

# ZT421 Industrial Printer

Specifications are provided for reference and are based on testing the ZT421™ printer using genuine Zebra® supplies. Results may vary in actual application settings or when using other-than-recommended Zebra supplies. Zebra recommends always qualifying any application with thorough testing.

## Standard Features

### Printing

- Thermal transfer and direct thermal printing
- Thin film printhead with E3™ Element Energy™ Equalizer for superior print quality
- 203 dpi print resolution (8 dots / mm)
- Print speeds per second up to 12" (305 mm / second)

### Communication

- USB 2.0, high speed
- RS-232 Serial (RS-232C with DB9F connector; Configurable baud rate (2400 – 115,200kb), parity, and data bits. Stop bits at 1 or 2; Software (XON/XOFF), hardware (DTR/DSR or RTS/CTS) communication handshake protocols)
- 10/100 Ethernet: Supports networks internally integrated option that enables the use of Webview and Alert features
- Bluetooth® 4.1 (including Apple®)
- Dual USB Host

### Media Support

- Dual media sensors — transmissive and reflective
- 3" media supply hanger
- Auto calibration — printer calibrates when printer is turned on or when printhead is closed

### Firmware

- Resident ZPL®, ZPL II® and EPL™ programming languages, selectable through software or front panel
- XML-enabled Printing — allows XML communications for barcode label printing eliminating license fees and printer server hardware while lowering customization and programming costs



### Operation

- 4.3-inch color touch display with intuitive menu for quick operation and settings management
- Bi-colored status LEDs for quick printer status
- ARM Cortex A7 processor
- 256 MB RAM memory (8 MB User Available)
- 512 MB Flash memory (64 MB User Available)
- Print Touch™ application
- Link-OS®-enabled
- Auto-switching 100-240V power supply
- ENERGY STAR® qualified
- Printhead element out detection

### Design

- Easy, side-loading metal print mechanism
- Door and print mechanism activated lights to light supplies path
- Tool-less printhead and platen replacement
- Metal media cover with enlarged clear viewing window
- Robust-gold user touch points indicating key adjustments
- Bi-fold media door decreasing overall operating space by 35%

## Optional Features

### Printheads / Resolution

- Printhead 203 dpi (8 dots / mm)
- Printhead 300 dpi (12 dots / mm)

### Communication

- Parallel (Bi-directional interface)
- Wireless dual radio with 802.11ac Wi-Fi and Bluetooth 4.1
- 10/100 Ethernet
- Applicator interface

### Media Handling

- **Rewind** — Internally rewinds a full roll of printed labels on 3" core, or peels and rewinds liner (factory installed only)
- **Peel** — Front-mount, passive-peel option
- **Cutter** — Front-mount guillotine cutter and catch tray, operates under software control cutting labels individually, or in strips (not compatible with rewind and peel options)

### Fonts

Asian and other international scalable and smooth bitmapped fonts

### Power Cords

US, Europe / UK, Israel, China, Japan, Australia, Argentina, Brazil and Taiwan

### RFID

- Fully integrated ThingMagic® UHF EPC Gen 2 V2.0/ISO 18000-63 RFID Reader / Encoder
- Prints and encodes tags with a minimum pitch of 0.6" / 16 mm
- Adaptive Encoding Technology simplifies RFID setup and eliminates complex RFID placement guidelines

### ZKDU Keyboard Display Unit

Enter variable data and retrieve stored forms for standalone applications (requires null modem adapter with DB9 serial cable)

### ZBI 2.0™

Field installed via activation key

## Programming Language

**ZPL II** — Universal language for Zebra printers. Simplifies label formatting and enables format compatibility with existing systems that run Zebra printers.

