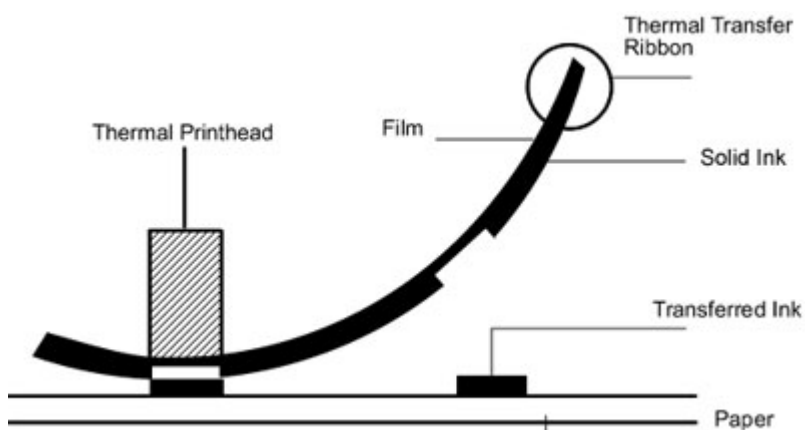


## What is a thermal ribbon?

A thermal ribbon also known as an ink ribbon and thermal transfer ribbon is an ink coated film. When fed through a thermal transfer printer the ink is heated up by the print head and the ink is transferred onto the label or card tag.



## Why use thermal ribbons?

Thermal ribbons are used when labels / card tags need to have a permanent print on the surface. Ribbons are available in three grades: wax, wax resin and resin.

## What is the difference between wax, wax resin and resin?

- **Wax** - Most popular with some smudge resistance. Suitable for matt and semi gloss paper labels. Brands include Armor AWR470 and Zebra 2100/2300.
- **Wax/Resin** - Smudge resistant. Suitable for semi gloss paper and some synthetic labels. Brands include Armor APR6, Zebra 3200 and Toshiba AG2.
- **Resin** - Scratch and chemical resistant. Suitable for coated synthetic labels. Brands include Armor AXR7, Zebra 5095 and Toshiba AS1.

## What are the choices for ribbons?

Thermal ribbons have the following choices:

- **Grade** - Wax, resin enhanced wax, wax resin or resin
- **Width** - Ribbon width must be larger than the corresponding label width so that the print head on the printer is not damaged.
- **Length** - Ribbon length is determined by your printer. Desktop printers typically vary from 74M to 300M and industrial printers range from 300M to 600M.
- **Wound** - Outside or inside dependant on your printer.
- **Core size** - desktop printer ribbons are usually supplied on a 1/2 inch core whereas industrial printer ribbons are supplied on a 1 inch core.

## Where do I start?

Go to [amlabels.co.uk](http://amlabels.co.uk), choose and click on your printer brand on the website. Then select your printer, you will now be able to choose and buy ribbons for your printer.