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MARKING SOLUTIONS

Identification Systems for Heavy Industry

Label Printer BUYING GUIDE

Label printers have become essential at the worksite or in the office, even in your home. Whether labels are needed for identifying switches, panels, file folders, or even home preserves -- modern portable and desktop printers are capable of producing crisp, clear labels, signs and printed heat shrink tubes in seconds.

TYPES OF PRINTERS

Different printers are classified based on portability or if the printer needs to be tethered to a computer. If convenience is important, printers using label cartridges with self-contained ribbon and media are popular. Desktop printers with separate print ribbons and media are necessary for production printing and large jobs. Handheld portable ink jet sprayers are available for marking cartons, pipe, concrete or even clothing, where applying an actual label may not be practical. Think about what you will use your printer for and how often you will use it to determine the right one for you.

PORTABLE PRINTERS



These printers offer flexibility in supplies (label tape, heat shrink tube, and preprinted labels), but with the advantages of portability and mobility. Portable printers are used by field technicians for quick and easy supply changes and on-demand printing at the job site. Office workers use portable printers to make personalized folder labels.

DESKTOP PRINTERS



Desktop printers are the workhorses of the industry. They are used to print shipping container labels, wristbands at hospitals, and shelf labels in the warehouse. Desktops are connected to a computer for maximum efficacy in labeling formatting and content. Fast print speed and high duty cycles contribute to their high usage.

INK JET SPRAYERS



These printers are unique. Using ink jet technology, you can program the unit with Bluetooth, USB or Wi-Fi. Just squeeze the trigger, roll the unit and your message sprays directly on your object. About the size and weight of a cordless drill, this type of printer marks objects for pennies.

FEATURES

PRINT SPEEDS – how fast do you want to print?

- Portables, depending on product and brand, print from 6mm/second to 13mm/second.
- Desktops, depending on product and brand, print from 12.5cm/second and up.
- Ink Jet sprayers will print as fast as you can move the printer.

CAPACITY – how much do you have to print?

- Portable printers use cartridges that contain the print ribbon and the label material. Cartridge capacity varies by manufacturer but is typically 25 feet. Cartridges offer ease of use, simply drop them in and begin printing.
- Desktop printers don't use cartridges but open rolls of ribbon and media. Ribbon lengths vary from 200 feet to 1000 feet. Media lengths vary from 100 feet to several hundred feet. New technology has the printer read the ribbon and the label material for compatibility and amount left.

This helps to prevent printing with no material left.

- Ink Jet sprayers can print thousands of characters with one ink cartridge.

SUPPLIES – what do you want to print?

- Portable printers offer hundreds of colour combinations of ribbon and media in a multitude of label tape widths. Depending on the brand, the printer can print on label tape, heat shrink tube, fabric or a material that emulates lamicroids.
- Desktop printers, depending on brand, offer the same wide variety of ribbons and media.
- Ink Jet sprayers offer black and white inks as the most common with other basic colours available.

DURABILITY – how long must it last?

- Both portable and desktop printers have ribbons and material combinations that will be readable and durable for weeks or years.
- Ink Jet is similar but subject to UV rays of the sun.

Whether you are a field technician, warehouse/inventory professional, or office administrator, you will be able to find the right portable, desktop or ink jet sprayer for your needs at Neumann Marking Solutions. We offer a great selection of label cartridges, heat shrink tubing supplies, and open roll labels to supply your new printer.

Neumann Marking Solutions

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