

# Alpha-4L Dicrect Therma

**Mobile Barcode Printers** 



**Service Manual** 

## **Copyright Information**

#### ©2021 TSC Auto ID Technology Co., Ltd.

The copyright in this manual, the software and firmware in the printer described are owned by TSC Auto ID Technology Co., Ltd. All rights reserved.

CG Triumvirate is a trademark of Agfa Corporation. CG Triumvirate Bold Condensed font is under license from the Monotype Corporation. Windows is a registered trademark of Microsoft Corporation.

All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners. Information in this document is subject to change without notice and does not represent a commitment on the part of TSC Auto ID Technology Co. No part of this manual may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, for any purpose other than the purchaser's personal use, without the expressed written permission of TSC Auto ID Technology Co.



#### **Table of Content**

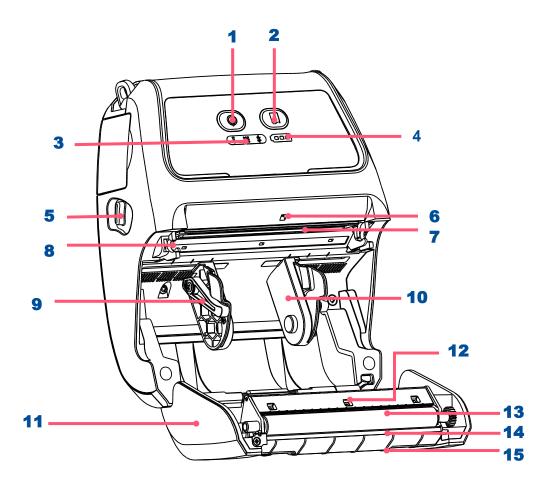
1. Fundamental of the System	1
1.1 Printer Overview	1
Front View	
Rear View	2
2. Electronics	3
2.1 Summary of the Board Connectors	3
3. Mechanism	15
3.1 Replacing the Planten Roller	15
3.2 Replacing the Print Head Assembly	16
3.3 Replacing the Bluetooth Module (Option)	18
3.4 Replacing the Peel-off Sensor Module	19
3.5 Replacing the Bluetooth Module	20
3.6 Replacing the Main Board Assembly	21
3.7 Replacing the Stepping Motor	22
3.8 Replacing the Gap Sensor Assembly	23
3.9 Replacing the Media Holder Assembly	24
3.10 Replacing the Hand Open Sensor Assembly	25
3.11 Replacing the Peel-off Module	26
3.12 Replacing the Black Mark Sensor Assembly	27

	3.13 Replacing the Charger Board Assembly	28
	3.14 Replacing the Wi-Fi Module	29
	3.15 Replacing the RTC Battery (Option)	30
4	. TroubleShooting	31
5	. Maintenance	33
R	evise History	35

# 1. Fundamental of the System

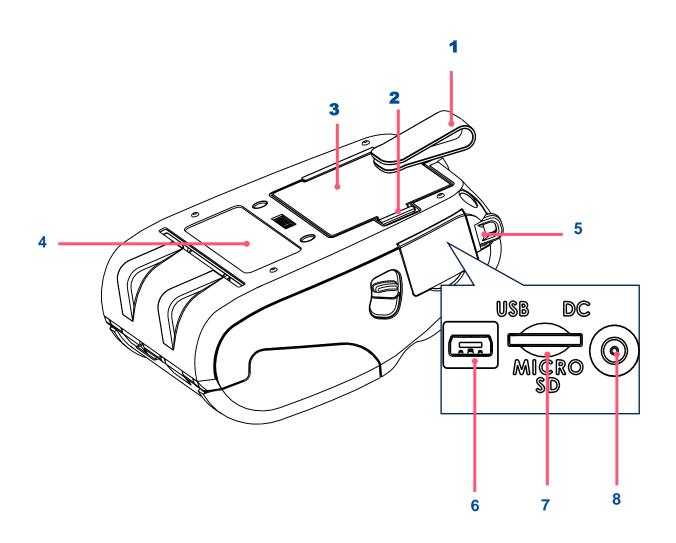
#### 1.1 Printer Overview

**Front View** 



- **1.** Power on/off button
- 2. Feed button
- 3. Printer status LED indicator
- 4. Battery status LED indicator
- 5. Media cover release button
- **6.** Peel-off sensor (Without for linerless model)
- 7. Print head
- 8. Transmissive sensor Gap sensor
- 9. Media holder lock switch
- 10. Media holder
- 11. Media cover
- **12.** Reflective sensor Black mark sensor
- **13.** Platen roller
- **14.** Tear/Peeler bar (Without for linerless model)
- 15. Peeler module

