

# ZD888TA/DA 4-inch Desktop Printers

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Q: What is the ZD888TA/DA printer?

A: The ZD888TA/DA is actually two new models in the Zebra Essentials printer family: the ZD888TA thermal transfer printer and ZD888DA direct thermal printer. The ZD888TA and ZD888DA are for the most price sensitive customers who only need USB connectivity and care more about price than features — this customer just needs quality printing and simple operation. These printers are available in two resolutions (203 dpi and 300 dpi) and one color (gray).

### Q: What are the key customer benefit messages of the ZD888TA/ZD888DA?

A: Following are the key customer benefits for the ZD888TA/ZD888DA:

- **Cost-effective with Zebra quality.** Budget printers don't have to compromise on quality, functionality and performance.
- **Simple installation and operation.** Customers in the value-tier market tend to frequently replace printers. The ZD888TA/ZD888DA is designed as a drop-in replacement for Zebra value-class printers and since it supports ZPL, EPL and non-Zebra command languages, it easily replaces competitor printers too.
- **Higher print resolution option.** Optional 300 dpi for better print quality.

### Q: What's new from the ZD888 to the ZD888TA/ZD888DA?

A: The following list of features are new in the ZD888TA/ZD888DA:

- 300 dpi option
- Transparent media window
- Automatic restart after power interruption
- Power switch moved from the top to the side to prevent workers from accidentally turning off the printer
- New resident scalable font
- Support for both 74m and 300m ribbon (ZD888TA)
- Link-OS Basic system designed for value tier printers, complete with support for key Zebra software tools

#### Features in the ZD888 that are not available in the ZD888TA/ZD888DA:

- No Ethernet, Bluetooth or Wi-Fi connectivity options (USB only)
- No peeler or cutter options

### Q: What are the target markets and applications?

A: The target markets and applications for the ZD888TA/ZD888DA are:

- **Manufacturing:** shipping label; dangerous goods label; receiving label; agency label; packing list; inventory label; asset tag
- **Transportation and Logistics:** shipping/receiving label; packing slip; asset label
- **Retail:** shelf label; buy-online-pick-up-in-store (BOPIS) label; price markdown; return tag; asset and inventory label; food safety label; receipts; pharmacy label
- **Healthcare:** specimen collection; prescription label; patient ID wristband; Blood/IV bag label; patient records; asset label

## Q: What are the feature differences between the ZD888 and ZD888TA/DA?

### Comparison: ZD888 and ZD888TA/DA Models

The following chart highlights the differences between the ZD888 and ZD888TA/DA.

| Feature                 | ZD888                                                                                                  | ZD888TA/DA                                                                                                           | Why it Matters                                                                                                                                            |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Physical                |                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                           |
| Size                    | Thermal Transfer:<br>267mm L x 197mm W x 191mm H<br><br>Direct Thermal:<br>220mm L x 176mm W x 151mm H | Thermal Transfer (ZD888TA): 267mm L x 202mm W x 192mm H<br><br>Direct Thermal (ZD888DA): 220mm L x 180mm W x 150mm H | The ZD888TA/DA is approximately the same size, requiring minimal space to easily fit in crowded work areas.                                               |
| Weight                  | Thermal Transfer:<br>1.7kg<br><br>Direct Thermal:<br>1.1kg                                             | Thermal Transfer (ZD888TA): 1.8kg<br><br>Direct Thermal (ZD888DA): 1.2kg                                             |                                                                                                                                                           |
| User Interface          |                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                           |
| LED                     | Single tri-color LED status indicator                                                                  | Single tri-color LED status indicator                                                                                | Users can easily and quickly determine printer status at a glance.                                                                                        |
| Navigation              | Single button for feed/pause                                                                           | Single button for feed/pause                                                                                         | Simple operation requires minimal training.                                                                                                               |
| Media Window            | No                                                                                                     | Yes                                                                                                                  | The ZD888TA/DA adds a transparent media window to let workers easily see how much media is left.                                                          |
| Printer Characteristics |                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                           |
| Resolution              | 203 dpi only                                                                                           | 203 dpi<br>300 dpi (optional)                                                                                        | The ZD888TA/DA adds support for 300 dpi when your application calls for enhanced print quality such as printing small fonts, barcodes or graphics.        |
| Maximum Print Speed     | 152mm per second for 203 dpi                                                                           | 152mm per second for 203 dpi<br>127mm per second for 300 dpi                                                         | ZD888TA/DA offers the same fast print speed as the ZD888 at 203 dpi.                                                                                      |
| Memory                  | 128 MB Flash,<br>128 MB SDRAM                                                                          | 8 MB Flash,<br>16 MB SDRAM                                                                                           | The ZD888 offers more memory. If you are looking for a budget printer but need higher memory (e.g. for storing more fonts or graphics), choose the ZD888. |

