

UBI EasyCoder 501 – User's Manual

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User's Manual
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This digital apparatus does not exceed the class A limits for radio noise emissions from a digital apparatus as set out in the radio interference regulations of the Canadian Department of Communication.

* * *

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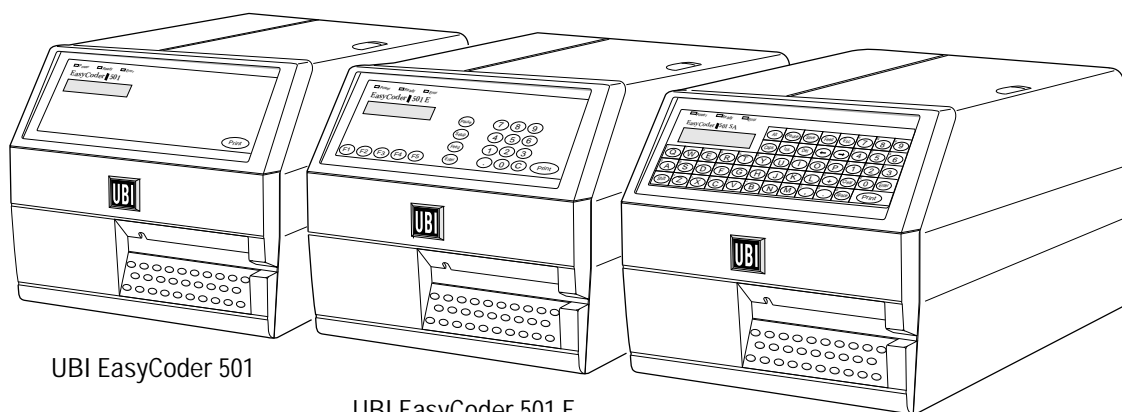
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INTRODUCTION



UBI EasyCoder 501

UBI EasyCoder 501 E

UBI EasyCoder 501 SA

The **UBI EasyCoder 501** is a series of modular multipurpose thermal transfer/direct thermal printers. They come in three main models intended for different types of applications:

- **EasyCoder 501** is mainly intended to be controlled by a host computer using standard or custom-made application software, e.g. the *UBI LabelShop* label-design program for *Microsoft Windows*. Being a low-cost alternative, it has a somewhat lower print speed and fewer options than the other members of this printer family. *EasyCoder 501* can be fitted with an optional scalable fonts kit that allows the use of outline fonts in *Speedo* and *TrueType* format. Externally, the *EasyCoder 501* is distinguished by the single Print key on its front panel.
- **EasyCoder 501 E (Enhanced)** offers higher print speed and a larger keyboard than *EasyCoder 501*. The large number options in regard of media handling and computer connection makes this printer a highly flexible alternative. It is recommended for installations, where you want to switch between different application programs, or create your own programs in the built-in *UBI Fingerprint* programming language. *EasyCoder 501E* can, as an option, be fitted with a scalable fonts kit that allows the use of outline fonts in *Speedo* and *TrueType* format. This

printer model is easily recognized by its 22-key membrane keyboard.

