



Receipt/slip printer
 Printing method:
 Receipt: Thermal line printing;
 Slip: Nine-pin serial impact dot matrix
 Fonts: Receipt:
 9 x 24 / 12 x 24 / 24 x 24 (Japanese characters);
 Slip: 7 x 9 / 9 x 9 / 16 x 16 (Japanese characters)
 Number of print columns:
 Receipt: 56 / 42 / 21 (Japanese characters) columns;
 Slip: 88 / 66 / 44 (Japanese characters) columns
 Interface: RS-232C, bidirectional parallel,
 RS-485 (optional)
 Printing speed: Receipt: 16.5 lines / second;
 Slip: 311 / 233 / 45 characters /
 second
 Copies: Original (1 sheet) + 4 sheets
 Optional equipment:
 MICR reader (magnetic ink character
 recognition function for checks)
 Dimensions: (W) 252 x (D) 331 x (H) 201 mm
 Weight: Approx. 6.5 kg

Product Features

Equipped with both thermal and impact-dot-matrix printers, the TM-H5000 was Epson's first hybrid printer. In line-thermal-printing mode, the printer was quiet and yet could print 16.5 lines per second. It printed slips in impact dot matrix mode, to a maximum size of A4/88 columns, and could print an original slip and up to four copies. In terms of reliability, the most important quality for a POS printer, the TM-H5000 exhibited a service life that stood head and shoulders over the competition: its receipt mechanism was rated for one million lines, its slip mechanism for 2.9 million lines, and its impact-dot head for 150 million characters.

Further, in addition to the ESC/POS®, the TM-H5000 also supported the new OLE/POS (OPOS) command set, which used OLE technology designed to simplify development of applications under the Windows® environment. As a result, the printer could be used for a wide variety of applications. Moreover, Epson provided its own OCX driver for easy control of POS peripherals using OLE technology.

Ease of use and maintenance also received due attention in the development of the TM-H5000, whose "drop-in"-style mechanism allowed paper to be replaced simply by inserting a new roll. An auto-cutter for receipts was also included as standard.

Another improvement to ease of use came in the form of the optional MICR reader. Capable of reading and recognizing characters printed on checks using magnetic ink, this option was extremely useful in countries where people used checks on a day-in, day-out basis. The MICR reader helped retailers increase the efficiency of their operations by instantaneously reading information needed for payment processing and sending it to a host computer. This information, which is printed in magnetic ink on the face of checks, previously had to be entered manually by store employees.

Background

Having achieved the status of a top brand in the field of PC-POS printers thanks to the success of the TM-930, which went on sale in 1990, Epson busied itself planning ever more innovative products. Guiding the company's efforts, as it filled out its product lineup, were the concepts of greater intelligence and high added value.

As demand for PC-POS printers with high-speed processing that could improve business efficiency grew, the thermal printer made its appearance. From there came the concept of combining the thermal printer's high-speed printing and the impact-dot-matrix printer's ability to print multiple copies into a hybrid printer. With a view toward maintaining its leadership in the POS printer market, Epson released the TM-H5000 in 1996.

Impact

Combining the thermal printer's high-speed printing and the impact-dot-matrix printer's ability to print copies, the TM-H5000 conquered the market by surpassing its competitors' offerings from the perspectives of both ease of use and reliability. It was therefore employed by leading American retailer Sears Roebuck & Co., which had used the TM-930 since 1992 for its PC-POS printing needs, and had appreciated its great reliability. With this foothold established, the TM-H5000 quickly proliferated throughout the market.