

## The Do's and Don'ts of Connector Care

from the Unknown Editor at Microwaves101

Microwave people, welcome to the laboratory. If you aren't spending 20% of each week here, you'll soon forget what your job is about. And remember, you're not here just to socialize!

Do you treat lab equipment with dignity, or do you go through life like Flounder, "fat, dumb and lazy"? Before we go any further, put away the Krispy Kremes, the light-and-sweet coffee, the nail clippers and polish, and go wash your hands... that's better, now let's roll!

### Storage

#### Do



- Keep connectors clean
- Extend coupling sleeve on 7mm connectors
- Use dust caps during storage

#### Don't



- Don't touch mating-plane surfaces
- Don't set connectors contact-end down
- Don't store connectors with common hardware
- Don't keep connectors in your pocket

### Cleaning

#### Do



- Use clean compressed air
- Use swabs and isopropyl alcohol
- Clean connector threads

#### Don't

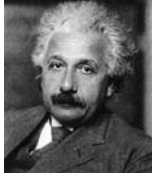
- Don't use any solvent but isopropyl alcohol
- Don't use any abrasives
- Don't apply pressure to male ends of precision connectors
- Don't soak connectors in any liquid



## Inspection

### Do

- Inspect all connectors before every connection
- Look for metal particles, scratches, and dents
- Discard and replace damaged connectors



### Don't



- Don't use a damaged connector, ever!

## Calibration

### Do



- Gauge all connectors before first use
- Use the correct gauge and calibration block
- Clean and zero gauges each time used

### Don't

- Don't use (or even keep!) an out-of-spec connector
- Don't use a calibration standard as an adapter, ever!



## Torque

### Do



- Tighten connectors with a torque wrench
- Use soft-jaw pliers to remove stuck connectors

### Don't



- Don't tighten connectors with common pliers
- Don't ever exceed 8 inch-pounds torque