- **Fonts** — 16 resident expandable ZPL II bitmap and two resident scalable ZPL fonts
- **Unicode** — For multi-language printing
- **Web View** — Connect and control Zebra barcode printers via the printer's Web interface using a common Web browser
- **Alert** — Printers equipped with network connected printers provide alerts via any email-enabled, wired, or wireless device to minimize downtime

## Link-OS Software Tools

**Document Design** — Use your business data to quickly create customized print solutions with Zebra's intuitive, plug-and-print design tools

**Printer Integration** — Zebra offers apps and products designed to help you integrate Zebra devices into your existing systems

**Printer Management** — Manage your print operations locally and globally with Zebra's suite of device management tools

**Developer Tools** — Provides you with the tools you need to create your own apps, including documentation, source code, programming languages, templates and more

**Zebra Setup Utility** — Single-printer configuration utility

**ZebraDesigner™ Windows® Driver** — Microsoft certified for Windows:  
(downloadable from )

## Media Specifications

- Media Types: Continuous, die-cut, notch, black-mark
- Maximum Non-continuous Label Length: 39" (991 mm)
- Media Web Width (Label and Liner):  
2.00" (51 mm) to 7.0" (178 mm) Tear / Cutter  
2.00" (51 mm) to 6.75" (171 mm) Peel / Rewind
- Minimum Label Length:  
Tear-off mode: 0.5" (12.7 mm)  
Peel mode: 0.5" (12.7 mm)  
Rewind mode: 0.5" (12.7 mm)  
Cutter: 1.00" (25.4 mm)
- Media Thickness (Label and Liner):  
0.0023" (0.058 mm) to 0.010" (0.25 mm)
- Maximum Media Roll Dimensions:  
8.0" (203 mm) O.D. on a 3" (76 mm) I.D. core

## Ribbon Specifications

- Ribbon Width: 2.00" (51 mm) to 6.85" / 174 mm
- Maximum Ribbon Length: 1476' (450 m)
- Maximum Ribbon Roll Size: 450 m: 3.2" (81.3 mm) O.D. on a 1.0" (25.4 mm) I.D. core
- Ribbon Wound Ink-side Out

## Printing Specifications

Parameter	203 dpi (8 dots / mm)	300 dpi (12 dots / mm)
<b>Dot Size (W × L):</b>	0.0049" × 0.0049" (0.125 mm × 0.125 mm)	0.0033" × 0.0039" (0.084 mm × 0.099 mm)
<b>Maximum Continuous Media Print Length</b>	102" (2591 mm)	45" (1143 mm)
<b>Maximum Print Width</b>	6.6" (168 mm)	6.6" (168 mm)
<b>Programmable Print Speeds</b>	2.4" through 12" (61 mm – 305 mm) in 1" increments	2.4" through 10" (61 mm – 254 mm) in 1" increments

- First Dot Location: Measured from inside media backing edge:  
0.10" ±0.04" (2.5 mm, not to exceed -0.5 mm +1.0 mm)
- Media Registration Tolerance:  
Vertical = <±0.039" (±1.0 mm) on non-continuous media  
Horizontal = <±0.039" (±1.0 mm) within a roll of media

## Gap / Notch Sensing Standards

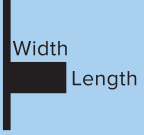
Sensor Adjustment Range: 0.06" to 4.31" from media inner edge

Parameter	Standard Dimensions	Metric Dimensions
<b>Inter-label Gap</b>	0.079" to 0.157" preferably 0.118"	2 to 4 mm preferably 3 mm
<b>Sensing Notch (W × L)</b>	0.25" × 0.12"	6 mm × 3 mm
<b>Sensing Hole</b>	0.125" diameter	3 mm diameter

## Black Mark Sensing Standards

Sensor Adjustment Range: 0.06" to 4.31" from media inner edge

Parameter	Dimensions
<b>Black Mark Length</b>	0.098" – 0.453" (2.5 mm – 11.5 mm)
<b>Black Mark Width</b>	≥0.37" (9.5 mm)



- Black Mark Density: >1.0 Optical Density Units (ODU)
- Maximum Media Density: 0.5 ODU

## Eltron Programming Language (EPL2™) (Available on 203 DPI Only)

- Compatible with mainframe, mini, and PC hosts
- Four-position field rotation (0°, 90°, 180°, 270°)
- Variable field support (00 to 99)
- Counter support (up to 10)
- Variable field addition and subtraction
- Status reporting
- Form storage
- Metered print odometer

