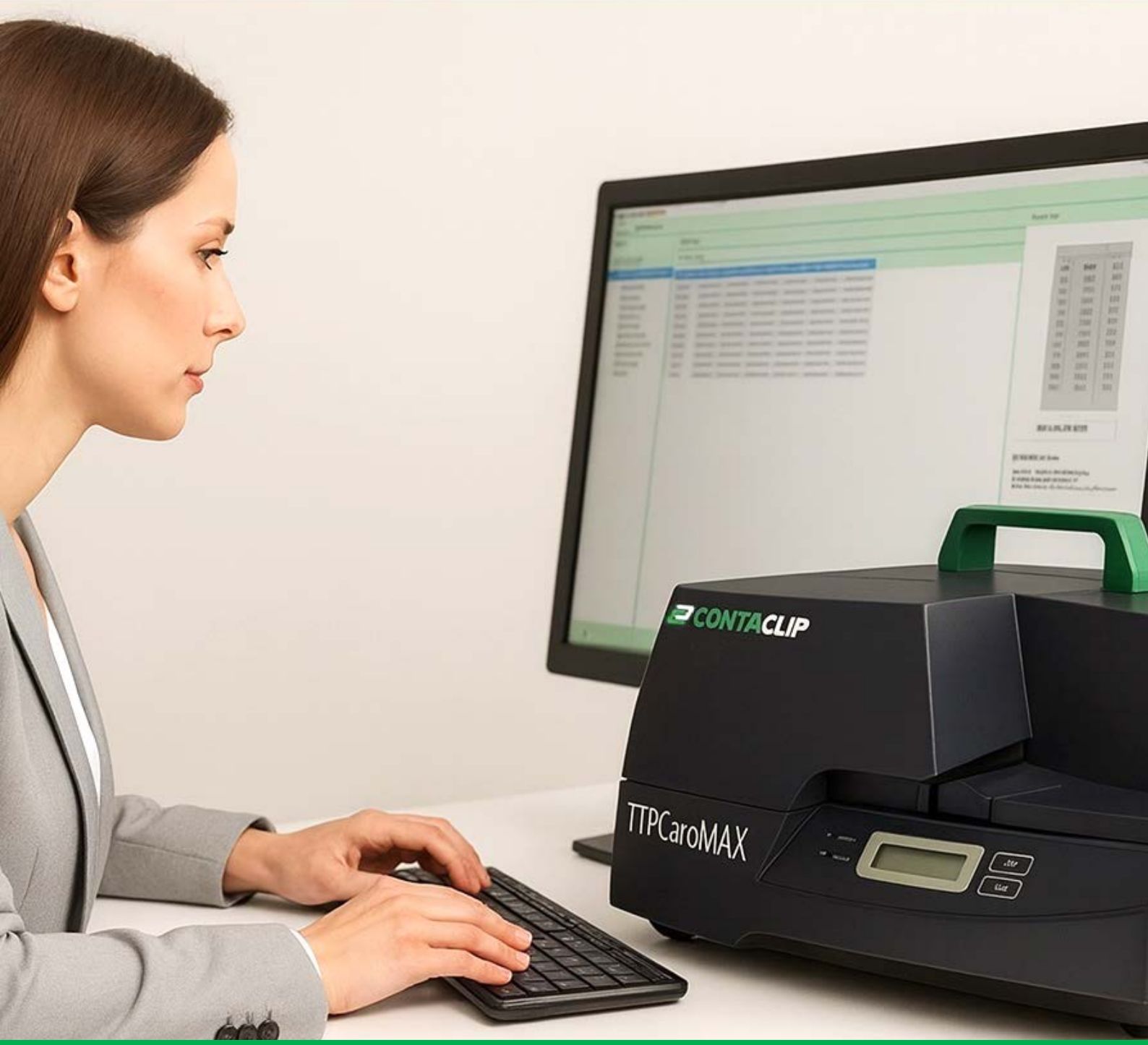


ContaPrintMAX

Software Manual

Rev 1.0

9.2025

1 – Introduction

ContaPrintMAX is a specialized Windows-based software application designed for efficient management of label printing tasks related to the identification of cables, terminals, remote-control switches, device markers, and external nameplate panels. It is used in conjunction with the **TTPCardMAX thermal transfer printer**, enabling precise and high-quality marking of industrial components across various installation environments.

This guide provides the foundational knowledge to help users understand the operating logic of this powerful system, enabling a quick learning curve and effective use in real production environments. The core advantage of ContaPrintMAX lies in its intuitive **graphical user interface (GUI)**, which ensures ease of use, minimizes errors, and speeds up repetitive tasks.

Key benefits include:

- Intelligent virtual printer profiles optimized for different consumables (e.g., terminal markers, cable tags, nameplates)
- Multilingual interface (available in English, German, Italian, French, Spanish, Russian, Polish, and Czech)
- Seamless calibration and centering tools for print precision
- Compatibility with **manual**, **automatic**, inlay based feeding, as well as direct feed printing workflows.
- Integration of feeder, inlay, and cleaning components to ensure long-term print quality and reliability

When launching ContaPrintMAX for the first time, users can choose the application language by selecting the appropriate flag icon. Language preferences can later be changed anytime via the **Tools > Language** menu.

1.1 Terminology and Operational Requirements

1.1.1 Key Terminology

To ensure clarity throughout this guide and while using **ContaPrintMAX**, the following definitions explain core terms that will frequently appear in the software interface and documentation:

- **Job**
  A complete set of data, layout, and printing instructions configured by the user and ready to be sent to the TTPCardMAX printer.
- **Family**
  A grouping of related items or articles that share common physical dimensions or printing specifications. Used for efficient item selection and profile management.
- **Article**
  A specific printable item as listed in the Conta-Clip marker product catalog (e.g., terminal blocks, cable markers, device tags). Each article includes format, material, and compatibility details.

- **Tag**
  The individual labeling cell or printable segment on a marker card. Tags represent the actual writable areas where identifiers such as text or numbers will be printed.
- **Sample**
  For tag types in the Matrix /Flags

The **ContaPrintMAX software** presents tags in structured views, such as **matrices or flag-style layouts**, depending on the selected article format. This visualization helps ensure accurate placement and preview of content before printing.

1.2 Tag Structure & Layout Components

The following terminology explains the key components used within various **marker configurations** (e.g., Matrix, Flag, Name-plate, Strip) in the **ContaPrintMAX** software and visual layouts.

- **Head n.1 (Primary Header)**
  The main heading of the matrix or flag-style layout. Used for upper-row text or key identification lines.
- **Head n.2 (Secondary Header)**
  An optional second heading field for additional labeling or descriptive text (e.g., function, wire type, location).
- **Marker**
  The core printable cell within a layout. Each marker is used to identify cables, terminals, switches, remote-control relays, and other electrical components.
- **Ref (Reference Field)**
  A field typically used to assign a short alphanumeric identifier or reference code to the tag (e.g., L1, A5, GND).
- **Tail / Numbering Field**
  Section used for progressive numbering or suffix values to differentiate between identical items (e.g., A1, A2, A3...).

1.3 Tag Layout Definitions

- **Matrix / Flag**
  A predefined layout article consisting of a structured arrangement of markers placed symmetrically on both the left and right sides (or only one side) of a central axis on the support strip.
- **Name-plate**
  A dedicated article format used to label internal or external panels, typically on push-button stations, pilot lights, or device enclosures.
- **Strip**
  An elongated format article used for identifying modular components on distribution boards, circuit breakers, or DIN rail-mounted devices.
- **Layout**
  The **graphical representation** of the selected article (e.g., marker card, strip, or plate) as it appears in the ContaPrintMAX interface and during print setup. It helps ensure alignment, data entry accuracy, and output preview before printing.

1.4 Tag Layout Examples

The following illustrations provide a visual reference of different **tag configurations** used within the ContaPrintMAX software and printed via the TTPCardMAX system. Each format is associated with specific marker families and determines how individual **tags** (printable units) are arranged on the carrier card.

Figure 1 – Sample of PC/UV-SI2K02W/15N (Cable Marker with Inlay Support)

This format shows a **linear single-row tag matrix**, used for cable markers with insertable tags.
Each tag ("marker") is placed sequentially along the length of the strip. The layout includes:

- Designated print zones per tag
- Arrow indicators for print feed direction (e.g. Arrow symbol ⇧)
- Header/positioning markers (e.g., *head n.1*) for alignment

This format is typical for **CABLES W/INLAY (Print Mode)**.

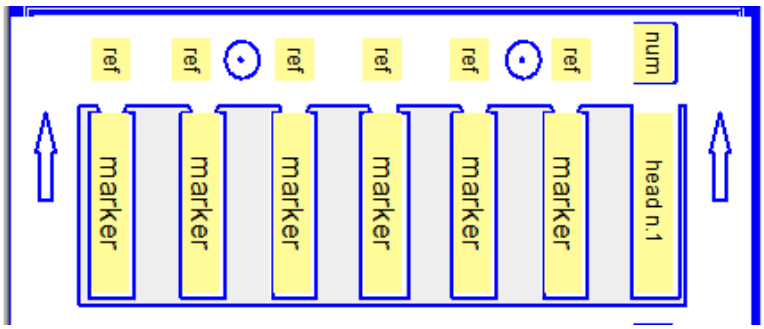


Figure 1: Sample of 33541.7 PC/UV-SI2K02W/15N (Heat Shrink Cable Marker)

Figure 2 – Sample of PC/HF-BSTR-5x12/45 (Terminal Block Marker)

This layout displays a **multi-tag horizontal configuration**, where multiple tags are printed in one row. It includes:

- Header positioning (e.g., *head n.1*)
- Clear segmentation for each tag block via second header (e.g., *head n.2*)
- Top-feed directional alignment (e.g. Arrow symbol ⇧)

Commonly used in **MANUAL T-BLOCKS or AUTO (Print Mode)**, this layout ensures terminal blocks are labeled in parallel rows for clarity during mounting.

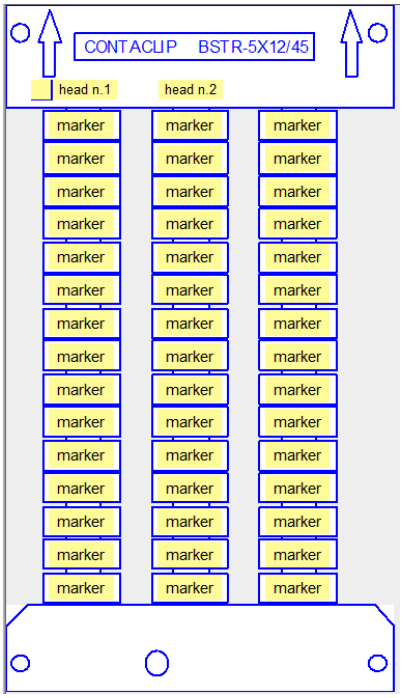


Figure 2: Sample of 33641.7 BSTR-5x12/45 (Terminal Block Marker)

Figure 3 – Sample of PVC-EVO41527W (Device & Installation Marker)

This configuration represents a **3-row vertical tag layout**, ideal for wide-format nameplates or installation markers.
It features:

- Dual head alignment (*head n.1*, *head n.2*)
- Predefined print areas (“marker”) arranged in a grid
- Orientation and series model number along the top and bottom strips

This layout is typically used in **HORIZONTAL HIGH TEMP or LOW TEMP (Print Modes)**, depending on material type and environmental use case.

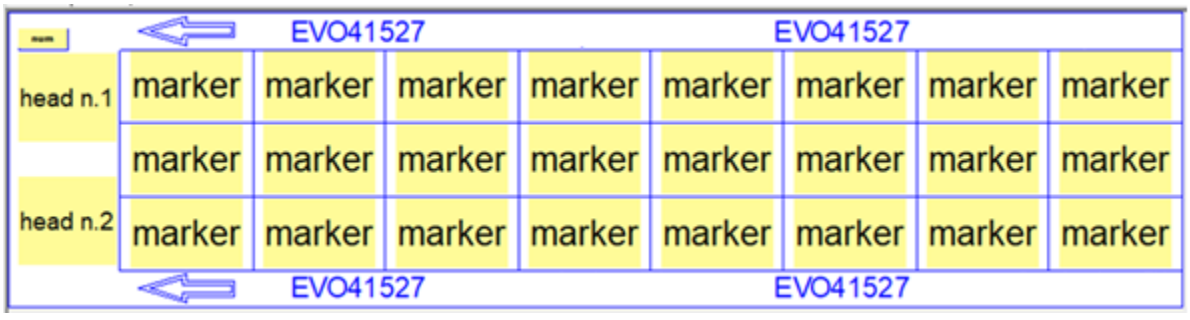


Figure 3: Sample of 33175.7 PVC-EVO41527W (Device & Installation Marker)

Each layout must be matched with its correct **virtual printer profile** in ContaPrintMAX to ensure precise positioning, print quality, and compatibility with the **TTPCardMAX** printer's feed system.

1.5 Operating Environment & User Interface Standards

ContaPrintMAX adheres to standard Windows application conventions, ensuring a familiar and intuitive experience for users. This includes:

- Standardized icons and toolbar layout
- Tooltips and hover descriptions
- Keyboard shortcuts and menu navigation
- Visual cues for active/inactive states

To streamline workflows, frequently used functions are accessible via **Tool bar icons** as shown in Figure 4, while more advanced or less common features are available through the **Menu bar** as shown in Figure 4.

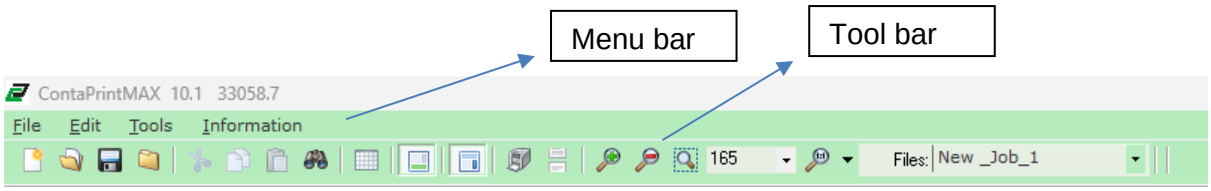


Figure 4: Shows both Menubar and Toolbar located on top of screen

Note: Hovering over any icon with your mouse will display a tooltip and a short description in the lower status bar, ideal for quickly identifying unfamiliar tools.

Navigation & Selection Tips

- Use the **Tab** key to navigate between fields.
- Press **Enter** to confirm input or execute a function, depending on the current context.
- Use **Ctrl** and **Shift** keys to perform multiple selections within fields or lists.

Button Behavior and Status Indicators

- **Greyed-out buttons** indicate a function is temporarily unavailable.
- **Pressed-in buttons** show active functions (e.g., bold text, alignment, or grid toggles). To deactivate, click the same button again or activate an alternative option in the same group.

Language Settings

ContaPrintMAX supports the following interface languages:

- English
- German
- French
- Spanish
- Italian
- Russian
- Polish
- Czech

On first launch, users can choose their preferred language by selecting the appropriate flag. You can change this language setting at any time via the **Tools > Language** menu (*Figure 5*).

