Turbo Spoolers

With our Turbo Spoolers you get convenience, economy, and expandability—not to mention the fastest printer-sharing in the world.

Key Features

- Transmits at up to 100,000 cps (parallel) and up to 115.2 Kbps (serial).
- Uniport technology enables inexpensive integration of parallel and serial equipment.
- Includes software for easy and automatic printer selection from DOS or Microsoft® Windows®.
- Gives you up to 200 times the normal distance for parallel transmission.
- Easy to install, maintain, and expand.

Printers get faster all the time, and chances are that one of the printers at your site—or one that you’ll be acquiring soon—has a potential printing speed that’s out of reach, as far as your workstations’ or print servers’ transmission capability is concerned. Add problems such as having to handle parallel and serial equipment differently, driver software that’s not automatic under Windows, little or no buffer capacity, and ball-and-chain-like distance limitations, and printer-use inefficiency could become a major concern.

Fortunately, our Turbo Spoolers can make printer-sharing headaches a thing of the past. Their 100,000 cps parallel-mode top speed is the fastest currently available anywhere! Whether you’re trying to run a small setup with three workstations and one printer, or a larger one with seven PCs, two printers, and a modem, Turbo Spoolers can handle the traffic with the best throughput you can get. What if you’re running Microsoft® Windows®? You won’t have to quit or shut down anything. With the included Autoselector software, you can choose to print any of up to three different devices while Windows applications keep working.

What’s more, the serial/parallel problem is no problem with the Turbo Spoolers’ Uniport technology—they handle either kind of transmission effortlessly. Simply attach the appropriate adapters to your PCs, the Spooler, and/or your peripheral devices, and run inexpensive modular cable between them—up to 4000 ft. (1219.2 m) transmission distance for parallel input, which is 200 times the normal 20-ft. (6.1 m) maximum.

If you’re looking for a spooler that can handle your printer traffic quickly, conveniently, and inexpensively, now and for years to come, get one of our 6- or 10-Port Turbo Spoolers.

Typical Applications

Give your workgroup real access to the potential 50,000-cps speed of your parallel laser printer.

Let your LAN users share a pool of plotters and serial or parallel printers while they run Windows.

Get parallel jobs from PCs as distant as 4000 ft. (1219.2 m).
Turbo Spoolers give you ultra-fast, super-efficient management of serial or parallel printing and even of modem communications.

Technically Speaking

- Maximum transmission speed is as high as 100,000 characters per second for parallel output and 115.2 Kbps (approximately 11,000 cps) for parallel input and serial I/O.
- Of the six ports on the smaller Turbo Spooler, two are output-only DB25 parallel connectors and four are serial/parallel RJ-45 Unisports. The larger, ten-port model adds four more Unisports.
- Unisports allow a vast (200 times) multiplication in maximum input transmission distance. And you save up to 87% on cable costs by replacing DB25 parallel transmission cable with modular RJ-45 cable.
- Uniport Adapters are available for many applications. The Uniport Parallel Adapter allows a PC to send parallel input to a Turbo Spooler Uniport over RJ-45 cable, either 4-wire or 8-wire. With the Uniport Serial adapter, you can conduct serial I/O to and from Uniports over 4- or 8-wire RJ-45 cables.
- Maximum distance for parallel output, normally 20 ft. (6.1 m), can be extended to 4000 ft. (1219 m) with Parallel Distance Extenders. Serial I/O can also be extended from its 50-ft. (15-m) maximum: up to 500 ft. (152 m) with RS-232 Extended Distance Data Cable and the Uniport Serial Adapter; or up to 4000 ft. (1219 m) with Serial Distance Extenders.
- Printer-selection software is included for your convenience.
- The Turbo Spooler interfaces with all printer types. No matter what type of machine your site has—PostScript®, dot matrix, laser, inkjet, color, daisywheel, plotter—the Spooler will enable your users to share it.
- You can still have need-it-now, on-demand printing with the Spooler. Hook up to your Turbo Spooler and its shared printers while your PC remains connected to a dedicated serial or parallel printer.
- Your Spooler can serve as a way station for easy file transfer between PCs.
- You can connect manuaL-dial or autodial modems to the Turbo Spooler. Then your PCs can share access to remote resources—and remote PCs can share your local resources, including your printers.
- The Spoolers’ MB memory can be expanded in 1-MB increments to 12 MB. This spacious buffer RAM is turned off for modem communications and will not interfere with timeout requirements.
- The installation program’s menu-driven interface painlessly leads you through configuration.
- Maintenance is not difficult. Front-panel LEDs tell you port status at a glance; if problems occur, the included DOCTOR diagnostic software makes troubleshooting quick and easy.
- Turbo Spoolers can be cascaded to completely service even large operations.
For these and other components...
Call our expert Technical Support Staff for all your Printer Device needs. They'll help you find the best equipment for your application.

