



Thermal Ribbons

THE PERFECT COMPANION FOR YOUR ZEBRA LABELS, TAGS AND PRINTER

Not all thermal ribbons are created equal. There are hundreds of different ribbon formulations in the market. That is why Zebra’s Supplies R&D Team has tested and selected only those ribbons that deliver the best print quality and durability.

To get the Zebra name, each ribbon must pass a series of print quality and durability tests. These tests include evaluating:

- Material Compatibility – To ensure proper adhesion of the ribbon to a wide range of materials
- Environmental Performance – The level of resistance to chemicals, outdoor exposure and abrasion
- Print Speed Performance – Performance at high print speeds
- Complex Label Format Performance – Performance at 600 dpi and when printing small font sizes, intricate regulatory symbols, and rotated barcodes
- Ribbon Backcoating Build-up – We measure the amount of backcoating build up on the printhead to ensure minimal printhead impact

In addition to performance, consistency is important. Unlike some competitors, Zebra never substitutes ribbons. You receive the same formulation every time you order, ensuring consistent print quality and durability in your application.

Zebra ribbons are compliant with ROHS & Reach and FDA indirect food contact regulations. In addition, all Wax/Resin and Resin ribbons are UL-certified with specific Zebra materials.

When you purchase Zebra thermal ribbons you can rest assured that the:

- Print will be readable and scannable every time
- Print will withstand the environment in which it will be used in
- Backcoating will not cause premature printhead failure

This ensures your operations run smoothly and enables you to meet regulatory and customer requirements.

Ribbon Overview	Ribbon	Material Compatibility	Print Speed (inches per second)	Smear / Scratch Resistance	Chemical Resistance (based on material)	UL / cUL Certified (select materials)
Wax Ribbons						
Ideal for use with paper materials in environments with little to no exposure to weak chemicals and / or to some abrasion.	1600 Standard	Coated Paper	Up to 10	Minimal	Select weak chemicals, such as window cleaners	No
	6000 Performance	Coated Paper	Up to 12	Minimal	Select weak chemicals, such as window cleaners	No
	2000 High-Performance	Coated Paper	Up to 12	Moderate	Select weak chemicals, such as window cleaner	No
Wax / Resin Ribbons						
Ideal for use with select paper and matte synthetic materials in environments with moderate to extreme chemical exposure and / or exposure to moderate abrasion, or where UL / cUL approval is required.	6100 Standard	Coated Paper / Matte Synthetics	Up to 8	Moderate	Select moderate chemicals, such as alcohol and bleach	Yes, with Z-Xtreme 4000T
	3200 High-Performance	Coated Paper / Matte Synthetics	Up to 8	Moderate	Select moderate chemicals, such as alcohol and bleach	Yes, with Z-Xtreme 4000T

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Resin Ribbons						
Ideal for use with synthetic materials in environments with harsh to extreme chemical exposure and / or exposure to excessive abrasion, and where UL / cUL approval is required.	6200 Standard	Gloss Paper / Synthetics	Up to 6	Excellent	Most harsh and extreme chemicals, such as gasoline, acetone and xylene (on Z-Xtreme materials)	Yes, with Z-Xtreme 2000T, Z-Xtreme 4000T & 4000T, and Z-Supreme
	5095 High-Performance	Gloss Paper / Synthetics	Up to 6	Excellent	Select harsh and extreme chemicals, such as gasoline, acetone and xylene (on Z-Xtreme materials)	Yes, with Z-Xtreme 2000T & 4000T, Z-Ultimate, Z-Supreme, and 8000T Void Matte
	5100 Premium	Gloss Synthetics	Up to 4	Excellent	Most harsh and extreme chemicals, such as gasoline, acetone and xylene (on Z-Xtreme materials)	Yes, with Z-Xtreme 4000T, Z-Ultimate, and Z-Supreme
	Image Lock	Z-Xtreme 5000T and 8000T Image Lock™	Up to 4	Excellent	Most harsh and extreme chemicals, such as gasoline, acetone and xylene (on Z-Xtreme materials)	Yes, with Z-Xtreme 5000T

Specifications subject to change without notice.

Zebra Certified Supplies are Consistently exceptional—and exceptionally consistent. Zebra Certified Supplies provide the most consistently outstanding quality, performance and service so you never have to worry about thermal printing supply issues interrupting your operations.