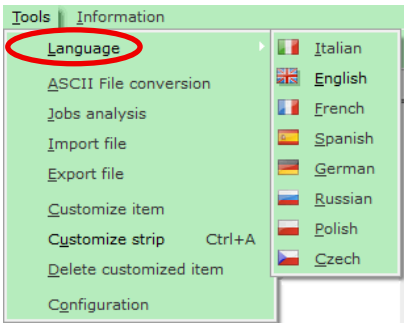


Figure 5: Language Menu selection

2 – Software Interface and Program Functions

2.1 Main Application Layout

The **ContaPrintMAX** main window follows a standard Windows-style layout and is divided into several functional areas to ensure a clear and intuitive user experience. Upon launching the software, the following elements appear:

2.1.1 Article Selection Menu

Allows users to browse and select predefined *articles* (e.g., terminal blocks, markers, components) from the ContaPrintMAX article database. Essential for quickly populating the job sheet with standardized items.

Figure 6: View of Article Selection Window

As shown in Figure 6, once the software icon is pressed, the first screen opened is the Article Selection window and the following areas are activated:

1. Search Bar / Filter field

- Enter part numbers, descriptions, or keywords to filter the article list in real-time.
- Speeds up selection, especially when working with large libraries.

2. Article List/Table

- Displays matching articles from the internal database.
- Columns typically include:
  - Article Number
  - Description
  - Type or Category
  - Manufacturer (if applicable)
  - Virtual Printer Mode, Important for selecting the correct printer to send the final print job to.

3. Preview/Info Pane

- Shows a visual representation with technical details of the selected article.

4. OK/Cancel/Open File

- If the item is selected **OK** will allow that selected time to be modified and worked on in the Work Window
- When **Cancel** is pressed, it Closes the window without inserting any articles.
- When **Open File** is pressed, allows for saved project to be opened.

2.1.2 Selected Item Work Window

Figure 7: View of Work Window Area

As shown in Figure 7, once a job is created or loaded, the following working areas are activated:

1. **Layout View** – Graphical display of the marker plate or strip.

2. **Property Window** – Field editor for tag text and attributes.

3. **Preview Window** – Snapshot of print content.

4. **Generator Window** – Data entry and batch text generation interface.

- **Menu Bar**: Access to all features and system settings.

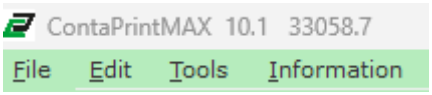


Figure 8: View of Menu Bar

- **Tool Bar**: Shortcut icons for frequently used commands and printing actions.

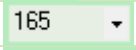
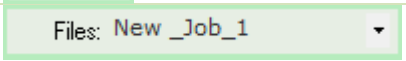
Figure 9: View of Tool Bar

2.2 Toolbar Functions Overview

The toolbar provides immediate access to essential operations such as:

- **New Job** – Start a new mono-article print job.
- **Open Job** – Load a previously saved job.
- **Save Job** – Save the current job.
- **Close Job** – Exit the current job (with save prompt if unsaved).
- **Cut/Copy/Paste** – Manage tag selections.
- **Find/Replace** – Search or substitute text within the active job.
- **Show/Hide Windows** – Toggle visibility of Generator, Property, and Preview windows.
- **Print Manager** – Open the print and spooler management interface.
- **Zoom Controls** – Zoom in/out, fit to width, view entire layout, or reset to standard view.
- **Job Switcher** – View and toggle between multiple open jobs.

Toolbar Icon Legend

Icon	Function
	New Job
	Open Existing Job
	Save Job
	Close Job
	Cut Selected Tags
	Copy Tags
	Paste Tags
	Find / Replace Text
	Show/Hide Bottom Generator Window
	Show/Hide Side Properties Window
	Open Print Manager
	Show Print Queue
	Zoom Out
	Zoom In
	Zoom In Box (Drawing in area)
	Zoom Settings (Fit / Standard)
	Specific Zoom size selection
	Switch Between Jobs

Note: These icons are located in the main toolbar and offer quick access to commonly used features. Hover over any icon in the application to view its tooltip description.

2.3 Property Window

The **Property Window** allows you to directly edit the contents of each tag. It provides text formatting options, image insertion, and dynamic updates for sequential fields created via the Generator.

At the top of the window, the selected tag's **position** such as marker tag reference position is displayed. A live **preview box** shows the expected print output (See Figure 10).

- Use **Tab** to switch between fields, **Enter** to confirm and move to the next tag.

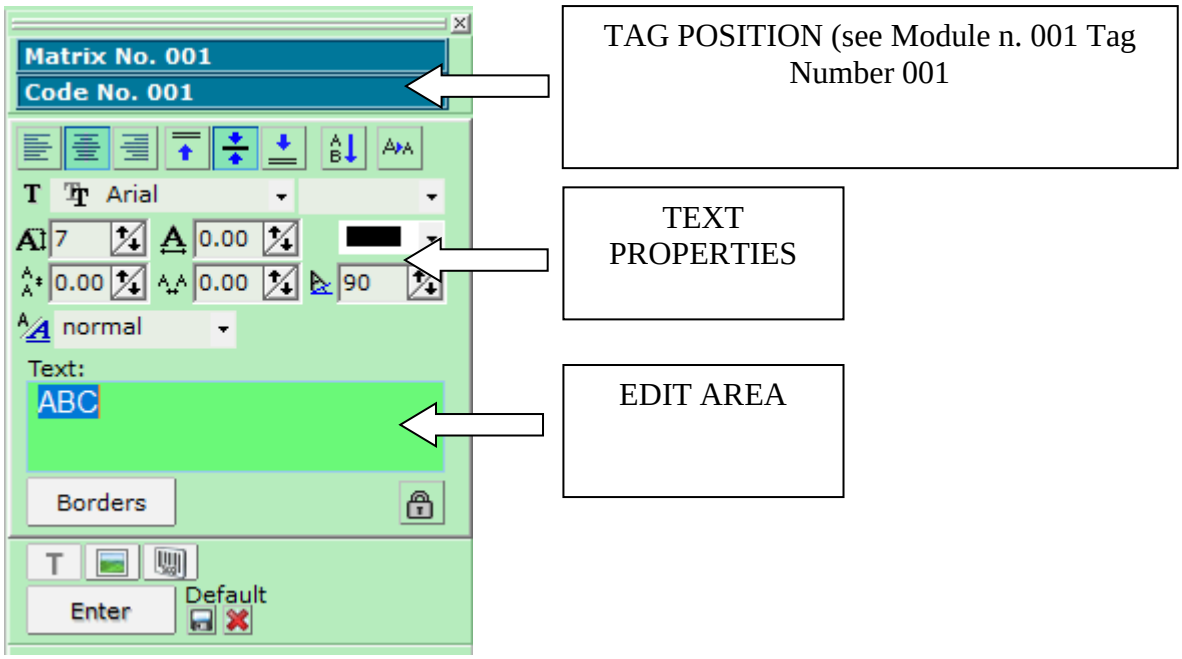


Figure 10: Property Window

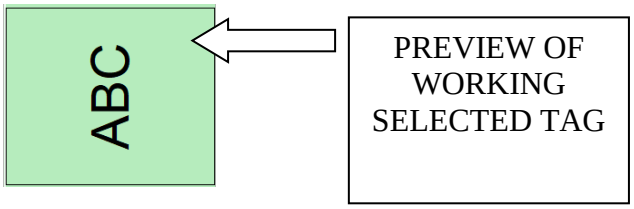


Figure 11: Preview of working selected Tag

When a tag is selected, its **position within the job** is displayed. The preview area shows the **Matrix number** and the **Marker number** corresponding to the selected tag.

The available settings may vary depending on the **type of content**:

- **Text fields** allow adjustments such as font, size, alignment, and spacing.
- **Image fields** enable positioning, scaling, and orientation settings.

At the **bottom of the screen**, a **preview** of the selected tag is displayed. This preview reflects the final printed result.

Note: All changes made are updated **immediately** on the main layout plate. However, if a high zoom level is set, the full contents of the item might not be clearly visible. Adjust the zoom level if necessary to see details.

To proceed to the **next tag**, click the **Enter** button or simply press the **Enter** key.

Save/Restore Tag Settings Icons

When working with text fields in a tag, you will see two special buttons: 

- **Left Button (Save Settings)**
  Saves all the current formatting and text settings (like font, size, alignment, color) for the selected tag type (e.g., Marker, Head1, Head2, Reference, or Tail).
  These settings are stored and will automatically be applied the next time you use the same article.
- **Right Button (Restore Defaults)**
  Resets the selected tag to its original/default values.

This helps save time by keeping your preferred settings ready for future use.

2.3.1 Text Properties

For tags with text content, you can configure:

- Horizontal/Vertical alignment
- Vertical text orientation
- Auto font scaling with minimum height
- Font selection and styling (normal, bold, italic)
- Text size (height and width in points/mm)
- Font color
- Fixed spacing (vertical and horizontal)
- Text rotation angle

Multi-line Input: To write on multiple lines:

1. Select the tag

2. Place the cursor in the text box

3. Press Ctrl + Enter to start a new line

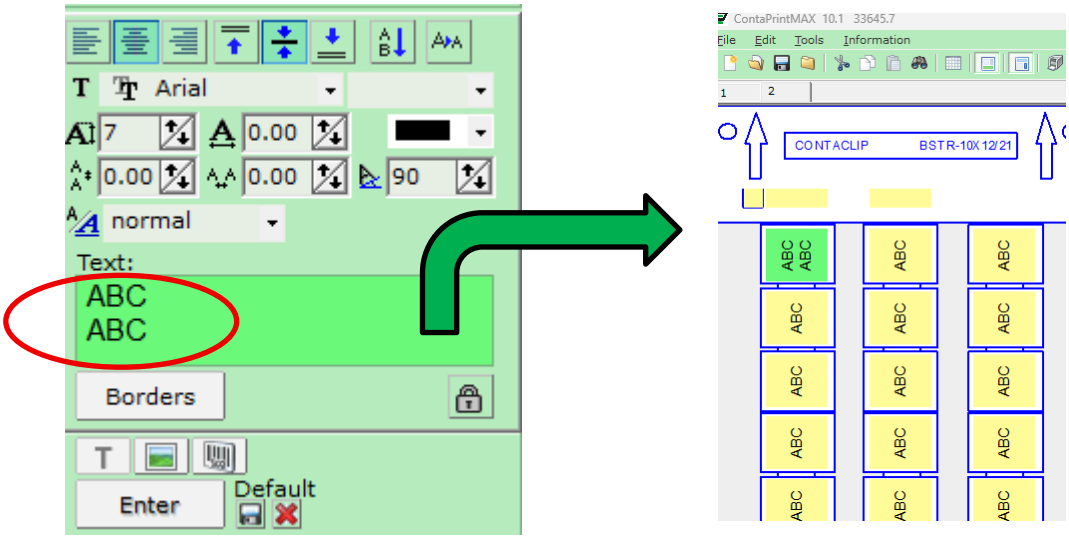


Figure 12: Entering Multiple Lines (line break) in the Property Window

2.3.2 Borders Configuration

By selecting the Borders icon/button, a configuration panel allows:

- Selection of visible sides (top, bottom, left, right)
- Border color and thickness
- Custom content margins (top, bottom, left, right)

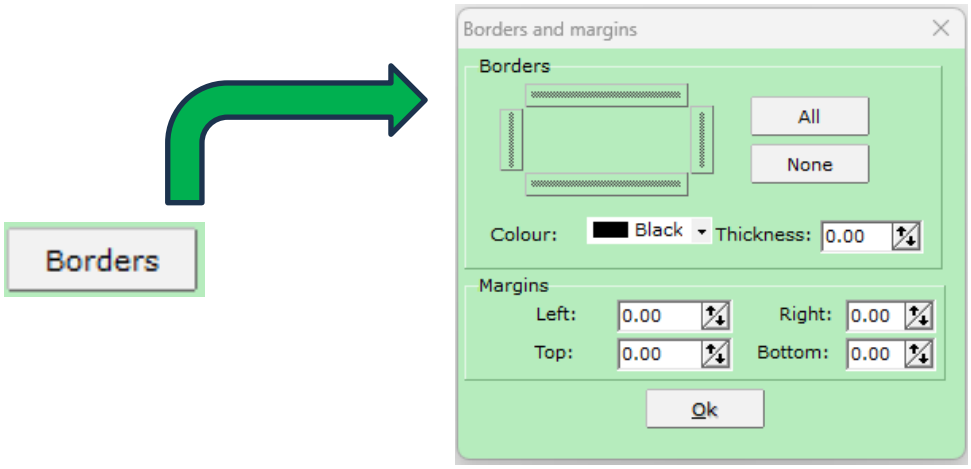


Figure 13: View of Boards and margins Pop-up Window after clicking Boards icon

2.3.3 Picture Properties

Supported formats: .GIF, .JPG, .JPEG, .BMP, .WMF (vector)

When "Picture" is selected in the Property Window:

- Browse and insert a compatible image file.
- Preview is shown before confirmation.
- You can adjust:
    - Left/Top offsets to reposition
    - Height/Width dimensions
    - Maintain or stretch aspect ratio
    - Flip image vertically/horizontally

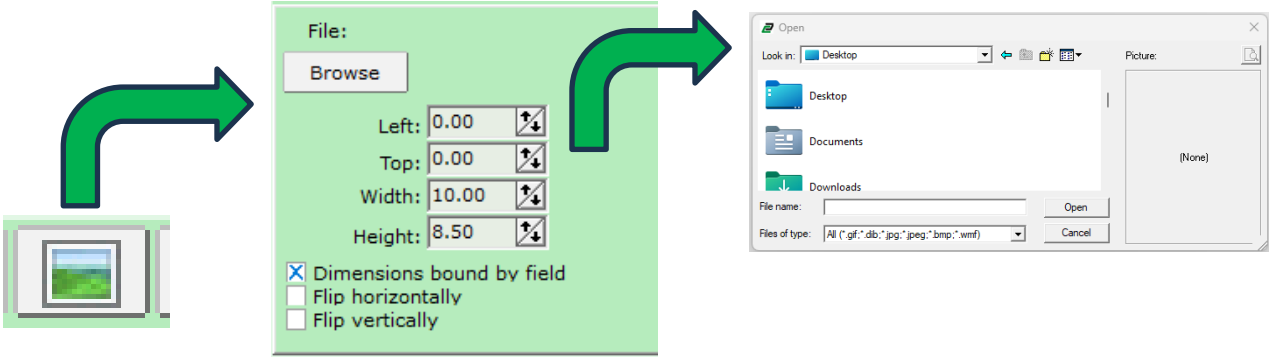


Figure 14: View of Picture Window and import window after clicking Picture icon

When you choose the **“Picture”** option in the Property Window, the software will ask you to select an image file from your computer.

- To insert an image:
  Select a file (e.g. .jpg, .bmp, .gif) and click **Open** (or double-click the file). The image will appear inside the tag.
- To change the image later:
  Click the **"Browse"** button to pick a new file.

Once the picture is inserted, you can adjust it in the following ways:

- **Positioning**:
  Move the image inside the tag using the **Left** and **Top** margin values.
  - Higher **Left** value = moves image right
  - Lower or negative **Left** = moves image left
  - Higher **Top** = moves image down
  - Lower or negative **Top** = moves image up
- **Resize**:
  Change the image's height and width using the respective input fields.
- **Stretch to fit**:
  Lock the image to fill the tag area (may stretch/distort the image).
- **Flip**:
  - Flip horizontally (mirror left/right)
  - Flip vertically (upside down)

Switching back to "Text" will remove the image and restore previous settings.

