

Step-by-step instructions, cont.

- Disconnect the two remaining cables.
- Remove the V-spring.
- Now you can install the printhead assy in reverse order. The printhead kit comes as a complete unit including printhead, bracket, cover plate, ground terminal, screws, and V-spring.

CAUTION!

Be careful not to touch the dots on the printhead (see page 2) because of the risk of electrostatic discharges.

- Make sure that the tip of the V-spring runs between the two guiding ridges on the printhead bracket.
- Test that the printhead can move slightly up against the pressing force of the V-spring.
- In case of thermal transfer printing, load the thermal transfer ribbon again.
- Close the print frame and top cover.
- Switch on the power.
- Finally, check that the printhead is working by printing a test label in the Test Mode as described in the *Installation & Operation* manual.

Why does the printhead wear out?

The EasyCoder C4 is fitted with an 8 dots/mm thermal printhead. When the media is fed past the printhead, small resistor elements (dots) on the printhead are electrically charged and thereby heated. The heat from the dots is transferred to the direct thermal paper or the thermal transfer ribbon so as to form the dot pattern which makes up the text, images, or bar codes.

Printhead wear-out is an inevitable process which applies to all thermal printers regardless of brand. During printing, the dots must be heated and cooled off very rapidly, which in combination with mechanical abrasion sooner or later will wear out the printhead, making the printout gradually weaker. Some dots may even cease to produce any imprint.

Simple precautions

Some simple measures can be taken by the user to prevent premature wear-out:

- Clean the printhead regularly, as described in the *Installation & Operation* manual. Not only will a dirty printhead produce an inferior printout, but any residue on the dots will prevent heat to dissipate through the ribbon and media.
- Follow the recommendations regarding density setup, see **D** command and Appendix 1 in the *Programmer's Guide*. Too much energy to the printhead will wear it out rapidly.
- Do not use higher Print Speed setting than necessary, see **S** command in the *Programmer's Guide*.
- Low ambient temperature requires more energy to the printhead dots than room temperatures and will therefore cause more wear to the printhead. High print speed accelerates the wear. Thus, at low temperatures, select as low a print speed as acceptable.
- Never print outside the media path. Dots that are not in contact with the media will not be cooled properly.
- When using preprinted labels or labels with some type of varnish or non-standard top coating for direct thermal printing, use original Intermec labels or inks recommended by leading manufacturers of direct thermal media. The labels must not contain any aggressive substances such as chloride or grinding substances such as titanium dioxide.
- Only use original Intermec transfer ribbon.

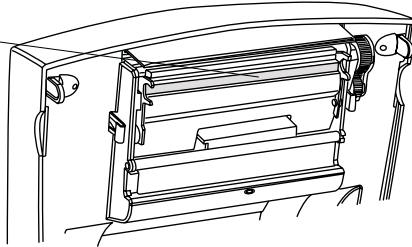
*EasyCoder C4 Printhead
Installation Instructions
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Step-by-step instructions

The thermal printhead can be replaced without any tools.

- Switch off the power.
- Open the print frame and remove any transfer ribbon.
- Press the printhead and print frame firmly together so you overcome the pressure of the V-shaped spring. Because of the risk of electrostatic discharges, be careful not to touch the line of dots at the front of the printhead, but press against the metal bracket or white plastic cover.

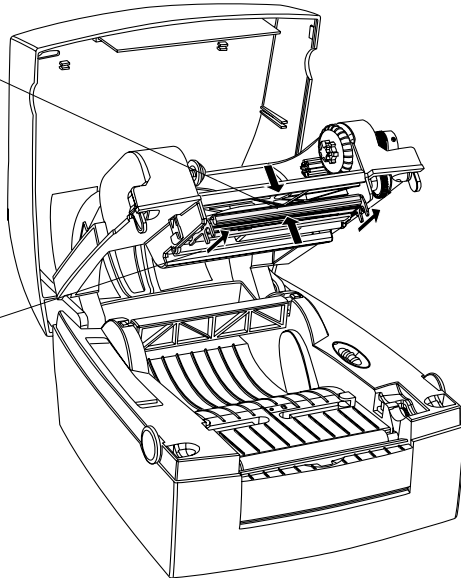
Do not touch dot line!



1. Press printhead and print frame together.

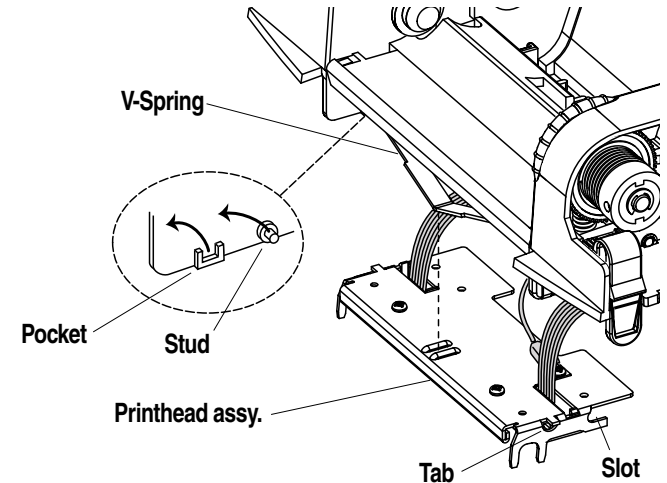
- While keeping up the pressure, slide the printhead forward so the tabs at both sides of the printhead bracket become disengaged from the pockets at the inner sides of the cavity in the print frame.

2. Slide printhead forward.



Step-by-step instructions, cont.

- Continue to press forward so the U-shaped slots in the sides of the printhead bracket also become disengaged from the studs at the inner sides of the cavity in the print frame.



- Now the printhead assy is free but still connected by three sets of cables. Disconnect the grounding cable.
- Carefully disengage the snap-locks that hold the printhead cover to the printhead bracket and remove the cover.