#### **Rear View**

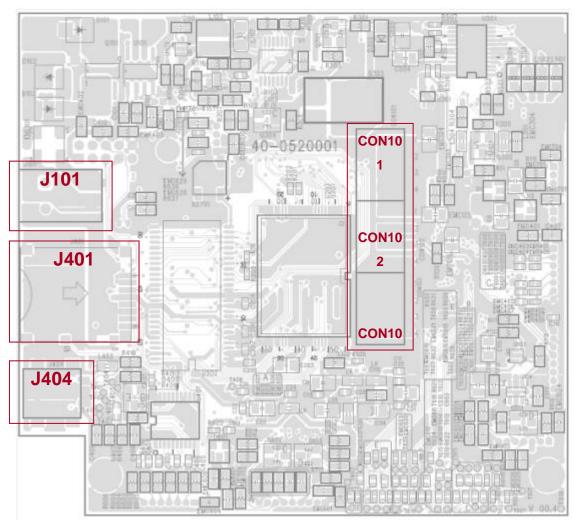


- 1. Belt chip
- 2. Battery open clasp
- 3. Li-ion battery
- 4. External label entrance chute
- **5.** Hanger for shoulder strap
- **6.** USB interface
- 7. \* MicroSD card socket
- 8. Power jack

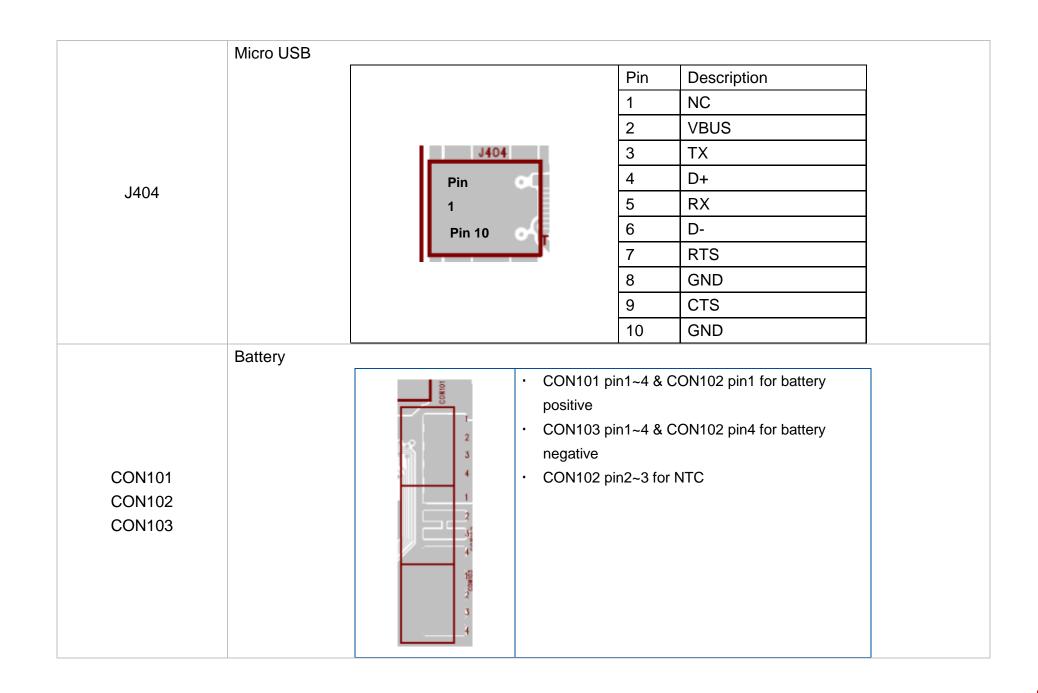
# 2. Electronics

## **2.1 Summary of the Board Connectors**

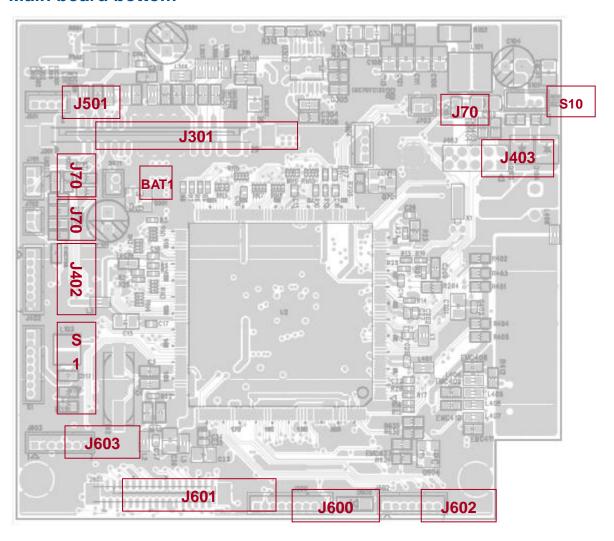
#### Main board top



Connector	Description	
J101	DC Jack  12V DC IN	
	Micro SD connector	
	Pin Description	
	1 SD_Data2	
	2 SD_Data3	
	3   SD_CMD	
1404	Pin 4 3.3V	
J401	5 SD_CLK	