2.3.4 Barcode Properties

ContaPrintMAX supports a wide range of 1D and 2D barcodes:

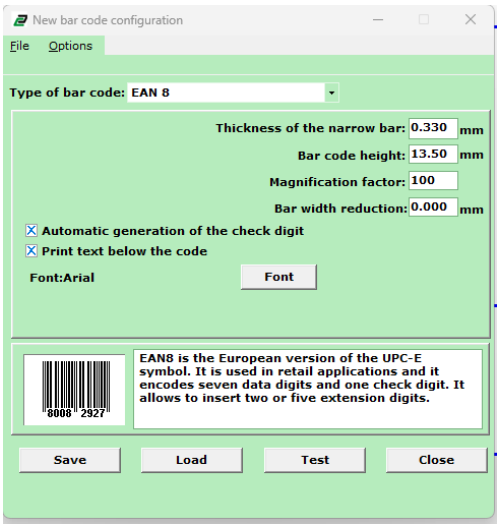


Figure 15: Barcode configuration window

- EAN-8, EAN-13, UPC-A, UPC-E, EAN UCC 128 (now GS1-128)
- Code 39 (Normal & Full ASCII), Code 93, Code 128, Code 32
- Interleave 2/5, Codabar
- PDF417 (2D)
- PDF417 (Bidimensionale)

Example of an EAN-13 barcode for Germany:

While specific examples are proprietary, a hypothetical structure for a German EAN-13 could look like:

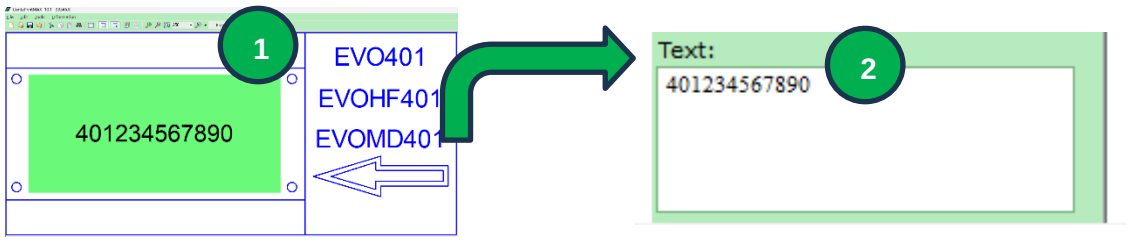
401 23456 7890 1

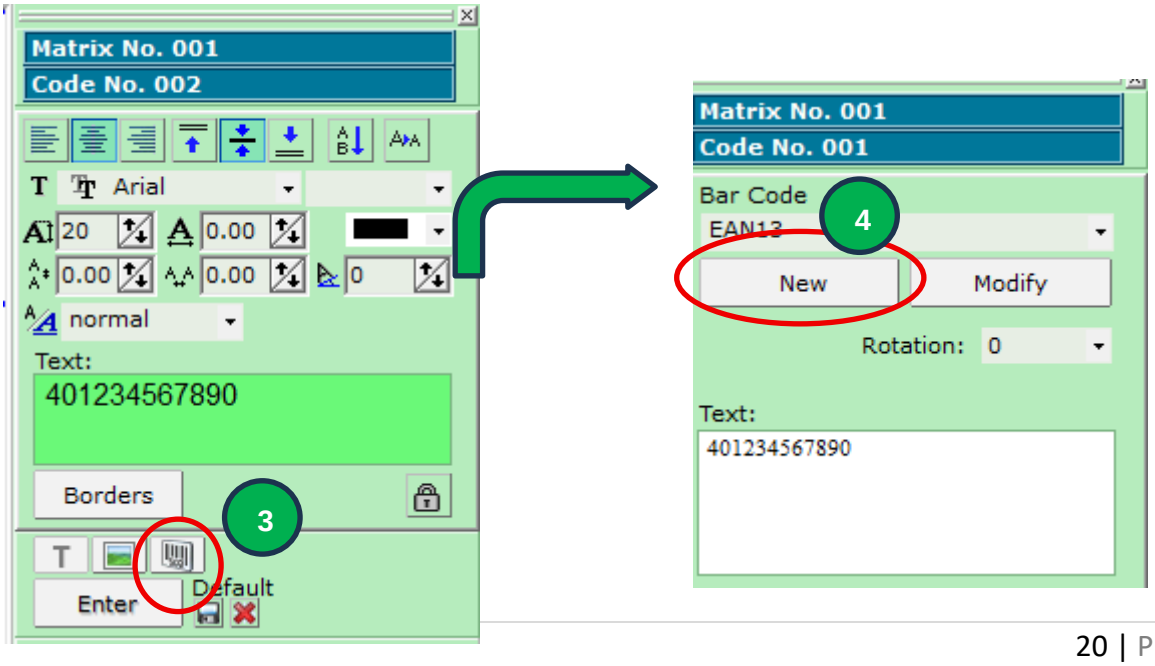
- **401**: Country prefix for Germany.
- **23456**: Manufacturer's company prefix.
- **7890**: Article number for a specific product.
- **1**: The calculated check digit. (Calculated by Software)

How to Add an EAN-13 Barcode in ContaPrintMAX

1. **Select the Tag** where you want the barcode.
2. In the **text field**, type the **12-digit barcode number** (the software will calculate the 13th check digit automatically).
3. Click on the **"Barcode" tab** in the Property Window.
4. Then click **"New"** to open the barcode setup window.
5. In the barcode settings screen:
    - Choose **EAN-13** as the barcode type.
    - Click **"Save"** to confirm.
6. Click **"Close"** to exit the setup.

Here are the steps above illustrated. Your barcode will now appear on the tag in the layout view.





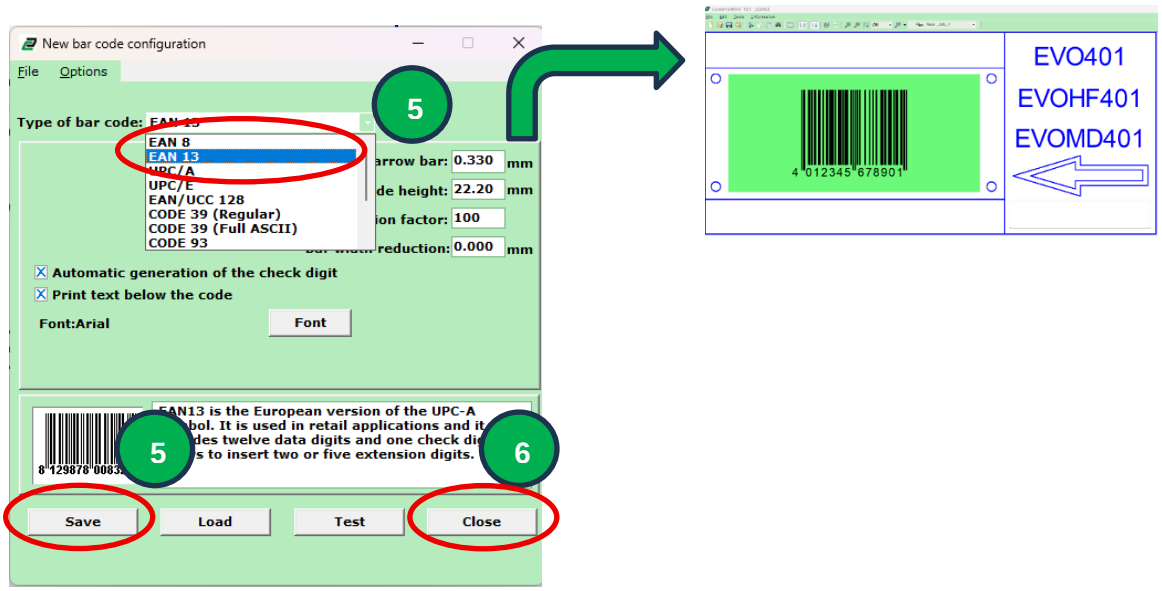


Figure 16: Example of Barcode creation process

Custom barcode configurations can be saved and assigned to specific tags as required.

2.4 Preview Window

Displays the entire print module layout, allowing real-time interaction with tag content. Select tags with your mouse to view or modify them (see Figure 15).

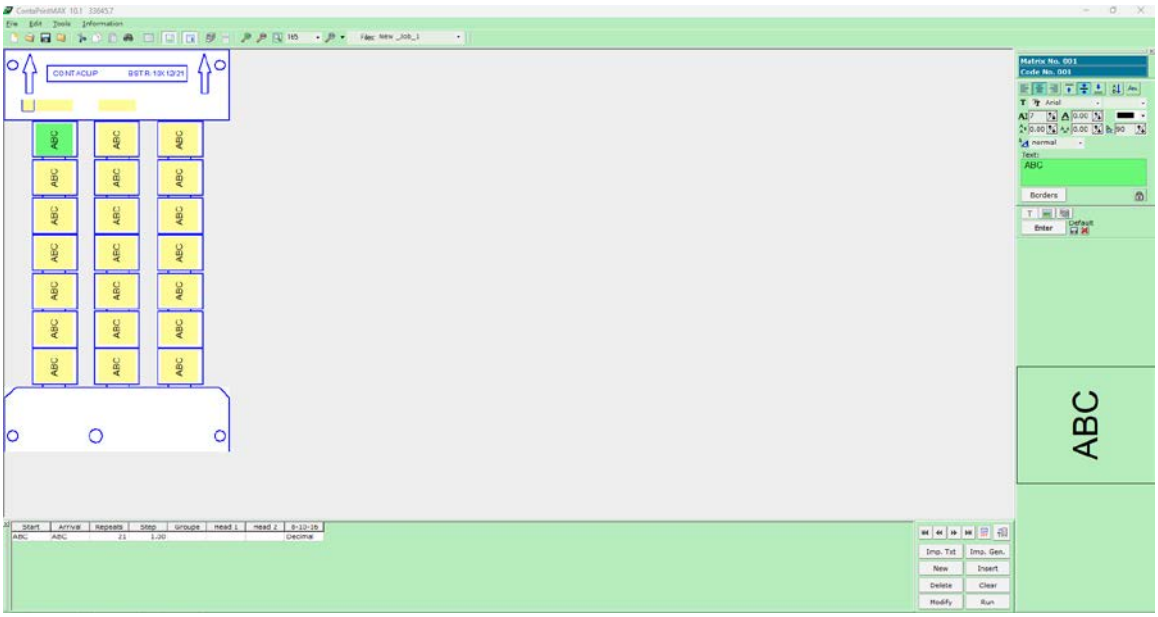


Figure 17: View of Preview Window

2.5 Generator Window

The Generator Window is used for structured data entry:

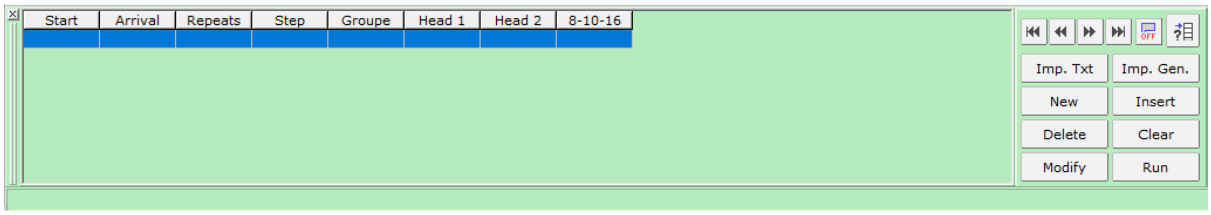


Figure 18: Generator Window

- Input static or dynamic content for each tag
- Generate numeric or alphanumeric sequences

Refer to **Chapter 5 – Managing the Data Generator** for detailed configuration and usage.

More often used is the Excel like Generator Window as shown in (Figure 17). Refer to Chapter 5 – 5.2 Excel-Like Generator Mode.

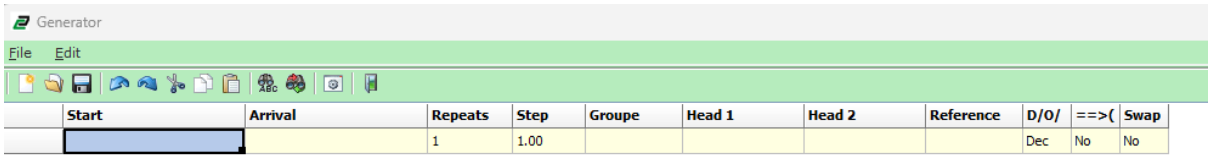


Figure 19: Excel Like Generator Window (Most often used)

3 – ContaPrintMAX Program Menu

Most of the ContaPrintMAX functions are available directly via the toolbar, but some can only be accessed through the main menus (see Figure 18).

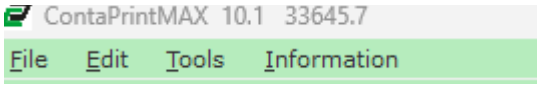


Figure 20: MAIN Menu

The menus categories in ContaPrintMAX include:

- **File**
- **Edit**
- **Tools**
- **Information**

3.1 “File” Menu

The **File** menu provides essential functions for managing your jobs:

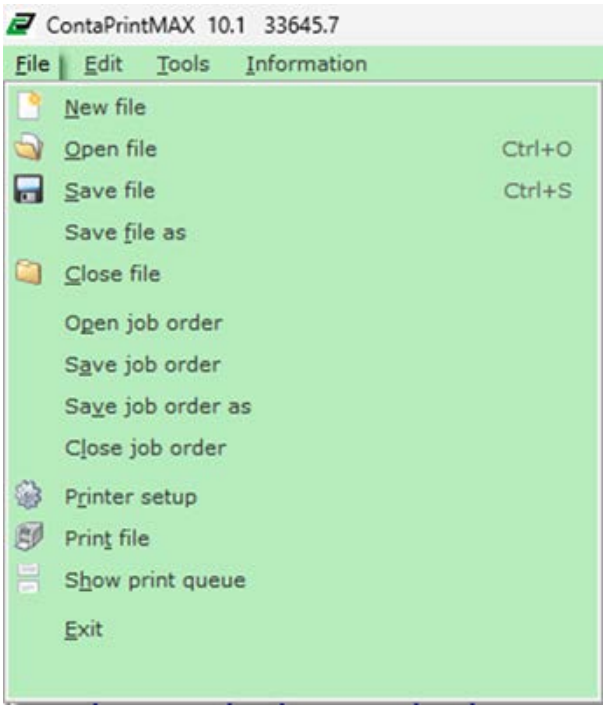


Figure 21: FILE Menu

Option	Description
New File	Start a new job. Opens the Article selection window.
Open File	Open a previously saved job.
Save File	Save the current job.
Save File As	Save the current job with a new name.
Close File	Close the current job with a save prompt.
Open Job Order	Open a job batch that includes multiple jobs.
Save Job Order	Save all currently open jobs as one batch.
Save Job Order As	Save the job batch with a new name.
Close Job Order	Close all jobs in the current job batch.
Printer Setup	Manage and configure available printer devices.
Print File	Open the print interface for the current job.
Show Print Queue	Manage queued print jobs.
Exit	Close ContaPrintMAX and all open jobs.

3.1.1 New File

- Opens the **Article Selection Window** where you can browse or search for a print article.
- Articles are organized by:
  - **Application** (e.g., Terminal Blocks Marker)
  - **Material Type** (e.g., PC/HF
- Select the Item Consumable with a Double-Click of the Mouse. The Item Consumable will appear on screen.

