Alpha-4L Series

Direct Thermal Portable Bar Code Printer

USER'S MANUAL





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Agency Compliance and Approvals

CE	EN 55022/24, IEC 61000-3-3, IEC 61000-3-2 EN 300328, EN 301489
FC	Part 15B/C
	EN 60950-1
	GB 9254 GB 4943.1 GB 17625.1

SRRC.

Wichtige Sicherheits-Hinweise

- 1. Bitte lesen Sie diese Hinweis sorgfältig durch.
- 2. Heben Sie diese Anleitung für den späteren Gebrauch auf.
- 3. Vor jedem Reinigen ist das Gerät vom Stromentz zu trennen. Verwenden Sie keine Flüssig-oder Aerosolreiniger. Am besten eignet sich ein angefeuchtetes Tuch zur Reinigung.
- 4. Die Netzanschluß-Steckdose soll nahe dem Gerät angebracht und leicht zugänglich sein.
- 5. Das Gerät ist vor Feuchtigkeit zu schützen.
- 6. Bei der Aufstellung des Gerätes ist auf sicheren Stand zu achten. Ein Kippen oder Fallen könnte Beschädigungen hervorrufen.
- 7. Beachten Sie beim Anschluß ans Stromnetz die Anschlußwerte.
- 8. Dieses Gerät kann bis zu einer Außentemperatur von maximal 40 $^\circ\!C$ betrieben werden.

Battery safety warning:

DO NOT throw the battery in fire.

DO NOT short circuit the contacts.

DO NOT disassemble the battery.

DO NOT throw the battery in municipal waste.

The symbol of the crossed out wheeled bin indicates that the battery should not be placed in municipal waste.

CAUTION

Risk of explosion if battery is replaced by an incorrect type.

Dispose of used batteries according to the instructions.

"ORSICHT"

Explosionsgetahr bei unsachgemen Austausch der Batterie. Ersatz nur durch denselben oder einem vom Hersteller empfohlenem nlichen Typ. Entsorgung gebrauchter Batterien nach Angaben des Herstellers.

<u>Class B:</u>

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION INTERFERENCE STATEMENT

This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device, pursuant to part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential installation. This equipment generates, uses and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures:

-Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna.

-Increase the separation between the equipment and receiver.

-Connect the equipment into an outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected.

-Consult the dealer or an experienced radio/ TV technician for help.

This device complies with Part 15 of the FCC Rules. Operation is subject to the following two conditions: (1) This device may cause harmful interference, and (2) this device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation.

CAUTION:

Any changes or modifications not expressly approved by the grantee of this device could void the user's authority to operate the equipment.

RF exposure warning (WiFi)

This equipment must be installed and operated in accordance with provided instructions and must not be co-located or operating in conjunction with any other antenna or transmitter. End-users and installers must be providing with antenna installation instructions and transmitter operating conditions for satisfying RF exposure compliance.

SAR Value: 0.663 W/kg

RF exposure warning (For Bluetooth)

The equipment complies with FCC RF exposure limits set forth for an uncontrolled environment.

The equipment must not be co-located or operating in conjunction with any other antenna or transmitter.

Canada, Industry Canada (IC) Notices

This Class B digital apparatus complies with Canadian ICES-003 and RSS-210. Operation is subject to the following two conditions: (1) this device may not cause interference, and (2) this device must accept any interference, including interference that may cause undesired operation of the device.

Radio Frequency (RF) Exposure Information

The radiated output power of the Wireless Device is below the Industry Canada (IC) radio frequency exposure limits. The Wireless Device should be used in such a manner such that the potential for human contact during normal operation is minimized.

This device has been evaluated for and shown compliant with the IC Specific Absorption Rate ("SAR") limits when installed in specific host products operated in portable exposure conditions. (For WiFi)

This device has also been evaluated and shown compliant with the IC RF Exposure limits under portable exposure conditions. (antennas are less than 20 cm of a person's body). (For Bluetooth)

Canada, avis d'Industry Canada (IC)

Cet appareil numérique de classe B est conforme aux normes canadiennes ICES-003 et RSS-210.

Son fonctionnement est soumis aux deux conditions suivantes : (1) cet appareil ne doit pas causer d'interférence et (2) cet appareil doit accepter toute interférence, notamment les interférences qui peuvent affecter son fonctionnement.

Informations concernant l'exposition aux fréquences radio (RF)

La puissance de sortie émise par l'appareil de sans fil est inférieure à la limite d'exposition aux fréquences radio d'Industry Canada (IC). Utilisez l'appareil de sans fil de façon à minimiser les contacts humains lors du fonctionnement normal.

Ce périphérique a été évalué et démontré conforme aux limites SAR (Specific Absorption Rate – Taux d'absorption spécifique) d'IC lorsqu'il est installé dans des produits hôtes particuliers qui fonctionnent dans des conditions d'exposition à des appareils portables. **(For WiFi)**

Ce périphérique a également été évalué et démontré conforme aux limites d'exposition aux RF d'IC dans des conditions d'exposition à des appareils portables. (les antennes sont moins de 20 cm du corps d'une personne). **(For Bluetooth)**

电池安全警告:

- ◎ 勿将电池扔于火中。
- ◎ 勿将电池接点短路。
- ◎ 不可拆解电池。
- ◎ 不乱将电池当成一般废弃物处理。
- ◎ 打叉的垃圾桶符号表示电池不应该被放置到一般废弃堆中。

注意:

- ◎ 更换不正确型号类型的电池,将产生爆炸危险。
- ◎ 请根据使用说明处理用过的电池。

Contents

1.	Introduction1
	1.1 Product Introduction1
	1.2 Product Features
	1.2.1 Printer Standard Features2
	1.2.2 Printer Optional Features
	1.3 General Specifications
	1.4 Print Specifications5
	1.5 Media Specifications
2.	Operations Overview7
	2.1 Unpacking and Inspection7
	2.2 Printer Overview
	2.2.1 Front View
	2.2.2 Rear View
	2.3 Operator Control 10
	2.3.1 LED Indication and Keys10
	2.3.2 LED Indication and Keys for LCD (Option)11
3.	Setup12
	3.1 Install the Belt Clip and Battery12
	3.2 Charge the Battery13
	3.2.1 Charge the Battery
	3.3 Loading the Media14
	3.3.1 Loading the Media
	3.3.2 Loading Media in Peel-off Mode16
	3.3.3 Loading the Fan-fold/External Media 19
	3.3.4 Loading the Linerless Media (Option)
	3.4 Connecting the Printer
	3.4.1 Cable Communications22
	3.4.2 Wireless Communications with Bluetooth
	3.4.3 Wireless Communications with Wi-Fi (Option)
	3.5 Install the IP54-rated Environmental Case with Shoulder Strap (Option) 24
4.	Power-on Utilities

