

User Reference Guide

Sigma DS1, DS2, and DS3 Direct to Card Printers



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Contents

Front Panel 3 Sigma DS Printer with Optional Multi-Hopper 4 Load Cards in a Single-Hopper Printer 5 Use the Exception Slot 5 Load Cards in a Multi-Hopper Printer 6 Use the Multi-Hopper Exception Slide 7 Load the Print Ribbon Cartridge 8 Install the Prefilled Ribbon Cassette. 9 Empty the Reject Tray. 10 Clear a Card Jam 11 Single-Hopper Printer 11 Multi-Hopper Printer 11 Repair a Broken Print Ribbon 12 Check the Printer Data Connections 13 Check the Printer Data Connection 14 USB 14 Network 14 Common LCD Messages 15 Clean the Printer 16 Single Hopper Printer 16 Single Hopper Printer 17 Run the Cleaning Card 18 Clean the Printhead 19	The Sigma DS Direct to Card Printer	3
Sigma DS Printer with Optional Multi-Hopper 4 Load Cards in a Single-Hopper Printer 5 Use the Exception Slot 5 Load Cards in a Multi-Hopper Printer 6 Use the Multi-Hopper Exception Slide 7 Load the Print Ribbon Cartridge 8 Install the Prefilled Ribbon Cassette 9 Empty the Reject Tray 10 Clear a Card Jam 11 Single-Hopper Printer 11 Multi-Hopper Printer 11 Multi-Hopper Printer 11 Single-Hopper Printer 11 Multi-Hopper Printer 11 Multi-Hopper Printer 11 Multi-Hopper Printer 12 Check the Printer Dower Connections 13 Check the Printer Data Connection 14 USB 14 Network 14 Common LCD Messages 15 Clean the Printer 16 Single Hopper Printer 16 Multi-Hopper Printer 17 Run the Cleaning Card 18 Clean the Printhead 19	Front Panel	3
Load Cards in a Single-Hopper Printer 5 Use the Exception Slot 5 Load Cards in a Multi-Hopper Printer 6 Use the Multi-Hopper Exception Slide 7 Load the Print Ribbon Cartridge 8 Install the Prefilled Ribbon Cassette. 9 Empty the Reject Tray 10 Clear a Card Jam 11 Single-Hopper Printer 11 Multi-Hopper Printer 11 Repair a Broken Print Ribbon 12 Check the Printer Power Connections 13 Check the Printer Data Connection 14 USB 14 Network 14 Common LCD Messages 15 Clean the Printer 16 Single Hopper Printer 17 Run the Cleaning Card 18 Clean the Printhead 19	Sigma DS Printer with Optional Multi-Hopper	4
Use the Exception Slot	Load Cards in a Single-Hopper Printer	5
Load Cards in a Multi-Hopper Printer. 6 Use the Multi-Hopper Exception Slide 7 Load the Print Ribbon Cartridge. 8 Install the Prefilled Ribbon Cassette. 9 Empty the Reject Tray. 10 Clear a Card Jam 11 Single-Hopper Printer. 11 Multi-Hopper Printer. 11 Repair a Broken Print Ribbon 12 Check the Printer Power Connections 13 Check the Printer Data Connection 14 USB 14 Network. 14 Common LCD Messages 15 Clean the Printer 16 Single Hopper Printer. 17 Run the Cleaning Card 18 Clean the Printhead 19	Use the Exception Slot	5
Use the Multi-Hopper Exception Slide	Load Cards in a Multi-Hopper Printer	6
Load the Print Ribbon Cartridge 8 Install the Prefilled Ribbon Cassette 9 Empty the Reject Tray 10 Clear a Card Jam 11 Single-Hopper Printer 11 Multi-Hopper Printer 11 Repair a Broken Print Ribbon 12 Check the Printer Power Connections 13 Check the Printer Data Connection 14 USB 14 Network 14 Common LCD Messages 15 Clean the Printer 16 Single Hopper Printer 17 Run the Cleaning Card 18 Clean the Printhead 19	Use the Multi-Hopper Exception Slide	7