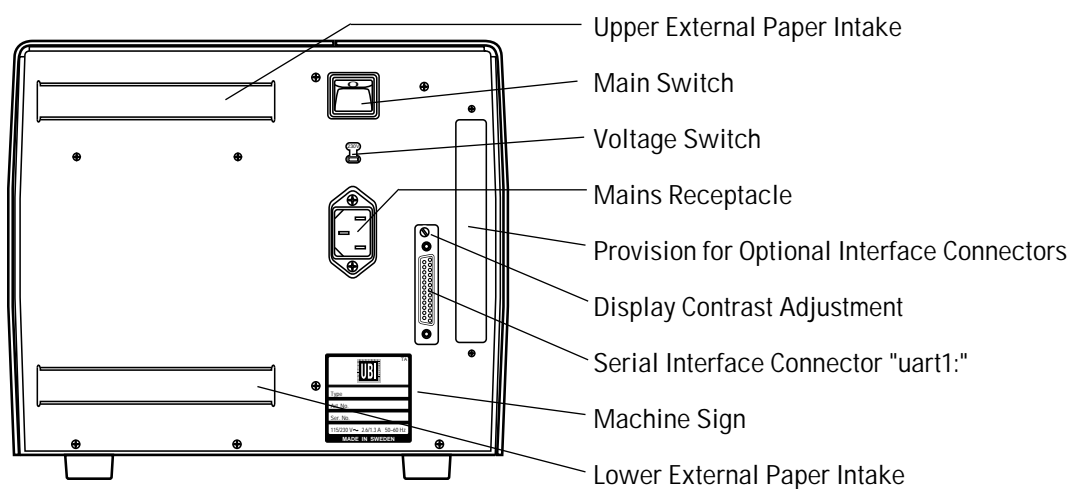
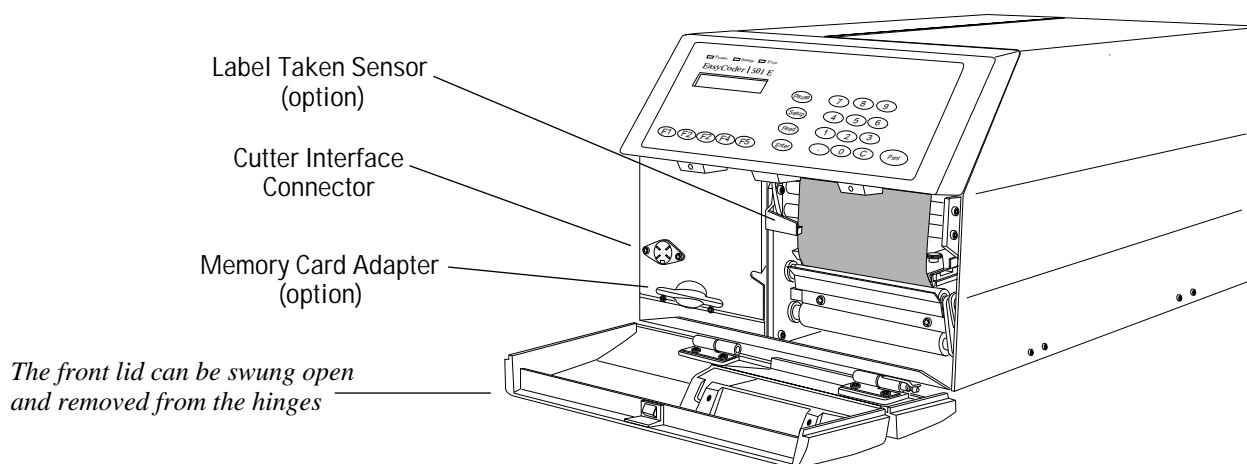
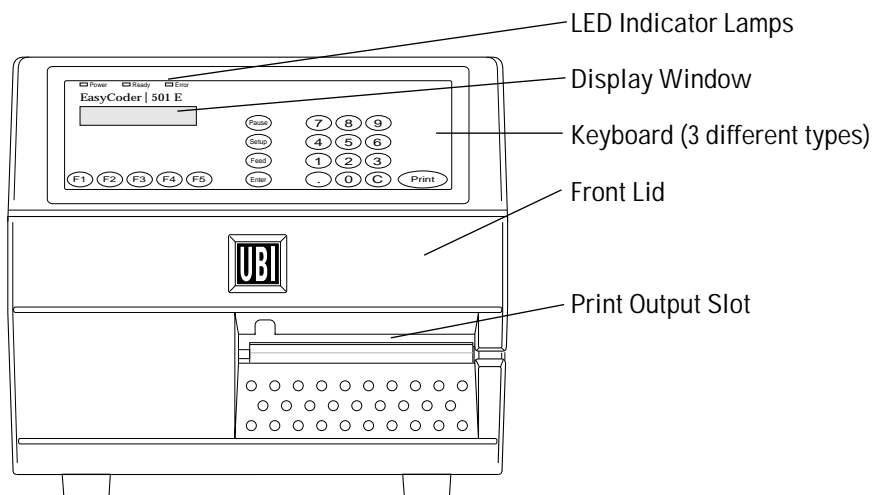
- **EasyCoder 501 SA** is just as quick and flexible as the *EasyCoder 501 E* model, but is fitted with a special “Stand-Alone” software, which allows the printer to be operated independently, without any computer connection. This printer model is fitted with a large built-in alphanumeric keyboard. The *EasyCoder 501 SA* can easily be “docked” to a personal computer and loaded with label texts and formats created in the *UBI LabelShop* label-editing program running under *Microsoft Windows*.

