



Doc. No: 411-121020

Issue: 1

Date: Jan 2013

# Thermal Transfer Printer cleaning instructions

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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.

## 2. Cleaning interval

It is important to clean TT printers on a regular basis to ensure good print quality and the functionality of the printer. The interval between cleaning is strongly dependent on:

- Type of ribbon
- Printed products
- Printing environment.
- Standard of cleaning
- Cleaning frequency

As guidance to the minimum cleaning interval, the printhead and drive roller must be cleaned before each TT ribbon roll is changed.

## 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.
- Always consult the Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for any chemical used to clean a printer.
- Always use appropriate Personal Protective Equipment detailed in the MSDS such as suitable protective gloves.
- Never spray cleaners onto a naked flame, incandescent material or hot surfaces if the cleaner is marked as flammable or highly flammable.

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### 4. General notes:

- 4.1. Under no circumstance are sharp or hard objects (such as screwdrivers or blades) to be used to clean printheads or drive rollers.
- 4.2. Do not touch the protective glass layer of the printhead.
- 4.3. Ensure the printer cover is closed at all times apart from during maintenance and loading the printer with ribbon and media. This will minimise environmental contamination.
- 4.4. To further protect against premature wear and subsequent degradation of print quality, it is recommended that TT printers are used in a clean environment (dust free). Media to be printed should also be stored in a dust free environment in original packaging when possible.
- 4.5. When cleaning a printer part such as the printhead evidence of dirt will be left on the cleaning wipe in the form of a black mark. When no fresh marks are being left on the cleaning wipe the part is considered clean.

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### 5. Ordering information for TE cleaning kit

Part description	Part number
TT-PRINTER-CLEANING-KIT	CP5431-000

**Table 1 TT Printer cleaning kit**

Part description	Part number
TT-PRINT-HEAD-CLEANER	CP5435-000
TT-PLATEN-CLEANER	CP5437-000
TT-LABEL-REMOVER	CP5438-000
TT-CLEANING-WIPES	CP5439-000
TT-CLEANING-BUDS	CP5440-000
TT-FOAM-CLEANER	CP5441-000

**Table 2 TT Printer cleaning kit, individual items**

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### 6. Cleaning the printhead

- 6.1. Switch the printer power off, open the cover and remove any product and ribbon.
- 6.2. Allow printhead to cool
- 6.3. When using the TE cleaning kit, spray the TT printhead cleaner onto a TT cleaning wipe.
- 6.4. With the printhead open and in situ, wipe the print head surface with the damp wipe until clean. (Clean as defined in General notes 4.5)
- 6.5. Allow the printhead to dry for 3 minutes before reconnecting power and re-loading product and ribbon.

### 7. Cleaning the drive roller (Platen)

- 7.1. Switch the printer power off, open the cover and remove any product and ribbon.
- 7.2. When using the TE printer cleaning kit, spray the TT Platen cleaner onto a TT cleaning wipe.
- 7.3. Clean the drive roller with the damp wipe ensuring the whole of the roller is cleaned. (Clean as defined in General notes 4.5)
- 7.4. Allow 3 minutes to dry before reconnecting the power and re-loading product and ribbon.

### 8. General printer cleaning of outside surfaces

- 8.1. Switch the printer power off, open the cover and remove any product and ribbon.
- 8.2. When using the TE printer cleaning kit, spray the TT foam cleaner (Anti static foam) onto a TT cleaning wipe.
- 8.3. Wipe all outer areas and allow 3 minutes to dry before reconnecting the power and re-loading product and ribbon.

### 9. Removing Labels (detached from the label roll and adhered to the printer)

- 9.1. Switch the printer power off, open the cover and remove any product and ribbon.
- 9.2. When using the TE printer cleaning kit, to remove adhesive labels from the printer, spray the TT label remover on a TT cleaning wipe. Hold the damp wipe on the label to soak the label for 4 to 5 minutes then peel off the labels and wipe dry the surrounding area before reconnecting the power and re-loading product and ribbon.
- 9.3. Repeat operations 9.1 to 9.2 in case of strong label adhesive.

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