## ZPL Barcode Symbolologies and Specification

- Barcode modulus “X” dimension:
  - Picket fence (non-rotated) orientation:
    - 203 dpi = 4.9 mil to 49 mil
    - 300 dpi = 3.3 mil to 33 mil
  - Ladder (rotated) orientation:
    - 203 dpi = 4.9 mil to 49 mil
    - 300 dpi = 3.9 mil to 39 mil
- Barcode Ratios — 2:1, 7:3, 5:2 and 3:1
- Linear Barcodes: Code 11, Code 39, Code 93, Code 128 with subsets A / B / C and UCC Case Codes, ISBT-128, UPC-A, UPC-E, EAN-8, EAN-13, UPC and EAN 2- or 5-digit extensions, Plessey, Postnet, Standard 2-of-5, Industrial 2-of-5, Interleaved 2-of-5, Logmars, MSI, Codabar and Planet Code
- 2D Barcodes: Codablock, PDF417, Code 49, Data Matrix, MaxiCode, QR Code, TLC 39, MicroPDF, RSS-14 (and composite), Aztec

## Font Matrices: 203 DPI (8 Dots / mm) Printheads

Font	Matrix		Type†	Character Size			
	H × W	Inter-Character Gap		Inches		Millimeters	
				H × W	Characters Per	H × W	Characters Per
<b>A</b>	9 × 5	1	U-L-D	0.044 × 0.029	33.90	1.13 × 0.75	1.33
<b>B</b>	11 × 7	2	U	0.054 × 0.044	22.60	1.38 × 1.13	0.89
<b>C, D</b>	18 × 10	2	U-L-D	0.088 × 0.059	16.95	2.25 × 1.50	0.67
<b>E</b>	28 × 15	5	OCR-B	0.138 × 0.098	10.17	3.50 × 2.50	0.40
<b>F</b>	26 × 13	3	U-L-D	0.128 × 0.079	12.71	3.25 × 2.00	0.50
<b>G</b>	60 × 40	8	U-L-D	0.295 × 0.236	4.24	7.50 × 6.00	0.17
<b>H</b>	21 × 13	6	OCR-A	0.103 × 0.093	10.71	2.63 × 2.38	0.42
<b>GS</b>	24 × 24	0	SYMBOL	0.118 × 0.118	8.48	3.00 × 3.00	0.33
<b>P</b>	20 × 18	N / A	U-L-D	0.098 × 0.089	N / A	2.49 × 2.26	N / A
<b>Q</b>	28 × 24	N / A	U-L-D	0.138 × 0.118	N / A	3.51 × 2.99	N / A
<b>R</b>	35 × 31	N / A	U-L-D	0.172 × 0.153	N / A	4.37 × 3.89	N / A
<b>S</b>	40 × 35	N / A	U-L-D	0.197 × 0.172	N / A	5.00 × 4.37	N / A
<b>T</b>	48 × 42	N / A	U-L-D	0.236 × 0.207	N / A	5.99 × 5.26	N / A
<b>U</b>	59 × 53	N / A	U-L-D	0.290 × 0.261	N / A	7.37 × 6.63	N / A
<b>V</b>	80 × 71	N / A	U-L-D	0.394 × 0.349	N / A	10.0 × 8.86	N / A
<b>Ø</b>	Default: 15 × 12		U-L-D	Scalable			

† U = Uppercase L = Lowercase D = Descenders

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## ZPL Printer Fonts

- Fonts A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H and GS are expandable up to 10 times, height and width independently. However, fonts E and H (OCR-A and OCR-B) are not considered “in-spec” when expanded.
- The scalable smooth font O (CG Triumvirate™ Bold Condensed\*) is expandable on a dot-by-dot basis, height and width independent, while maintaining smooth edges. Maximum character size depends on available memory.
- IBM Code Page 850 international character sets are available in the fonts A, B, C, D, E, F, G and O through software control
- Code Page 1250, 1252, 1253, 1254, 1255 Support with font O

