



Peninsula Thermal Printer Driver For OSX
Installation & Operating Manual



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Introduction

The Peninsula Thermal Printer Driver for Mac OSX allows Direct Thermal and Thermal Transfer Printers of various makes to be connected to, and print from Mac OSX computers.

This includes printers from Zebra, TEC, Datamax, Brady, Tharo, Eltron, and many others.

The driver is a standard Mac OSX printer driver and the Thermal Printers appear as a printer in the Apple Printer Setup Utility. A Utility is provided by us to assist in installation as these kinds of printers cannot be automatically installed.

The driver will work with the printers connected via direct USB, or via a USB Parallel adaptor (not one from Keyspan or Belkin, or one containing a Prolific PL2303 chipset as these are not supported on the Mac (this is an Apple issue not ours)).

You can also connect the printer via TCP/IP, or Bluetooth subject to the interfaces on the printer.

You will not be able to connect via a USB->Serial adaptor as the throughput on these is not fast enough.

Once installed the printer will be able to be printed to from the majority of applications, however some applications do not print correctly on OSX.

One is Apples TextEdit which cannot size the pages correctly, and another is Adobe Illustrator which uses an outdated printing technology and will only print low resolution images directly (in order to get Illustrator to print properly you will need to export the file as a pdf and print it with Acrobat).

You do however need to make sure the page size is set to the size of your labels (with no margins) in order to print correctly, leaving the pagesetup as A4 will result in unpredictable results.

Also included is a plugin for Safari to allow direct printing from the UPS website to one of their Thermal printers.

Please note in order to use this you must install the printer as UPS Printer from the list provided or the plugin will not be able to find the printer.

Installation

In order to install the driver for your printer follow these instructions..

1. Run the installer package which has been sent to you by us.
2. Follow the instructions on screen until the Installation Utility appears, this will be after the screen stating that this product is installed.

You will see the screen below.

The screenshot shows a window titled "Install Authorise Maintenance". The "Install" tab is selected. The window contains the following steps and controls:

- 1: Plug in and attach cables to printer, then attach printer cable to your Apple Mac.
- 2: Check cables are connected and turn on printer. Wait until the printer has finished initialising.
- 3: Enter the Administrator Password for your Mac.
- 4: Click To Get Available Printer Drivers.
- 5: Select connection type.
- 6: Choose Printer from the list.

Some printers may show up as "Unknown", others may named ie "LP2844". Zebra units should say Zebra in the name. If not try unplugging the usb cable, plugging in and click Get Printer Types again.
- 7: Choose a Printer Type from the list.

If you don't know what to choose email us.
- 8: Name the printer.
- 9: Type a Location For The Printer.

Then Click the Add Printer button to add the printer to your printer list.

3. Follow the on screen instructions (shown below) and enter your Administrator password for the Mac you are using.

The screenshot shows the first three steps of the installation utility:

- 1: Plug in and attach cables to printer, then attach printer cable to your Apple Mac.
- 2: Check cables are connected and turn on printer. Wait until the printer has finished initialising.
- 3: Enter the Administrator Password for your Mac.

4. Next Click the "Get Printer Types" button (shown below), this may take a while depending on your Mac.

The screenshot shows the fourth and fifth steps of the installation utility:

- 4: Click To Get Available Printer Drivers.
- 5: Select connection type.

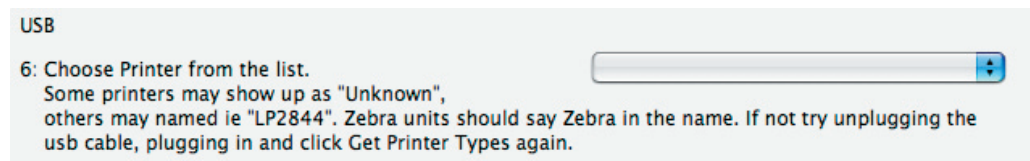
This retrieves attached printers and also the Peninsula drivers that are available.

At this stage you can also choose the connection type from the popup menu.

5. Then choose the attached printer from the popup list (shown below) (if no printer appears, check the cabling or try unplugging and plugging in the USB cable and clicking “Get Printer Types” again).