	4.1 Power-on Utility for Standard Panel 2	5
	4.1.1 Media Sensor Calibration2	26
	4.1.2 Self-test and Dump Mode2	:6
	4.1.3 Printer Initialization	27
	4.2 Power-on Utility for LCD Panel (Option)	8
	4.2.1 Media Sensor Calibration2	
	4.2.2 Self-test and Dump Mode2	-
	4.2.3 Printer Initialization	
	4.3 Self-test	;1
	4.4 Dump mode	2
	4.5 Printer defaults	3
5.	Diagnostic Tool	4
	5.1 Start the Diagnostic Tool3	4
	5.2 Printer Function	5
	5.3 Setting Bluetooth by Diagnostic Tool3	6
	5.4 Setting Wi-Fi by Diagnostic Tool (Option)	7
6.	LCD Menu Function (Option)	8
	6.1 How to use the LCD to set the printer	8
	6.2 Main Menu Overview4	0
	6.3 Setup4	1
	6.3.1 Printer Setup	1 1
	6.3.1-1 Printer setup for TSPL2	1 1
	6.3.1-2 Printer setup for EPL24	3
	6.3.2 Sensor	15
	6.3.3 Serial Comm4	6
	6.3.4 Wireless LAN	17
	6.3.5 Bluetooth	
	6.3.6 Date Time	
	6.3.7 Display	
	6.4 File Manager5	0
	6.5 Diagnostics5	51
	6.5.1 Print Config	51
	6.5.2 Dump Mode	51
	6.5.3 Battery 5	;2

6.5.4 Print Head	
6.6 Language	
6.7 Service	
7. Troubleshooting	
8. Maintenance	
Revise History	

1. Introduction

1.1 Product Introduction

Thank you very much for purchasing TSC bar code printer.

Enjoy TSC's reputation for cost-efficient, high durability printers with the Alpha-4L economical receipt printer. The Alpha-4L is a comfortable, light-weight printer capable of working with any mobile receipt printing application where you need quick, simple receipts on demand. Our Alpha-4L is designed for a rough life, inside the IP54-rated environmental case to resist dust and water and with its rubber over-mold design prepared to take up to a five foot fall and keep printing. These small and light printers can be worn comfortably for a full shift, without interfering with the user's tasks. Use USB, Bluetooth, optional 802.11 b/g/n Wireless or serial to connect to a mobile computer or even a smart phone and produce clear easy-to-read receipts hour after hour.

This document provides an easy reference for operating the Alpha-4L.

The online version of the Programmer's manual, or more information can be downloaded from service and support web site as an Adobe[®] Acrobat[®] Reader file.

To print label formats, please refer to the instructions provided with your labeling software; if you need to write the custom programs, please refer to the TSPL/TSPL2 programming manual that can be found on the accessories CD-ROM or on TSC website at http://www.tscprinters.com.

- Applications
 - Portable point of sale
 - · Retail item marking, markdowns, shelf labeling & shelf talkers
 - Labels for shipping & receiving
 - Inventory control
 - Cross-docking
 - · Pick, pack & apply operations
 - Print pick tickets
 - Logistics receipts

1.2 Product Features

1.2.1 Printer Standard Features

The printer offers the following standard features.

Product standard feature				
Direct thermal printing				
Black mark reflective sensor				
(center position , black mark in back side)				
Gap transmissive sensor (Fixed, cer	nter of offset 2.75 m	nm to right from center)		
Head open sensor				
Peeler sensor				
2 operation buttons (On/off and feed	(k			
3 LEDs for printer status, 3 LEDs for	r battery status			
USB 2.0 (full speed) interface				
Class 2 Bluetooth 2.1 module				
32 MB SDRAM memory				
16 MB FLASH memory				
Micro SD card reader for memory ex	xpansion up to SDF	IC 4G (max.)		
DC 7.2V/5800 mAh Li-ion rechargea	able battery	, <i>,</i>		
Real time clock				
Powerful 32 bit 200 MHz RISC proc	essor			
Eltron [®] EPL and Zebra [®] ZPL emulat		oort		
Internal 8 alpha-numeric bitmap font	· ·			
Internal Monotype Imaging [®] true typ Condensed scalable font	Internal Monotype Imaging [®] true type font engine with one CG Triumvirate Bold			
Fonts and bar codes can be printed 270 degree)	in any one of the fo	our directions (0, 90,180,		
Downloadable fonts from PC to prin	ter memory			
· · ·				
Downloadable firmware upgrades				
Bar code, graphics/image printing				
Supported bar code (Support for F/W 7.0 up) Supported image				
1D bar code	2D bar code	BITMAP, BMP, PCX		
Code128 subsets A.B.C, Code128UCC, EAN128, Interleave 2		(Max. 256 colors graphics)		
of 5, Code 39, Code 93, EAN-13,	CODABLOCK F	graphics)		
EAN-8, Codabar, POSTNET, UPC-A,	mode, DataMatrix, Maxicode, PDF-417,			
UPC-E, EAN and UPC 2(5) digits, MSI, PLESSEY, China Post, ITF14,	Aztec,			
EAN14, Code 11, TELPEN,	MicroPDF417, QR			
PLANET, Code 49, Deutsche Post	code, RSS Barcode (GS1 Databar)			
Identcode, Deutsche Post Leitcode, LOGMARS				

Code page (Support for F/W 7.0 up)		
	Codepose 427 (English LIS)	
	Codepage 437 (English - US) Codepage 737 (Greek)	
	Codepage 850 (Latin-1)	
	Codepage 850 (Latin-1) Codepage 852 (Latin-2)	
	Codepage 852 (Catilitz) Codepage 855 (Cyrillic)	
	Codepage 855 (Cyrinic) Codepage 857 (Turkish)	
	Codepage 867 (Turkish) Codepage 860 (Portuguese)	
	Codepage 861 (Icelandic)	
	Codepage 862 (Hebrew)	
	Codepage 863 (French Canadian)	
	Codepage 864 (Arabic)	
	Codepage 865 (Nordic)	
	Codepage 866 (Russian)	
	Codepage 869 (Greek 2)	
	Codepage 950 (Traditional Chinese)	
	Codepage 936 (Simplified Chinese)	
•	Codepage 932 (Japanese)	
•	Codepage 949 (Korean)	
•	Codepage 1250 (Latin-2)	
•	Codepage 1251 (Cyrillic)	
•	Codepage 1252 (Latin-1)	
•	Codepage 1253 (Greek)	
•	Codepage 1254 (Turkish)	
•	Codepage 1255 (Hebrew)	
•	Codepage 1256 (Arabic)	
•	Codepage 1257 (Baltic)	
•	Codepage 1258 (Vietnam)	
•	ISO-8859-1: Latin-1 (Western European)	
•	ISO-8859-2: Latin-2 (Central European)	
•	ISO-8859-3: Latin-3 (South European)	
•	ISO-8859-4: Latin-4 (North European)	
•	ISO-8859-5: Cyrillic	
•	ISO-8859-6: Arabic	
•	ISO-8859-7: Greek	
•	ISO-8859-7: Hebrew	
•	ISO-8859-9: Turkish	
•	ISO-8859-10: Nordic	
•	ISO-8859-15: Latin-9	
•	UTF-8	

1.2.2 Printer Optional Features

The printer offers the following optional features.