Information on the different models and options can be found in the *Technical Manual*, which also describes installation and computer connection.

The following manuals may be of interest to the operator or programmer:

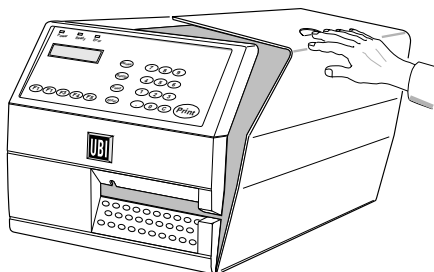
- *UBI Shell 3.1 Standard, Startup Manual*
- *UBI Shell 3.1 Enhanced, Startup Manual*
- *UBI EasyCoder 501, Technical Manual*
- *UBI Stand-Alone Concept, Operating Instructions*
- *UBI Fingerprint 5.0, Programmer's Manual*
- *UBI Fingerprint 5.1, Update Information*
- *UBI LabelShop, Operator's Manual*
- *UBI Windows Driver, Installation Instructions*
- *UBI Macintosh Driver, Installation Instructions*

GET TO KNOW YOUR PRINTER



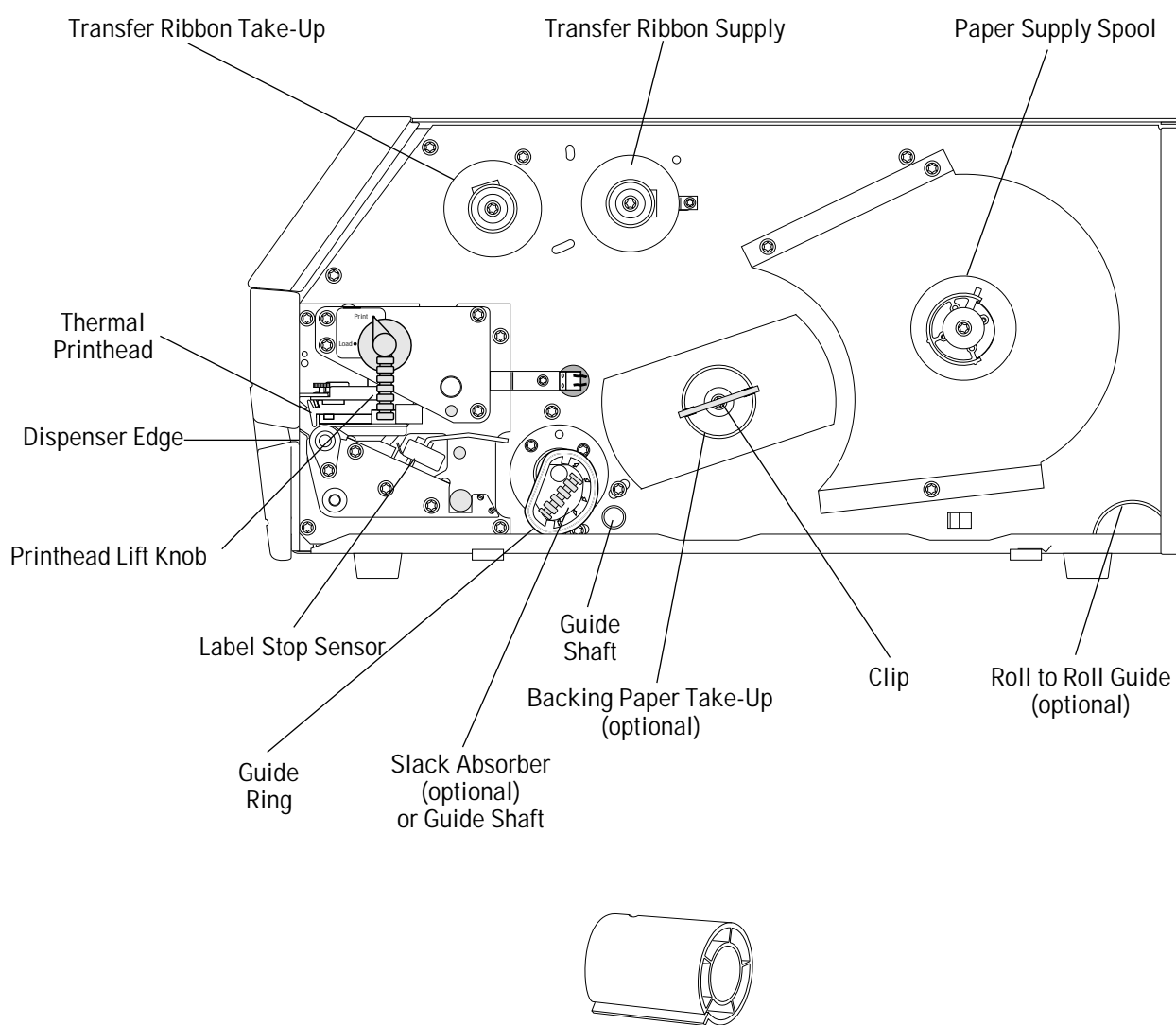
Continued!