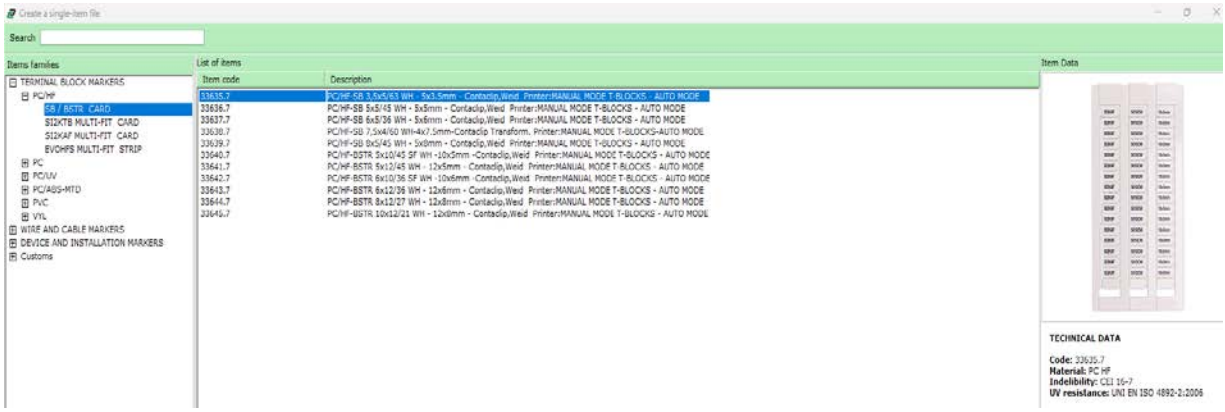


Figure 22: View of Consumable selection window

3.1.2 Open File

- Load a saved job for editing or printing.
- Use the **Browse** button to locate the file. 
- Click **Open** or double-click the file name to load it.
- When opening a file, the **Used Item** field will automatically populate to show the marker/article # that was used for the project.

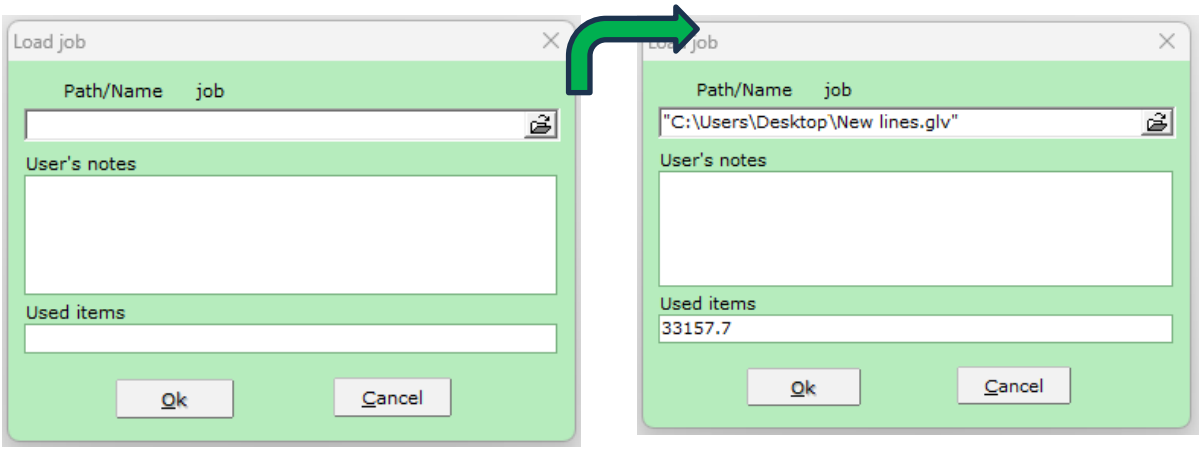


Figure 23: Load job pop-up window to open file

The possible User's notes can be shown if the user has inserted them while saving the job.

3.1.2.1 Open File (.CSV)*

ContaPrintMAX allows users to import structured data using files saved in the **.CSV (Comma Separated Values)** format. This enables efficient label creation based on external data sources, such as Excel spreadsheets or electrical design software.

3.1.2.2 Create and Save the .CSV File (In Excel)

You can prepare the data in **Microsoft Excel** or another spreadsheet application. The file must follow a specific structure where each row corresponds to a label and each column to a label field.

Once your data is ready in Excel:

- Click on **File → Save As**
- Choose the format **CSV (Comma delimited) (*.csv)**
- Ensure that the file uses **semicolon (;)** as the field separator (this is common in European regional settings).

Note: The .csv file must be in **ASCII format**, with semicolons separating the fields. Each column must follow the structure expected by ContaPrintMAX.

3.1.2.3 CSV Column Structure

The following fields are typically included in the .csv file (in order):

Field Name	Required	Description
Group	Yes	Logical grouping of labels
Head 1	Yes	Main identifier or description field
Head 2	Yes	Secondary identifier or description field
Reference	Yes	Technical or project reference
Repetitions	Yes	Number of times this label should be printed
Tag Marker	Yes	The actual marker or label text
Item Codification	Yes	Article number or item code
Millimeters	No	(Optional) Tag size or length in mm
Octal/Decimal	No	(Optional) Number system format (decimal, octal, hex)

3.1.2.4 Importing the CSV in ContaPrintMAX

1. **Open ContaPrintMAX**.
2. From the **File** menu, choose **Open File**.
3. In the file dialog window:
    - Select **File Type** as CSV Files (*.csv)
    - Browse to the location of your .csv file and select it.
4. Click **Open**.

The software will read the data and map each row of the .csv file to a marker tag in your layout. It will automatically assign the fields as long as the format matches the expected structure.

3.1.2.5 Notes on Data Import

- **Dynamic Tags**: If the "Repetitions" column has values greater than 1, ContaPrintMAX will automatically replicate that label accordingly.
- **Item Codification** must match an article available in your ContaPrintMAX library. If the item is not found, the job may not load correctly.
- **Character Encoding**: If you encounter issues with special characters (like ä, ö, ü), ensure the .csv file is saved in **ANSI** or **UTF-8 without BOM** format.
- **Advanced Users**: For more control over mapping or importing from software like EPLAN or AutoCAD Electrical, use the **ASCII File Conversion** tool under the **Tools** menu.

3.1.3 Save File

- Save the job at any time.
- If it's a new job, you'll be prompted to name it and choose a folder.
- Existing jobs will be overwritten unless you use "Save As".
- Multiple files are created:
    - .cms for data
    - .glv for layout/graphics

3.1.3.1 Save File (.CSV)*

- Save the current job data in CSV format for future reuse (see Section 3.1.2.2 to 3.1.2.4 for more details)

3.1.3.2 Save File As

- Save your job under a new name while keeping the original.

3.1.3.3 Close File

- Prompts to save changes and closes the job.

3.1.3.4 Open Job Order

The Open Job Order function allows you to reopen a previously saved batch of jobs that were grouped together using the Save Job Order or Save Job Order As functions.

This is useful for managing **related print jobs** that need to be executed, edited, or printed together, such as all labels for a specific panel, client, or production batch.

How It Works (see figure 21):

1. Go to the **File** menu.
2. Select **Open Job Order**.
3. A file dialog will appear, locate and select the **.cms** (job order) file you previously saved.
4. Click **Open**.

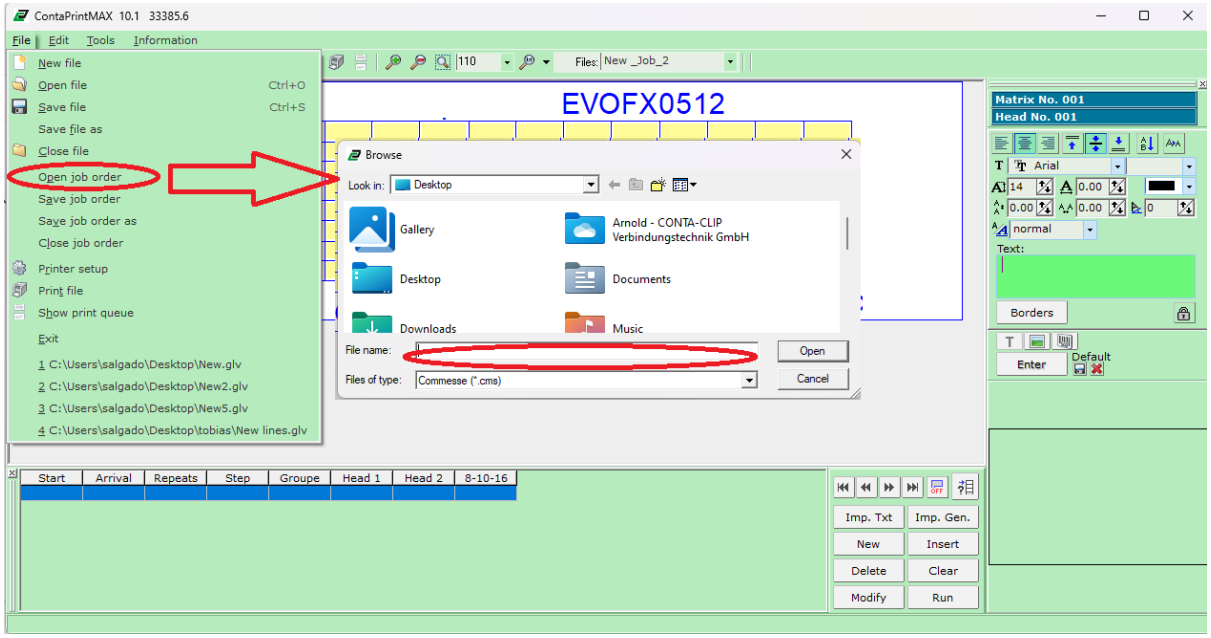


Figure 24: Job Order Open Procedure

All the jobs included in that job order will be automatically opened in ContaPrintMAX.

What Happens Internally:

- **Each job file** referenced in the job order is opened.
- Any jobs currently open in the software will be **closed first**, to avoid mixing them with the job order's contents.
- If one or more job files listed in the order **are missing or have been moved**, the software will show an error message for each missing job.

Why Use Job Orders?

- To **group jobs** that belong to the same project.
- To ensure **consistent and repeatable printing** workflows.
- To avoid manually reopening each job one by one.
- To retain customer and project metadata (Customer, Dates, Notes, etc.).

Best Practices:

- **Don't rename or move** the individual job files after saving the job order. If you do, ContaPrintMAX won't be able to find them when you reopen the job order.

- Use **consistent folder organization** (e.g., by client or project) to keep related job files and orders together.

3.1.4 Save Job Order

To save multiple open jobs together as a single grouped file, called a **Job Order** so they can be reopened and printed together later.

What is a Job Order?

A **Job Order** in ContaPrintMAX is a collection of one or more individual jobs (print files) grouped into a single unit. This is especially useful for batch printing, organizing projects by client or installation phase, or managing jobs that need to be reprinted frequently.

When to Use It:

- You have multiple jobs open and want to save them together as one set.
- You want to preserve the exact combination of jobs for future reprinting.
- You're organizing work by project, department, or production line.

How It Works:

1. Open or create multiple jobs in ContaPrintMAX.
2. Go to the **File** menu.
3. Select **Save Job Order** or **Save Job Order As**.
4. If any jobs have not been saved yet, the system will prompt you to save them first.
5. Enter a name for your job order (e.g., Panel_A_Batch1.cms).
6. ContaPrintMAX creates a .cms (job order) file that stores the paths to each individual job.

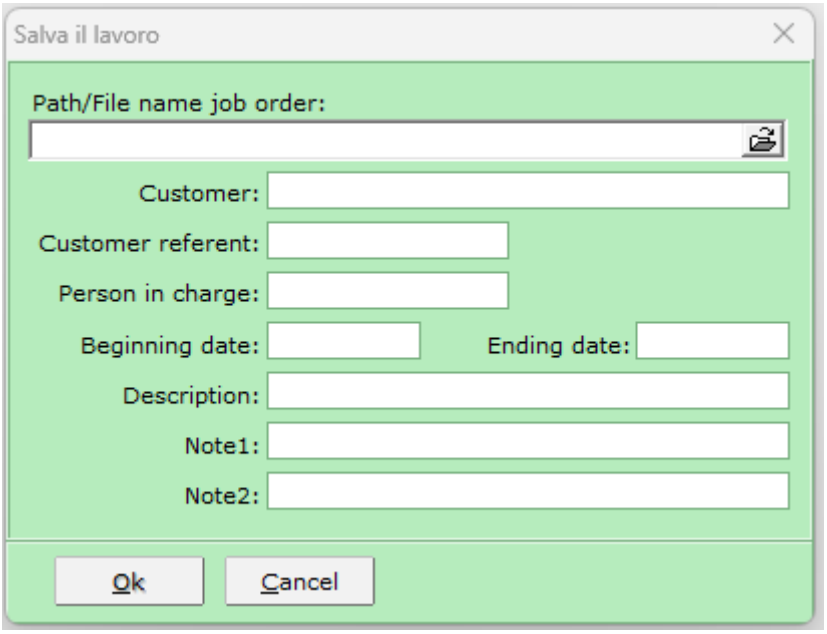


Figure 25: Save Job Order pop-up window to save file

This green dialog window titled **“Salva il lavoro”** (Save the job) is the interface used to **save a Job Order** in **ContaPrintMAX**. Here's an explanation of each field:

Path/File name job order:

Specifies the **file name and save location** for the job order.

- Click the **folder icon** to browse and select a destination folder.
- The file will be saved with a `.cms` or similar extension (Job Order file).

Definitions of the Load job window:

Field	Description	Examples / Usage
Customer	The company or client name associated with the job order.	Useful for project tracking, invoicing, or client-specific documentation.
Customer Referent	The main contact person on the customer side.	E.g., Project Manager, Technical Lead, or Procurement Contact.
Person in Charge	Internal staff member responsible for managing the job.	Usually the operator, engineer, or project owner from your team.
Beginning Date / Ending Date	Defines the planned start and completion dates of the job.	Useful for scheduling, progress tracking, and version control.
Description	A short explanation of the job order and its purpose.	E.g., “Cable marker labeling for Control Panel A” or “Batch 2025-01 project scope.”
Note1 / Note2	Optional custom note fields for additional information.	Flexible use: delivery instructions, batch numbers, revision notes, customer-specific remarks.
OK	Saves the job order with all entered information.	Confirms and stores the data.
Cancel	Closes the window without saving any changes.	Exits without applying modifications.

Note:

- **All open jobs** will be included in the job order.
- Next time you use **Open Job Order**, all those saved jobs will open automatically, ready for review, editing, or printing.
- If any referenced jobs are moved or deleted after saving the job order, ContaPrintMAX will alert you with a missing file message when trying to reopen it.

3.1.5 Save Job Order As

This function allows you to **save the currently open group of jobs** as a new **Job Order** file, using a custom name and including detailed job information (such as customer name, description, and dates).

It is especially useful when you want to:

- **Create a new job order** based on current work
- **Avoid overwriting an existing job order**
- **Version control** (e.g., save as Revision A, B, etc.)
- **Document project details** for traceability

NOTE: Before using **Save Job Order As**, you need to:

Step 1 — Save Each Open Job Individually

1. Go to **File → Save As** for each open job.
2. Give each job a proper filename (e.g., `Main_Panel.glv`, `Cable_Terminals.glv`, etc.).
3. Confirm that in the title bar, none of the jobs show as **"New_Job"** anymore.