	Pin 6 GND	
	7 SD_Data0	
	8 SD_Data1	
	9 GND	
	10 GND	



#### **Main board bottom**



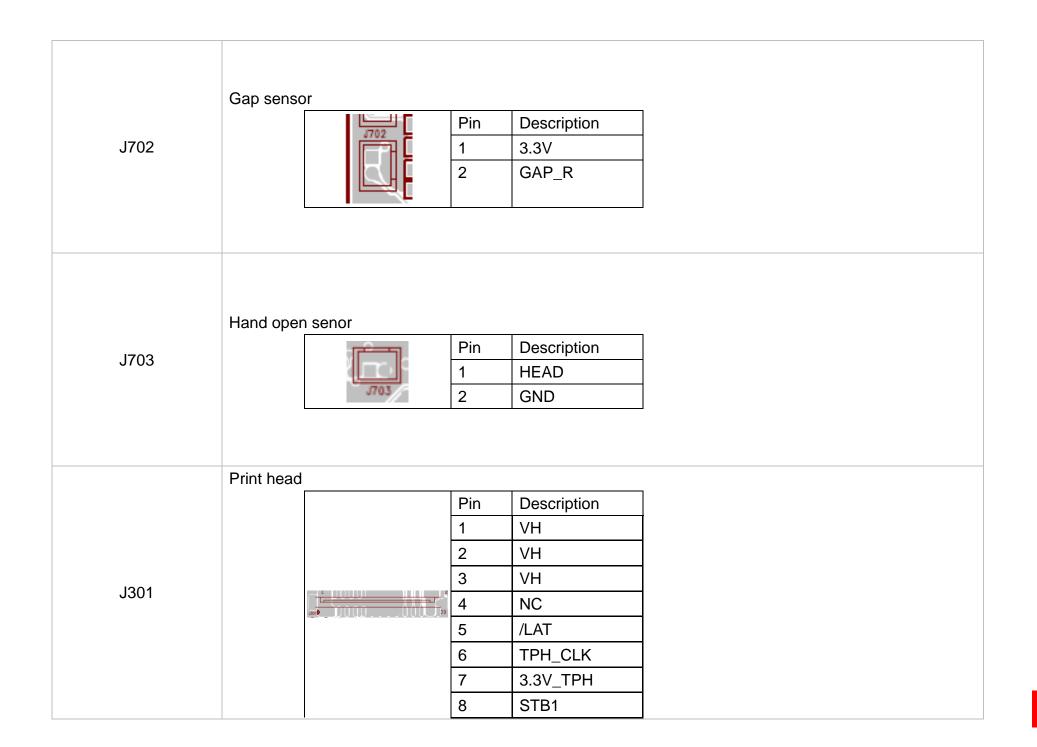
Connector	Description						
	For LCD & LED board						
		Pin	Description				
		1	3.3V				
		2	PEEL_E				
	J600	3	PEEL_R				
J600	r(coccoci)	4	8V battery				
3000	1	5	LED_Charging off & low				
			battery				
	Pin 1	6	LED_Charging				
		7	Power KEY				
		8	Feed KEY				
		9	GND				
	LCD						
		Pin	Description				
		1	IRS				
		2	/HPM				
		3	PS				
	7607	4	C86				
J601		5	NC				
	<b>↑</b>	6	VO				
	Pin 1	7	V1				
		8	V2				
		9	V3				
		10	V4				
		11	NC				