Some printers will show with a complete name, this includes printers from Zebra, TEC and Datamax (depending on port settings on the printer), others will not and will just show up as unknown. Intermec C4 printers may show up as a Peninsula Spitfire as they use the same chipset in the USB port. (Intermec C4 printers also require a special usb cable driver which must be installed seperately)

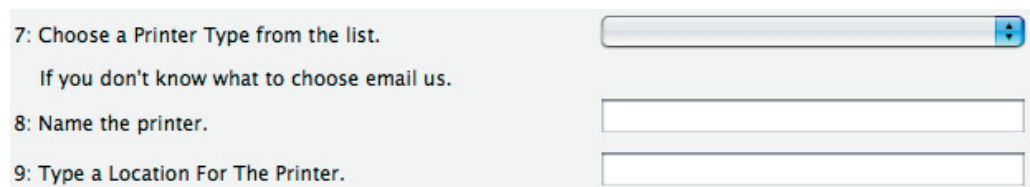
Please note this driver may not work with all USB enabled printers as some have non standard interfaces and may require a USB parallel adaptor to work in this case.



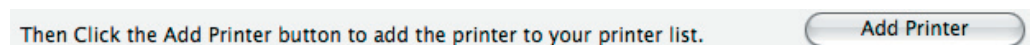
6. Next choose a printer type from the popup list (shown below), if you wish to use the UPS Website Plugin you need to choose the UPS Printer from this list (if you do not the plugin will not work).

If you have a Zebra printer please make sure you choose the correct driver, some TLP and LP models have a Z at the end of the product name this means they require the ZPLII driver not the EPLII driver that the other models in this range use.

Do Not enter anything in the location box.



7. Once you have entered all this you can click the button shown below to add the printer to the list of printers in Apples Printer Setup Utility



After installation the driver works in demonstration mode until activated with a key.

When in this mode the driver prints Peninsula over the top of all labels printed.

The activation utility is found by clicking on the Utility button (shown below) in the apple printer setup utility item for the printer.

You can also choose the authorise tab on the utility when installing. This code will not be shown in the demonstration version.



Email us the code it generates and we will email you back an activation code.

Please email it to sales@peninsula-group.com

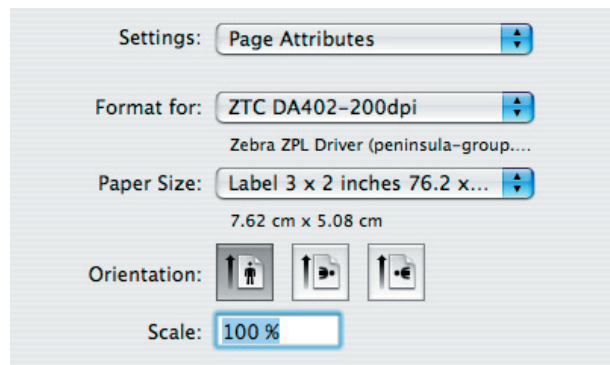
This product is licensed per computer, multiuser licenses are available at a reduced rate.

Using The Driver With Standard Applications

In order to work correctly with the majority of applications (some exceptions apply see below), you must set the page setup page size in the correct way (see below) and also make sure the printer specific settings in the print dialog match your model of printer. Failure to do this will result in unexpected results.

Setting The Correct Page Size

In the application you wish to print from select Page Setup from the File menu. You will see a screen like below.



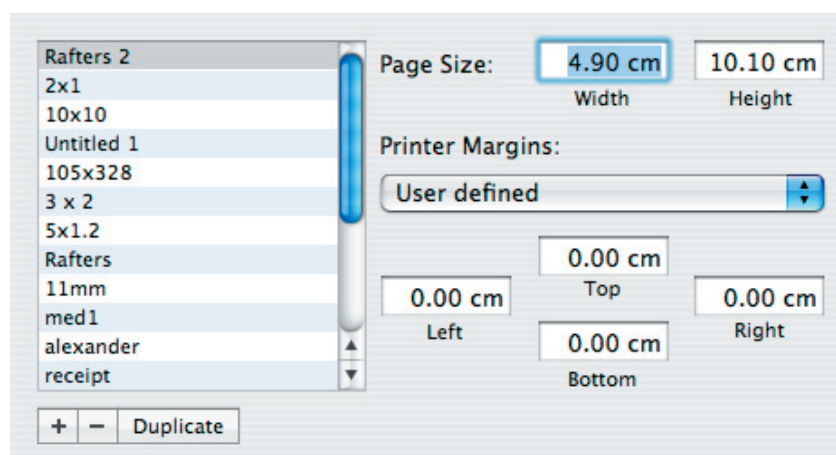
Choose your printer from the format for menu.

