



Printers Suggested for Use with Metallograph® Conductive Thermal Transfer Ribbon

The most straightforward printing of Metallograph® Conductive Thermal Transfer Ribbon, is with 200 or 300 dpi thermal transfer printers. 600 dpi are preferred when fine details are required, but require additional attention to the print design to compensate for differences from standard wax and resin ribbons. The slowest print speed, 2 ips (50 mm/s) for most printers, is recommended for the same reason. Faster print speeds can be used but should be investigated carefully to ensure detail is not compromised. Most printers give adequate print quality with darkness (heat) at about 75 to 80% of maximum – this is higher than for wax or resin ribbon. It is the primary variable available to adjust print quality.

The most common label printers are 4 inches (110 mm) wide, with 5, 6, and 8 inch also available. Graphic arts printers are wider.

Proven printers include:

Vendor	Models
Zebra	Xi4 (300 dpi or 600 dpi). Our control printer is the 110Xi4 300 dpi XIII Plus (300 and 600 dpi)
Datamax	W6408 (300 dpi) and H4606 (600 dpi)
Intermec	PX4i (400 dpi)
Gerber	EDGE or EDGE2 (capable of many layers)

Overprinting (for example conductive/dielectric/conductive) is possible with single pass printers in label mode, with manual CD registration. Multi-ribbon single pass printers, used for two, 4 or 6 color printing, have tight registration. OEMs for this category include: Gerber, CAB (distributed in North America by General Data), AstroNova, MPrint and Mataan.

Some OEMs also provide print engines for integration into production lines with additional steps such as chip placement, laminating and die cutting.

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