

Thermal Transfer Printer Maintenance & Tips

- Clean print head after loading a new ribbon roll. Note sometimes while putting in a new ribbon roll you will need to clean the print head a second time due to particles getting into print head from changing the ribbon roll (use EZ Thermal Printer Cleaning Card).
- Remove hardened glue from plates and rollers every week or when needed (use EZ Wipes or EZ Swab).
- Make sure cutter blade is clear of glue and check it weekly or when needed.
- Acclimatize label stock! This is VERY important for consistent excellent print quality. As environments change it is important to store your stock in an environment that does not fluctuate to extremes be it too cold or too hot.
- Use of ribbon types can vary depending on stock/ribbon climate and condition. For example if one job at one time was printed with a wax ribbon and now wax no longer prints the same quality try wax/resin and the opposite is also the case try wax if wax/resin is not working. Nothing is set in stone here due to different climates and working conditions. Storing ribbon in a cool dry environment is recommended.
- To clean print head use the following: EZ Thermal Printer Cleaning Card, EZ Snap Swab and EZ Wipes.
- To control dust from getting into printer parts keep printer lid down while printing and when printer is not being used.
- Make sure you are using the proper print driver for your printer model. Not using the proper print driver could cause unnecessary wear and tear to printer because of incompatibility issues even if the printer driver works with the printer.

General Ribbon Recommendations

(NOTE: This is very general and does not apply to all print jobs or label stocks)

Wax Ribbon	Wax / Resin Ribbon	Resin Ribbon
<p>Wax ribbons have a high percentage of wax based substance in the colorant. Most wax ribbons are made with a single colorant layer. Since waxes have lower melting points than resin substances, printing can be done at lower heat settings. As waxes are softer image durability is less against smudge, scratch, chemical and environmental resistance. So wax ribbons are suitable for printing on uncoated or matte coated surfaces. Wax ribbons are suitable for printing purposes where there is not much abrasion or physical contact against the printed matter or the printing is not needed for a long time. Wax ribbons can be used for general purpose labeling, shipping labels, address labels, garment tags, price tickets, warehouse applications, compliance label printing, including shelf and bin labels, retail tag and label applications.</p>	<p>Wax / Resin ribbons are a combination of wax and resin based colorant substances in which resin substances hold a greater percentage. Wax / Resin ribbons are made of two or more layers. Resin substances have a higher melting point thus increasing the melting point of the ribbon. Printing with Wax / Resin ribbons takes place at a higher heat setting than wax ribbons. As resins are harder than waxes image durability, chemical resistance and abrasion smudge scratch resistance is more than that of wax based ribbons. They also assure excellent edge definition. Wax / Resin ribbons can be used with glossy or smooth surfaces, synthetic materials. Wax / Resin ribbons can be used for all purposes where wax ribbons are used but where there is a chance of abrasion or scratch due to contact.</p>	<p>Resin Ribbons contain the highest percentage of resin materials. Most Resin ribbons are made up of two or more layers. Printing with resin ribbons is done at high heat settings as resins have a high melting point. Lower print speeds can be achieved due to the high energy levels required for printing. But the resultant printing images bear a very high resistance to chemicals, heat, abrasion resistance and other environmental conditions. Resin Ribbons are best suited for use with textile apparel or garment labels like (taffeta / satin), high gloss coated materials like polyesters, polyolefins, destructible vinyl, warranty void labels, labels which are to be exposed to harsh environments like chemical drum labels, medical and pharmaceutical labeling, as well as industrial and automotive applications.</p>