**Ordering Information**

This information will help you place your order quickly.

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### Specifications

**CPU** — Z-80

**Data Format** — Even, odd, mark, or space parity with 7 data bits, no parity with 8 data bits

**Diagnostics** — Diagnostic software included

**Flow Control** — Hardware or software

**Memory** — 1-MB board, expanded in 1-MB increments to 4-MB; upgradeable to 4-MB board, expandable in 4-MB increments to 12 MB

**Speed** — Input/output: 110 bps to 115.2 Kbps, selectable; Parallel: Up to 100,000 cps output

**Standards** — Serial: Async RS-232; Parallel: Centronics®

**System Requirements** — PCs with: 1.2 MB disk space and 430K free RAM (site coordinator[s]) or 600K disk space and 325K free RAM (other users); a free serial or parallel port; DOS 3.1 or higher; 13K RAM for PopUp or 2K RAM for AutoSelector (included driver software)

**Connectors** — Both models: (2) DB25 output-only parallel, PI620A-R2: (4) Uniports (RJ-45), PI621A-R2: (8) Uniports (RJ-45)

**Indicators** — LEDs: (1) Status, (1) Reset; PI620: (6) Port Activity; PI621A: (10) Port Activity

**Power** — 115 VAC / 60 Hz or 230 VAC / 50 Hz

**Size** — 2.6”H x 13.3”W x 8”D (6.6 x 33.8 x 20.3 cm)

**Weight** — 7.3 lb. (3.3 kg)
The Turbo Spoolers aren’t limited to just six or ten devices. If you have a wider array of resources to share, simply cascade a couple of Spoolers together.

Here’s how it works: Connect a site-coordinator PC (necessary for Turbo Spooler control and troubleshooting), plus every printer or plotter that you’d like to share, to one Turbo Spooler, designated the “bottom unit.” Now connect workgroups of PCs and/or modems, each headed by a site-coordinator PC, to other Turbo Spoolers configured in “Cascade Mode.” These Spoolers will pump data to a printer to be printed out of “bottom unit.” But this does allow great numbers of PCs to share a few printers among all users, while being able to transfer files and share modems among local groups.

Investigate Turbo Spooler cascading. If you need eight or fewer “bottom unit” Uni-ports for (a) output to shared printers, (b) input from the “bottom unit” site coordinator, and (c) input from other Spoolers, it could be just the right option for your larger operation.

Why leave your application every time you want to print? The word is: Windows compatibility.

With the included Auto-Selector program, you can select any of up to three printers automatically from Windows® or any DOS application that allows printing form LPT ports 1, 2, and 3 (most applications do). It includes automatic timeout control for plotters and graphics applications. It takes up only 2K of your precious RAM, and once it’s installed it runs independently.

For DOS or stop-and-restart Windows, the 13K PopUp program provides a selection menu at the touch of a hotkey.

Software is on 5½” disk for immediate installation using a PC floppy-disk drive.

Market Comparison—Here’s how the Turbo Spoolers compare with other printer-sharing products on the market.

Turbo Spoolers
- Use freely with Windows.
- Operates at up to 100,000 cps.
- Uniport technology gives you serial or parallel I/O, using inexpensive, modular RJ-45 cable.
- Up to 12 MB buffer RAM.
- Not usually Windows compatible; users have to get out of their application to print.
- Often much slower parallel output; print queue backs up.
- Wiring/cabling confusing and expensive (no Uniports).

Other Spoolers
- Costs can run into thousands of dollars.
- Slow at best, very slow when network traffic is high.
- Sending files to printers slows down other network functions.

Printer-Sharing via LAN Only
- Manual switches can cause users to interfere with each other.
- No buffer capability; users must “wait their turns” because files can only be sent one at a time.

Manual or Automatic Switches