Product option feature	User option	Factory option
2" LCD (Liquid crystal display), 128 x 64 pixels resolution w/white LED backlight (with 4 buttons and 2 LEDs)		0
WiFi 802.11 b/g/n		\bigcirc
Zebra® CPCL emulation language support		0
Media sensor position (position selectable – right/left/center position-factory adjustment, default – center position)		0
Linerless kit		0

USB cable	\bigcirc	
USB to RS-232 (serial) converter cable	\bigcirc	
IP54-rated environmental case for standard model	0	
IP54-rated environmental case for linerless model	0	
Shoulder strap	\bigcirc	
DC 7.2V/5800 mAh Li-ion rechargeable battery	\bigcirc	
12-24VDC automobile cigarette lighter plug	0	
1 battery charger station	Ō	

1.3 General Specifications

General Specifications			
Physical dimensions	160 mm (W) x 191.6 mm (H) x 79 mm (D)		
Mechanism	Plastic with rubber of	over molded	
Weight	0.945 kg (w/o batter	ry)	
Power	External power adapter Input: AC 100-240V Output: DC 12V 1A		
Environmental condition	Operation: -10 ~ 50°C (14 ~ 122°F) Storage: -40 ~ 60 °C (-40 ~ 140°F) Relative humidity: 10 ~ 90% non-condensing IP54 w/ IP54-rated environmental case Drop 1.5m (5ft) Drop 1.8m (6.5ft) w/ IP54-rated environmental case		
Battery Spec	 Charging time: 5 hr Standby mode (Bluetooth): up to 32 hr Standby mode (Wi-Fi): up to 18 hr Printing: one label per 2 minutes, Condition Endurance (hr) 4"x6" Labels Density 3 26 780 Density 8 21 650 		
Charging capability	Internal charging capability (battery-in)Auto-switching AC adapter12-24VDC automobile cigarette lighter plugExternal charging capability (battery-out)1 battery charger station		

1.4 Print Specifications

Print Specifications		
Print head resolution (dots per inch/mm)	203 dots/inch (8 dots/mm)	
Printing method	Direct thermal	
Dot size (width x length)	0.125 x 0.125 mm (1 mm = 8 dots)	
Print speed	Max. 4 ips (100 mm/sec)	
(inches per second)	2,3 ips for peeler mode	
Max. print width	4.09" (104 mm)	
Max. print length	90" (2286 mm)	
Printout bias	Vertical: 1 mm max. Horizontal: 1 mm max.	

1.5 Media Specifications

Media Specifications		
Media roll capacity	Max. 2.65" (67.3 mm) OD	
Media core diameter	12.7 mm ~ 25.4 mm (0.5" ~ 1") ID core	
Media type	Continuous, die-cut, black mark, External fan- fold, receipt, Linerless label (w/ linerless kit)	
Media wound type	Outside wound	
Media width	50.8 mm ~ 112 mm	
Media thickness	0.055 mm ~ 0.165 mm	
Label length	12.7 mm ~ 2286 mm	
Label length (peeler mode)	25.4 ~ 152.4 mm (1" ~ 6")	
External fan-fold media	Stack height: 70 mm (2.75") Page length: 152 mm ~ 305 mm (6" ~ 12")	
Black mark	Min. 8 mm (W) x 2 mm (H)	
Gap height	Min. 2 mm	

2.1 Unpacking and Inspection

This printer has been specially packaged to withstand damage during shipping. Please carefully inspect the packaging and printer upon receiving the bar code printer. Please retain the packaging materials in case you need to reship the printer.

Unpacking the printer, the following items are included in the carton.



If any parts are missing, please contact the Customer Service Department of your purchased reseller or distributor.

2.2 Printer Overview

2.2.1 Front View



Note:

* The media sensor position is selectable by factory adjustment. Please refer to this figure for default settings. (Default – center position)

* For LCD control panel (option), please refer to subsection 2.3.2 for more details.

2.2.2 Rear View



Note:

* Recommended MicroSD card specification.

SD card spec	SD card capacity	Approved SD card manufacturer
V1.0, V1.1	MicroSD 128 MB	Transcend, Panasonic
V1.0, V1.1	MicroSD 256 MB	Transcend, Panasonic
V1.0, V1.1	MicroSD 512 MB	Transcend, Panasonic
V1.0, V1.1	MicroSD 1 GB	Transcend, Panasonic
V2.0 SDHC CLASS 6 MicroSD 4 GB Transcend		
 The DOS FAT file system is supported for the SD card. Folders/files stored in the SD card should be in the 8.3 filename format 		

2.3 Operator Control

2.3.1 LED Indication and Keys





2.3.2 LED Indication and Keys for LCD (Option)



Keys	Function				
Ő	- Display the printer information				
U	Button for LCD setting menu				
M	 Enter the printer setting menu 				
	Button for LCD setting menu				
405	 Press and hold for 2-3 seconds to turn on the printer 				
	 Press and hold for 2-3 seconds to turn off the printer 				
	 Button for LCD setting menu 				
- Ready status: Feed one label					
1 U	 Printing status: Pause the print job 				
	- Button for LCD setting menu				
LEDs	Status	Indication			
	Off	Printer is ready			
		 Media cover is open 			
	Red (solid)	 Out of memory 			
Error		 Clean data 			
		 Printer is busy 			
	Dod (blinking)	 No paper 			
	Red (blinking)	 Paper jam 			
	Off	Printer power is turned off			
	Croop (colid)	 Printer power is turned on 			
Power	Green (solid)	 Battery is full charged 			
	Green (blinking)	Low battery			
	Amber (solid)	Battery is charging			

Note: Please refer to the <u>section 6</u> for more details about LCD.

