



COUPLER EXHIBITING REDUCED POLARIZATION SENSITIVITY

Abstract of the Disclosure

An overclad fiber optic coupler of the type wherein a plurality of optical optical fibers, each having a core and a cladding, are fused together along a portion of the lengths thereof to form a coupling region. Surrounding the coupling region is a matrix glass body of refractive index n_3 which is lower than the fiber cladding refractive index n_2 . The body has an inner region adjacent the optical fibers, an outer region having a radius greater than that of the inner region, and a transition region between the inner and outer regions. The softening point temperature of the inner region is greater than that of the outer region. The coupler exhibits both low polarization dependent loss and low excess loss.