



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 indirect food contact regulations. In addition, several 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
- Backcoating will not cause premature printhead failure

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

Zebra Thermal Ribbons

Ribbon Overview	Ribbon Formulation	Material Compatibility	Print Speed (Inches per Second)	Smear/ Scratch Resistance	Chemical Resistance To: (Based on Material)	UL Certified
Wax Ribbons						
Ideal for use with paper materials in environments with little to no exposure to chemical and/or exposure to some minimal abrasion	1600 Economy Ribbon	Coated/Uncoated Paper	Up to 10 ips	Minimal	Select Weak Chemicals, such as Window Cleaner	
	2300 Performance Ribbon	Coated/Uncoated Paper, and Pre-Printed Paper	Up to 12 ips	Minimal	Select Weak Chemicals, such as Window Cleaner	
Wax/Resin Ribbons						
Ideal for use with select uncoated, Coated, & Gloss paper and synthetic materials in environments with moderate to extreme chemical exposure and/or exposure to moderate abrasion	3000 Standard Ribbon	Uncoated, Coated, Gloss Paper and Synthetics	Up to 8 ips	Moderate	Select Moderate Chemicals, such as Alcohol and Bleach	
	3300 Performance Ribbon	Uncoated, Coated, Gloss Paper and Synthetics	Up to 8 ips	Moderate	Select Moderate Chemicals, such as Alcohol and Bleach	
	3600 High-Performance Ribbon	Coated/Uncoated Gloss Paper and Synthetics	Up to 8 ips	Moderate	Select Moderate Chemicals, such as Alcohol and Bleach	
	3200 Premium Ribbon	Coated/Uncoated Paper and Matte Synthetics	Up to 10 ips	Moderate	Select Moderate Chemicals, such as Alcohol and Bleach	YES
Resin Ribbons						
Ideal for use with all synthetic materials in environments with harsh to extreme chemical exposure and/or exposure to excessive abrasion	4400 Standard Ribbon*	Gloss Paper and Matte/ Gloss Synthetics	Up to 6 ips	High	Select Harsh and Extreme Chemicals	
	4800 Performance Ribbon*	Gloss Paper and Matte/ Gloss Synthetics	Up to 6 ips	High	Select Harsh and Extreme Chemicals	YES
	5095 High-Performance Ribbon	Gloss Synthetics	Up to 6 ips	High	Most Harsh and Extreme Chemicals, such as Gasoline and Acetone	YES
	5100 Premium Ribbon	Gloss Synthetics	Up to 4 ips	High	Most Harsh and Extreme Chemicals, such as Gasoline and Acetone	YES
	Image Lock Ribbon	Z-Xtreme 5000T and 8000T Lab Resist Image Lock	Up to 4 ips	High	Most Harsh and Extreme Chemicals, such as Gasoline and Acetone	YES
Specialty Ribbons						
Resin ribbon for high temperatures (up to 300°C) applications. Prints small fonts precisely. Ideal for electronic components, such as circuit boards	4820 High Temperature Ribbon	Gloss Paper/Synthetics	Up to 6 ips	High	Most Harsh and Extreme Chemicals, such as Gasoline and Acetone	MEET
Resin ribbon designed specifically for use on textile care labels. Resistant to Machine Wash, Dry Cleaning, Rubbing, Sweat, Stonewash, Bleach, Crease Removal, Ironing, and UV	4900 Care Label Ribbon	Care Labels including Nylon, Polyester, Satin	Up to 6 ips	High	Most Harsh and Extreme chemicals, such as Bleach and Perchlorethylene	

*Available for Industrial Printers only



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Part number: Thermal Ribbons 06/2020

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