3. Setup

3.1 Install the Belt Clip and Battery



Battery safety warning: DO NOT throw the battery in fire. DO NOT short circuit the contacts. DO NOT disassemble the battery. DO NOT throw the battery in municipal waste. The symbol of the crossed out wheeled bin indicates that the battery should not be placed in municipal waste.

3.2 Charge the Battery

It takes 5 hours to fully charge the battery before the first time usage. The lifetime of the battery is 300 times for charge/discharge cycles.

3.2.1 Charge the Battery



3.3 Loading the Media

3.3.1 Loading the Media





4. Press each side of media cover to close the media cover and make sure the media cover closed correctly.

Note:

- * Please calibrate the gap/black mark sensor when changing media. Turn on the printer and open/close the media cover then it will calibrate the sensor automatically.
- * Please refer to video on <u>TSC</u> <u>YouTube</u> or driver CD.





6. Move the peeler module to near the peeler bar by pushing each side of peeler module. (cover the platen roller)



7. Press down the peeler module to lock it.



Loose the peeler module in the reverse procedures:

3.3.3 Loading the Fan-fold/External Media

<image/>	1.	Open the printer media cover by pressing the media cover release button. Pull the media holders apart to fit the media width.
	2.	Push down each side of media holder lock switch to fix the media holder.
	3.	Feed the media through the rear external label entrance chute. Place the paper, printing side face up.

-



4. Press each side of media cover to close the media cover and make sure the media cover closed correctly.

Note:

Please calibrate the gap/black mark sensor when changing media. Turn on the printer and open/close the media cover then it will calibrate the sensor automatically.

3.3.4 Loading the Linerless Media (Option)

 Please refer to <u>subsection 3.3.1</u> to loading the media roll into the printer. Push down each side of media holder lock switch to fix the media holder for using linerless media.
 Place the paper, printing side face up, and pull out enough paper over the print head.
 4. Press each side of media cover to close the media cover and make sure the media cover closed correctly. Note: Please calibrate the gap/black mark sensor when changing media. Turn on the printer and open/close the media cover then it will calibrate the sensor automatically.

3.4 Connecting the Printer

The printer must establish communication with a host terminal which sends the data to be printed. There are three ways to connect for Alpha-4L series,

- * By a cable between the printer and its host terminal
- * By a Bluetooth short-range radio
- * By a Wireless LAN per 802.1 b/g (Option)

3.4.1 Cable Communications



Open the interface cover and connect the printer to the computer/smart phone (host terminal) with USB cable. (USB to USB or USB to RS-232)

3.4.2 Wireless Communications with Bluetooth

- 1. Turn on the printer.
- 2. Open the Bluetooth device for host terminal to scan for printer's Bluetooth device.
- 3. Connect the Bluetooth devices. The Bluetooth LED will turn on blue (the Bluetooth icon will be shown for LCD panel) if devices have been paired.

Printer Bluetooth default		
Address	You can find this info from configuration (self-test) page, please refer to section 4 for how to print out the self-test.	
Name	BT-SPP	
PIN	0000	

Note:

Please refer to $\underline{\text{section } 5.3}$ to change the name and PIN by DiagTool. If your printer supports the LCD, please refer the $\underline{\text{section } 6.3.5}$ to change the name and PIN directly.

3.4.3 Wireless Communications with Wi-Fi (Option)

You should set the WLAN settings via the cable for first using. Please refer to <u>section 5.4</u> to setting the Wi-Fi module. If your printer supports the LCD, please refer the <u>section 6.3.4</u> to set the WLAN settings.

3.5 Install the IP54-rated Environmental Case with Shoulder Strap (Option)

1.	Open the case top cover.
2.	Put the printer into the case.
3.	Close the case top cover. The outside cover should be opened while printing.

4. Power-on Utilities

There are three power-on utilities to set up and test printer hardware. These utilities are activated by pressing FEED button (1) then turning on the printer power (1) simultaneously and release the button at different positions of LED indicator.

4.1 Power-on Utility for Standard Panel

Please follow the steps below for different power-on utilities.

- 1. Turn off the printer power switch.
- 2. Hold on the FEED button ((1)) then turn on the power switch (1).
- 3. Release the power switch ($^{\textcircled{0}}$) when $\overset{1}{\mathbb{1}}$ LED color turn on amber.

Note: In this moment, you should still hold on the FEED button.

4. The printer will beep sound twice later, then release the button ()) when battery LED indicates with different positions for each function.

Release FEED button (^{(]}) for different functions	Media sensor calibration (Please refer to 4.1.1)	Media sensor calibration, self-test and enter dump mode (Please refer to 4.1.2)	Printer initialization (Please refer to 4.1.3)	
LED	(5 blinks)		(5 blinks)	
Power on utilities for standard panel	The battery LED light will be changed as following.			

4.1.1 Media Sensor Calibration

Please follow the steps below to calibrate the media sensor.

- 1. Turn off the printer power switch.
- 2. Hold on the FEED button (1) then turn on the power switch (1).
- 3. Release the power switch (D) when $\mathring{1}$ LED color turn on amber.

Note: In this moment, you should still hold on the FEED button.

- 4. The printer will beep sound twice later, then release the FEED button (¹) when the indicator becomes **•••** and blinking.
- 5. Printer will calibrate the gap/black mark sensor sensitivity.

Note: You also can do this function by open/close the media cover when turn on the printer.

The LEDs will be changed as following figures:
 Beep sound twice → □□□ (5 blinks) → □□□ (5 blinks) → □□□ (5 blinks) → Turn on the printer

4.1.2 Self-test and Dump Mode

Please follow the steps below.

- 1. Turn off the printer power switch.
- 2. Hold on the FEED button (1) then turn on the power switch (1).
- 3. Release the power switch (D) when $\mathring{1}$ LED color turn on amber.

Note: In this moment, you should still hold on the FEED button.

- 4. The printer will beep sound twice later, then release the FEED button (^[]) when the indicator becomes **D** and blinking.
- 5. Printer will calibrate the sensor and print out the internal settings, then enter the dump mode.
 - Note: Turn off/on the power or press FEED button to resume printer from dump mode to normal printing mode. Please refer to <u>sections 4.3</u> and <u>4.4</u> for more details of self-test and dump mode.
- The LEDs will be changed as following figures:
 Beep sound twice → □□□) (5 blinks) → □□□) (5 blinks) → □□□) (5 blinks) → Turn on the printer

4.1.3 Printer Initialization

Printer initialization is used to clear DRAM and restore printer settings to defaults.

Printer initialization is activated by the following procedures.

