

THERMAL TRANSFER RIBBON PROBLEM SOLVER

It must be the ribbons fault! You've loaded the labels and ribbon into your thermal transfer printer and started to print...but wait, the barcodes have poor edge definition, there are streaks or dead spots on them, pits or voids that cause inconsistent image quality, etc. How many times have you heard "it must be the ribbons fault? Before you blame the ribbon, the problem might just be a simple printer adjustment. If your barcodes and variable images aren't sharp and crisp, lack clean edge definition, or have an unbalanced print on them, chances are they also won't scan and be unreadable. While these problems can be frustrating, many times the printing problems you are experiencing are solved with a simple printer adjustment. Here are some common printer problems and solutions to fix them:

The labels and ribbon are loaded in the printer, but it is not printing:

- Check to be sure the ribbon is loaded correctly (coated side in versus coated side out).

The label has a dark, crisp print only on one side (left or right), the other side is faint or non-existent:

- Make sure your printhead is aligned.
- Make sure there is no residue or label material stuck to the printhead
- Check for dusts in your platen roller.

There are pits or voids on my barcode:

- Make sure your printhead is clean. Use isopropyl alcohol and a lint free cloth to wipe the printhead and platen roller clean of dust and adhesive.
- Check your printhead for worn areas

There are streaks or dead spots in my labels:

- If the ribbon is wrinkled, check to make sure your printhead and guide bar are aligned.
- Try adjusting the printhead pressure and/or energy
- Make sure your ribbon is slightly larger than your media
- Adjust your rewind tension

I am getting poor edge definition, or have leading or trailing edge images that are ghosting:

- Printer is printing too fast, reduce the print speed
- Printhead temperature is not adjusted properly for label stock.
- Increase printhead pressure