



# THERMAL TRANSFER PRINTHEAD CLEANING INSTRUCTIONS

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# INSTRUCTION



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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to provide instruction for cleaning the TE Connectivity (TE) range of Identification Thermal Transfer (TT) printers using Isopropyl alcohol and the printhead cleaning film.

**For 300 dpi printers:** Clean the printhead using either Isopropyl alcohol, **OR** the printhead cleaning film.

- Before every roll of thermal transfer ribbon

**For 600 dpi printers:** Clean the printhead using Isopropyl alcohol, **AND** the printhead cleaning film.

- Before every roll of thermal transfer ribbon

## 2. CLEANING INTERVALS

It is important to clean TT printers on a regular basis to ensure good print quality and the functionality of the printer.

As a minimum, the printhead must be cleaned before each TT ribbon roll is changed to maximise printhead life.

When selecting thermal transfer ribbons, and printable Labels/cable ident, always consult the “Identification printer Labels/cable ident ribbon matrix”, TE document number 411-121005.

## 3. SAFETY NOTES

- Before carrying out any cleaning or maintenance on printers ensure the power is switched off and disconnected.
- The printhead remains hot immediately after printing, allow the printhead to cool before carrying out any maintenance (1 minute minimum).
- Always consult the Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for any chemical used to clean a printer.



#### 4. ORDERING INFORMATION

Part description	Part number	Quantity
PRINthead-CLEANING-FILM	1-2186033-1	3 films per pack

#### 5. GENERAL NOTES

- 5.1. Under no circumstance are sharp or hard objects (such as screwdrivers or blades) to be used to clean printheads or drive rollers.
- 5.2. Do not touch the printhead surface.
- 5.3. Ensure the printer cover is closed at all times while printing. This will minimise environmental contamination.
- 5.4. To protect against premature wear and subsequent degradation of print quality, it is recommended that:
  - TT printers are used in a clean environment (dust free).
  - Labels/cable ident to be printed should also be stored in a dust free environment in original packaging when possible.

#### 6. CLEANING PRINTERS USING ISOPROPYL ALCOHOL (IPA)

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**Caution** • Do not touch the printhead with any hard, metallic, or abrasive objects or tools. Abrasion could damage the printhead.

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- 6.1. Switch the printer power off, open the cover and remove any Labels/cable ident and ribbon.
- 6.2. Allow the printhead to cool (1 minute minimum).
- 6.3. Lightly blow or brush away loose dust and lint particles within the print mechanism.
- 6.4. Spray or dab isopropyl alcohol (IPA) onto a soft cleaning cloth.
- 6.5. With the printhead open and fixed in place, wipe the print head surface with the damp cleaning cloth until clean. (Note: When cleaning a printer part such as the printhead, evidence of dirt will be left on the cleaning cloth in the form of a black mark. When no fresh marks are being left on the cleaning cloth the part is considered clean).
- 6.6. Allow the printhead to dry for 3 minutes before reconnecting power and re-loading Labels/cable ident and ribbon.



## 7. CLEANING THE PRINTHEAD USING THE CLEANING FILM

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**Caution** • Do not touch the printhead with any hard, metallic, or abrasive objects or tools. Abrasion could damage the printhead.

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- 7.1. Switch the printer power off, open the cover and remove any Labels/cable ident and ribbon.
- 7.2. Allow the printhead to cool (1 minute minimum).
- 7.3. Lightly blow or brush away loose dust and lint particles within the print mechanism.
- 7.4. Position the TT printhead cleaning film in the print path. Place the film's glossy side down and away from the printhead. (Keep the film's matt side up).
- 7.5. Close the printhead.
- 7.6. Slowly pull the full length of the film through the print mechanism once. (each film can be used up to 10 times).
- 7.7. Switch the printer power on, open the cover and replace Labels/cable ident and ribbon.
- 7.8. Close the printhead.
- 7.9. Close the printer cover and re-commence printing.