GET TO KNOW YOUR PRINTER, cont'd.



The paper stock compartment becomes accessible when the right-hand door is swung open. Although the printer is operable when this door is left opened or completely removed, you are strongly recommended to keep it closed during normal operation, so as to prevent the printer mechanism from being exposed to dust.

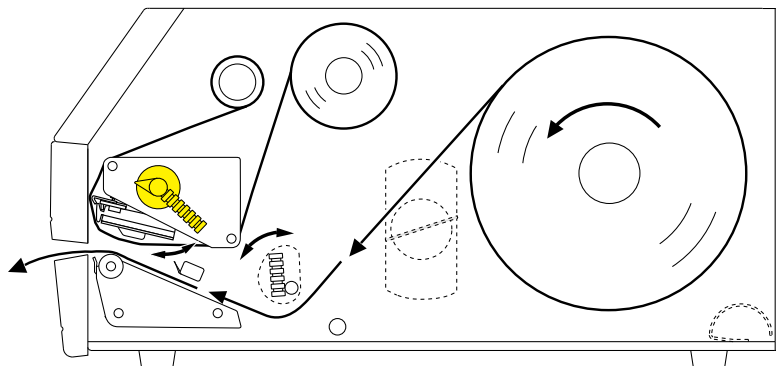
A paper stock compartment door with an inspection window is available as an option. The window makes it easier to check the consumption of paper and transfer ribbon.



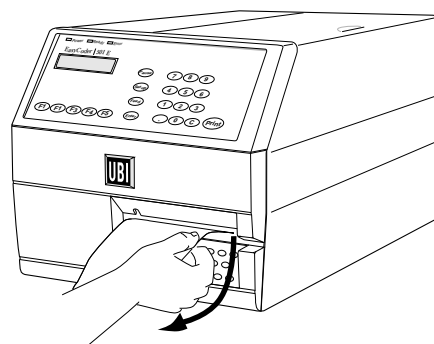
Adapter for 76 mm (3") core

PAPER LOAD

Tear-Off



- 1 Turn the printhead lift knob to “Load” position.
- 2 Fit a new paper roll on the paper supply spool and push the roll inwards as far as it will go.
- 3 Thread the paper underneath the slack absorber (or the corresponding shaft) and under the guide plate of the label stop sensor.
- 4 Thread the paper past the print roller.
- 5 Release the slack absorber. Adjust the green guide ring so that the paper is guided with a minimum of play.
- 6 Turn the printhead lift knob to “Print” position.
- 7 Feed out at least one label.

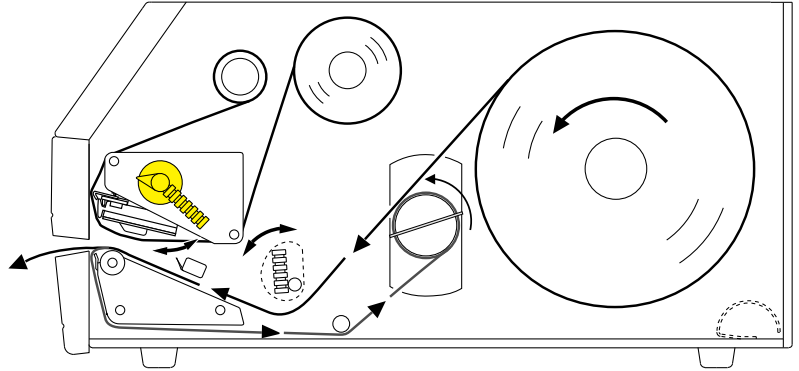


To tear off the paper, pull it **downwards**.

PAPER LOAD, cont'd.