	12	NC
	13	CAP2-
	14	CAP2+
	15	CAP1+
	16	CAP1-
	17	CAP3+
	18	NC
	19	VOUT
	20	GND
	21	3.3V
	22	LCM_D7
	23	LCM_D6
	24	LCM_D5
	25	LCM_D4
	26	LCM_D3
	27	LCM_D2
	28	LCM_D1
	29	LCM_D0
	30	LCM_RD
	31	LCM_WR
	32	LCM_A0
	33	/LCM_RST
	34	/LCM_CS

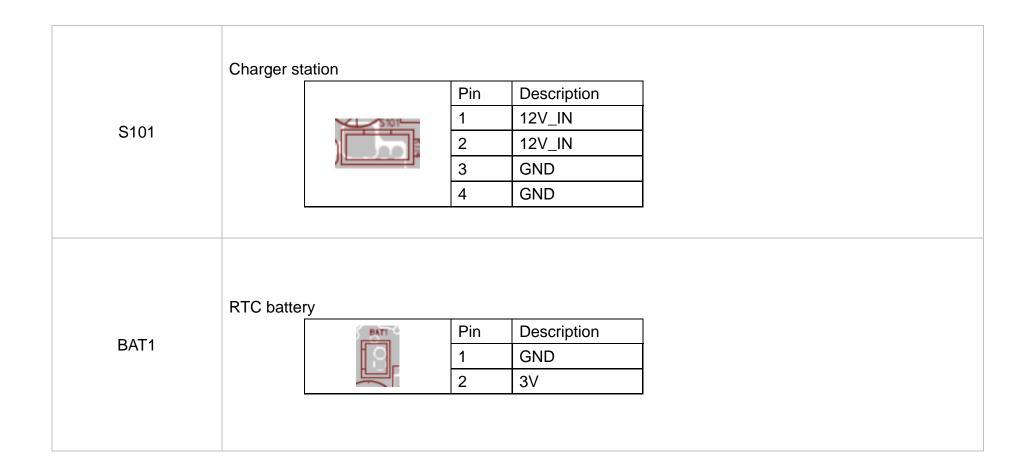
	For LED B	oard		
			Pin	Description
			1	3.3V
			2	LED_STATUS
		J602 8 8 8 8 8	3	LED_ERROR
J602			4	LED_FULL
				BATTERY
			5	LED_HALF
				BATTERY
		6	LED_BT	
			7	LED_WIFI
	For LCD board			
			Pin	Description
		1	A+	
		J603	2	K-
J603			3	GND
			4	3.3V
			5	LED_ERROR
			6	MANUAL KEY
			7	INFO KEY

	Download port			
		Pin	Description	
		1	3.3V	
		2	GND	
04		3	/RESET	
S1	181	4	BMS	
	181	5	/CS	
		6	MISO	
	SI	7	MOSI	
		8	CLK	
	WiFi connector	•		
		Pin	Description	
		1	3.3V	
		2	/WIFI_RST	
J402	l B i	3	WIFI_RXD	
	1811	4	WIFI_RST	
	1402	5	WIFI_TXD	
		6	WIFI_CTS	
		7	GND	
	Bluetooth connector			
		Pin	Description	
		1	3.3V	
1400	J403 \$50	2	BT_RST	
J403		3	BT_RXD	
	Δ3	4	BT_RTS	
		5	BT_TXD	
		6	BT_CTS	

			7	BT_DISCON
			8	BT_CON
				NC
			9	
			10	GND
	Stepping motor			
	7.25.5		Pin	Description
			1	AOUT1
J501		rmd*	2	AOUT2
	L	501 7	3	BOUT1
			4	BOUT2
	Black mark sens	or		
	Diack mark sens	1704 M	Pin	Description
J701			1	3.3V
3/01				
			2	BM_E
		7700	3	BM_R



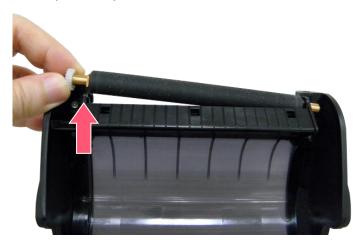
9		STB2
10	)	STB3
11	ı	TM
12	2	GND
13	3	GND
14	4	GND
15	5	GND
16	ĵ	GND
17	7	GND
18	3	GND
19	9	GND
20	)	GND
21	1	STB4
22	2	STB5
23	3	STB6
24	4	STB7
25	5	DI
26	ĵ	VH
27	7	VH
28	3	VH
29	9	GND
30	)	GND



