
Zebra *i* Series

Frequently Asked Questions

Zebra Technologies
Card Imaging Division
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i Series: Intelligent Printing System

Frequently Asked Questions

1) What is the Zebra *i* Series?

The *i* Series is a line of card printers that incorporates an innovative, intelligent, card printing system from Zebra Technologies Card Imaging Division.

2) What is the *i* Series Intelligent Printing System?

The *i* Series Intelligent Printing System is a combination of design features implemented in Zebra card printers, printer drivers, and TrueColours® printer ribbons that ensure easy, economical, high quality card printing on all Zebra-brand card printers.

3) What are the benefits of the new *i* Series Intelligent Printing System?

- **Easy to Use:** printer automatically detects the ribbon type and configures the driver, eliminating extra steps and potential errors when setting up or changing print jobs. Ribbon low alert tells the operator when there are 20 card images remaining on the ribbon and a replacement ribbon will be required soon.
- **Excellent Print Quality:** wider ribbon for edge to edge applications, new HC ribbon formulation for fuller, richer colors, advanced image data processing for greater detail, sharpness and control.

4) How will the *i* Series Intelligent Printing System be implemented on Zebra card printers?

The *i* Series Intelligent Printing System has already been implemented on the P210*i* cartridge-based ribbon system and on the new P320*i* (utilizes roll-based ribbons). In 2003, it will be incorporated into future P310*i*, P420*i*, S520*i* and S720*i* card printer models. With the exception of the P200 Series ribbon cartridges, all *i* Series ribbons will be compatible on future Zebra *i* Series card printers.

5) Will the new *i* Series models replace the existing Zebra card printer models?

Yes, as each new *i* Series model is introduced, previous models will be phased out of production. An extended phase-out window and last buy opportunities will be coordinated through our Authorized Zebra Card Printers Solutions Reseller network.

6) What are the printer features of the new *i* Series Intelligent Printing System?

- **Image Data Processing:** Uses a method of data processing in the printer firmware to optimize how the image is printed. The printer is able to process a wider range of colors resulting in greater image detail, sharper images, and better color control.
- **Ribbon Type Detection:** The printer deploys RFID technology to detect the type of ribbon installed and interacts with the driver to ensure optimization for printing with the type of ribbon detected.

7) What are the ribbon features of the new *i* Series Intelligent Printing System?

- **New Ribbon Formulation:** Prints in fuller, richer colors for improved color reproduction with more vibrant color range.
- **New Wider Ribbon:** Covers full range of edge-to-edge printing for better print quality and increased operating and density range to minimize potential for ribbon wrinkle.
- **RFID Intelligence:** Factory pre-programmed ribbon type and image count information is communicated to the printer and driver at installation.
- **Image Counter:** Counts and saves “number of images printed” information. This information is used to provide “ribbon low” status to the driver. The number of images printed is continuously updated and saved in the smart chip on the ribbon cartridge or core, so the ribbon “knows” how many card images have been printed. This means ribbons can be removed or exchanged, even if not fully used, and re-installed for use of the remaining panels.

8) What are the software/driver features of the *i* Series Intelligent Printing System?

- **Automatic Driver Configuration:** Printer detects the *i* Series ribbon type and the driver automatically configures the driver to select correct ribbon type.

- **Ribbon Low Notification and Messaging:** Alerts user when ribbon is running low (20 card images remaining) and that a replacement ribbon will soon be required.
- **Changed Ribbon Type Notification:** Notifies user and requests confirmation when a newly installed ribbon is different than the previous ribbon used.

9) How do I know if I have an *i* Series printer?

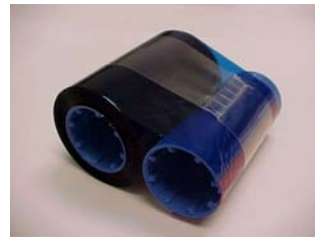
The *i* Series designation is part of the printer model number, e.g. P320*i*. *i* Series printers are clearly identified on shipping documents, packaging, the front of the printer, inside labels, and user documentation.

10) How do I know if I have an *i* Series ribbon?

The *i* Series designation is part of the ribbon description. *i* Series TrueColours™ ribbons are packaged in blue boxes and are clearly identified on ribbon packaging and labeling. In addition, all *i* Series ribbons part numbers are different from non-*i* Series ribbon part numbers.



***i* Series Ribbon**



Non *i* Series Ribbon

A flange on the supply side of the ribbon core easily identifies unpackaged *i* Series ribbons.

11) What *i* Series ribbon types are available?

YMCKO 5 panel 100 image color cartridge (P210)	800015-240
YMCKO 5 panel 200 image color ribbon	800015-440
YMCKO 5 panel 330 image color ribbon	800015-540
YMCK 4 panel 250 image color ribbon	800015-445
YMCK 4 panel 400 image color ribbon	800015-545
YMC 3 panel 300 image color ribbon	800015-470
KdO 2 panel 500 image black sub with overlay ribbon	800015-450

KrO 2 panel 500 image black resin with overlay ribbon 800015-460

Black monochrome 500 images cartridge (P210 and P205) 800015-201

12) What is the difference between *i* Series and non *i* Series ribbons?

i Series multi-panel ribbons and cartridges have RFID technology that enables the printer and driver features of the Intelligent Printing System and enhanced color processing. *i* Series ribbons are also wider for improved edge to edge printing.

13) Will *i* Series ribbons work on non *i* Series printers?

Yes, an *i* Series ribbon will work with a non *i* Series printer, but when installed on a non *i* Series printer, the ribbon will not be enabled through RFID technology. This means the resulting color imaging will likely not be the same as it would be if it were used with an *i* Series printer.

14) Will non *i* Series ribbons work on *i* Series printers?

No. *i* Series printers require use of *i* Series ribbon for full color printing or printing with multi-panel ribbons. Non-*i* Series monochrome, single panel ribbons function on *i* Series printers.

15) Is there an *i* Series monochrome ribbon?

No, however *i* Series printers have the ability to use non-RFID single panel/monochrome ribbons.

16) Is there an *i* Series monochrome cartridge for use with P210 *i* and P205?

Yes, both the P205 and P210*i* models have the ability to use the black monochrome *i* Series ribbon cartridge.

17) Where can I buy *i* Series ribbons?

Zebra *i* Series card printer ribbons are available from Authorized Zebra Card Printer Solutions resellers worldwide.

18) Do *i* Series ribbons require any special care or handling?

No. The storage and handling requirements are the same as non *i* Series ribbons.

19) Who do I contact if I have any other questions?

Contact your Zebra Card Printer Solutions reseller for any questions related to Zebra card printers.