- 1. Turn off the printer power switch.
- 2. Hold on the FEED button (1) then turn on the power switch (1).
- 3. Release the power switch ($^{\textcircled{0}}$) when $\overset{1}{\mathbb{1}}$ LED color turn on amber.

Note: In this moment, you should still hold on the FEED button.

- 4. The printer will beep sound twice later, then release the FEED button (^[]) when the indicator becomes **DOD** and blinking.
- 5. Printer will restore printer settings to defaults.

Note: Please refer to section 4.5 for printer defaults.

The LEDs will be changed as following figures:
 Beep sound twice → □□□) (5 blinks) → □□□) (5 blinks) → □□□) (5 blinks) → Turn on the printer
4.2 Power-on Utility for LCD Panel (Option)

Please follow the steps below for different power-on utilities.

- 1. Turn off the printer power switch.
- 2. Hold on the FEED button ((1)) then turn on the power switch (1).
- 3. Release the power switch ($^{\textcircled{0}}$) when "Error" LED color turn on red.

Note: In this moment, you should still hold on the FEED button.

4. The printer will beep sound twice later, then release the button (^(I)) when LCD indicate for different functions.

Power on utilities for LCD panel	The LCD will be changed as following.			
LCD	Calibrate	Self Test	Initialize ↓ (5 dots)	
Release FEED button ((for different functions	Media sensor calibration (Please refer to 4.2.1)	Media sensor calibration, self-test and enter dump mode (Please refer to 4.2.2)	Printer initialization (Please refer to 4.2.3)	

4.2.1 Media Sensor Calibration

Please follow the steps below to calibrate the media sensor.

- 1. Turn off the printer power switch.
- 2. Hold on the FEED button (1) then turn on the power switch (1).
- 3. Release the power switch ($^{\textcircled{0}}$) when "Error" LED color turn on red.

Note: In this moment, you should still hold on the FEED button.

- 4. The printer will beep sound twice later, then release the FEED button () when LCD showing "Calibrate.....".
- 5. Printer will calibrate the gap/black mark sensor sensitivity.

Note: You also can do this function by open/close the media cover when turn on the printer.

The LCD will be changed as following:
 Beep sound twice → Calibrate..... (5 dots) → Self Test..... (5 dots) → Initialize..... (5 dots) → Turn on the printer

4.2.2 Self-test and Dump Mode

Please follow the steps below.

- 1. Turn off the printer power switch.
- 2. Hold on the FEED button ((1)) then turn on the power switch (1).
- 3. Release the power switch ($^{\textcircled{0}}$) when "Error" LED color turn on red.

Note: In this moment, you should still hold on the FEED button.

- 4. The printer will beep sound twice later, then release the FEED button (1) when LCD showing "Self Test.....".
- 5. Printer will calibrate the sensor and print out the internal settings, then enter the dump mode.

Note: Turn off/on the power or press FEED button to resume printer for normal printing. (Ready mode) Please refer to <u>sections 4.3</u> and <u>4.4</u> for more details.

■ The LCD will be changed as following figures:

Beep sound twice → Calibrate..... (5 dots) → Self Test..... (5 dots) → Initialize..... (5 dots) → Turn on the printer

4.2.3 Printer Initialization

Printer initialization is used to clear DRAM and restore printer settings to defaults.

Printer initialization is activated by the following procedures.

- 1. Turn off the printer power switch.
- 2. Hold on the FEED button (1) then turn on the power switch (1).
- 3. Release the power switch ($^{\textcircled{0}}$) when "Error" LED color turn on red.

Note: In this moment, you should still hold on the FEED button.

- 4. The printer will beep sound twice later, then release the FEED button (^(III)) when the LCD showing "Initialize.....".
- 5. Printer will restore printer settings to defaults.

Note: Please refer to section 4.5 for printer defaults.

The LCD will be changed as following figures:
 Beep sound twice → Calibrate..... (5 dots) → Self Test..... (5 dots) → Initialize..... (5 dots) → Turn on the printer

4.3 Self-test

Printer will print the printer configuration after media sensor calibration. Self-test printout can be used to check if there is any dot damage on the heater element, printer configurations and available memory space.

Note: Self-test printout requires 4" wide paper width.

PRINTER INFO.		
Modelname Version: X.XX EZ -		Printer model name & Main board firmware version
SERIAL NO.:		Printer model name & Main board firmware version
MILOGE(m): 2		
CHECKSUM: 075AC29C		Main board firmware checksum
SEDIAL DODI' DEMM N 8 1		
CODE PAGE: 850		Code page
COUNTRY CODE: 001		Country code
SDEED. 2 THOU		Drint spood
DENCTTV: 8 0		Print darkness
SIZE: 4.00 , 5.99 GAP: 0.12 , 0.00		Label size (width, height)
GAP: 0.12 . 0.00		Gap/Black mark (vertical gap, offset)
GAP: 0.12 , 0.00		Sensor sensitivity
TRANSPARENCE: 6 VOLTAGE: 7.05 V		Battery voltage Print head temperature
VOLTAGE: 7.05 V TEMPERATURE: 31 °C		Print head average resistance
TEMPERATURE: 31 °C		Bad dots of print head
BAD DOT(S): 0		
****	*****	
BT ADDRESS: 00190EA07ADD		
BT NAME: BT-SPP		
BT PIN CODE: 0000	}	Bluetooth settings information
*****	ل به باه باه باه باه باه باه باه باه باه	
WLAN MAC ADDRESS: 00-1D-C9-9		
WLAN MODE: INFRASTRUCTURE	90-FH-F4	
WLAN SSID:		
WLAN DHCP ENABLED: YES	5	WiFi settings information (option)
WLAN IP ADDRESS: 0.0.0.0	(o (1, <i>i</i>)
WLAN SUBNET MASK: 0.0.0.0		
WLAN DEFAULT GATEWAY: 0.0.0.	0	

FILE LIST:		
DRAM FILE: 0	0 FILE(S)	
FLASH FILE: 0	0 FILE(S)	
		File management information
PHYSICAL DRAM: XXXX K		
	BYTES FREE	
PHYSICAL FLASH: XXXXX K		
	KBYTES FREE	
END OF FILE LIST	J	
****	****	
		Print head test pattern

4.4 Dump mode

Printer will enter dump mode after printing printer configuration. In the dump mode, all characters will be printed in 2 columns as following. The left side characters are received from your system and right side data are the corresponding hexadecimal value of the characters. It allows users or engineers to verify and debug the program.



Note:

- 1. Dump mode requires 4" wide paper width.
- 2. Turn off / on the power or press FEED button to resume printer for normal printing. (Ready mode)

4.5 Printer defaults

Printer configuration will be restored to defaults as below after initialization.