# 3. Mechanism

## 3.1 Replacing the Planten Roller

1. Open the printer cover. Use a tool to take the platen roller off. Replace the platen roller.

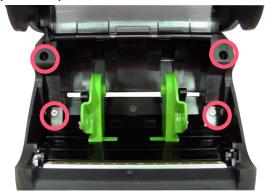


## 3.2 Replacing the Print Head Assembly

- **1.** Refer to section 3.1 to remove the printer top cover.
- 2. Use hex wrench (#2.5) to remove two screws on lower cover.



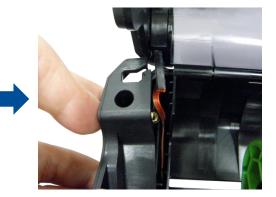
**3.** Open the printer cover and remove 4 screws on lower inner cover.

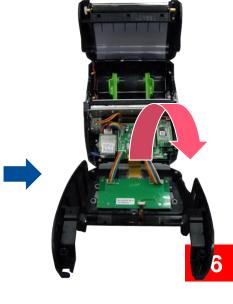


4. Remove the upper cover carefully.









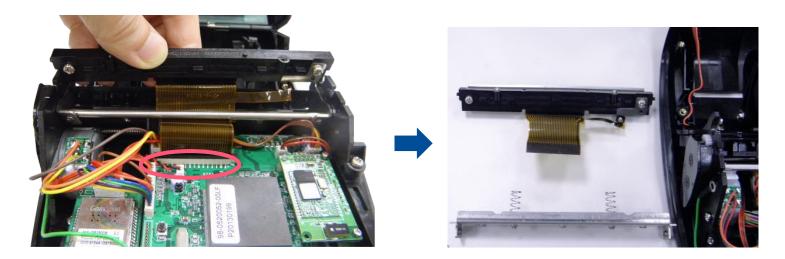
**5.** Remove 2 screws on the each side of lower inner cover to remove the print head spring fixture.







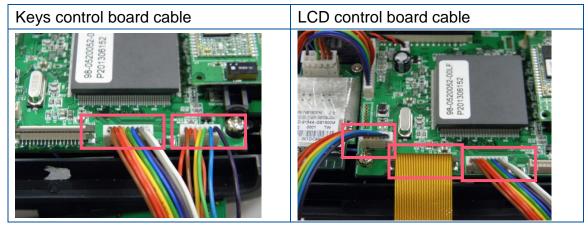
6. Loosen the connector lock (black) then disconnect the flat cable from the main board. Remove the print head assembly.



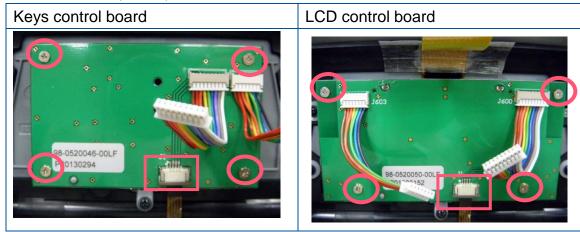
#### 3.3 Replacing the Bluetooth Module (Option)

1. Refer to section 3.2 to remove the upper cover and disconnect the cables from the main board.

Note: For the flat cable (LCD control board), please loosen the connector lock (brown) then disconnect the cable.



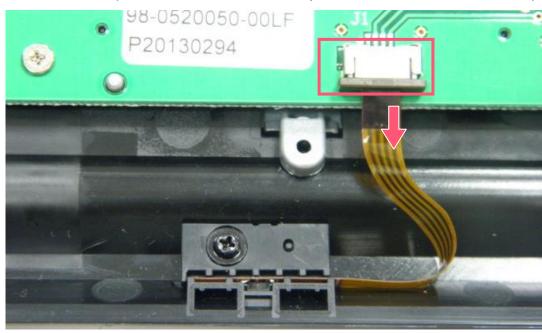
2. Remove 4 screws on the keys control board/ LCD control board and disconnect the peel-off sensor connector by loosen the connector lock (brown).