Choose a paper size (Label Size) from the Paper Size menu, if the size you require is not in the menu you can make a custom size like this.

Choose Manage Custom Sizes from the bottom of the Paper Size Menu as shown below

Manage Custom Sizes...

A custom page sizes dialog will appear as below.



Press + to add a label size, enter a name for this size in the box on screen.

Enter the size of your label in the Page Size box (it is advisable to make the height and width a bit smaller than the actual size of the label, ie by 0.5mm)

In the printer margins section choose User defined from the popup and enter 0 in all the boxes (failure to do this will cause unexpected results)

Once this is done click OK and then OK again to save the settings.

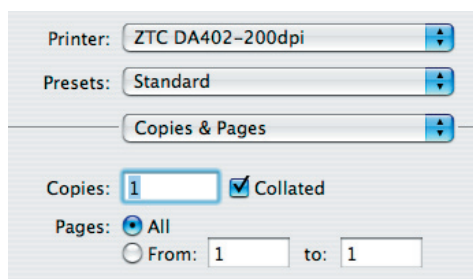
Sometimes the operating system changes the page size between applications so it is advisable to check the page size when printing.

Setting The Correct Printer Settings

In the application you wish to print from select Print from the File menu.

Next we are going to set the printer specific settings for your printer.

On the screen (shown below) choose your printer from the Printer popup menu.



This screen contains all the options for printing your labels.

There are popup menus for each option, you can set printer specific features to adjust how the pages are printed.

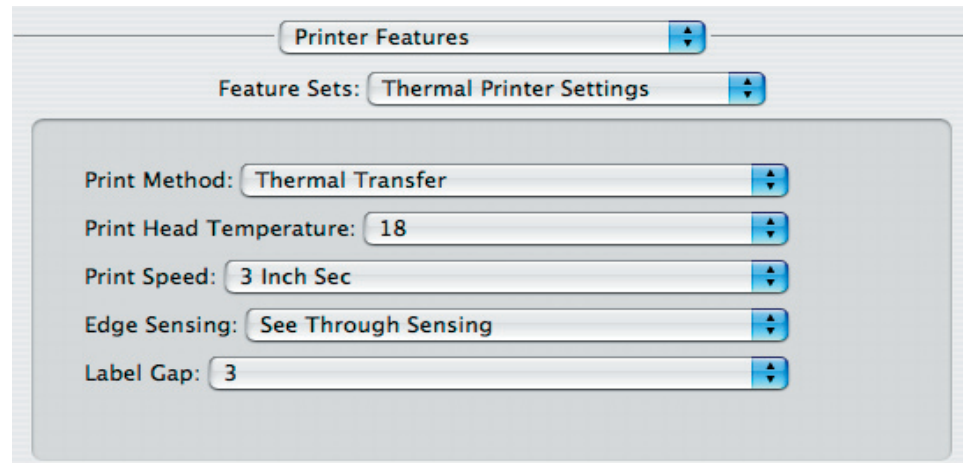
You can also set presets which can be retrieved for printing certain documents.

You also choose how many copies to print and which pages from your document you need to print.

Settings are printer specific, so make sure your printer is chosen in the Printer menu at the top of the screen.

Where the screen says Copies & Pages choose Printer Features from the popup menu.

You will see a screen like below (it may change according to the model and make of printer you have).



The first screen of this section has the basic printer settings on it.

Print Method: Direct Thermal (no ribbon and heat sensitive paper) or Thermal Transfer (A ribbon in the printer and non heat sensitive paper).

Print Head Temperature: This adjusts the amount of heat transferred to the print head when printing, you may need to adjust this depending on your labels and also your ribbon (a harder ribbon like resin will need a higher temperature than a wax ribbon).

Print Speed: Adjusts the speed labels are printed at, if labels are printed blurred it may be you are printing too fast for the head temperature and label type.