Step 2 — Create the Job Order

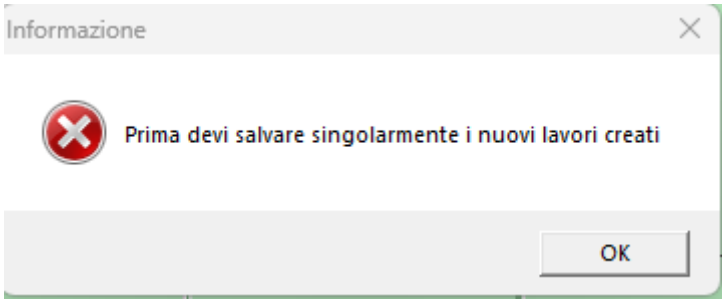
1. Once all jobs have their own saved filenames:
   - Go to **File → Save Job Order As**.
2. Fill in the fields in the Job Order Save window:
   - **Path / File name job order** → e.g., `ABC_Panel_Set.cms`
   - **Customer**, **Person in Charge**, **Description**, etc.
3. Click **OK**.
4. ContaPrintMAX will now save a **.cms Job Order file** that references all the individual saved jobs.

Example

Scenario:
You opened three jobs but didn't save them yet:

- `New_Job_1`
- `New_Job_2`
- `Cable_Tags.glv` (already saved)

What happens if you try to Save Job Order As now:
You get the **same popup** because `New_Job_1` and `New_Job_2` are unsaved.



Correct workflow:

- Save `New_Job_1` → rename to `Panel_A.glv`
- Save `New_Job_2` → rename to `Panel_B.glv`
- Now all three jobs are saved → `Save Job Order As` works ✅.

How to Use It (only if individual files are saved):

1. Open multiple job files in ContaPrintMAX that you want to save together.
2. Go to the **File** menu → Select **Save Job Order As**.
3. A green **Job Order Save window** will appear (see your screenshot).
4. Fill in the following fields:

    - **Path/File name job order**: Choose where and under what name to save the job order (use the folder icon to browse).
    - **Customer**: Name of the client/company.
    - **Customer Referent**: Contact person on the client's side.
    - **Person in Charge**: Internal responsible person/operator.
    - **Beginning Date / Ending Date**: Project timeline or delivery window.
    - **Description**: Project summary or purpose of the job batch.
    - **Note 1 / Note 2**: Any additional instructions, remarks, or reference codes.

5. Click **OK** to save the job order.

The system will now save a **.cms (Job Order)** file that includes:

- The list of all currently open job files (e.g., `.cms`, `.glv`)
- All the info you've entered in the form

Example Use Case:

You're working on labels for **Client ABC's electrical panel**. You open:

- Main_Panel.cms
- Cable_Terminals.cms
- Warning_Labels.cms

You go to **File > Save Job Order As**, name it `ABC_Panel_Set.cms`, and fill in the customer and project details.

Later, you or a colleague can simply open `ABC_Panel_Set.cms`, and all three jobs will reopen together, ready to print or edit.

Important Notes:

- If any open jobs haven't been saved yet, ContaPrintMAX will prompt you to save them **before** creating the job order.
- Make sure not to rename or move the individual job files after saving the job order—doing so may break the links when reopening.

3.1.6 Close Job Order

What it does:

- **Ends the active editing session** of the Job Order.
- Ensures all changes are either saved (if prompted and confirmed by the user) or discarded if not saved.
- Frees up the interface so that another Job Order can be opened or created.

When to use:

- After you've completed editing or printing a job.
- Before switching to another Job Order to avoid data conflicts.
- When exiting the software or wrapping up a session.

User prompt:

- If the Job Order has unsaved changes, the software will prompt:
    - **"Do you want to save changes to this Job Order before closing?"**
    - The user can choose to **save**, **discard**, or **cancel** the closing operation.

Important notes:

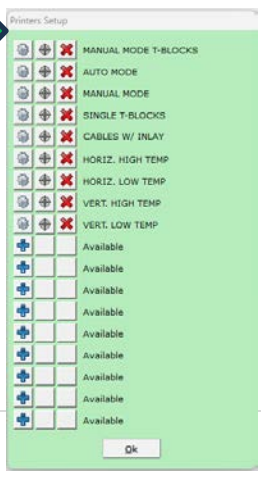
- This action **does not delete the Job Order** from the system or hard drive—it only closes it from the current session.
- If you accidentally close a Job Order without saving, **unsaved changes will be lost** unless autosave is enabled or a backup exists.

3.1.7 Printer Setup

The **"Printer Setup"** function in the ContaPrintMAX software is used to configure how the system communicates with the thermal transfer printer, ensuring accurate and optimized printing of your labels and markers. It is a critical configuration area where users define which printer profiles are available and how they are set up for use. These profiles directly correspond to different printing modes, depending on the type of marker card and inlay being used.

The Printer Setup window displays a list of **predefined virtual printer profiles**, each one optimized for specific print jobs:

Printer Mode	Functionality
MANUAL MODE T-BLOCKS	Used for manual printing of BSTR or SB-type terminal block markers.
AUTO MODE	For automatic feeder mode, commonly used with SI2KAF or SI2KTM cards.
MANUAL MODE	General manual mode for terminal or cable cards, requires correct inlay.



SINGLE T-BLOCKS	For printing individual T-blocks; uses single feeder inlay.
CABLES W/ INLAY	Cable markers with inlay and automatic feeder.
HORIZ. HIGH TEMP	Horizontal markers with high-temp material like PMMA/PUR.
HORIZ. LOW TEMP	Horizontal markers made of PVC or similar low-temp material.
VERT. HIGH TEMP	Vertical markers, same materials as above, but for portrait layout.
VERT. LOW TEMP	For vertical low-temp markers, such as EVO/EVOCT.

Each profile has three action buttons:

Gear icon = Modify or view settings 

Crosshair icon = Centering/Alignment 

Red X = Delete the virtual printer profile 

Below that, you can add additional profiles by clicking the +  **"Available" entries.**

What You Can Do in this Section:

- **Activate/Deactivate** virtual printer profiles
- **Edit Profile Settings** (Size, Orientation, Media Type, Density)
- **Adjust Centering & Calibration** for specific X and Y offsets
- **Create New Custom Profiles** for non-standard markers or future expansion

User Manual Reference:

For step-by-step instructions and in-depth configuration, **refer to:**

- **User Manual Section 4.3.2 – "Virtual Printer Settings – Via ContaPrintMAX"**
- **User Manual Section 4.3.3 – "Virtual Printer Summary of Settings"**
- **User Manual Section 5 – "Printing Basics – Selecting the Right Mode"**

These sections explain:

- How to import default printer profiles
- What each mode is used for
- The accessories (inlays/feeders) required for each mode
- How to calibrate and center each device

General Note:

Make sure each profile's **pre-defined configuration is retrieved** using the "Retrieve" function to ensure correct alignment and density settings. You can do this by clicking the gear icon, selecting *Profiles > Retrieve*, and confirming the default configuration (see Figure 23).

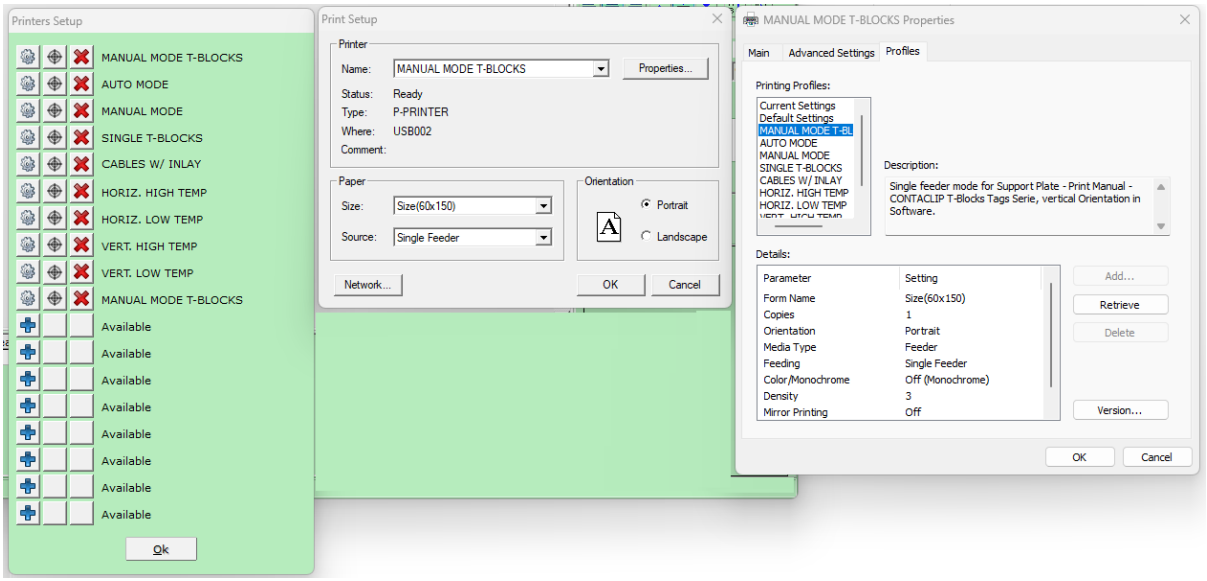


Figure 26: "Retrieve functionality" to reset to factory default

3.1.8 Print File

- Opens the print settings screen.

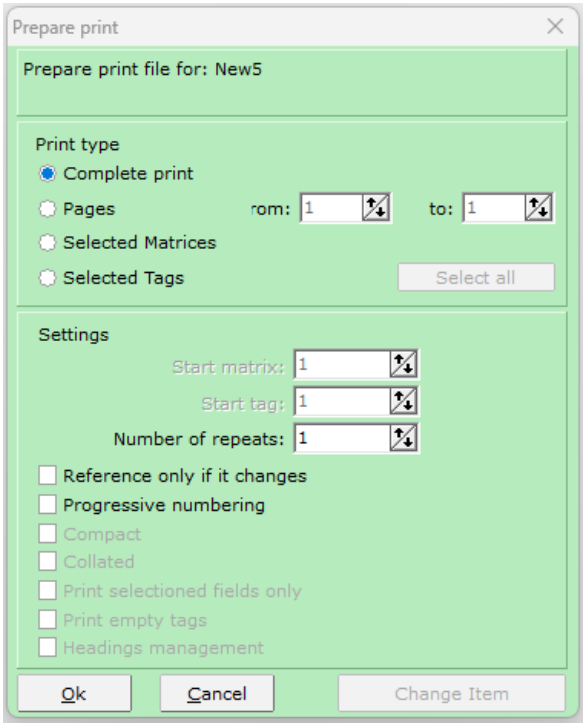


Figure 27: Print Screen Pop-up window

See Chapter 7 – How to perform print-Outs for all the detailed Instructions.

3.1.9 Show Print Queue

The "**Show Print Queue"** function in ContaPrintMAX allows users to **access and manage print queue files** that were created through the Print File options. These files represent a full set of print jobs grouped and saved together for future use.

What Is a Print Queue File?

A **Print Queue File is** a file generated when using the "Print File" function (e.g., Print → Complete Print → Save as Print Queue). It stores the data and layout for a specific job batch, allowing it to be reviewed, stored, or reprinted at a later time.

Key Features:

1. **Print Preview**
    - After selecting a saved Print Queue file, you can press the **Preview button** ( icon or similar).
    - This opens a **real preview of the print job**, showing exactly how the markers or tags will be printed, layout and all.
    - This is helpful for verifying alignment, font, and tag sequencing **before sending to the printer**.
2. **Send Print Queue to Printer**
    - Once the queue file is confirmed, press the **Print button** ( icon) for any of the virtual printers for which that marker is suited for.

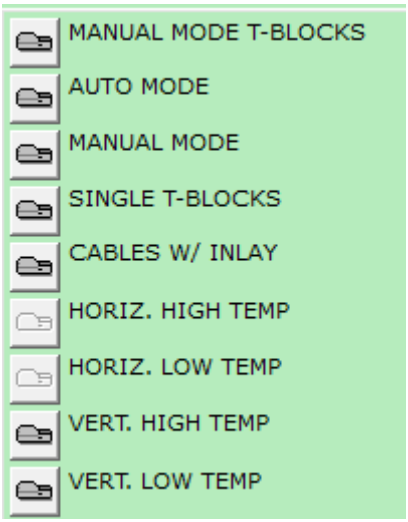


Figure 28: Virtual Printer Selection Pop-up window

- The selected printer (based on the chosen virtual printer mode) will begin printing the file.

- This enables **batch printing**, **repeat printing**, or **offline job preparation** to be sent when the printer is ready.

Why Use This Function?

- To **reprint previously saved jobs** without recreating them.
- To **batch process** multiple print jobs at once.
- To **preview the exact output layout** before committing to a print run.
- To **ensure print consistency** across shifts or locations by saving queue files centrally.

3.1.10 Exit

- Exits ContaPrintMAX and prompts to save open jobs.

3.2 “Edit” Menu

Purpose:
The Edit menu (see Figure 18) in ContaPrintMAX allows users to manage and manipulate data directly within the job layout window. It supports operations like copy, paste, search/replace, and advanced selection methods to improve workflow efficiency.

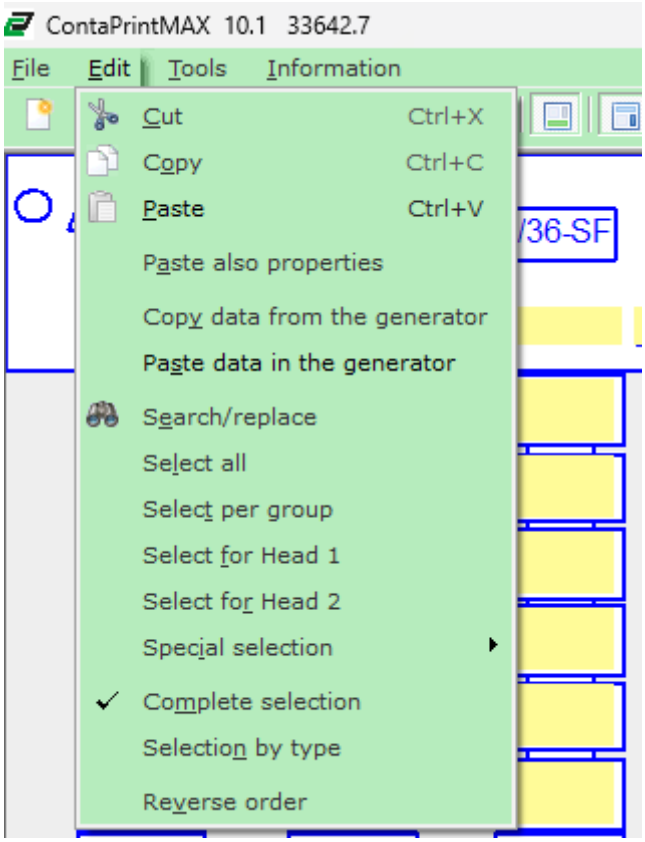


Figure 29: EDIT Menu

3.2.1 Data Management: Cut, Copy, Paste

Cut

- Removes the selected item(s) from the worksheet.
- Simultaneously stores them in the clipboard so they can be pasted elsewhere.
- Equivalent to “cutting” a segment of text or graphic from a document.