Peel-Off

Note
The backing paper take-up can accommodate the backing paper from a full roll of labels.

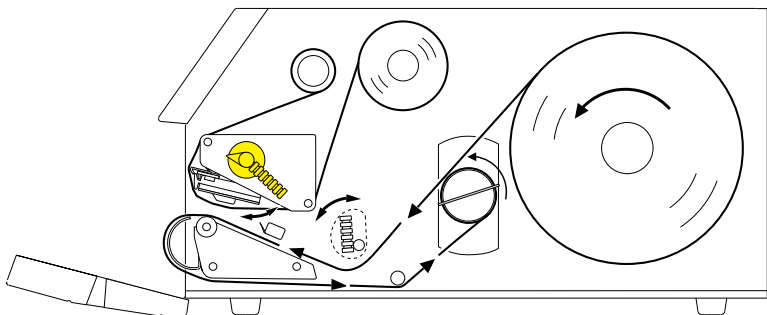


- 1 Open the front lid.
- 2 Turn the printhead lift knob to “Load” position.
- 3 Pull out the green clip on the backing paper take-up and dispose of all wound-up backing paper.
- 4 Fit a new paper roll on the paper supply spool and push the roll inwards as far as it will go.
- 5 Thread the paper underneath the slack absorber (or the corresponding shaft) and under the guide plate of the label stop sensor.
- 6 Thread the paper past the print roller.
- 7 Remove the labels from the first 40 cm (15") of the paper web. Wrap the backing paper around the print roller and dispenser edge. Then thread it back under the print mechanism, the slack absorber and the guide shaft.
- 8 Wind up the backing paper at least half a turn on the backing paper take-up, and secure it by means of the clip. In case of narrow labels, wind up several turns of backing paper.
- 9 Release the slack absorber. Adjust the green guide ring so that the paper is guided with a minimum of play.
- 10 Turn the printhead lift knob to “Print” position.
- 11 Close the front lid.
- 12 Feed out at least one label.

PAPER LOAD, cont'd.

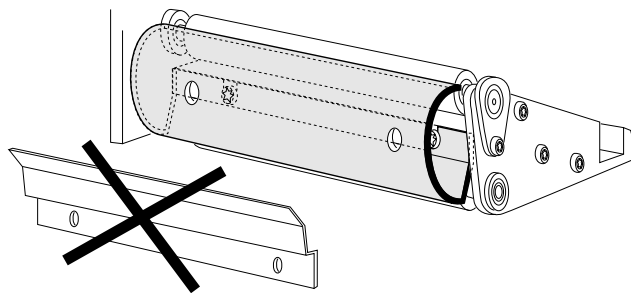
Rewind

Note
Approx. 1/4 to 1/3 of a full label roll
can be rewound internally.



- 1 Turn the printhead lift knob to “Load” position.
- 2 Pull out the green clip on the backing paper take-up and dispose of all wound-up backing paper.
- 3 Fit a new paper roll on the paper supply spool and push the roll inwards as far as it will go.
- 4 Thread the paper underneath the slack absorber (or the corresponding shaft) and under the guide plate of the label stop sensor.
- 5 Thread the paper past the print roller.
- 6 Using a screwdriver, remove the dispenser edge and replace it with the roll-to-roll guide as illustrated below.

Note!
When putting back the dispenser edge,
it should be fitted as far down as
possible.

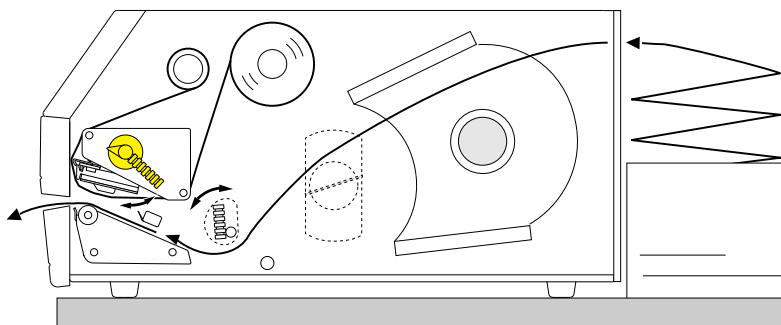


- 7 Wrap the paper around the print roller and the roll-to-roll guide and back under the print mechanism, the slack absorber and the guide shaft immediately behind it.
- 8 Wind up the backing paper at least half a turn on the backing paper take-up, and secure it by means of the clip. In case of narrow paper web, wind up several turns of paper.
- 9 Release the slack absorber. Adjust the green guide ring so that the paper is guided with a minimum of play.
- 10 Turn the printhead lift knob to “Print” position.
- 11 Feed at least one label.

