

# SuperDriver Help Index

SuperDriver is a printer driver that uses Zenographics' SoftRIP technology. This allows faster printing of complex graphics and bitmaps, efficient multitasking for smooth background printing, and the use of scalable *on-the-fly* printer fonts.

This Index lists all the available SuperDriver Help topics for the Tektronix 4693DX color thermal transfer (Tek-4693DX) printer. Use the scroll bar to see entries not currently visible in the Help window.

To learn how to use Help, press F1 or choose Using Help from the Help menu.

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# Configuring the Tek-4693DX Printer

## To configure SuperDriver for Tek-4693DX Printers:

1. Double-click on the **Control Panel** icon in Program Manager.
2. Double-click on the **Printers** icon.

The **Printers** dialog box displays.

3. Choose Tek-4693DX SuperDriver from the Installed Printers box.
4. Choose **Configure...** and select the port to which your printer is connected.
5. Choose **Setup...** to display your printer's SuperDriver hardware configuration options.

Refer to the Printer Setup Help screen for further information.

6. Return to the **Printers** dialog box.
7. Click on **Active** in the Status box to make your printer active.

**NOTE:** If the Tek-4693DX does not display as the default printer in the Default Printer box, double-click on the Tek-4693DX SuperDriver line in the Installed Printers box.

8. Click on **OK** to confirm your printer's configuration.

You return to the **Control Panel**.

# Printer Setup

The SuperDriver **Printer Setup** dialog box contains hardware options that you can set for your specific printer model.

## Printer Model

Model Tek-4693DX is the only available selection.

**NOTE:** This selection causes some list boxes to change or become grayed (unavailable).

## Paper Size

Select the correct paper size from the available choices.

## Paper Source

Grayed.

## Media Type

Lets you select paper or transparency. The **Transparency** setting produces a more vivid image. Make sure you select the material that is in your printer at the time you begin to print.

## Orientation

Determines the direction in which print displays on a page: portrait or landscape.

## Copies

Lets you specify how many uncollated copies you want to print. For single-page documents, it's usually best to designate copy count in SuperDriver's **Printer Setup** box.

Many Windows applications let you select specific options: copy count, collated copies, etc. These options are important when you send multi-page documents to print. Refer to the SuperDriver section of your manual for more details about **Copies**.

**NOTE:** The Tek-4693DX model has multiple full page buffers that can produce "hardware copies." SuperDriver recognizes the hardware feature. Data with copy count instructions is sent to the printer only once. The printer prints the specified number of copies on its own, freeing your computer.

## Fonts

If you choose **Fonts...** from the **Printer Setup** dialog box, the SuperText main window displays. Refer to your manual or to SuperText's on-line Help for more information.

# Options

If you choose **Options...** from the **Printer Setup** dialog box, the following settings display: **Output, SuperQueue, Processing, and Multitasking.**

## Output options

Output options control the way data is sent to your output device. Your choices include: **Reverse Order, Compression, High-speed direct LPT, and Draft Quality.**

**Reverse Order** changes your printer's output order when you use a Windows application that generates multiple-page output. It causes certain printers to print pages in opposite sequence (last page first).

**NOTE:** It is better to set the **Reverse Order** option in your specific Windows application if it is available. The option will cancel out if it's set for both the application and SuperDriver.

**Compression** speeds the transmission of data and reduces printing time. You may want to turn **Compression off** to improve your throughput when your image is composed largely of natural images (bitmaps).

**High-speed direct LPT** sends data directly to your hardware LPT port. It is ignored if your printer is not attached to a port beginning with LPT.

Turn **High-speed direct LPT off** if you are doing any of the following:

1. Printing over a network.
2. Using Windows' Print Manager.
3. Using Windows 386 enhanced mode.
4. Experiencing printing problems such as garbled graphics or a "hung" printer.

**Draft Quality** prints output more quickly in 150 dpi draft mode instead of the usual 300 dpi mode. Draft Quality is available only when you select **Tektronix Dither** as a **Dithering** option.

## SuperQueue option

**Queue for Later** causes your application to create SuperMetafiles for later printing with SuperQueue. Use SuperQueue instead of Windows' Print Manager to print files in the background or batch (delayed) mode. SuperQueue can do the following: accept your application program's output faster, return control to you faster, and print faster than Print Manager. Refer to Chapter 5 in your manual for more information about SuperQueue.

## Processing options

**Show Status Window** lets you disable the SuperDriver Status pop-up window that displays when SuperDriver is printing.

**Report 0 Margins** should be **off** for most applications that use a page's normal margins. If you find that output images are printing clipped, turn the **Report 0 Margins on** and reprint.

## Multitasking

**Multitasking** controls the amount of processor time SuperDriver gives to other Windows functions. Choose one of the following:

- **Often** (after every scanline) when you're using SuperQueue for background printing and

want the smoothest possible foreground performance.

- **Sometimes** when you want fast printing with light foreground activity (such as data or text entry).
- **Rarely** (after every 255 scanlines) when you want SuperDriver printing to proceed at top speed. This setting can cause "chunky" foreground performance.

# Dithering Options

Dithering refers to the patterns in which halftone dots are placed on a page to form shades of gray or colors. Dithering works by clustering individual printer dots into "cells." The smaller the cells, the greater the detail.

## Ordered Dither Pattern

**Ordered** dithering arranges the cells at a constant angle in relation to each other. SuperPrint lets you set four different cell sizes for dithering:

- **2x2** gives you a sharper look when printing object graphics with large areas of single colors (such as a business graph).
- **4x4** gives you better color or grayscale depth for printing natural (bitmap) images.
- **8x8** gives you better color or grayscale depth, especially if you intend to photocopy your output.
- **Default** lets SuperDriver select the general-purpose dither pattern most suited for your 4693DX printer.

## Error Diffusion

**Error diffusion** refers to a method of dithering that takes into account the color or gray-level of the pixel being processed as well as the neighboring pixels.

- **2-way** takes two neighboring pixels into account.
- **4-way** takes four neighboring pixels into account.

**Error diffusion** can give an overall smoother look to natural images (bitmaps) where "banding" is a problem. It should not be used for vector graphics on this printer however.

**NOTE:** You cannot select both **Ordered** and **Error diffusion** dithering; they are mutually exclusive.

## Tektronix Dither

The Tek-4693DX handles dithering patterns internally at a much higher quality than most printers. **Tektronix Dither** lets SuperDriver send the printer 24 bits-per-pixel data. This is six times more data than the usual 4-bit mode. This option also gives you more color range (16.7 Million Colors). Printing time increases significantly however.

## Gray Levels

**Gray levels** are a contrast control that forces SuperDriver to restrict the number of gray shades produced. SuperDriver's default setting of 64 usually produces the most pleasing results. Refer to the manual for further information.

## Hardware Settings

The Tek-4693DX color thermal transfer printer can run in in two modes. These are set on the printer's control panel.

**4-bit CMYK mode** is best for a fast system (16MHz and up). It packs two pixels per byte (two 4-bit CMYK nibbles per byte) and sends this data directly to the printer's engine. This results in SuperPrint's throughput being nearly 100K bytes per second.

**24-bit RGB mode** lets the printer do all of the work of converting 24-bit RGB data into dithering patterns of CMYK. This increases printing time since 24-bits per pixel means 3 bytes per pixel (six times more data than with the 4-bit CMYK mode).