Parameter	Default setting
Speed	50.8 mm/sec (2 ips)
Density	8
Media Width	4" (101.5 mm)
Media Height	4" (101.5 mm)
Sensor Type	Gap sensor
Print Direction	0
Reference Point	0,0 (upper left corner)
Gap Offset	0
Post-Print Action	Tear mode
Serial Port Settings	9600 bps, none parity, 8 data bits, 1 stop bit
Code Page	850
Country Code	001
Clear Flash Memory	No

Note:

When printer initialization is done, please calibrate the gap or black mark sensor before printing.

5. Diagnostic Tool

TSC's Diagnostic Utility is an integrated tool incorporating features that enable you to explore a printer's settings/status; change a printer's settings; download graphics, fonts and firmware; create a printer bitmap font; and send additional commands to a printer. With the aid of this powerful tool, you can review printer status and setting in an instant, which makes it much easier to troubleshoot problems and other issues.

5.1 Start the Diagnostic Tool

1. Double click on the Diagnostic tool icon



DiagToolexe to start the software.

2. There are four features (Printer Configuration, File Manager, Bitmap Font Manager, Command Tool) included in the Diagnostic utility.

	🖨 Diagnostic Tool 1.50	
	Language Unit	
Features tab	English C mm	
L	Printer Configuration File Manager Bitmap Font Manager Command Tool	
	Printer Function	
	Calibrate Sensor Printer Information Version: Cutting Counter: 0 0	w
	Ethernet Setup Serial No: Check Sum: Mileage:	Km
	RTC Setup Common Z D RS-232 Wireless	
Printer	Factory Default Speed Ribbon	
functions	Density Ribbon Sensor	
	Reset Printer Paper Width inch Ribbon Encoder Err.	
	Print Test Page Paper Height inch Code Page 🗨	
	Configuration Page Media Sensor Country Code	Printer setup
	Gap inch Head-up Sensor	
	Dump Text Gap Offset inch Reprint After Error	
	Ignore AUTO.BAS Post-Print Action Maximum Length inch	
	Exit Line Mode Cut Piece Gap Inten.	
	Bline Inten.	
	Password Setup Direction Continuous Inten.	
	Printer Status Offset Threshold Detection	
	Shift X	
Printer Status	Shift Y	
	Get Status Clear Load Save Set Get	
	LPT1 COM1 9600,N,8,1 RTS 2012/8/14 下午 06:03:0	1

5.2 Printer Function

1. Connect the printer and computer with a cable.

Note:

* The printer connects with the computer via USB to USB cable or USB to RS-232 cable (option).

2. Select the PC interface connected with bar code printer.

USB to USB cable	USB to RS-232 cable
USB Setup	COM Setup 2
The default interface setting is USB interface. If USB interface is connected with printer, no other settings need to be changed in the interface field.	LPT ETHERNET

- 3. Click the "Printer Function" button to setup.
- 4. The detail functions in the Printer Function Group are listed as below.

Printer Function	Function	Description
Calibrate Sensor	Calibrate Sensor	Calibrate the sensor specified in the Printer Setup group media sensor field
Ethernet Setup	Ethernet Setup	Setup the IP address, subnet mask, gateway for the on board Ethernet
RTC Setup	RTC Setup	Synchronize printer Real Time Clock with PC
Factory Default	Factory Default	Initialize the printer and restore the settings to factory default.
Reset Printer	Reset Printer	Reboot printer
Print Test Page	Print Test Page	Print a test page
Configuration Page	Configuration Page	Print printer configuration
Dump Text	Dump Text	To activate the printer dump mode.
Ignore AUTO.BAS	Ignore AUTO.BAS	Ignore the downloaded AUTO.BAS program
Exit Line Mode	Exit Line Mode	Exit line mode.
Password Setup	Password Setup	Set the password to protect the settings

For more information about Diagnostic Tool, please refer to the diagnostic utility quick start guide in the CD disk \ Utilities directory.

5.3 Setting Bluetooth by Diagnostic Tool

1. Connect the printer and computer with a cable.

Note:

* The printer connects with the computer via USB to USB cable or USB to RS-232 cable (option).

- 2. Turn on the printer power switch.
- 3. Open Diagnostic tool and set interface. (The default setting is USB)

USB to USB cable	USB to RS-232 cable
The default interface setting is USB interface. If USB interface is connected with printer, no other settings need to be changed in the interface field.	Interface COM Setup 2 USB COM 1 LPT ETHERNET

- 4. Select "Wireless" tab and click on "Built-in wireless module" item.
- 5. Enter the new BT Local Name or BT PIN Code in the editor.
- 6. Press "Set" button to set the new BT name or BT PIN code of the printer.
- 7. Press "Get" button to get back the settings. Make sure the Bluetooth module settings are set properly.

ommon Z D	RS-232	Wireless 1				
Device Type Built-in wireless mod	ule 2		C External wireles	s module		
Built-in wireless module						
Bluetooth Local Name	BT-SPP		WLAN SSID			
Bluetooth PIN Code	0000	3	WLAN Encryption	T]	
	10000		WLAN Key			
			WLAN DHCP	_		
			WLAN IP Address	0.0.0		
			WLAN Subnet Mask	0.0.0		
			WLAN Gateway	0.0.0.0		
Clear	Load	Save		Set 4	Get	ţ

5.4 Setting Wi-Fi by Diagnostic Tool (Option)

1. Connect the printer and computer with the cable.

Note:

* The printer connects with the computer via USB to USB cable or USB to RS-232 cable (option).

- 2. Turn on the printer power switch.
- 3. Open Diagnostic tool and set interface. (The default setting is USB.)

USB to USB cable	USB to RS-232 cable
USB Setup	COM Setup 2
The default interface setting is USB interface. If USB interface is connected with printer, no other settings need to be changed in the interface field.	LPT ETHERNET

- 4. Select "Wireless" tab and click on "Built-in wireless module" item.
- 5. Enter the new WLAN settings in the editor.
- 6. Press "Set" button to set the new settings to the printer.
- 7. The Wi-Fi LED will turn on blue (the Wi-Fi icon will be shown for LCD panel) if device has been connected.
- 8. Print out the self-test page to confirm if it's connected with right settings.
- 9. Remove the cable to print a data for test.

