



Neumann
MARKING SOLUTIONS

Identification Systems for Heavy Industry

GUIDE TO CABLE, PATCH PANEL AND FACEPLATE LABELING

Neumann Marking Solutions
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Introduction

The following pages provide basic instructions for the design, printing and placement of self-laminating cable wraps, patch panel labels and faceplate labels. These recommended practices will help improve facility efficiency and increase safety through effective visual communication.

- Self-Laminating Cable Wraps are used for identifying a cable or wire with a termination is in place.
- Patch Panel Labels are used for identifying network cabling, recording studio layouts, and radio and television panels for connecting the appropriate cables to jacks.
- Faceplate Labels are used in identifying the outlet box for coaxial, category 5, 6, 6E or fiber optic cables.

Keep this guide handy in your facility, workstation, or on the jobsite. Your staff and contractors will be able to produce clear and compliant labels for whatever job they are doing.

Neumann Marking Solutions has the best portable, desktop and specialized printers for every identification requirement. Neumann Marking Solutions provides a wide selection of industrial labeling supplies for self-laminating cable wraps, patch panel labels, faceplate labels and many other types of labels.

For further assistance, please contact one of our knowledgeable Customer Service Representatives at 1-800-268-7636

Table of Contents

SELF-LAMINATING WRAPS	1
ROTATE LABELS	2
ROTATE AND REPEAT LABELS	2
PATCH PANEL LABELS	3
FACEPLATE LABELS	4



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SELF-LAMINATING WRAPS, ROTATE, ROTATE AND REPEAT LABELS

If your cable is terminated and you need to mark it, here are some solutions. Choices range from a single wire marker to production for wire harnesses and cable assemblies.

SELF-LAMINATING WRAPS

Self-laminating labels (cable wraps) are unique labels printed in portrait style. Your legend is printed on a white (other colours are available) background approximately 25% of the overall label length. (Your legend can only be as wide as your label is tall; a 24mm wide label will allow approximately 10 characters in a small point size). The rest of the label is clear. The reason for the coloured background is to be able to see the legend, the “tail” is clear to cover and seal the printed legend, while allowing the label to be read.

To apply after printing:

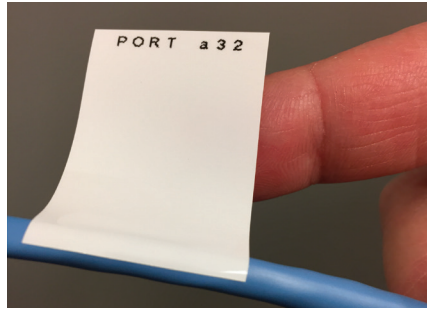
1. Remove the label backing
2. Place the legend parallel to the cable and press firmly against the cable
3. Roll the clear tail around the legend on the cable.

The cable is now marked and protected by the clear “tail”. The connection or termination did not have to be removed for this identification to be installed. This method saves money and time.



ROTATE LABELS

Rotate labels and rotate and repeat labels perform the same function, but are different in appearance to the self-laminating labels (cable wraps). There is no clear tail required to protect the legend and you set the entire label length prior to printing.



Rotate means the labels are rotated and printed once in portrait mode (your legend can only be as wide as your label is tall; a 24mm wide label will allow approximately 10 characters in a small point size). When installing the rotate label be sure to apply the blank end of the label first and wrap or you will not be able to read the legend.

ROTATE AND REPEAT LABELS

Rotate and repeats print the legend in portrait style over the entire length of the label tapes. As with the self-laminating labels, place your legend parallel to the cable and roll the label around the cable. Since the legend is repeated over the entire length of the label, it will be highly visible.

Rotate, rotate and repeat label tapes are unique products that accept the curve of the cable and will adhere to themselves.

Depending on the volume and location of the cables to be marked, an automated cable labeling system may be required. These are used for production in building wire harnesses. This device prints and wraps the cable in one step. Select the job, insert the cable and it's printed and wrapped in seconds!

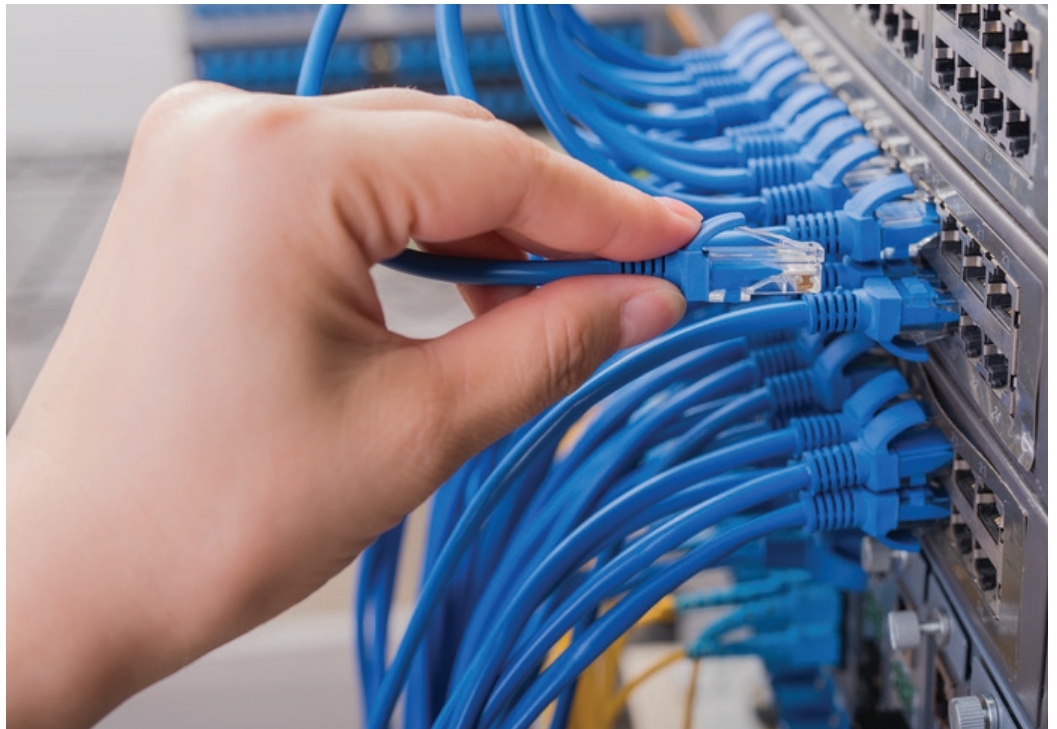
The EPSON LW-PX900 Label Printer and Wire Marker is a popular and efficient way of identifying cables with self-laminating labels. Insert the supply cartridge (which has the media and print ribbon included) into the printer, select the Self-Lam hotkey, enter your legend and press print.