Copy

- Copies the selected item(s) into the clipboard **without removing them** from the layout.
- Useful for duplicating marker labels, headers, or other graphical/text elements.

Paste

- Inserts previously **copied or cut** items into the layout, beginning from the currently selected position.
- Maintains general layout and spacing depending on the position selected.

Paste Also Properties

- Pastes not only the content but also the formatting (e.g., font size, alignment, label type).
- If the copied item was labeled with specific properties, those are preserved **unless pasted onto existing items**—in which case, the target's properties may overwrite them.

3.2.2 Copy Data from the Generator

- Extracts or duplicates the generated sequence (e.g., numbers, text) from the **Generator window**.
- Useful when you want to reuse or modify previously generated sequences.

3.2.3 Paste Data in the Generator

- Inserts external or copied data **into the Generator window**, which then propagates across tags.
- Allows for bulk updates or imports from external text or spreadsheet tools.

3.2.4 Search / Replace

- Searches for specific characters, numbers, or sequences across the open job.
- You can:
    - Find all instances of a string (e.g., “L1”)
    - Replace them with another (e.g., “N”)
- Supports batch editing of marker text, helpful for quick corrections or renaming.

3.2.5 Select All

- Instantly selects **all elements** (markers, headers, references) in the job layout.
- Ideal for applying a universal style or mass update.

3.2.6 Select per Group

- Selects items based on their **group association** (e.g., a batch of markers from the same category).
- Groups are defined during generation (e.g., Head1, Head2, Cable Group A).

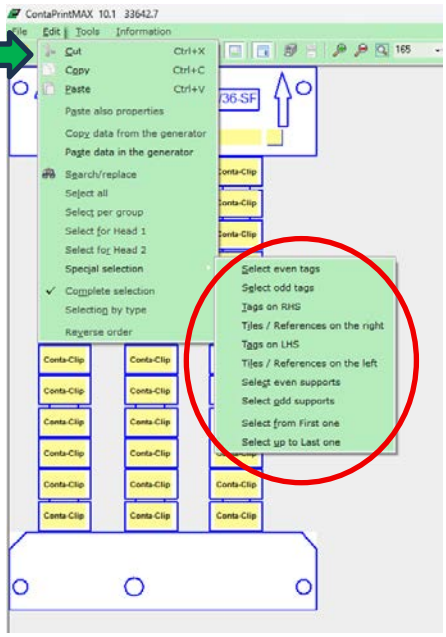
3.2.7 & 3.2.8 Select for Head 1 / Head 2

- Filters and selects only the tags/items assigned to **Head 1** or **Head 2**.
- Useful when working with dual-header or two-part identifiers (e.g., left/right column identification).

3.2.9 Special Selection

- Allows granular filtering within an already active selection. You can refine your selection by:

Filter Option	Description
Even tags	Selects tags with even index numbers
Odd tags	Selects tags with odd index numbers
Right tags	Selects tags positioned on the right half of the layout
Left tags	Selects tags on the left half
Even supports	Selects only even-numbered support strips
Odd supports	Selects only odd-numbered support strips
Select from the first	From the first item up to the selected one
Select up to the last	From the selected item to the last available tag



Note: Selections are **exclusive**. For example, if you select Even tags, and then immediately select Odd tags without resetting the selection, the result will be empty (as both cannot exist in one filtered view).

3.2.10 Complete Selection

- Ignores item types and selects **everything visible** in the layout: markers, headers, references, etc.
- Useful for copying/exporting the full job.

3.2.11 Selection by Type

- Selects **only one type** of item (e.g., only markers, only headers).
- Helps isolate certain components for formatting, moving, or deletion.

3.2.12 Reverse Order

- Reverses the **order** of selected markers.
- For example: if markers are arranged 1→10, using this will rearrange them as 10→1.
- Headers (references) may also reverse position if connected.

3.2.13 Operativity: Selecting Data on Screen

- **Single selection:** Click once on a tag — the item turns green and appears in the Property window.
- **Cancel selection:** Click anywhere on an empty area.
- **Sequential multiple selection:** Shift + Click on two items to select all in between.
- **Non-sequential multiple selection:** Ctrl + Click to select items individually.
- **Add to existing selection:**
    - Use Ctrl to add a single item.
    - Use Ctrl + Shift for a new block of sequential selection.

3.3 “Tools” Menu

The **Tools Menu** in ContaPrintMAX provides utilities for file handling, job diagnostics, language settings, item customization, and general configuration. These tools are essential for advanced management of print jobs, tag design, and system behavior.

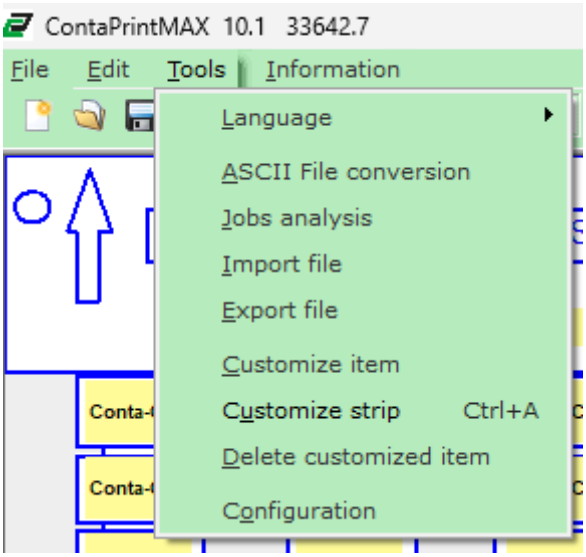


Figure 30: TOOLS Menu

Here is a detailed explanation of each item shown in the attached image **(section 3.3.1 to section 3.3.9):**

3.3.1 Language

- Allows users to **change the interface language** of the software.
- Typically includes options such as English, German, French, Spanish, etc.
- This setting affects all menus, tooltips, and system messages.

3.3.2 ASCII File Conversion

Definition and Purpose

- ASCII File Conversion is a critical function that enables the import of data from external applications (e.g., Excel, EPLAN, CADelet) into the marker design software. It allows structured data saved in plain text format, typically .csv or .txt using ASCII encoding, to be translated into a format recognized by the printer software for label and marker generation.

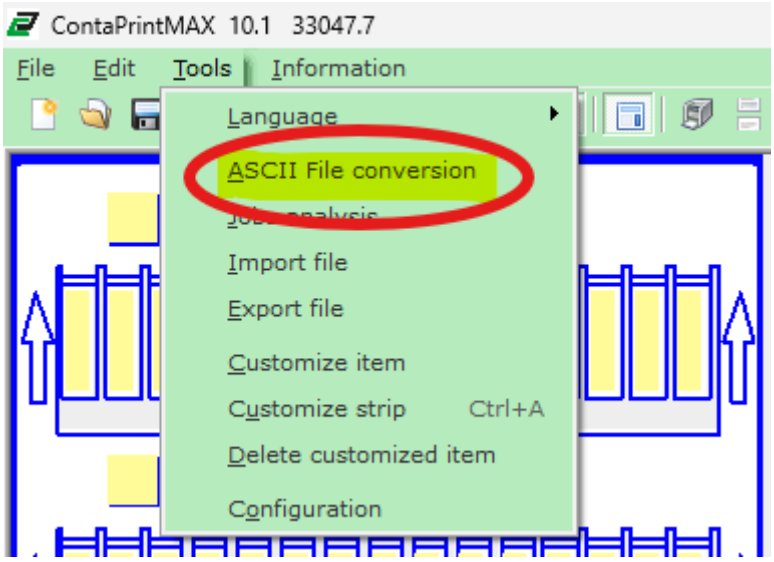


Figure 31: ASCII file Conversion Selection

3.3.2.1 Why Use ASCII File Conversion?

- **Seamless Integration**: Facilitates integration of third-party electrical design tools by accepting ASCII-exported files (such as tag lists or device IDs).
- **Format Compatibility**: Recognizes files structured in **delimited formats** (comma , or semicolon ;) common outputs of spreadsheet tools like Excel.
- **Data Automation**: Saves time by avoiding manual input; large marker batches can be processed quickly and repeatedly.
- **Direct Import Functionality**: Uses predefined “Record Tracing” structures to match imported data to software fields like **Group**, **Head1**, **Head2**, and **Marking**.

3.3.2.2 Use Case Example

- **Scenario**: You receive a CSV file from a client containing terminal tag data structured as:

```csv
Group;Head1;Head2;Ref;Rep;Marking
X1;L1;N;R01;2;Main Panel!!
```

3.3.2.3 Steps

1. Open the marker design software.
2. Select **`ASCII File Conversion`** from the Tool Menu.
3. Press **Browse** to select the `.csv` or `.txt` file.
4. Configure **Record Tracing** (i.e., define which columns match which positions).
5. Adjust options like:
   - `head record present` (to skip the header line),
   - `Erase markers = empty field` (to clean up blank data),
   - and set correct field ranges for **Head1**, **Group**, etc.
6. Click **Open** and verify the data is read correctly.
7. Save the job and repeat as needed.

Field Breakdown (per Record Tracing in image):

Field	Start Position	End Position
Group	1	11
Head 1	12	23
Head 2	24	35
Ref	36	38
Rep	39	42
Marking	43	...

Special Marker Note: Double exclamation marks !! in the **Marking** field will be interpreted as a line break (i.e., multi-line label).

3.3.2.4 Configuration Terms Explained:

- **Reads**: Displays the file path of the selected import file.
- **Writes**: Specifies the name of the new file to be created post-conversion.
- **Head record present**: Skips the first line if it contains column headers.
- **Erase markers = empty field**: Deletes any rows with blank marker fields during import.
- **Markers to import**: Defines the character positions (IN – OUT) to extract values from each field.
- **Acquires Head1/Head2/Group/Repetition**: Assigns values for the corresponding marker label sections.

3.3.2.5 Summary

- ASCII File Conversion enables **efficient, repeatable, and flexible** import of externally structured data into your marker layout system. When configured correctly,

it eliminates manual entry and ensures compatibility with common engineering and electrical design tools, speeding up the overall printing workflow.

3.3.3 - Jobs Analysis

The Job Analysis tool serves as a powerful diagnostic utility within the marker printing software, designed to analyze the structure, content, and usage statistics of job folders and files before sending them to print. It ensures data integrity, highlights potential issues, and provides a clear report for verification.

3.3.3.1 Core Functions of the Job Analysis Tool

The program **scans Windows folders** containing saved jobs (from the marker software) and produces a comprehensive report. It identifies:

- **Jobs present** within a selected folder or sub-folder.
- **Articles used** across those jobs.
- **Total number of tags** written (printed or to be printed).
- **Breakdown by job** and **summary by article**.

3.3.3.2 What You Can Identify with Job Analysis

Diagnostic Check	Description
Total number of tags used	Calculates how many tags have been used across all sub-jobs or within a single job.
Text lengths	Useful to confirm if the input text fits within marker constraints (prevents cutoff).
Line counts or multiline use	Flags use of line breaks (e.g., !!) for multilines in marker fields.
Incomplete entries	Detects missing field values that could result in faulty or incomplete markers.
Duplicate entries	Identifies repeated data entries that may cause redundancy or incorrect labels.

3.3.3.4 Example: Folder Structure and Accumulated Job Data

Imagine a folder structure like:

- **Test1**
    - Test11
        - Test111
        - Test112
    - Test12
        - Test121
        - Test122

If each job within the folders uses 5 articles and creates 100 tags (e.g., SIHF2W/15 used 5 times), the **Job Analysis** produces a cumulative report.
For example:

- Analyzing **Test111** alone → 5 articles, 100 tags.
- Analyzing **Test11** → adds up Test111 + Test112 → 15 articles, 300 tags.
- Analyzing the top folder **Test1** → all subfolders → 35 articles, 700 tags.

This structure helps identify **exact usage patterns**, avoid **data duplication**, and optimize material planning.

3.3.3.5 How to Use the Tool

1. **Select "Job Analysis"** from the Tool Menu.
2. The "Job Analysis Management" window opens.
3. Navigate using the toolbar:
    - Browse folders, go up one level, or change icon views.
4. Select a folder or specific job.
5. Click **Analyzes** to start the evaluation.
6. Review the **on-screen results** or **export as a .txt** file via Windows "Notepad".

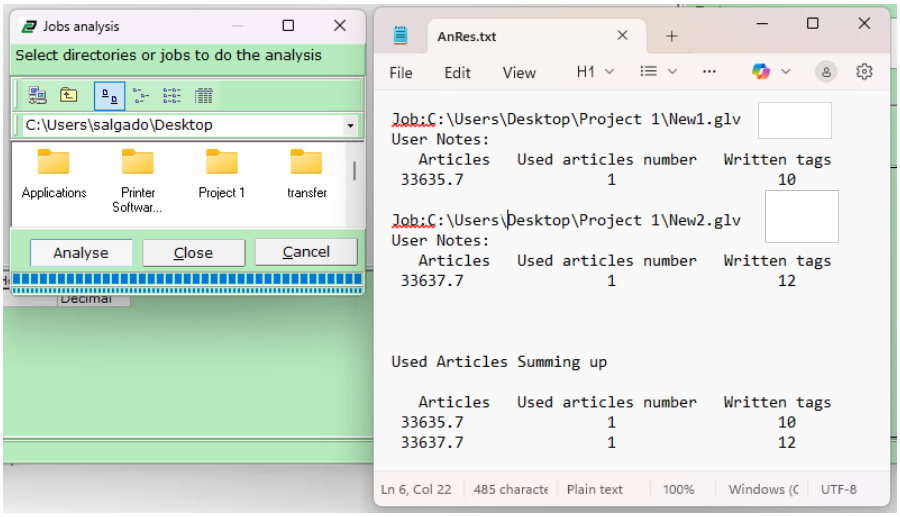


Figure 32: Job Analysis Window and Output

3.3.3.6 Practical Applications

- **Pre-print validation**: Ensure there are no missing fields or text overflows.
- **Production planning**: Know exactly how many articles or markers are being used.
- **Project documentation**: Use the report for job tracking, quotes, or customer validation.
- **Data hygiene**: Spot redundant or outdated entries before saving or exporting.

3.3.3.7 Summary

- The **Job Analysis** function is essential for ensuring your print job is **accurate, complete, and optimized**. By running this diagnostic prior to printing, you reduce the risk of misprints, wasted materials, and customer errors, especially in complex projects with nested folders or repeated article usage.

3.3.4 Import File

- Let's users **bring in previously saved job files**, for example `.glv`, into the current workspace.
- Supports full import (replacing current job) or append (adding to current list).
- Useful for batch printing or using saved templates.

