighten adjustment knob.
3. Tighten the black knurled knob, the blade will puncture the cable jacket and will now be ready for slitting (longitudinal cut). Pull the tool to slit open the cable. If the cable has a strength member in the cable allow the tool to move parallel to the strength member.
4. Loosen the black knurled knob, rotate the tool 180° and tighten the knob again. Pull back along the cable creating a second slit on the opposite side of the first slit. The cable jacket is now ready to be separated and cut as needed to expose the buffer tubes or fibers inside.



AST-118 Close-Up



AST-10 Close-Up

## To Make a Radial Cut:

1. To perform a radial (or ring) cut, Slide the tool to the desired position.
2. Loosen the black knurled knob and move the blade position lever to the front of the tool.
3. Insert cable into tool, loosen the cable guide wheel adjustment knob and bring the guide wheel down onto the cable making sure the wheel is snug against the cable, tighten adjustment knob.
4. Tighten the black knurled knob, the blade will puncture the jacket and you can now ring cut the jacket.
5. To make the ring cut rotate the tool around the cable fully. Ring cut is complete.
6. Loosen the knurled knob and adjustment knob, remove tool from cable.

For replacement blades order part # **AST-RB** (package of 2).



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