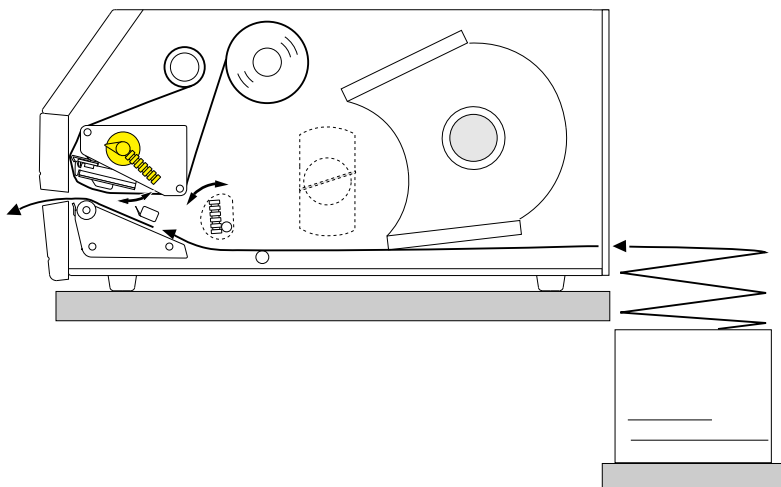
PAPER LOAD, cont'd.

External Supply

The *EasyCoder 501* printers can use various types of external supplies, e.g. boxes of fan-folded tickets or an external paper roll.



The upper intake should be used for stacks placed behind the printer. The top of the stack should not be higher up than the intake.



The lower intake is preferred when a stack of fan-folds is placed at a lower level than that of the printer.

Note!

When an external paper supply is used, take precautions to protect the paper stock from sand, grit and other hard particle, that may damage the printhead.

RIBBON LOAD

Standard Method

Warning!

The use of any thermal transfer ribbon, other than those supplied by UBI, will invalidate the printhead warranty. UBI thermal transfer ribbons are engineered specifically for this printhead.

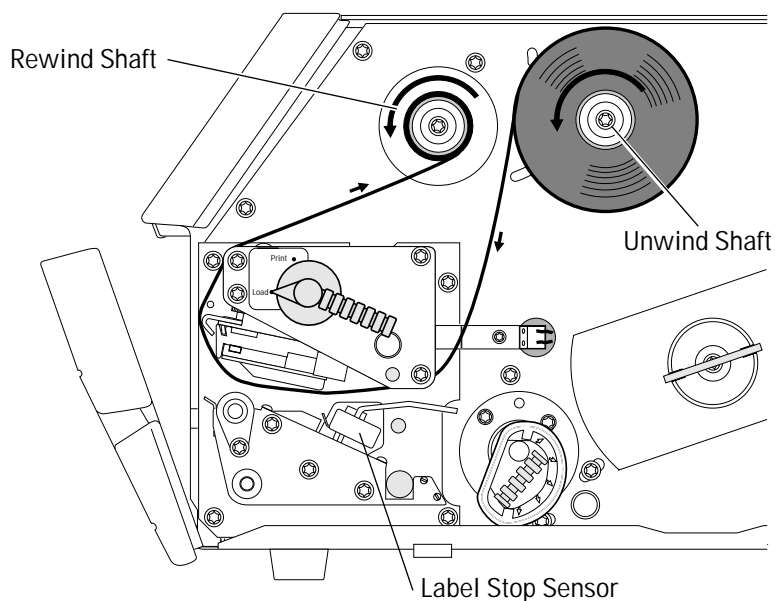
The thermal transfer ribbon "ink" does not smear at room temperature!

Note!

In case of ribbon wrinkling problems, refer to the Technical Manual for instructions on how to adjust the printhead pressure and the ribbon guide plate.

To install a new thermal ribbon without the aid of a Quick Load Ribbon Cassette (see next page), proceed as follows:

- 1 Lift up the printhead by turning the green printhead lift knob the "Load" position and open the front lid.
- 2 Remove the used up ribbon by pulling out both the empty core and the one with rewound ribbon on.