Common Z D RS-232 Wireless 1	
Device Type	
Built-in wireless module 2	C External wireless module
Built-in wireless module	
Bluetooth Local Name	WLAN SSID Dlink
Bluetooth PIN Code	WLAN Encryption
	WLAN Key
	WLAN DHCP ON 🗸 3
	WLAN IP Address 0.0.0.0
	WLAN Subnet Mask 0.0.0.0
	WLAN Gateway 0.0.0.0
Clear Load Save	Set 4 Get 5

6. LCD Menu Function (Option)

The Alpha-4L series offer the LCD panel for selection to further enhance its capabilities to meet the demands of a wide range of printing solutions. This option feature includes LCD control panel, 4 buttons and 2 LED display. Please press the "M" button to enter the setting menu.

6.1 How to use the LCD to set the printer

Press the "M" button to display the function menu screen as following shown.



You can use this 4 buttons to scroll, select, enter or return the menu, depend on the icons from 4sides of LCD. It was selected if the item with the black ground on the screen. The icon function is listed as below,

lcon	Function
i	Display printer information
Ý	Enter setting menu
Φ	Power switch
†	Scroll up
₽	Scroll down
5	Return to previous menu
•	Enter to next menu
t	Enter setting mode
<u>ئ</u>	Exit setting mode
н	Save the selected settings and return to previous menu
\checkmark	Select
0	Alter to OFF
0	Alter to ON

For example:

Change the speed setting, please following steps as below.

1. Press "M" button to enter the setting menu. Press 🕑 button to enter the "Setup" item.



2. Press 🖲 button to enter the "Print Setup" item. Select the "TSPL2" item. Enter the "Speed" setting mode.



 At this status, you can scroll up or scroll down to select the value of print speed. Then press the button to save the selected value into the printer. Press "⁽¹⁾" butter to back to "Ready mode".



6.2 Main Menu Overview

There are 5 categories for the main menu. You can easy to set the settings of printer without connecting the computer. Please refer to following sections for more details.



Note:

* The Wireless LAN function is optional for Alpha-4L series.

6.3 Setup

This "Setup" category can set up the sensor, serial comm., wireless, Bluetooth, date time and display settings.

6.3.1 Printer Setup

6.3.1-1 Printer setup for TSPL2



Description	Default
Use this item to setup print speed. The each increase or decrease is 0.5 ips. Available setting is from 1 to 6.	
Use this option to setup printing darkness. The available setting is from 0 to 15, and the step is 1. You may need to adjust your density based on selected media.	
The direction setting value is either 1 or 0. Use this item to setup the printout direction. DIRECTION 0 DIRECTION 1 Direction Image: Comparison of the printout direction of t	0
	Use this item to setup print speed. The each increase or decrease is 0.5 ips. Available setting is from 1 to 6. Use this option to setup printing darkness. The available setting is from 0 to 15, and the step is 1. You may need to adjust your density based on selected media. The direction setting value is either 1 or 0. Use this item to setup the printout direction.

	This item is used to set the print mode. There are 3 modes as below,			
	Printer Mode	Description		
Print mode	None	Next label top of form is aligned to the print head burn line location. (Tear Off Mode)		Batch Mode
	Batch Mode	Once image is printed completely, label gap/black mark will be fed to the tear plate location for tear away.		Mode
	Peeler Mode	Enable the label peel off mode.		
Offset	This item is used to fine tune media stop location. Available setting value is from "+" to "-" or "0" to "9".		+000	
Shift X	This item is use	d to fine tune print position. Available setting val	lue is	+000
Shift Y	from "+" to "-" or "0" to "9".		+000	
Reference X	This item is used to set the origin of printer coordinate system horizontally		000	
Reference Y	and vertically. Available setting value is from "0" to "9".		000	
Code page	Use this item to set the code page of international character set.		850	
Country	Use this option to set the country code.		001	

Note: If printing from enclosed software/driver, the software/driver will send out the commands, which will overwrite the settings set from the panel.

6.3.1-2 Printer setup for EPL2



ltem	Description	Default
Density	Use this item to setup printing darkness. The available setting is from 0 to 30, and the step is 1. You may need to adjust your density based on selected media.	16
Print Speed	Use this item to setup print speed. The each increase or decrease is 1 ips. Available setting is from 1 to 6.	2
Tear Off	This item is used to fine tune media stop location. Available setting value is from "+" to "-" or "0" to "9".	+000
	This item is used to set the print mode. There are 2 modes as below,	
Print mode	Printer ModeDescriptionTear OffNext label top of form is aligned to the printModehead burn line location.Peeler ModeEnable the label peel off mode.	Tear Off
Print Width	This item is used to set print width. The available value is from "0" to "9".	812
List Fonts	This feature is used to print current printer available fonts list to	N/A

	the label. The fonts stored in the printer's DRAM, Flash or optional memory card.		
List Images	This feature is used to print current printer available images list to the label. The images stored in the printer's DRAM, Flash or optional memory card.		
List Formats		used to print current printer available formats list to formats stored in the printer's DRAM, Flash or ry card.	N/A
List Setup	This feature is label.	used to print current printer configuration to the	N/A
Control Prefix	This feature is	used to set control prefix character.	N/A
Format Prefix	This feature is	used to set format prefix character.	N/A
Delimiter Char	This feature is	used to set delimiter character.	N/A
Media Power Up	This option is u on the printer. Selections Feed Calibration Length No Motion	Description Printer will advance one label Printer will calibration the sensor levels, determine length and feed label Printer will not move media	No Motion
Head Close	This option is u the print head. Selections Feed Calibration Length No Motion	Description Printer will advance one label Printer will calibration the sensor levels, determine length and feed label Printer determine length and feed label Printer will not move media	No Motion
Label Top	This option is used to adjust print position vertically on the label. The range is -120 to +120 dots.		0
Left Position	This option is used to adjust print position horizontally on the label. The range is -9999 to +9999 dots.		+0000

Note: If printing from enclosed software/driver, the software/driver will send out the commands, which will overwrite the settings set from the panel.