Edge Sensing: Label printers can be set to measure the edges of the labels themselves, this means on a long print run they do not get out of sync with the labels, do not be tempted to try and get label printers to skip gaps when printing onto two labels as one, it won't work, send two labels down to the printer and let the printer cope with it.

Settings vary by printer but the normal ones are as follows.

Gap or See Through Sensing - Gaps are sensed and the labels printed accordingly.

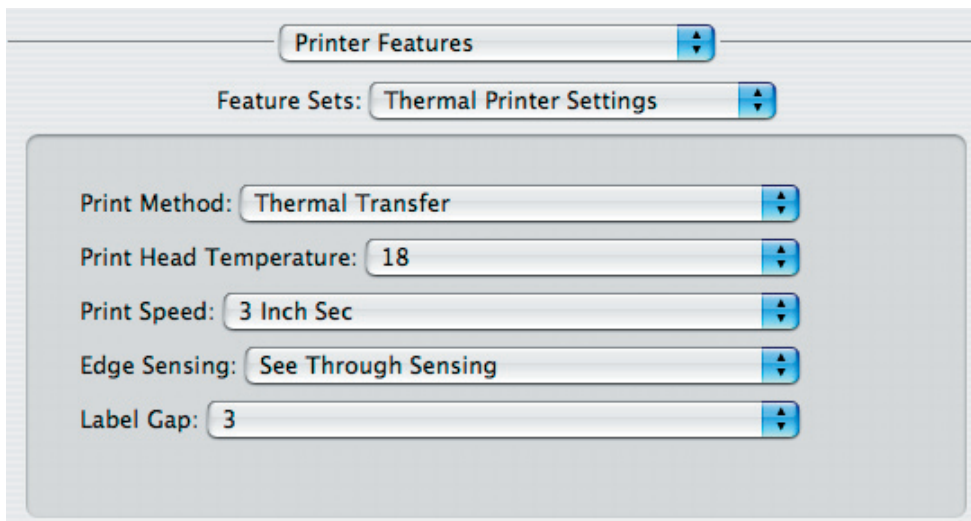
Continuous - This is really for receipts where the labels are fed as a continuous roll no gaps are sensed.

Reflective Sensing - A variation on see through sensing which may be better for pre printed labels.

Black Mark Sensing - This setting uses a black mark or the reverse of the labels to sense where the edge of each label is. (This can be used with transparent labels).

Label Gap: This is an adjustment for the space in the gap between labels, most labels have a gap of 2 or 3mm but this varies by make. You may need to adjust this as low as 1mm, as with some makes of labels the gap varies from label to label.

The second screen from the Feature Sets popup has additional print settings, which may vary by printer (shown below).



Output Resolution: This is the actual resolution of the printer itself, most printers are 203 dpi but others vary up to 600 dpi. If you set this too high your image will not fit on the printed label and if you set it too low the image will be smaller than the label.

Fast Copies: This is a setting for applications which uses the internal duplication of the printer to make repeat copies of the label, rather than using the image being sent repeatedly from the computer.

Cutter Actions: Some printers come fitted with a cutter to cut the labels, this feature allows adjustment of this.

Peel Rewinder Tear Off Actions: Some printers come fitted with peelers to peel off the labels after printing. This setting controls this. The standard setting is Tear (or tear off label).

Print Reverse: This popup controls how must the printer reverses the labels between each printed label.

If you are printing a large number of labels you may choose to turn this off to speed up printing, or if you have a cutter you may need to adjust this to ensure the cut is made in the correct location.

Some experimentation with this setting may be required, on Zebra printers this should normally be set to Default.

Flip Label: Some printers provide an option to print the label upside down which may be useful when printing on preprinted labels in order to align the image correctly, or if you need the labels in a particular orientation for applying to goods

Once you have set the settings as appropriate you can save them as a set for future use. Choose Save As from the Presets menu and give the settings a name, this means next time you need to use them the item will be in the presets menu and be quickly available.

Once you have all the settings you require return to the pages and copies layer using the popup menu then click OK to print.

FAQ's

Printer Specific Notes

All Makes Of Printer.

1. When using a print server the ip address of the printer cannot be assigned by DHCP it must be a static address.
2. Some printers require calibrating to the labels when a new set of labels is used in the printer, follow the manufacturers instructions for this.
3. Generally if a printer is sent information for a Thermal Transfer printer when the printer is direct thermal only the printer will show an error, this is because a ribbon is not present in the printer. Change the setting to direct thermal and restart the printer to print correctly.