Install the Prefilled Ribbon Cassette 9 Empty the Reject Tray 10 Clear a Card Jam 11 Single-Hopper Printer 11 Multi-Hopper Printer 11 Repair a Broken Print Ribbon 12 Check the Printer Power Connections 13 Check the Printer Data Connection 14 USB 14 Network 14 Common LCD Messages 15 Clean the Printer 16 Single Hopper Printer 17 Run the Cleaning Card 18 Clean the Printhead 19	Load the Print Ribbon Cartridge	8
Empty the Reject Tray10Clear a Card Jam11Single-Hopper Printer11Multi-Hopper Printer11Repair a Broken Print Ribbon12Check the Printer Power Connections13Check the Printer Data Connection14USB14Network14Common LCD Messages15Clean the Printer16Single Hopper Printer16Single Hopper Printer17Run the Cleaning Card18Clean the Printhead19	Install the Prefilled Ribbon Cassette	9
Clear a Card Jam 11 Single-Hopper Printer 11 Multi-Hopper Printer 11 Repair a Broken Print Ribbon 12 Check the Printer Power Connections 13 Check the Printer Data Connection 14 USB 14 Network 14 Common LCD Messages 15 Clean the Printer 16 Single Hopper Printer 16 Multi-Hopper Printer 17 Run the Cleaning Card 18 Clean the Printhead 19	Empty the Reject Tray	
Single-Hopper Printer 11 Multi-Hopper Printer 11 Repair a Broken Print Ribbon 12 Check the Printer Power Connections 13 Check the Printer Data Connection 14 USB 14 Network 14 Common LCD Messages 15 Clean the Printer 16 Single Hopper Printer 16 Multi-Hopper Printer 17 Run the Cleaning Card 18 Clean the Printhead 19	Clear a Card Jam	
Multi-Hopper Printer. 11 Repair a Broken Print Ribbon 12 Check the Printer Power Connections 13 Check the Printer Data Connection 14 USB 14 Network 14 Common LCD Messages 15 Clean the Printer 16 Single Hopper Printer 16 Multi-Hopper Printer 17 Run the Cleaning Card 18 Clean the Printhead 19	Single-Hopper Printer	
Repair a Broken Print Ribbon 12 Check the Printer Power Connections 13 Check the Printer Data Connection 14 USB 14 Network 14 Common LCD Messages 15 Clean the Printer 16 Single Hopper Printer 16 Multi-Hopper Printer 17 Run the Cleaning Card 18 Clean the Printhead 19	Multi-Hopper Printer	
Check the Printer Power Connections 13 Check the Printer Data Connection 14 USB 14 Network 14 Common LCD Messages 15 Clean the Printer 16 Single Hopper Printer 16 Multi-Hopper Printer 17 Run the Cleaning Card 18 Clean the Printhead 19	Repair a Broken Print Ribbon	
Check the Printer Data Connection 14 USB 14 Network 14 Common LCD Messages 15 Clean the Printer 16 Single Hopper Printer 16 Multi-Hopper Printer 17 Run the Cleaning Card 18 Clean the Printhead 19	Check the Printer Power Connections	13
USB	Check the Printer Data Connection	14
Network	USB	14
Common LCD Messages 15 Clean the Printer 16 Single Hopper Printer 16 Multi-Hopper Printer 17 Run the Cleaning Card 18 Clean the Printhead 19	Network	14
Clean the Printer	Common LCD Messages	15
Single Hopper Printer	Clean the Printer	16
Multi-Hopper Printer	Single Hopper Printer	16
Run the Cleaning Card	Multi-Hopper Printer	17
Clean the Printhead19	Run the Cleaning Card	
	Clean the Printhead	19

