

Help for the Star 9-Pin Printer Driver (STARM9.DRV)

Print Quality Options

In the Print Quality section of the Printer Setup dialog box, there will be a word next to the resolution, such as "(Dispersed)". This word refers to the method the printer will represent different levels of gray when printing in black and white. "Clustered" graphics generally photocopy better than "Dispersed" graphics. "Random" dithering is another option of gray-scale dithering that uses a random pattern to represent color. Color is not available with "Clustered" or "Random" dithering since these are methods of using black and white shades to represent color. So if your printer supports color, and you want to print in color, use a "Dispersed" Print Quality. You may want to print some black and white graphics to get a feel for the difference between these options.

The different numbers (like "180 x 180" or "240 x 144") refer to the number of dots the printer will print per inch in the X and Y directions. Larger numbers generally correspond to smoother, darker output. Smaller numbers mean faster printing and less use of ink. The size of some graphics images may also be affected by these numbers. The ratio of the first number to the second number (i.e. 180:180 or 240:144) will determine how much certain graphics images are stretched or distorted. Ratios closest to 1:1 will yield the least distorted images.

Paper Source

In the Printer Setup dialog box there is a box for "Paper Source" options. Use "Auto" for automatic cut sheet feeders, and use "Tractor" for tractor feed (also known as continuous feed) paper. The top and bottom margins are different for these paper sources; in particular, while the tractor feed paper has no top or bottom unprintable margin, auto-fed paper has an unprintable area of 1" for the top and 1.13" for the bottom. Certain printers offer additional options. Be sure to select the right Paper Source option for the method you use to feed paper into your printer.