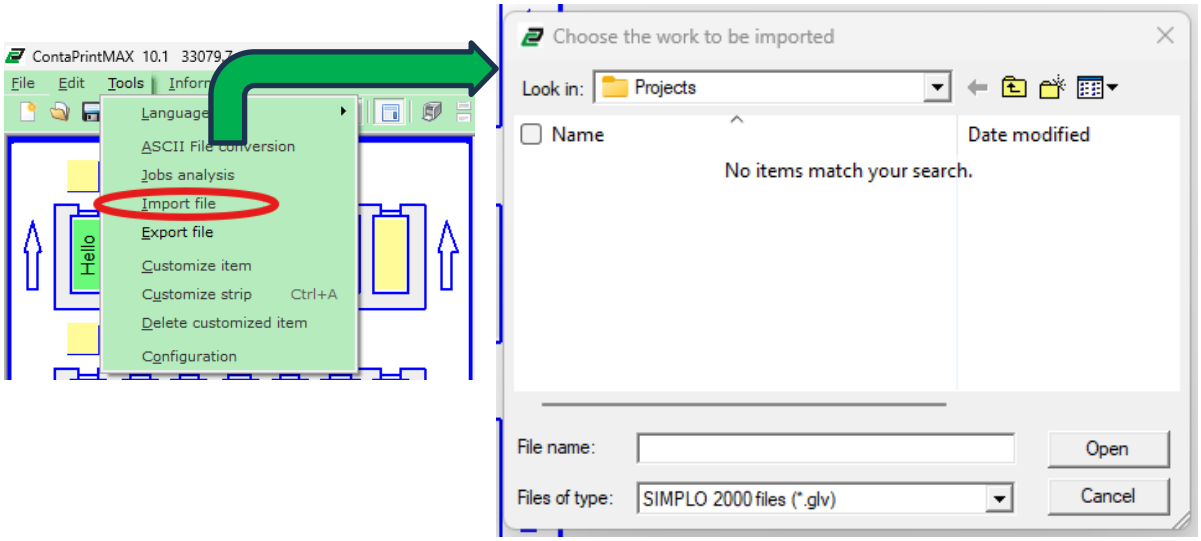


Figure 33: Import job window

3.3.5 Export File

- Saves the current job as an external file for:
    - Backup purposes
    - Sharing with colleagues
    - Reprinting later
- Typically exported in formats such as `.glv`.

3.3.6 Customize Item

The **Customize Item** function in ContaPrintMAX opens the **Item Customization Editor**, a powerful tool that allows you to precisely control the **appearance**, **layout**, and **formatting** of individual tags (also called *items* or *markers*). This is especially useful when you need **fine-tuned control** over the visual output of a label—such as adapting to customer standards, fitting small elements, or printing logos and graphics.

Purpose

While the main layout templates define how an entire **strip** or **module** behaves, the **Customize Item** editor allows you to **override those settings for a specific tag**. This is particularly useful when:

- You want **text to be centered** on one tag but **left-aligned** on others.
- You need a **larger font** to emphasize a warning label.
- You need to add or remove **certain fields** (e.g., show reference but hide description).
- You want to print **only a logo** on one tag.

Generally

- Opens the **item customization editor**, where you can:
  - Define custom font sizes, alignment, and text positioning
  - Adjust label spacing or orientation
  - Apply fixed layouts or variable ones
- Changes apply to **individual tags** (items) rather than the whole strip.

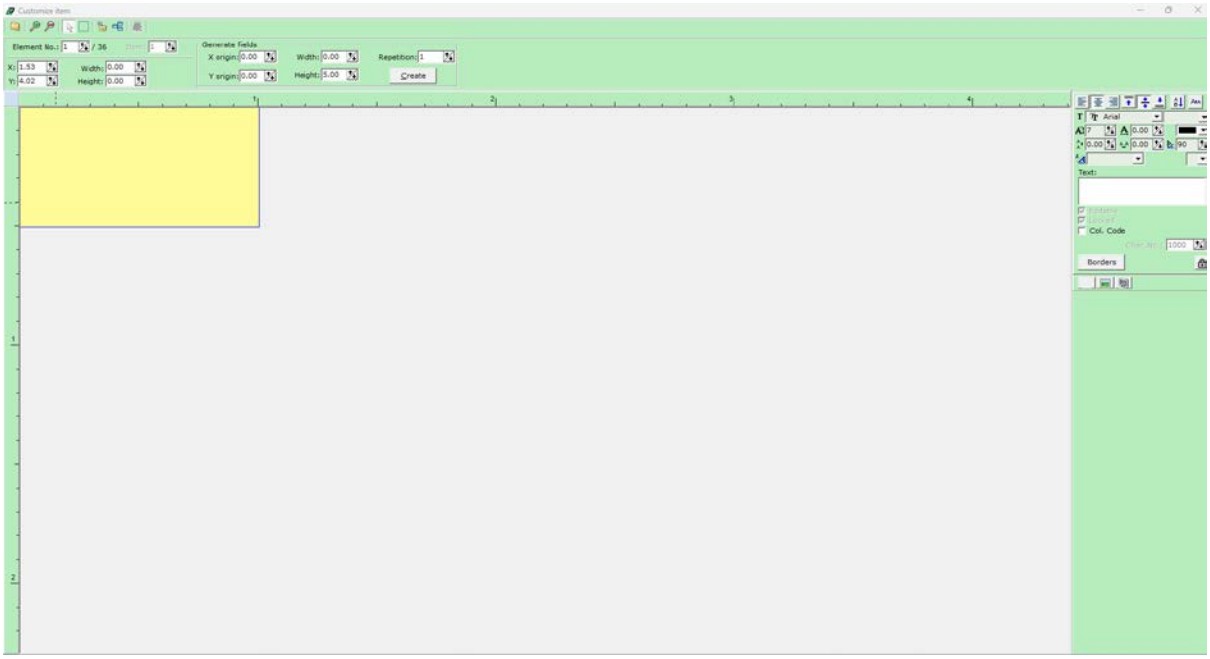


Figure 34: Customization Editor Window

How to Open the Customize Item Editor

1. In the Main Window Click on the **Customize Item** button.
2. Select the tag (item) you want to customize in your job layout.
3. The **Item Customization Editor Window** will open, showing the current layout of that “ONE” tag.

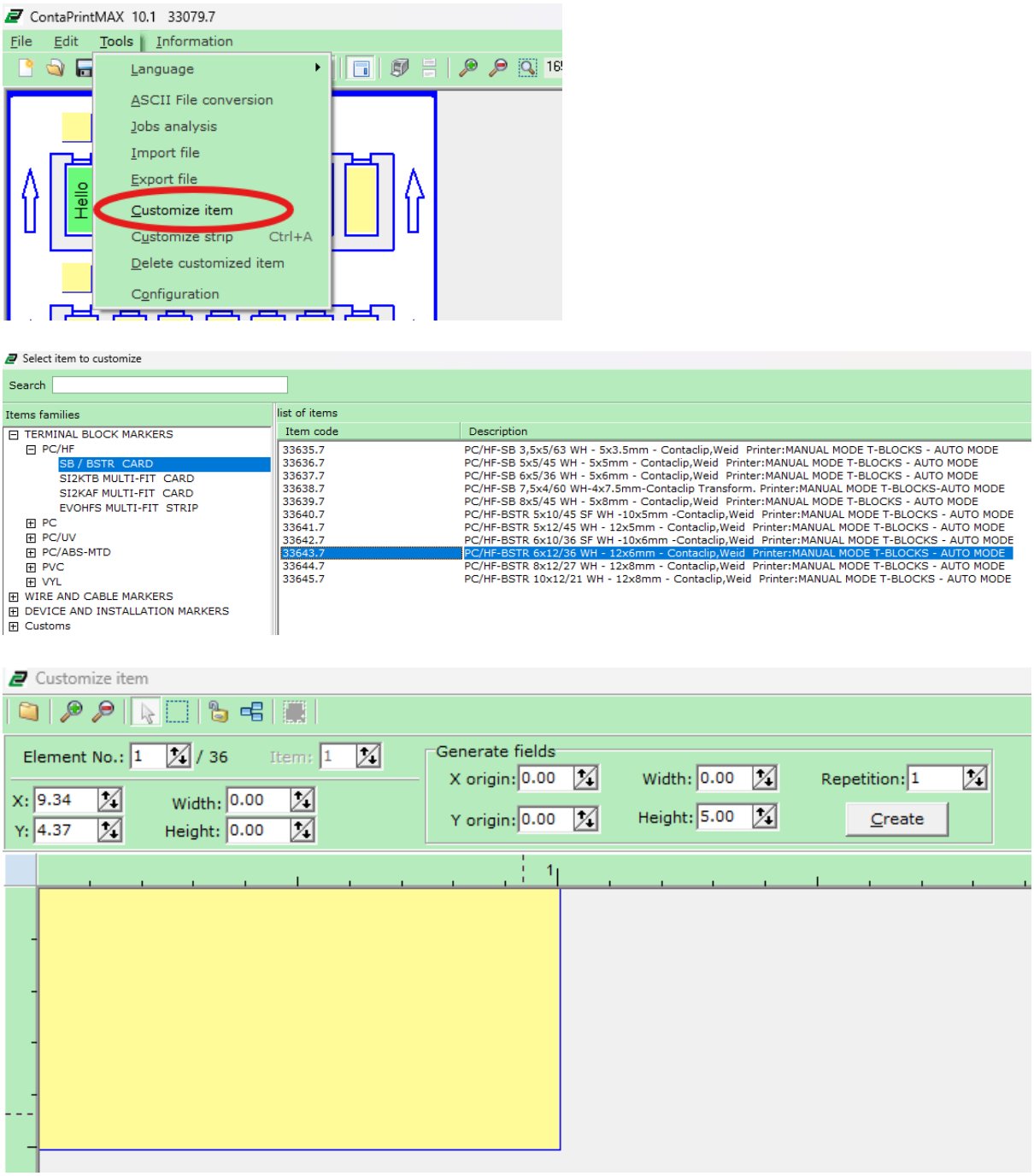


Figure 35: Procedure for Accessing the Customization Editor Window

For more details on how to use the Customize Item Window refer to Management of Custom Items 3.4 and or further into the Item Customization Window 3.4.1

3.3.7 Customize Strip (`Ctrl + A`)

Allows you to **customize the layout of an entire strip** (a set of items).

- Configuration options may include:
  - Strip length and height

    - Label positioning across columns or rows
    - Print orientation for the full strip
- Useful for advanced layouts like symmetrical labeling or complex strip arrangements.

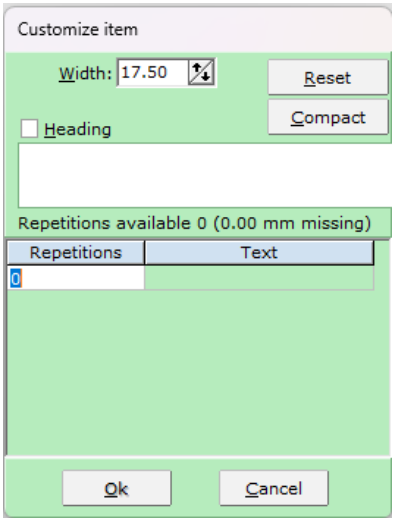


Figure 36: Customize Strip Item Window (Ctrl+A)

For further details on the Customize Strip Item see section 3.5 Strip Customization and Configuraton

3.3.8 Delete Customized Item

- Resets a previously customized item back to its **default formatting and properties**.
- Only affects user-made changes; factory default values are retained.

3.3.9 Configuration

The **Configuration** window allows users to tailor software behavior to their operational needs, printing setup, and data handling preferences. Below is a breakdown of each setting:

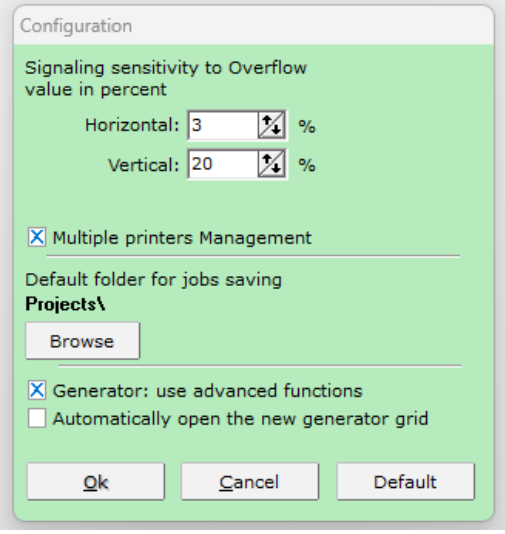


Figure 37: Configuration Window

3.3.9.1 Signaling Sensitivity to Overflow (in %)

This feature controls how sensitive the system is to detecting **text overflow** on the markers.

- **Horizontal (3%)**:
  If the horizontal text exceeds the label space by more than **3%**, the software will flag it.
  Use this to avoid horizontal cutoff of long strings (e.g., terminal names or wire tags).
- **Vertical (20%)**:
  If the vertical space required for text exceeds the marker's available area by more than **20%**, the system will signal an overflow warning.
  Especially useful for stacked text or multi-line entries.

Use case: Prevents printing issues where text might spill outside the defined printing area, ensuring clean, readable output.

3.3.9.2 Multiple Printers Management (Enabled)

When enabled, this setting supports **parallel management of multiple printers** in a shared environment.

Ideal for production facilities or workspaces where several printers (e.g., one for terminal markers, another for cable markers) are used.

The software can intelligently route print jobs or allow the user to choose which printer to assign a job to.

3.3.9.3 Default Folder for Jobs Saving

- **Current Path: Projects**
  This defines the **default directory** where all new job files are saved.

Keeps project organization consistent. You can click **"Browse"** to select another default location.

Tip: Use a network location or cloud-synced folder to enable job file sharing among multiple users or systems.

3.3.9.4 Generator: Use Advanced Functions (Enabled)

This enables **advanced features** within the generator, likely allowing more complex label creation or bulk operations.

Useful for users who want to:

- Generate multiple labels in sequence
- Apply logic rules (e.g., auto-incrementing)
- Import values from external data sources

3.3.9.5 Automatically Open the New Generator Grid (Disabled)

- If enabled, the software would automatically launch the **generator interface/grid** when starting a new job.
- This is **currently disabled**, which means users must manually open the generator each time.
- Recommended to enable this for high-frequency users or repetitive workflows.

3.3.9.6 Action Buttons

- **OK**: Saves the current configuration and closes the window.
- **Cancel**: Discards any changes made during this session.
- **Default**: Restores all settings to their original factory or system defaults.

3.3.9.7 Summary of Typical Settings

Setting	Purpose & Recommendation
Horizontal Overflow: 3%	Prevents minor overflow; ideal for precision text fit.
Vertical Overflow: 20%	More flexible for stacked/multi-line text.
Multiple Printers: Enabled	Recommended in shared printer environments.
Default Folder: Projects	Organizes saved jobs in a central place.
Use Advanced Generator: Enabled	Allows more complex data entry and batch operations.
Auto-open Generator: Disabled	Optional; enable for streamlined workflows.

