

How Do Receipt Printers Work?

Receipt printers, when connected to a computer via a cable interface, receive data from the point of sales software application running on the computer. The data is interpreted through the printer's device driver and subsequently printed.

What Kind of Receipt Printer Do I Buy?

There are a variety of important considerations to factor in when choosing what type of receipt printer will work best for your point of sale needs. These considerations include software requirements & device drivers, cable interfaces, receipt cutting, environment restrictions and additional functionality, and type of receipt printer.

Software Requirements and Device Drivers

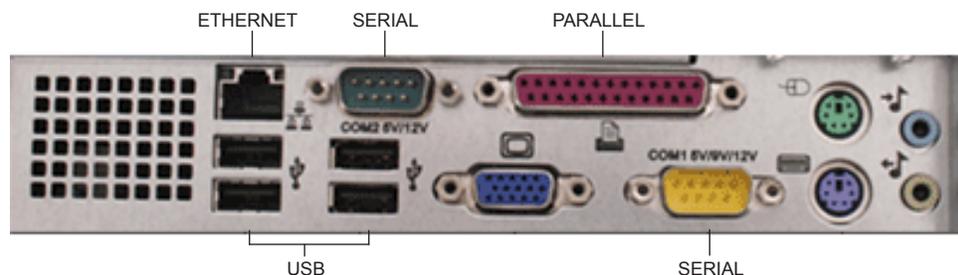
Some software applications only work with specific receipt printer drivers so it is advisable to check with the software manufacturer to determine the compatibility of a receipt printer with your software. Some point of sale applications will require OLE for point of sale, OPOS, drivers to properly print receipts, while others may use generic Windows drivers. If your software requires OPOS drivers, an Epson or POS-X receipt printer is a fine choice.

If you are replacing an existing POS receipt printer, you don't necessarily have to purchase the same brand. Many printers, such as POS-X receipt printers, are made to emulate other brands. Changing emulations, however, may require advanced manufacturer support.

Cable Interfaces

A receipt printer will connect to your PC via a Serial, Parallel, USB, or Ethernet connection. It is important to know the types of cable interfaces available and what they look like. Use the following diagram to determine which connections are available on your computer so you can select the type of interface necessary for your receipt printer.

► Back of Computer View



► Serial Cable and Printer Interface Examples



▶ Parallel Cable and Printer Interface Examples



▶ USB Cable and Printer Interface Examples



▶ Ethernet Cable and Printer Interface Examples



Receipt Cutting

Most receipt printers are available with either a manual tear bar or an auto cutter for delivering the paper receipt. This is purely a personal preference.

Environment Restrictions and Additional Functionality

Consider the environment where the receipt printer will be used- at a Point Of Sale register, in a kitchen, in a quiet setting like a library or waiting room, different printing methods are suitable or unsuitable for varying locations. For example, impact receipt printers are recommended for kitchens because the receipts they produce are not heat sensitive. Here are some questions to ask while choosing your printer...

- ▶ Is speed a factor?
- ▶ Do you need color?
- ▶ Will your printer travel with a mobile sales force processing orders in the field?
- ▶ Would you like your receipt printer to also read MICR codes and endorse checks?
- ▶ Do you need to print duplicate receipts?

Receipt Printer Types



POS-X Xr210

▶ Impact Receipt Printers

Impact receipt printers are the most flexible and economical of all receipt printers on the market. They use ink ribbons to impact the receipt like a standard dot matrix printer. They can print 2-ply receipts, with copies for both vendor and customer. Most impact receipt printers have the option to print up to two colors- the standard colors are black and red, but this requires purchase of separate ribbons. Receipts are not affected by heat.

Recommended Use: kitchens or heat-intensive environments, retail environments where duplicate receipts or two-color printing are required.

Try: POS-X Xr210 or Epson TM-U220



POS-X Xr510

▶ Direct Thermal Receipt Printers

Direct thermal receipt printers use heat to create an image on paper. A direct thermal receipt printer does not use a ribbon to print the image on the paper- it uses special paper. The printer head activates the heat-sensitive coating on this paper to create the image. Direct thermal printers offer a low total cost of ownership, with no ribbon to replace, and are our most popular type of receipt printer. Direct thermal printers are fast, quiet, and you can upload images (such as logos) directly to the firmware for increased printing speed.

Recommended Use: any POS environment where exposure to heat is not a factor.

Try: POS-X Xr510 or Epson TM-T88V



Ithaca POSJet 1500

▶ Ink Jet Receipt Printers

Ink jet receipt printers are fast and quiet, and typically offer two-color printing; black and red. They provide an avenue for graphic-intensive designs, which can be used for printing coupons and logos for a one-of-a-kind look.

Recommended Use: any environment where direct marketing on receipts is desired.

Try: Ithaca POSJet 1500



Epson TM-H6000II

▶ POS Multi-Function Receipt Printers

Multifunction POS receipt printers offer combined features such as receipt printing, slip printing, MICR font reading, and check endorsement. These feature combinations vary by model, and the print methods range from Thermal and Inkjet to Impact. Combination receipt printers are more expensive than single-function receipt printers.

Recommended Use: in point of sale set ups where slip printing or validation of checks or other documentation is required.

Try: Epson TM-H6000II or TPG A776



Epson Mobilink

▶ Portable Receipt Printers

Portable POS receipt printers are mobile units that run on rechargeable batteries. Depending on the model, a portable POS printer will print receipts using BlueTooth wireless technology, or will attach directly to a PDA-style handheld device to receive the printable data. The technology and mobility advantages of these devices dictate their higher price.

Recommended Use: mobile sales force taking orders on PDA devices in the field, busy or large scale floor sales environments, or outdoor environments.

Try: Epson Mobilink or Datecs PP-55

To order, or for more information visit www.posguys.com or call 800-903-6571 today!