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| Feature                                 | ZD888                                                                                                                                                     | ZD888TA/DA                                                         | Why it Matters                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Media and Ribbon Characteristics</b> |                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Ribbon Length</b>                    | 74m; 300m                                                                                                                                                 | 74m; 300m                                                          | With the ZD888TA, a single SKU supports both 74m and 300m ribbon lengths — giving you the flexibility to choose your preferred ribbon at any time. For example, start with a 74m ribbon, then switch to a more economical 300m ribbon later.                                                 |
| <b>Media Handling</b>                   | Factory-installed peeler or cutter options                                                                                                                | None                                                               | If you need a cutter or peeler, choose the ZD888.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Other</b>                            |                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Connectivity</b>                     | Standard USB<br>Factory-installed connectivity options include:<br>USB and Ethernet,<br>USB and Bluetooth 4.1,<br>USB 802.11ac Wi-Fi<br>and Bluetooth 4.1 | Standard USB                                                       | The ZD888TA/DA is a basic USB printer.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Programming Languages</b>            | ZPL II, EPL 2, XML                                                                                                                                        | ZPL II, EPL 2, XML                                                 | You can easily replace legacy printers using ZPL, EPL or non-Zebra command languages.                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Power</b>                            | Must be manually powered on after power outage<br>Power button on top                                                                                     | Automatic power restart after power outage<br>Power switch on side | The ZD888TA/DA automatically powers itself back on after a power interruption — ideal for printers that may be difficult to reach or locked in a cabinet for security. In addition, the power switch is located near the back, preventing workers from accidentally turning the printer off. |
| <b>Operating System</b>                 | Link-OS Basic                                                                                                                                             | Link-OS Basic                                                      | Check the <a href="#">Zebra DNA for Printers Features Guide</a> for a detailed list of features included for each model.                                                                                                                                                                     |

**Q: What software does the ZD888TA/DA support?**

A: Zebra Setup Utilities for Windows and ZebraDesigner Essentials

**Q: Is the ZD888TA/DA being released in my region?**

A: The ZD888TA/DA will be released in China only. It will not be available for sale, repair and service outside of China. Multinational companies that need the same printer in other regions should consider purchasing the ZD230TA/DA, which is available in other select regions in APAC.

**Q: Does the ZD888TA/DA support Bluetooth and Wi-Fi?**

A: No. The ZD888TA/DA is a USB only printer. Choose the ZD888 for Bluetooth or Wi-Fi options.

**Q: Are there any cutter or peeler options for the ZD888TA/DA?**

A: No. There are no factory- or field-installable media handling options. If a cutter or peeler is required, choose the ZD888.

**Q: Are the ZD888TA/DA printers backwards compatible with other Zebra printers?**

A: The printer has dual resident command language. The co-existent EPL2 and ZPL allows for seamless integration into legacy and current installations. You can swap your older EPL2 or ZPL based desktop printers or add to existing applications. However, the firmware of the ZD888TA/DA is not backward compatible with ZD888.

**Q: Can I use linerless media with the ZD888TA/DA?**

A: No. Linerless options are available in the ZD600 Series.

**Q: How much memory is standard on the ZD888TA/DA?**

A: 8 MB Flash, 16 MB SDRAM

**Q: Can I get an RFID enabled ZD888TA/DA?**

A: No. Desktop RFID options are available in the ZD600 Series.

**Q: Can I use my external ZebraNet print server on the ZD888TA/DA?**

A: No. The external print servers are not supported.

**Q: Does the printer have a Real-Time Clock?**

A: No. The ZD888 Series printers do not offer a RTC. RTC is a standard feature on the ZD400 and ZD600 Series.

**Q: What ribbons can I use in the ZD888TA?**

A: The ZD888TA can accept 74m ribbons or 300m ribbons.

**Q: Can I use third-party ribbons in the ZD888TA?**

A: Zebra recommends to always use genuine supplies in the printer. The ZD888TA will accommodate the use of third-party ribbons using the included ribbon core adapters.

**Q: Can I use my existing media in the ZD888TA/DA?**

A: Yes. Common media handling means that your Zebra desktop media can be used in the ZD888TA/DA.

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ZD888TA/ZD888DA 4-INCH DESKTOP PRINTERS

### **Q: Can I use fan-fold media in the ZD888TA/DA?**

A: The printer supports the use of an externally fed fan-fold through the media slot in the back of the printer.

### **Q: My media roll has a 50 mm core. Can I use it in the ZD888TA/DA?**

A: No, the ZD888TA/DA supports 12.7mm and 25.4mm media core diameters standard; it can also support 38.1mm diameter using an optional adapter.

### **Q: Can the ZD888TA/DA printer support Asian fonts?**

A: The printer's Unicode capabilities can be utilized for true global character printing. If however, a specific font pack such as Japanese, Chinese and Korean is required, then please refer to the printer price list for details of the available font packs.

### **Q: What service offerings are available for the ZD888TA/DA?**

A: Zebra recommends the Zebra OneCare™ Essential Maintenance Plan. For a tiny fraction of the cost of a single repair, you get true peace of mind with fully-featured comprehensive coverage for your printers. Zebra OneCare Essential is a 3- or 5-year service offering that includes:

- Comprehensive coverage: coverage for accidental damage and normal wear and tear
- Priority live agent technical support access (M-F, local business hours)
- Upgraded 3-day Depot turn-around time (TAT)
- Free return ground shipping from the Depot (optional next business day)

### **Q: Where can I find tutorial videos?**

A: ZD888TA/DA "how to" support videos can be viewed online at [www.zebra.com/zd888ta-info](http://www.zebra.com/zd888ta-info) and [www.zebra.com/zd888da-info](http://www.zebra.com/zd888da-info)

### **Q: Which operating systems are supported?**

A: The printer's associated software is compatible with 32 bit and 64 bit Windows 2000, Windows XP, Windows 2003, Windows Vista, Windows 2008, Windows 7 and Windows 10. Printing from Mac, Unix, Linux, China Kylin and UOS systems is supported via the CUPS driver. For more information, visit the Zebra knowledge base.

### **Q: How do I access new or updated drivers?**

A: Drivers can be downloaded from the Zebra website at [www.zebra.com/zd888ta-info](http://www.zebra.com/zd888ta-info) and [www.zebra.com/zd888da-info](http://www.zebra.com/zd888da-info)

### **Q: What is included in the box?**

A: Printer, power supply, power cord, USB cable, Quick Start Guide.



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