Zebra.

1. Zebra printers can print in a number of different printer languages depending on the model, this can be confusing, some models only differ by the addition of a Z to the end of the model name.

As a rule most Zebra printers are ZPL printers apart from units with TLP or LP, or HT at the beginning of the model number which are EPL printers, there are also some specific models known as Orion printers which are EPL printers for these you choose the EPLII driver.

If you choose the wrong driver the printer will not print, this will not harm the printer but is frustrating.

Some TLP and LP models end in Z ie LP2844Z, this means they are ZPL printers so you need to choose the ZPLII driver.

UPS supplied printers should use the UPS Driver from the list, or the included UPS plugin for Safari will not work correctly.

2. If a Zebra EPL printer is sent information for a Thermal Transfer printer when the printer is direct thermal only, the printer will print part of the label and then shown a red light error this is because a ribbon is not present in the printer, change the print dialog setting to direct thermal and restart the printer to print correctly.
3. If a Zebra ZPL printers reverse setting is incorrect part of the end of the label will not print. We recommend the default or 90% setting for reliable operation.

4. When using a print server the ip address of the printer cannot be assigned by DHCP it must be a static address.

Datamax.

1. Make sure the printers port is set to bi-directional on the printers front panel or the printer will not show up with its name in the printer utility.

2. When using a print server the ip address of the printer cannot be assigned by DHCP it must be a static address.

TEC.

1. Make sure the page setup size is slightly smaller than the size of the label or the printer will refuse to print.

2. When using a print server the ip address of the printer cannot be assigned by DHCP it must be a static address.

Intermec.

C4

1. The USB port on this printer requires a driver to work on OSX this driver can be downloaded from www.FTDIchip.com. Without this the printer will not be seen by the printer utility, and with it it may be seen as a Peninsula Spitfire (ignore this and choose Intermec C4 as the printer type).

2. Other Intermec printers use various languages to print, please check compatibility.

Tharo.

1. The USB port on this printer requires a driver to work on OSX this driver can be downloaded from www.FTDIchip.com. Without this the printer will not be seen by the printer utility, and with it it may be seen as a Peninsula Spitfire (ignore this and choose Tharo printer type as the printer type).

2. These printers require calibrating when a new set of labels are put into the printer, on the smaller models this is done when the Feed button is held down when turned on until both lights turn orange. Release and a label will feed and the printer will calibrate itself.

3. If a Tharo printer is sent information for a Thermal Transfer printer when the printer is direct thermal only the printer will show a red light error, this is because a ribbon is not present in the printer, change the print dialog setting to direct thermal and restart the printer to print correctly.

Brady.

1. Brady printers use different languages depending on the printer, make sure you have chosen the correct driver for your printer. If you are unsure contact Brady and ask which printer language the printer uses.

Argox.

1. Argox printers use different languages depending on the printer, make sure you have chosen the correct driver for your printer. If you are unsure contact Argox and ask which printer language the printer uses.

Application Specific Notes

All Applications.

1. Make sure you have set the correct label size in the Page Setup dialog, trying to print an A4 sheet to a thermal printer will have unexpected results.

Adobe Applications.

1. Most Adobe applications use a non standard, obsolete print architecture. This will result in low resolution printed labels, in order to overcome this problem, export the document as a PDF and use Acrobat to print. This will result in the correct information being sent to the printer.

Apple's Textedit.

1. Apple Textedit cannot size the paper properly at small sizes.

Connection Specific Notes

USB to USB.

1. There are no issues with USB ports which implement a printer object which is true of printers from Zebra, TEC, Datamax, Brady and others.

USB Parallel Cables.

1. Apples built in USB Parallel cable driver will not drive all types of cable, if the cable contains a PL2303 chipset from Prolific the Apple driver will not recognise the cable or printer, this includes cables from Belkin and Keyspan.

A Magic Control Technology chipset will always work.

USB Serial Cables.

1. These will not work with our drivers as they are too slow for the throughput of the driver.

Network Print Servers.

1. When using a print server the ip address of the printer cannot be assigned by DHCP it must be a static address.