6.3.2 Sensor



Item	Description	Default
Auto Calibration	This item is used to set the media sensor type and calibrate the selected sensor. Printer will feed 2 to 3 gap labels to calibrate the sensor sensitivity automatically.	N/A
Manual SetupIn case "Auto Calibration" cannot apply to the media, please use "Manual Setup" function to calibrate the sensor manually. Please follow the shown step from LCD to do.Manual SetupNote: You can open the media cover to move the paper but have to close the media cover for each scan.		N/A
Threshold	This item is used to fix the calibrated sensor sensitivity.	Auto
Maximum Length	This item is used to set the max. calibrate length.	152
Advanced	This item is used for pre-printed paper. If this advanced function is turned "ON" then you can setup the min. paper and max. gap/black mark size.	OFF

6.3.3 Serial Comm.



ltem	Description	Default
Baud Rate	This item is used to set the RS-232 baud rate.	9600
Parity	This item is used to set the RS-232 parity.	None
Data Bits	This item is used to set the RS-232 Data Bits.	8
Stop Bit(s)	This item is used to set the RS-232 Stop Bits.	1

6.3.4 Wireless LAN



ltem	Description	Default
Operating Mode	This item is used to set the operating mode of wireless local area networks to connect devices to the networks. Note: Infrastructure mode requires the use of an access point for this communication to take place. Ad hoc mode involves connecting a computer directly to another computer.	Infrastructure
Scan AP	This item is used to scan the access point devise	N/A
DHCP	This item is used to ON or OFF the DHCP (Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol) network protocol.	ON

6.3.5 Bluetooth



Item	Description	Default
Local Name	This item is used to set the local name for Bluetooth.	BT-SPP
PIN Code	This item is used to set the local PIN code for Bluetooth.	0000

6.3.6 Date Time



Item	Description	Default
Date	This item is used to set the date. (ex: 2013-05-30)	N/A
Time	This item is used to set the time. (ex: 19:20:02)	N/A

6.3.7 Display



Item	Description	Default
Contrast	This item is used to set the contrast for display.	50
Backlight	This item is used to set the backlight time for display.	10 Seconds

6.4 File Manager

This feature is used to check the printer available memory and file list.



Item	Description
DRAM	Use this menu to show available memory space and run (.BAS) the files saved in the printer DRAM memory.
FLASH	Use this menu to show available memory space and run (.BAS) the files saved in the printer Flash memory.
CARD	Use this menu to show available memory space and run (.BAS) the files saved in the printer MicroSD card memory.

6.5 Diagnostics



This feature is used to print current printer configuration to the label. On the configuration printout, there is a print head test pattern, which is useful for checking if there is any dot damage on the print head heater element. Please refer to <u>section 4.3</u> for more details.

6.5.2 Dump Mode



Captures the data from the communications port and prints out the data received by printer. In the dump mode, all characters will be printed in 2 columns. (Please refer to <u>section 4.4</u>) The left side characters are received from your system and right side data are the corresponding hexadecimal value of the characters. It allows users or engineers to verify and debug the program.

Note: Dump mode requires 4" wide paper width.

6.5.3 Battery



This feature is used to check the printer temperature, resistance, and bad dots for print head.

6.6 Language



This option is used to setup the language on LCD display.

6.7 Service



This feature is used to restore printer settings to defaults. Please refer to section 4.5.

Note:

When printer initialization is done, please calibrate the gap or black mark sensor before printing.

7. Troubleshooting

The following guide lists the most common problems that may be encountered when operating this bar code printer. If the printer still does not function after all suggested solutions have been invoked, please contact the Customer Service Department of your purchased reseller or distributor for assistance.

Problem	Possible Cause	Recovery Procedure
Power indicator does not illuminate	 * The battery is not properly installed. * Battery out of power. * The battery is dead. 	 * Reinstall the battery. * Switch the printer on. * Charge the battery. * Replace a new battery.
Not Printing	 * Check if interface cable is well connected to the interface connector. * Check if wireless or Bluetooth device is well connected between host and printer. * The port specified in the Windows driver is not correct. 	 * Re-connect cable to interface. * Please reset the wireless device setting. * Select the correct printer port in the driver.
No print on the label	 * Label loaded not correctly. * Use wrong type paper 	 * Follow the instructions in loading the media. * Use thermal type paper
The printer status from DiagTool or LCD shows " Head Open ".	* The printer carriage is open.	* Please close the print carriage.
The printer status from DiagTool or LCD shows " Out of Paper"	 * Running out of media roll. * The media is installed incorrectly. * Media sensor is not calibrated. 	 * Supply a new media roll. * Follow the instructions in loading the media to reinstall the media roll. * Calibrate the media sensor.
The printer status from DiagTool or LCD shows " Paper Jam ".	 * Media sensor is not set properly. * Make sure media size is set properly. * Label may be stuck inside the printer mechanism. 	 * Calibrate the media sensor. * Set media size correctly. * Remove the stuck label inside the printer mechanism.
The printer status from LCD shows " Strong light. Press FEED to print."	* Peel-off sensor can't work in strong light place.	* Remove the printer to proper place to print for peer-off mode.
Can't downloading the file to memory (FLASH / DRAM/CARD)	* The space of memory is full.	 * Delete unused files in the memory. * The max. numbers of DRAM is 256 files. * The max. user addressable memory space of DRAM is 2048KB. * The max. numbers of file of FLASH is 256 files. * The max. user addressable memory space of FLASH is 14336KB.

Poor Print Quality	 * Media is loaded incorrectly * Dust or adhesive accumulation on the print head. * Print density is not set properly. * Print speed is not set properly. * Print head element is damaged. 	 * Reload the supply. * Clean the print head. * Clean the platen roller. * Adjust the print density and print speed. * Run printer self-test and check the print head test pattern if there is dot missing in the pattern. * Change proper media roll.
Missing printing on the left or right side of label	* Wrong label size setup.	* Set the correct label size.
Gray line on the blank label	* The print head is dirty. * The platen roller is dirty.	* Clean the print head. * Clean the platen roller. Please refer to <u>section 8</u>
Irregular printing	* The printer is in Hex Dump mode.	* Turn off and on the printer to skip the dump mode.

8. Maintenance

This session presents the clean tools and methods to maintain your printer.

- 1. Please use one of following material to clean the printer.
 - Cotton swab
 - Lint-free cloth
 - Vacuum / Blower brush
 - 100% Ethanol or Isopropyl Alcohol
- 2. The cleaning process is described as following,

	Interval	
 Always turn off the printer before cleaning the print head. Allow the print head to cool for a minimum of one minute. Use a cotton swab and 100% Ethanol or Isopropyl Alcohol to clean the print head surface. 	Clean the print head when changing a new label roll.	
Print Head		
nt Head		
en Roller 1. Turn the power off. 2. Rotate the platen roller and wipe it thoroughly with water. Clean the platen roller when changing a new label roll		
eel Bar Use the lint-free cloth with 100% ethanol As needed	As needed	
Sensor Compressed air or vacuum Monthly	Monthly	
xterior Wipe it with water-dampened cloth As needed	As needed	
nterior Brush or vacuum As needed	As needed	

Note:

- Do not touch printer head by hand. If you touch it careless, please use ethanol to clean it.
- Please use 100% Ethenol or Isopropyl Alcohol. DO NOT use medical alcohol, which may damage the printer head.
- Regularly clean the print head and supply sensors once change a new media to keep printer performance and extend printer life.

Revise History

Date	Content	Editor



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