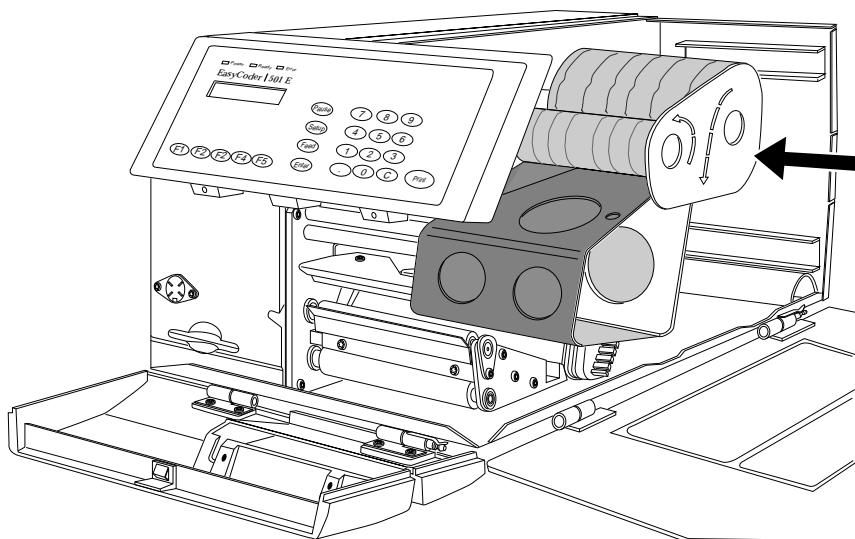
- 3 Put the full-ribbon stock on ribbon unwind shaft. Pay attention to how the ribbon is mounted (see illustration).
- 4 Thread the transparent start portion of the ribbon below the printhead and above the label stop sensor. Pull out approx. 20 cm (8") more ribbon, measured from the printhead.
- 5 Lower the printhead.
- 6 Fit the rewind core onto the rewind shaft. Pay attention to how the core is mounted (see illustration).
- 7 Lift the printhead.
- 8 Manually, or by means of the < **Feed** > or < **Print** > key, rewind the ribbon until all of the transparent front portion has passed the printhead.
- 9 Lower the printhead by turning the knob to the "Print" position.
- 10 Print a few labels, or tickets etc., to check that ribbon and paper are fed regularly.

RIBBON LOAD, cont'd.

Quick Load Ribbon Cassette (option)

Loading the printer:

- 1 Lift the printhead and remove used-up ribbon stock.
- 2 Press a pre-loaded ribbon cassette onto the two ribbon shafts on the printer as far as it goes.
- 3 Push the ribbon rolls inwards as far as they will go and hold them there, while you pull out the cassette.
- 4 Manually, or by means of the < **Feed** > or < **Print** > key, rewind the ribbon until all of the transparent front portion has passed the printhead.
- 5 Lower the printhead by turning the knob to the “*Print*” position.
- 6 Print a few labels, or tickets etc., to check that ribbon and paper are fed regularly.



Loading the Ribbon Cassette:

- 1 Put the cassette on its side with the shafts up.
- 2 Fit the ribbon roll on the rear shaft of the cassette and the empty roll on the front shaft with the ribbon running as indicated by the arrows on the side of the cassette.

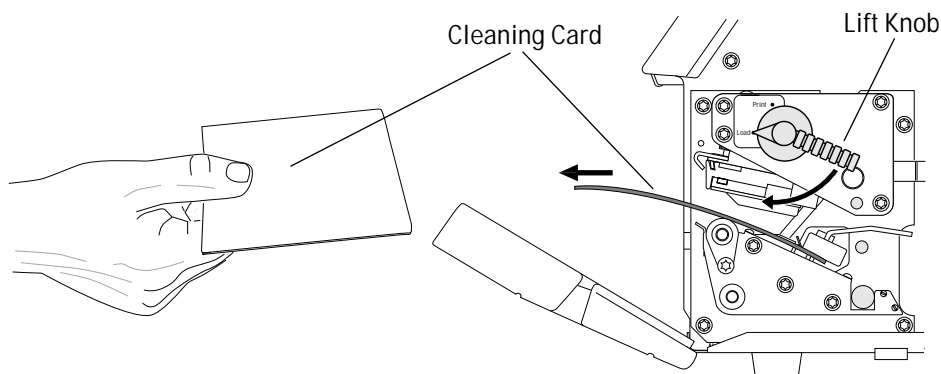
MAINTENANCE

Cleaning the Printhead and Print Roller

WARNING!
The printhead and print roller are very delicate. Never use any tools to remove stuck labels or to clean the printhead.