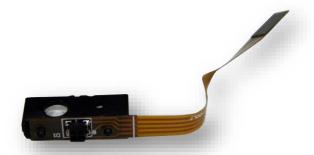
- **3.** Replace the keys control board/ LCD control board assembly.
- **4.** Reassemble the parts in the reverse procedures.

## 3.4 Replacing the Peel-off Sensor Module

- **1.** Refer to section 3.2 to remove the upper cover.
- 2. Disconnect the peel-off sensor connector by loosen the connector lock for panel board. Remove 1 screw.

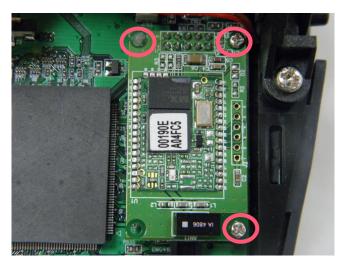


**3.** Replace the peel-off sensor module.

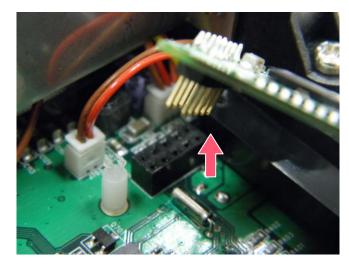


## 3.5 Replacing the Bluetooth Module

- **1.** Refer to section 3.2 to remove the upper cover.
- 2. Remove 2 screws on the Bluetooth control board. Use a tool to remove the spacer support on the Bluetooth control board.



**3.** Disconnect the connector on the board. Replace the Bluetooth module.



## 3.6 Replacing the Main Board Assembly

- 1. Refer to section 3.5 to remove the upper cover and Bluetooth control board.
- **2.** Remove 2 screws on the main board. Disconnect all the connectors on the main board. Replace the main board.



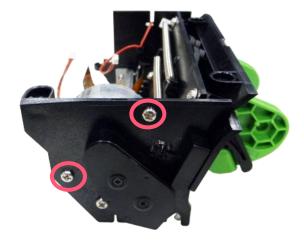
## 3.7 Replacing the Stepping Motor

- 1. Refer to section 3.2 to remove the upper cover.
- 2. Remove 5 screws. Disconnect the connectors on main board to take out the internal mechanism.



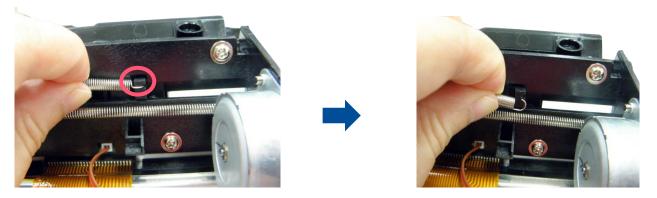


**3.** Remove 2 screws to replace the stepping motor.

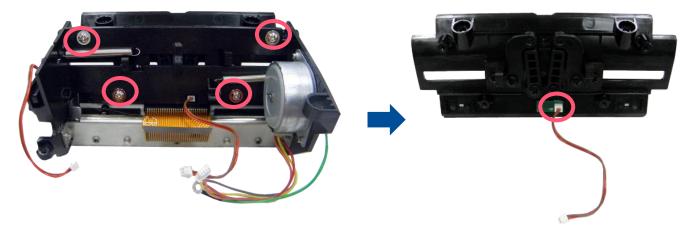


## 3.8 Replacing the Gap Sensor Assembly

- 1. Refer to section 3.7 to take out the internal mechanism.
- 2. Loosen 2 springs.



3. Remove 4 screws on the internal mechanism to replace the gap sensor assembly.



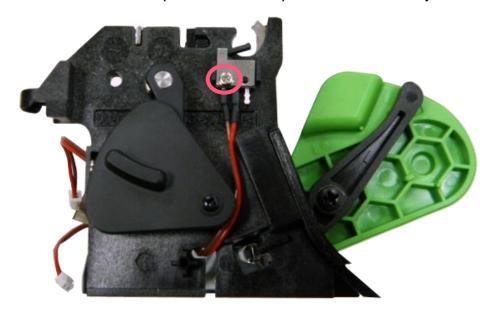
## 3.9 Replacing the Media Holder Assembly

- **1.** Refer to section 3.8 to remove the gap sensor assembly.
- **2.** Replace the media holder assembly.



## 3.10 Replacing the Hand Open Sensor Assembly

- 4. Refer to section 3.7 to take out the internal mechanism.
- **5.** Remove 1 screw to replace the hand open sensor assembly.