PATCH PANEL LABELS

A patch panel is a device or unit featuring a number of jacks, usually of the same or similar type, for the connecting and routing of circuits for monitoring, interconnecting, and testing circuits. Patch panels are commonly used in computer networking, recording studios, radio and television.

- Patch panels form the main link to collect data, and route it to where it needs to go. Patch panels enable the process of moves, additions, and changes.
- Ports are one of the most important of patch panel components. Ports are the physical connection points that provide a place for data to enter and exit the panel, and are connected with patch cables.



For best practice, panels should feature cable management bars and enough space for labeling and port count configuration flexibility. Labeling on the front of the port should be clear and legible.

Patch panel labels can be printed on site with a portable label printer. Many brands of label printers have templates pre-installed for patch panels. Call up the brand, number of ports, enter the data and print your label copies. The self-adhesive labels are available in a variety of widths and tape/ink colour combinations for customization.

For large jobs, a desktop printer can be used to print out the legends using a manufacturer's template or by creating your own. If you are familiar with spreadsheets and printer page setup, it will take only a few minutes. This self-adhesive material is sold in rolls of 150 feet in length and can be custom cut to the width you require.

To complete the job, it's recommended to mark the patch cables. This is easily done with self-laminating cable markers. These can be supplied in a cartridge format. Install the cartridge in the portable label printer, select your format, enter your legend, and print. This can be done on the job or in the shop. Again, if you have a large job, the desktop printer can be used for this purpose. It is typical for the installer to have both a portable printer for on-the-job for changes, discrepancies or commissioning and a desktop printer in the office for the bulk of the work.

Patch panel labeling is important. When it comes time to modify, change or repair anything, a label will make your job as easy as moving that patch cable.

FACEPLATE LABELS

A faceplate (or wall plate) is the front-cover an electrical device, outlet or light switch.

The reason to have a faceplate is obvious, to protect the inside connections from outside influences. With a plate cover, the outlet must be identified as to what it contains.

Identifying outlets is important for making modifications or troubleshooting a problem. Your outlet box may contain coaxial, cat 5 or fiber optic cable that is used for television, telephone, video, audio, or broadband network connections. If you require an outlet activated, or have a problem with an existing outlet, you will need to have the faceplate number when you call the help desk. Each connection may have its own number or one number that covers all the connections. This is why each faceplate or outlet number is unique.



If faceplates are missing the label, or the label is damaged or difficult to read, it becomes difficult for the user to properly identify the outlet and for support to repair the problem.

A number of printers, both portable and computer connected, are available to print durable synthetic labels which will stand up to the wear and tear of the location.

Cleaning staff may use commercial cleaners to wipe down the faceplates. These wipings may, over time, remove the legend from the label or the corner of the label may be lifted. Once the label corner is lifted, the label will be more susceptible to removal. With the label missing or damaged, identification for repair becomes more difficult. Labels with a vinyl or poly coating will withstand these cleanings. Some printers have a device built in to trim the corners of the label making them much more resistant to corner peeling.

If the faceplate is in a common area, the label may be more subject to removal or even replaced with a label with incorrect information. Specialty label material is available that resembles a standard adhesive machine generated label, but leaves a pattern on the surface if they are removed. If this label is reapplied, the label will not adhere and will be an indicator that tampering may have occurred.



Faceplate labels can be printed by a variety of printers, depending on how many labels you require for installation and how fast you need them. Installers may prefer to use a portable printer and print and install labels as they work thru a job. Others may have the labels printed in a long continuous strip and remove them as they install them. Modern printers have the option to print and cut one label at a time; print a continuous strip of labels with the label cut between the legends but the backing intact. This allows the user to have all the labels in one strip, but to select which label to install. Bulk printing can also be done where the user will cut the label off as required. Printers can be setup to print repeat, sequencing and barcodes depending upon the job requirement.

It is time well spent if the amount of time spent on planning your label print job is the same as the time spent planning your faceplate legends.



GOT A LABELING JOB AND NEED
SOME ADVICE?

LOOKING TO REPLACE A WORN
OUT PRINTER?

LOOKING FOR A CANADIAN SUPPLIER
WITH AMPLE INVENTORY OF LABEL
PRINTER SUPPLIES?

LOOKING FOR A SPECIALIZED
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LABELING EQUIPMENT?

We can help!

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