

SuperDriver Help Index

SuperDrivers are printer drivers that use 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 and procedures for Epson and IBM dot-matrix compatible printers. 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 Dot-Matrix Printers

To configure SuperDriver for Dot-Matrix 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 Dot-Matrix SuperDriver from the Installed Printers box.
4. Choose **Configure...** and select the port to which your dot-matrix 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 dot-matrix printer active..

NOTE: If the dot-matrix does not display as the default printer in the Default Printer box, double-click on the corresponding SuperDriver 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 lets you select various hardware options for your specific dot-matrix model.

Printer Model

The Printer list has four choices. Check your printer's manual to determine which of the listed printers it can emulate. Your choice determines the available options in the **Printer Setup** dialog box.

Do not choose an 8- or 9-pin emulation for a 24-pin printer! You do not save printing time and your printer output is distorted.

NOTE: The contents of some list boxes can change or become grayed (unavailable) when you select a particular model.

Paper Size

Select the correct paper size from the available choices.

Paper Source

This is grayed for all dot-matrix printer models.

Ribbons

This is grayed for 8- or 9-pin printer models. The 24-pin has the following ribbon options: 1-color; 3-color; 4-color.

Orientation

Determines the direction in which print displays on a page: portrait or landscape. SuperDriver builds the fonts for the orientation you select.

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 on **Copies**.

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, Multitasking, and Resolution.**

Output options

Output options control the way data is sent to your output device. Your choices include: **Reverse Order, Compression, High-speed direct LPT, Bi-directional printing, Form Feed each page, and Presentation Mode.**

Reverse Order changes your printer's output order when you use a Windows application that generates multiple-page output. Pages print in opposite sequence (last page first).

NOTE: It is better to set the **Reverse Order** option in a 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 port. It is ignored if your printer is not attached to a port beginning with LPT.

Turn **High-speed direct 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.

Bi-directional printing lets the print head make one printing pass moving from left to right. The paper advances, and the print head makes the next printing pass moving right to left.

NOTE: Turn this option to **off** if you are having registration problems when printing graphics.

Form Feed each page depends on your printer and the application you are using. Refer to Chapter 6 in your manual for further information.

Presentation Mode initiates an interlaced, double-pass printing method that can produce cleaner results in printers affected by banding. Only 24-pin printers have this option. It can be used in the **Low, Med, or High Resolution** settings.

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 further 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 clipped, turn **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.

Resolution

8- or 9-pin resolutions:

- **Low** (120 x 72) is a type of "draft mode."
- **Medium** (120 x 108) produces almost the same results as **High**. It requires three passes of the print head that can make the output look better. It has a slower output time than **High**.
- **High** (120 x 144) requires only two passes of the print head and is faster than **Medium** resolution.
- **Ultra** (240 x 216) produces the best-looking text and line art. Do not use **Ultra** to produce gray-shaded graphics.

24-pin resolutions:

- **Low** (120 x 180) is a type of "draft mode."
- **Medium** (180 x 180) and **High** (360 x 180) cause the printer to lay down more pixels during its movement across the page. The print head makes one pass unless **Presentation Mode** is activated.
- **Ultra** (360 x 360) produces the best-looking text and line art. Do not use **Ultra** to produce gray-shaded graphics.

NOTE: Consult the "Specifications" section of your printer manual for your printer's maximum resolution if you have problems with the **Ultra** setting.

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 graphic objects 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 dot-matrix 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 graphics.

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

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.

NOTE: **Gray levels** are unavailable when you use **Error diffusion**.