The Sigma DS Direct to Card Printer



- A = Printer Cover B = Cover Latch Handle C = Cover Ridges D = Input Hopper E = Exception Slot F = Front Panel G = Output Hopper
- H = LED Light Bar



I = Input Hopper Lock J = Printer Lock K = Reject Tray L = Printhead M = Manual Advance Knob N = Ribbon Cartridge or Cassette

i

Printer Locks are present only on some Sigma DS3 printers. Hopperless printers require multi-hopper installation.

Front Panel



Sigma DS Printer with Optional Multi-Hopper



- A = Output Hopper
- B = Hopper Lock Bars
- C = Input Hoppers 1–6
- D = Multi-Hopper Lock
- E = Lock Bar Release Button (B1)
- F = Cartridge Release Buttons
- G = Exception Slide
- H = Card Weight
- I = Cartridge Door
- J = Cartridge Door Release Button

Load Cards in a Single-Hopper Printer



Use the Exception Slot



Sigma DS Direct to Card Printer

Load Cards in a Multi-Hopper Printer

- 1. Unlock the multi-hopper lock
- 2. Slide the lock bar release button (B1) to the left.
- 3. Rotate a lock bar to the left.



- 4. Open the cartridge door
- 5. Lift the card weight and pull it forward until it locks in position.
- 6. Load cards into the cartridge.



- 7. Close the cartridge door.
- 8. Repeat for each cartridge.
- 9. Return all locks to the locked position.

Use the Multi-Hopper Exception Slide

- 1. Pull out the multi-hopper exception slide.
- 2. Insert the card.



3. Push in the exception slide.

Sigma DS Direct to Card Printer

Load the Print Ribbon Cartridge

- 1. Open the printer cover and remove the print ribbon cartridge.
- 2. Remove the used ribbon spools and cleaning roller and discard them.



- 3. Load the print ribbon.
- 4. Turn the take-up spool counterclockwise.
- 5. Load the cleaning roller.
- 6. Remove the protective wrapper from the cleaning roller.



7. Replace the ribbon cartridge and close the printer.

Install the Prefilled Ribbon Cassette

1. Open the printer cover and remove the used print ribbon cassette. Discard the cassette.



2. Remove the print ribbon cassette from its package. The cassette is shipped in a closed position.



- Extend the cassette to its fully open position.
 Pull out the front of the cassette until it clicks.
- 4. Remove the protective wrapper from the cleaning roller.



5. Install the cassette in the printer and close the printer cover.

Empty the Reject Tray



Clear a Card Jam

Single-Hopper Printer



Multi-Hopper Printer



Repair a Broken Print Ribbon



Check the Printer Power Connections



Check the Printer Data Connection

USB



Network



Common LCD Messages

Error Message	Refer to:
110: Print ribbon out or missing	"Load the Print Ribbon Cartridge" on page 8 "Install the Prefilled Ribbon Cassette" on page 9
112: Card hopper empty	"Load Cards in a Single-Hopper Printer" on page 5 "Use the Exception Slot" on page 5 "Load Cards in a Multi-Hopper Printer" on page 6 "Use the Multi-Hopper Exception Slide" on page 7
118: Print ribbon type problem	"Load the Print Ribbon Cartridge" on page 8 "Install the Prefilled Ribbon Cassette" on page 9
119: Print ribbon not supported	
121: Print ribbon not identified	
172: Insert cleaning card	"Clean the Printer" on page 16
276: Multi-hopper card jam	"Clear a Card Jam" on page 11
277: Multi-hopper pick error	"Load Cards in a Multi-Hopper Printer" on page 6
294: Cleaning required	"Clean the Printer" on page 17

Clean the Printer

Single Hopper Printer

If the printer has locks, unlock the printer and input hopper.

1. Open the printer cover and remove the print ribbon cartridge or cassette. Close the cover.



2. Open the input hopper cover and remove any unprinted cards.



3. Insert the cleaning card in the input hopper.



- 4. Close the input hopper.
- 5. Continue with "Run the Cleaning Card" on page 18.

Multi-Hopper Printer

- 1. Unlock the printer and open the printer cover.
- 2. Remove the print ribbon, close the cover, and lock the printer.
- 3. Pull out the multi-hopper exception slide and insert the cleaning card.



- 4. Push in the exception slide.
- 5. Continue with "Run the Cleaning Card" on page 18.

Sigma DS Direct to Card Printer

Run the Cleaning Card

Use the LCD menu system to start the cleaning cycle.



Printers without locks: Remove the cleaning card from the output hopper and discard it.

Printers with locks: The cleaning card can remain in the printer reject tray until the tray is emptied.

Replace the print ribbon cartridge or the cassette in the printer, and the cards in the input hopper.

Clean the Printhead

Clean the printhead in the following situations:

- There are unprinted lines on the finished card. This usually indicates dirt or contaminants on the printhead.
- The printhead is touched accidentally. Oils from hands can affect print quality and damage the printhead.
- A ribbon break caused part of the ribbon to stick to the printhead or printhead cover.
- The printhead has been replaced.
- 1. Power off the printer.
- 2. Unlock the printer and open the printer cover.
- 3. Open and remove a cleaning swab from its package.
- 4. Lift the printhead protective cover. Use the sides of the cover to rotate it away from the printhead.
- 5. Use gentle pressure to move the cleaning swab back and forth along the full length of the printhead edge until it is completely clean.
- 6. Close the printer cover.
- 7. Power on the printer.
- 8. Print a sample card to verify the quality of printing.





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