## 3.11 Replacing the Peel-off Module

- 1. Refer to sections 3.1 and 3.7 to remove the platen roller and take out the internal mechanism.
- 2. Remove 4 screws on upper cover to take out the black mark sensor module.

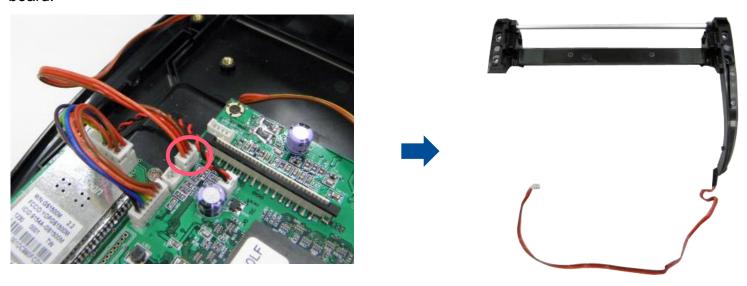


**3.** Replacing the Peel-off cover.



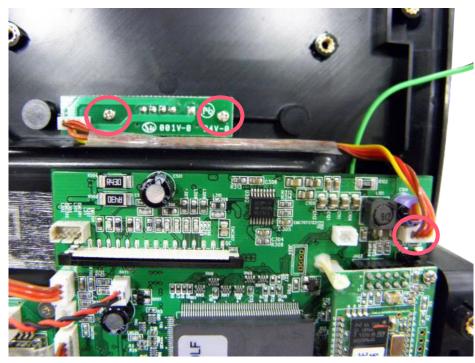
## 3.12 Replacing the Black Mark Sensor Assembly

1. Refer to sections 3.11 to take out the black mark sensor assembly. Disconnect the black mark sensor connector from main board.



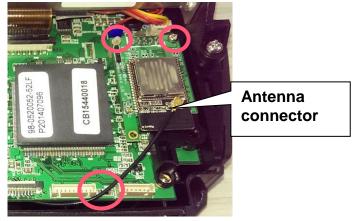
## 3.13 Replacing the Charger Board Assembly

- 1. Refer to the section 3.7 to take out the internal mechanism.
- 2. Disconnect the connector on the main board. Remove 2 screws to replacing the charger board assembly.



#### 3.14 Replacing the Wi-Fi Module

- **1.** Refer to section 3.2 to remove the upper cover.
- 2. Disconnect the antenna connector gently.
- **3.** Remove the screw and loose the spacer support on the Wi-Fi module.



- Replace the Wi-Fi module board.
- **5.** Arrange cable of antenna as indicated.
- **6.** Reassemble the parts in the reverse procedures.

#### Note:

- This is the new Wi-Fi module's replacing instruction. It should work with the main board that is -30LF version. (or later version)
- If you replace the main board, please check the Wi-Fi signal band on configuration page for your using region. If any questions, please contact the Customer Service Department of your purchased reseller or distributor for assistance.

US	EUR
HXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	**************************************

## 3.15 Replacing the RTC Battery (Option)

- 1. Please refer to section 3.1 take the printer top cover off and replace a new one with platen roller.
- 2. Refer to section 3.14 to remove the WiFi module.



3. Disconnect the connector on the main board.



- 4. Replace the RTC battery.
- **5.** Reassemble the parts in the reverse procedures.

# 4. TroubleShooting

Problem	Possible Cause	Recovery Procedure		
Power indicator does not illuminate	* The battery is not properly installed.  * The battery is dead.	* Reinstall the battery.  * Switch the printer on.  * Charge the battery.		
- The printer status from TSC Console shows "Head Open".	* The printer carriage is open.	* Please close the print carriage.		
- The printer status from TSC Console shows "Out of Paper".	* Running out of media roll.  * The media is installed incorrectly.  * Black mark sensor is not calibrated.	* Supply a new media roll.  * Please reinstall the media roll.  * Calibrate the black mark sensor.		
- The printer status from DiagTool shows "Paper Jam".	* Black mark sensor is not set properly.  * Make sure media size is set properly.  * Media may be stuck inside the printer mechanism.	* Calibrate the black mark sensor. * Set media size correctly.		
Memory full ( FLASH / DRAM )	* The space of FLASH/DRAM is full.	<ul> <li>* Delete unused files in the FLASH/DRAM.</li> <li>* The max. numbers of DRAM is 256 files.</li> <li>* The max. user addressable memory space of DRAM is 256KB.</li> <li>* The max. numbers of file of FLASH is 256 files.</li> <li>* The max. user addressable memory space of FLASH is 2560KB.</li> </ul>		
Poor Print Quality	<ul> <li>* Media is loaded incorrectly</li> <li>* Dust or adhesive accumulation on the print head.</li> <li>* Print density is not set properly.</li> <li>* Printhead element is damaged.</li> </ul>	* Reload the supply.  * Clean the print head.  * Clean the platen roller.  * Adjust the print density and print speed.  * Run printer self-test and check the print head test pattern if there is dot missing in the pattern.  * Change proper media roll.		

