

Thermal Transfer Ribbon Categories



There is no absolute rule used consistently through the AIDC industry, but the wax to resin ratio of a thermal transfer ribbon formulation generally determines which of three categories it falls under.

Wax

- Contains the highest percentage of wax
- Lowest melt points
- Requires the least amount of heat for printing
- Prints at the lowest print energy settings
- Least durable
- Least expensive
- Prints best on paper and low-end synthetics

Wax/Resin

- Contains a higher percentage of resin than wax formulations
- Increased heat resistance
- Requires more heat for printing
- Requires higher print energy settings
- More durable
- More expensive
- Prints well on paper and low-end synthetics

Resin

- Contains the highest percentage of resin
- Requires the most heat for printing
- Requires the highest print energy settings
- Most durable
- Most expensive
- Prints best on synthetic and high-end films

DNP

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