

Flat Head vs. Near-Edge Printer Comparison



Flat Head Printers

Flat head thermal transfer printers feature a fixed, horizontal print head & heat element. As the transfer ribbon and the substrate simultaneously pass through the heating element, ink from the ribbon is transferred to the substrate. Upon ink transfer, both the ribbon and substrate pass through a set distance together while the ink dries before being separated.

Advantages

1. Longer lasting print heads
2. Less expensive compared to near edge
3. Suitable for common applications such as shipping labels

Features

- Supports wax, wax/resin, and resin ribbons
- Supports print speeds in excess of 10 IPS*
- High resolution: up to 600 DPI
- Requires less maintenance

Near Edge Printers

Near edge, or “corner edge” printers feature an angled floating print head. The heat element for these printers can be found at the edge of the print head. This allows for higher print speeds & rapid ink transfer as the substrate and ribbon meet for only an instant. Unlike flat head printers, near edge printers require specialized ribbons in order to ensure this rapid ink transfer.

Advantages

1. Higher print speeds
2. Sharper images
3. Floating head adjusts to thickness of the substrate
4. Printer can be miniaturized

Features

- Supports wax/ resin and resin ribbons
- Supports print speeds of up to approx. 40 IPS*
- Medium resolution: 200-300 DPI
- Helps to eliminate waste

Ricoh Product Compatibility

Flat Head Printers

- [B125CS](#)
- [B110A](#)
- [B110C](#)
- [B110CR](#)
- [B110CU](#)
- [B120HS](#)
- [B120EC](#)
- [D110A](#)
- [D110C](#)

Near Edge Printers

- [D110A](#)
- [B120EC](#)