Missing printing on the left or right side of label	* Wrong label size setup.	* Set the correct label size.
Gray line on the blank label	* The print head is dirty. * The platen roller is dirty.	* Clean the print head. * Clean the platen roller.
Irregular printing	* The printer is in Hex Dump mode. * The RS-232 setting is incorrect.	* Turn off and on the printer to skip the dump mode.  * Re-set the Rs-232 setting.

## 5. Maintenance

This session presents the clean tools and methods to maintain the printer.

#### For Cleaning

Depending on the media used, the printer may accumulate residues (media dust, adhesives, etc.) as a by-product of normal printing. To maintain the best printing quality, you should remove these residues by cleaning the printer periodically. Regularly clean the print head and supply sensors once change a new media to keep the printer at the optimized performance and extend printer life.

#### For Disinfecting

Sanitize your printer to protect yourself and others and can help prevent the spread of viruses.

#### Important

- Set the printer power switch to O (Off) prior to performing any cleaning or disinfecting tasks. Leave the power cord connected to keep the printer grounded and to reduce the risk of electrostatic damage.
- Do not wear rings or other metallic objects while cleaning any interior area of the printer.
- Use only the cleaning agents recommended in this document. Use of other agents may damage the printer and void its warranty.
- Do not spray or drip liquid cleaning solutions directly into the printer. Apply the solution on a clean lint-free cloth and then
  apply the dampened cloth to the printer.
- Do not use canned air in the interior of the printer as it can blow dust and debris onto sensors and other critical components.
- Only use a vacuum cleaner with a nozzle and hose that are conductive and grounded to drain off static build up.
- All reference in these procedures for use of isopropyl alcohol requires that a 99% or greater isopropyl alcohol content be
  used to reduce the risk of moisture corrosion to the printhead.
- Do not touch printhead by hand. If you touch it careless, please use 99% Isopropyl alcohol to clean it.
- Always taking personal precaution when using any cleaning agent.

#### **Cleaning Tools**

- Cotton swab
- Lint-free cloth
- Brush with soft non-metallic bristles
- Vacuum cleaner
- 75% Ethanol (for disinfecting)
- 99% Isopropyl alcohol (for printhead and platen roller cleaning)
- Genuine printhead cleaning pen
- Mild detergent (without chlorine)

#### **Cleaning Process:**

Printer Part	Method	Interval
Print Head	<ul> <li>Always turn off the printer before cleaning the printhead.</li> <li>Allow the printhead to cool for at least one minute.</li> <li>Use a cotton swab and 99% Isopropyl Alcohol or genuine print head cleaning pen to clean the print head surface.</li> </ul>	Clean the print head when changing a new label roll.
Platen Roller	<ul><li>Turn off the printer.</li><li>Rotate the platen roller and wipe it thoroughly with the lint-free 99% Isopropyl Alcohol.</li></ul>	Clean the platen roller when changing a new label roll
Peel Bar	Use the lint-free cloth with 99% Isopropyl Alcohol to wipe it.	As needed
Sensor	Use brush with soft non-metallic bristles or a vacuum cleaner, to remove paper dust. Clean upper and lower media sensors to ensure reliable Top of Form and Paper Out sensing.	Monthly
Exterior	Clean the exterior surfaces with a clean, lint-free cloth (water-dampened cloth). If necessary, use a mild detergent or desktop cleaning solution then use the 75% Ethanol to wipe it.	As needed
Interior	Clean the interior of the printer by removing any dirt and lint with a vacuum cleaner, as described above, or use a brush with soft non-metallic bristles then use the 75% Ethanol to wipe it.	As needed

# **Revise History**

Date Content Editor