Cleaning on a regular basis is important for life of the printer and for the printout quality.

- 1 Turn the printhead lift knob to “Load” position and remove the paper web and the transfer ribbon.
- 2 Insert a Printhead Cleaning Card into the print mechanism, allowing 2–3 cm (1") to extend in front of the printhead.
- 3 Turn the knob clockwise to “Print” position and slowly pull out the cleaning card. Repeat if necessary.
- 4 Using a piece of cloth or blotting paper slightly moistened with isopropanol, clean the print roller, the dispenser edge, and the ribbon guide plate.
- 5 **Important!**
Allow a couple of minutes for the cleaned parts to get dry before loading paper and ribbon.



External Cleaning

Wipe the outside surfaces using a damp piece of cloth. If necessary, add a mild detergent. Be careful not to allow any water to penetrate into the interior of the printer.

CAUTION!
Remove the power cord before cleaning.
Dangerous voltage!

Protection Against Dust

Protect paper and ribbon from dust by always keeping the stock compartment door closed. In case of an external paper supply, it is strongly recommended that both the actual supply and the web path be protected by some kind of dust cover. Dirt, sand, grit etc. may rapidly cause irreparable damage to the printhead.

TROUBLE SHOOTING

Printout Troubles

The list below is intended to help the operator to correct possible printout troubles or flaws in printout quality, and to decide when assistance from the Service dept. of the nearest *UBI* distributor is required. Note that most problems are due to operating errors or normal wear of the printhead.

Symptom	Possible Cause	Remedy	Refer to
Overall weak printout	Printhead pressure too low Wrong Paper type setup Low Contrast setup Worn printhead Wrong printhead voltage	Adjust both knobs Check/change Check/change Check/replace Check/repair CPU	Technical Manual Technical Manual Technical Manual Technical Manual ☛ Call Service
Printout weaker on one side	Uneven printhead pressure	Adjust outer knob	Technical Manual
Weak spots	Foreign particles on paper/ribbon Paper/ribbon don't match Poor paper or ribbon quality Worn printhead Worn pressing roller	Remove Use other media Use other media Check/replace Check/replace	n.a. Technical Manual Technical Manual Technical Manual ☛ Call Service
Overall dark printout	Printhead pressure too high Wrong Paper Type setup High Contrast setup Wrong printhead voltage	Adjust both knobs Check/change Check/change Check/repair CPU	Technical Manual Technical Manual Technical Manual ☛ Call Service
Excessive bleeding	Printhead pressure too high Wrong Paper Type setup Contrast setup too high Faulty energy control	Adjust both knobs Check/change Check/change Check CPU board	Technical Manual Technical Manual Technical Manual ☛ Call Service
Transfer ribbon breaks	Ribbon fitted around LSS Wrong Paper Type setup Ribbon unwind unit stuck Bad energy control Ribbon rewinder belt too tight	Check/adjust Check/change Check/adjust Check CPU board Adjust	User's Manual p. 10 Technical Manual ☛ Call Service ☛ Call Service ☛ Call Service
White parts at transfer printing	Transfer ribbon wrinkled	Adjust	See next paragraph
Transfer ribbon wrinkles	Incorrect paper guide ring adjustment Ribbon obstructed by printhead cable Too strong printhead pressure Bad ribbon guide plate adjustment	Adjust Check/clear Adjust both knobs Adjust	User's Manual p. 6-8 n.a. Technical Manual Technical Manual
Dark lines along paper web	Foreign objects on printhead or ribbon guide plate	Check/clean	User's Manual p. 12
White lines along paper web	Printhead dirty Missing dots on printhead	Check/clean Replace printhead	User's Manual p. 12 Technical Manual
Large part of dot line missing	Wrong X-start or Width setup Failing printhead Failing strobe signal	Check/change Check/replace Check CPU-board	Technical Manual Technical Manual ☛ Call Service
Last part of label missing	Too small image buffer	Check/increase	Technical Manual
Printout missing along inner edge	Bad paper alignment X-start setup too low	Adjust Check/increase	User's Manual p. 6-8 Technical Manual

NOTES