\*Contains UFST® from Agfa Monotype Corporation

## ZPL Programming Language (ZPL / ZPL II)

- Communicates in printable ASCII characters
- Unicode™-compliant
- Compatible with mainframe, mini and PC hosts
- Downloadable objects include graphics, scalable and bitmap fonts, label templates and formats
- Adjustable print cache
- Data compression
- Automatic memory allocation for format while printing
- Automatic serialization of fields
- Format inversion (white on black)
- Mirror-image printing
- Four-position field rotation (0°, 90°, 180°, 270°)
- Slew command
- Programmable label quantities with print, pause, cut control
- Status messages to host upon request

## Font Matrices: 300 DPI (12 Dots / mm) Printheads

Font	Matrix		Type†	Character Size			
	H × W	Inter-Character Gap		Inches		Millimeters	
				H × W	Characters Per	H × W	Characters Per
<b>A</b>	9 × 5	1	U-L-D	0.030 × 0.020	50.00	0.76 × 0.51	1.97
<b>B</b>	11 × 7	2	U	0.037 × 0.030	33.33	0.93 × 0.76	1.31
<b>C, D</b>	18 × 10	2	U-L-D	0.060 × 0.040	25.00	1.53 × 1.02	0.98
<b>E</b>	41 × 20	6	OCR-B	0.137 × 0.087	11.54	3.47 × 2.20	0.45
<b>F</b>	26 × 13	3	U-L-D	0.087 × 0.053	18.75	2.20 × 1.36	0.74
<b>G</b>	60 × 40	8	U-L-D	0.200 × 0.160	6.25	5.08 × 4.07	0.25
<b>H</b>	30 × 19	9	OCR-A	0.100 × 0.093	10.71	2.54 × 2.37	0.42
<b>GS</b>	24 × 24	0	SYMBOL	0.080 × 0.080	12.50	2.03 × 2.03	0.49
<b>P</b>	20 × 18	N / A	U-L-D	0.098 × 0.089	N / A	2.49 × 2.26	N / A
<b>Q</b>	28 × 24	N / A	U-L-D	0.138 × 0.118	N / A	3.51 × 2.99	N / A
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## Physical Specifications

Parameter	ZT421
Height	12.75" (324 mm)
Width	13.25" (336 mm)
Depth	19.50" (495 mm)
Weight	40 lb (18.14 kg)
Shipping Weight	45 lb (20.41 kg)

## Environmental Specifications

- Operating Environment:
  - Thermal transfer = 40° to 104°F (5° to 40°C)
  - Thermal direct = 32° to 104°F (0° to 40°C)
  - 20% to 85% non-condensing R.H.
- Storage / Transportation Environment:
  - 40° to 140°F (-40° to 60°C)
  - 5% to 85% non-condensing R.H.

## Electrical Specifications

- Power Supply: Auto-detectable (PFC Compliant) 100-240VAC, 50-60Hz
- ENERGY STAR qualified
- Safety and EMC: IEC 62368, Class B, EN 55032, EN 55035, EN 61000-3-2, EN 61000-3-3
- Product Markings: Including, not limited to, cTUVus, CE, FCC, ICES-003(B), VCCI, RCM, NOM, S-Mark, CCC, EAC, BSMI, KCC, SABS, In-Metro, BIS.

## Preventative Maintenance

Zebra recommends cleaning the printer on a regular basis using standard Zebra printer parts and cleaning supplies. Consult your "User's Guide" for further details.

- **Cleaning** — The exterior is cleaned with a lint-free cloth, and if necessary, a mild detergent solution or desktop cleaner. Interior components (printhead, platen roller, media sensor, peel bar, ribbon and media paths) are cleaned with alcohol or blown air to remove any particles.
- **Lubrication** — All mechanical parts are self-lubricating and do not require additional lubrication.
- **Print Registration** — Media registration and minimum label length are affected by media type and width, ribbon type and print speed. Performance improves as these factors are optimized. Zebra recommends always qualifying any application with thorough testing.
- **Printhead Replacement** — For optimal printing quality and proper printer performance across our product line, Zebra strongly recommends the use of genuine Zebra supplies as part of the total solution. Printers are designed to work only with genuine Zebra printheads, thus maximizing safety and print quality.