3.3.9.8 Summary of Use Cases

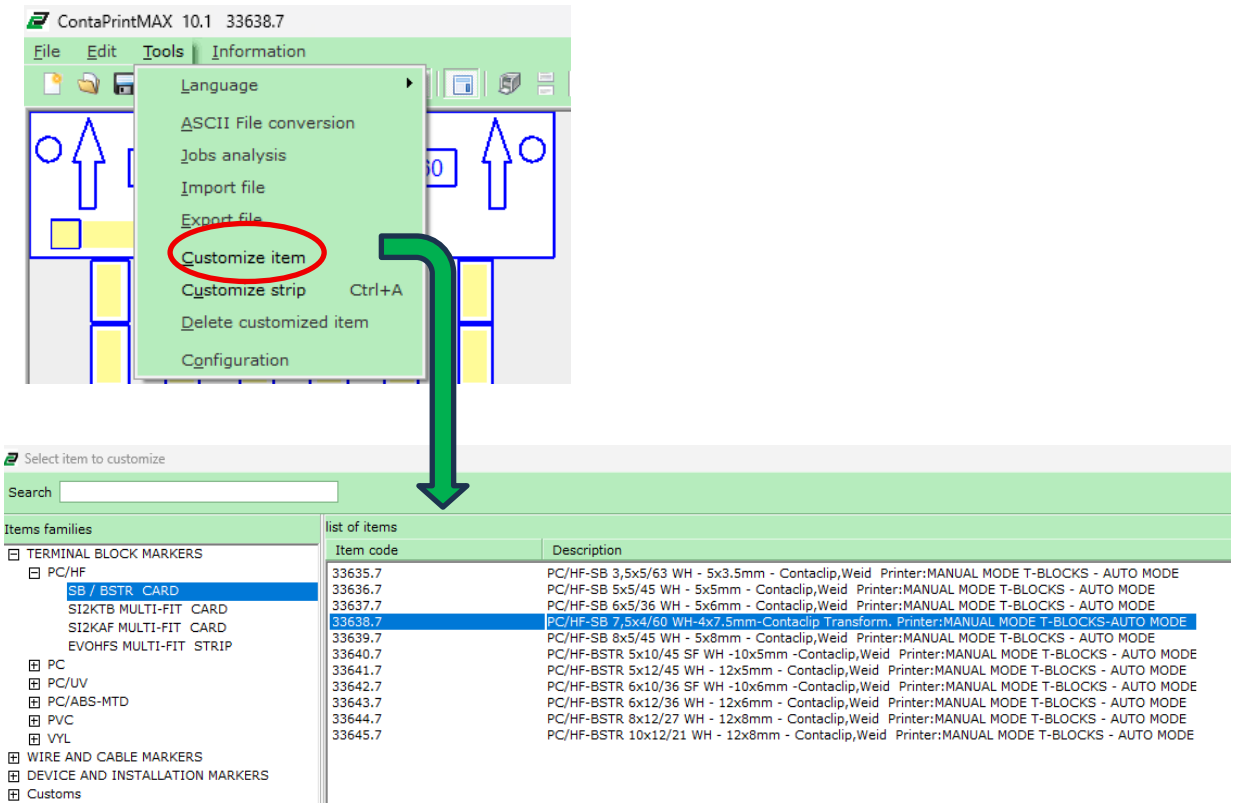
Tool	Common Use Case
Language	Change interface to your preferred language
ASCII File Conversion	Import large data sets from Excel or ERP
Jobs Analysis	Verify job accuracy and troubleshoot layout
Import/Export File	Save/load jobs across different users or sessions
Customize Item	Design special markers with custom font or spacing
Customize Strip	Build complex layouts for repeating or nested tags
Delete Customized Item	Revert individual tag changes
Configuration	Adjust system-level defaults and connectivity

3.4 Management of Custom Items

The **Custom Item Management** feature allows users to personalize standard marker articles by defining **custom fields**, text or image-based, through a **graphical editor**. These custom articles are grouped into the **CUSTOM family** and can be tailored for various labeling applications.

3.4.1 Step-by-Step Process

1. **Access the Editor**
    - Navigate to **Tool > Customize Item**.
    - A categorized list of basic article types is displayed.
    - Select a base article (e.g., terminal tag, cable marker) by double-clicking or pressing “OK”.



2. **Customize the Item**
    - Enter the **Item Customization Window**, where graphical tools allow you to define layout zones (fields).
    - Designate areas for text or pictures and adjust dimensions.

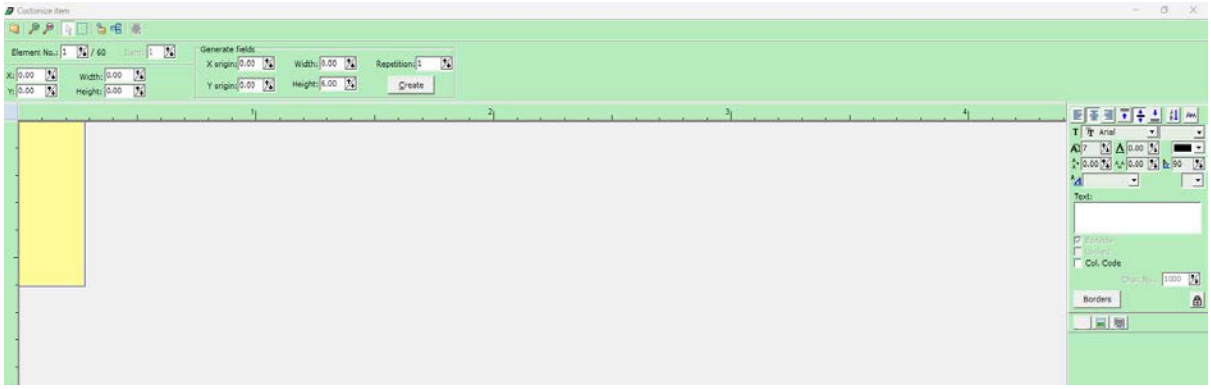


Figure 38: Customize Item Window

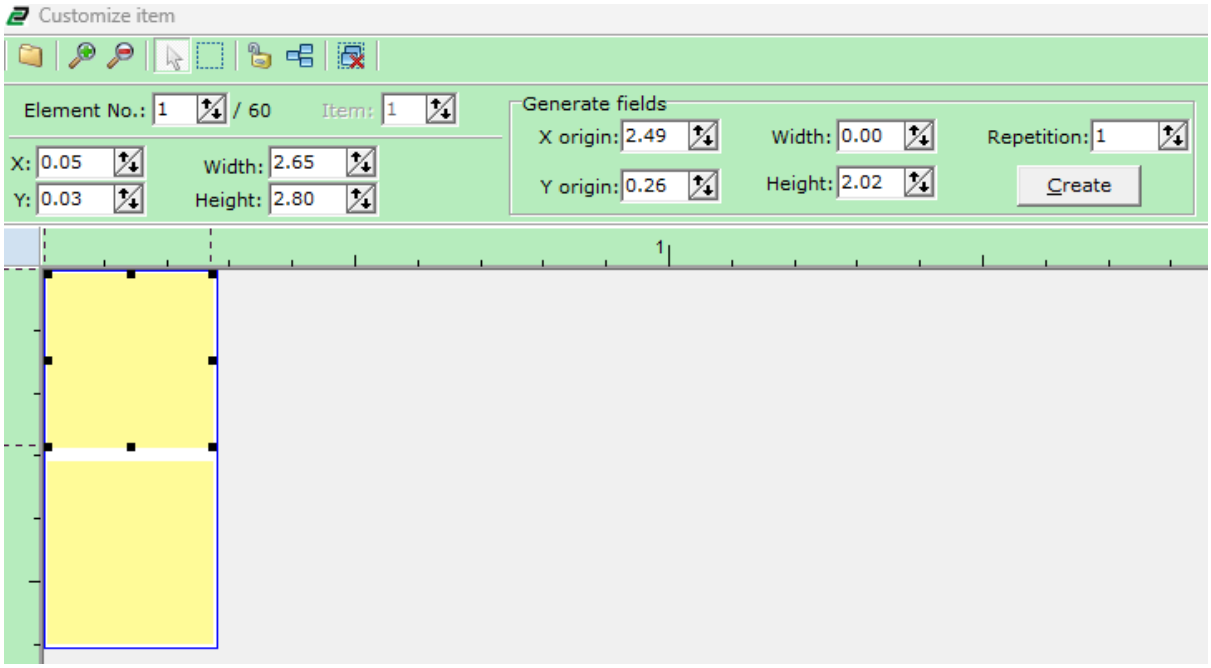
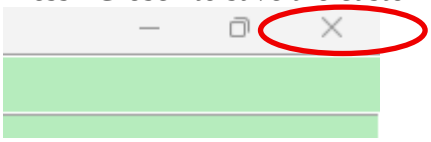


Figure 39: Customize Item Window showing 2 fields in One Tag

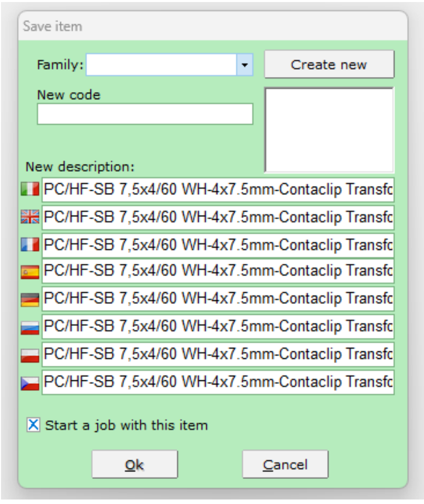
3. **Save and Assign**
   - Press **"Close"** to save the customized article at top of window.



   - Assign a **new Family** under a new **New Family** or from an **Existing Family.**

Figure 40: New Family name Window

- Assign a **new Item code** and optionally group it under a new **New code**.



- If the box "Job started with this item" is active, a mono-article job will open using the just-created custom item.

4. **Language Support**
    - You may add multi-language descriptions—ideal for international deployments (e.g., Italy, Spain).
5. **Click OK**
    - The Marker will now be updated with the customized tags. For example (below the complete marker card tags have been modified to have 2 fields)

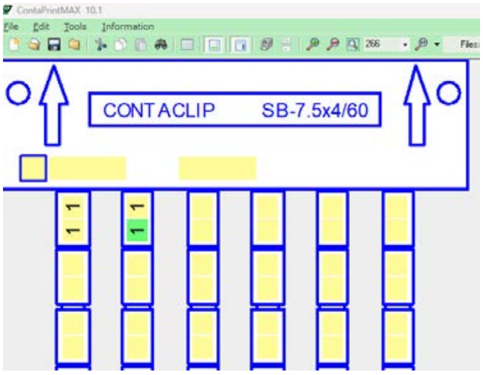


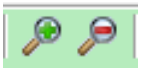
Figure 41: Output of Customized Item (Terminal block Marker with 2 separate Entries)

3.4.1 Item Customization Window

The window is divided into:

- **Toolbar**: Functions for editing, zooming, and saving.
- **Field Size Area**: Used for defining and linking fields (manual or automatic).
- **Layout**: The visual tag area where fields are drawn.
- **Properties Panel**: Shows settings for each field, including size, font, alignment, and content type.

3.4.2 Toolbar Functions

Icon	Description	Icon
Close	Ends session and saves customization.	
Zoom	Adjusts tag view size (±100%).	
Select Fields	Activates existing fields for resizing or repositioning.	
Create new fields	Starts the **manual field drawing session**.	
Unlock All locked fields	Unlocks any locked fields.	
Order Field Numbering	Sets numerical order for printing/layout sequence.	

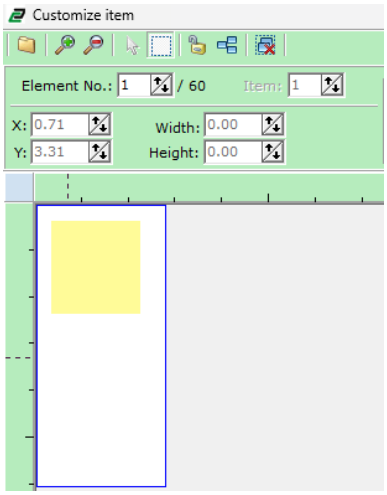
3.4.3 Manual Link Creation

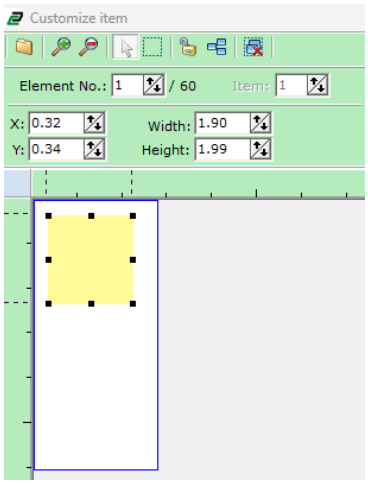
The **Manual Link** Creation mode enables the user to define custom fields, either for **text or images**, directly within the layout of a tag. This is done visually using the mouse, and the defined fields are stored with precise positioning and dimensions.

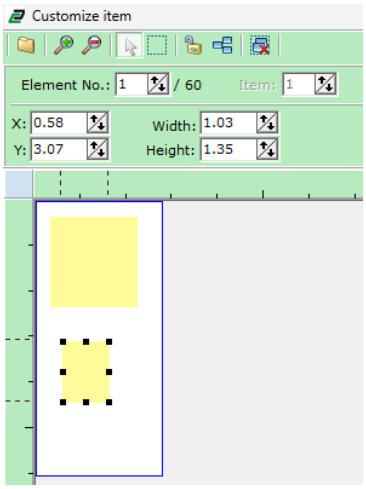
To create a custom field:

1. Select the **manual field creation** tool from the toolbar.
2. Click and hold the **left mouse button** on the tag layout.
3. **Drag** to form a rectangular area (field).
4. Release the mouse button to finalize the position and size:
    - The **X and Y coordinates** (top-left corner) are stored.
    - The **Width and Height** of the rectangle are recorded.

This process defines the placement and size of a field on the tag.

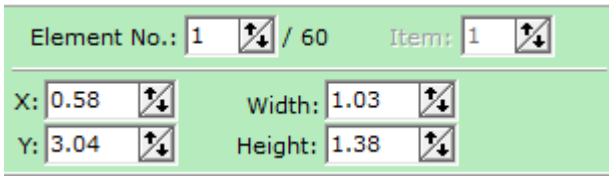






Element No. Field – Tag Instance Control

As shown in the image, the **"Element No."** field (highlighted in red) indicates the **tag instance** you are currently editing.



- Example: If your print layout supports 20 identical tags, setting *Element No. = 1* means you're editing the first tag.
- Any fields created in this element can later be replicated to the other tags (Elements 2 to 20) depending on how you apply the layout.

Best Practice: Always begin with **Element 1** to define your base structure. This ensures consistency across the tag series.

Element Numbering Logic

- Fields created or modified in Element 1 are automatically replicated across all subsequent elements (e.g., 2, 3...). If you need different content per tag, you can edit specific elements individually (e.g., Element 4 onward), and changes will only apply from that point forward.
- Changes to Element 1 will affect Elements 2, 3, etc.
- You can modify individual elements (e.g., Element 4) for unique content or layout differences.

Use case: Elements 1–3 might share common info, while Elements 4–6 carry individual data.

3.4.3.1 Adjusting and Editing Fields

Once a field is created, it can be further modified in several ways:

- Use the **"Select Fields"** tool to: 
  - Move the field by dragging
  - Resize using field edges or corner handles
- Or adjust values numerically using:
  - **X and Y** = field position (top-left corner)
  - **Width and Height** = size of the field

You can also **reorder** field placement logic using the **"Order Field Numbering"** tool. This is essential, as the software plots fields in the order they are defined—typically **left-to-right, top-to-bottom**.

3.4.3.2 Important Design Considerations

- **Do Not Overlap Fields**: Overlapping text or image areas will cause formatting or print issues.

- **Define Properties for Each Field**: Every custom area must be assigned either **text** or **image** properties using the respective settings.
- **To Delete a Field**: Select it and press the **"Cancel"** key on your keyboard.
- **Save Your Work**: Click the **"Exit"** button to store your custom link setup.

3.4.3.3 Summary

Feature	Description
Element No.	Controls which tag in the layout you are customizing
X / Y Coordinates	Sets the field's position on the tag
Width / Height	Sets the field's size
Manual Drag & Edit	Offers visual control of layout
Sequential Order	Affects the printing/writing logic of fields

3.4.4 Creation of Sequential Links

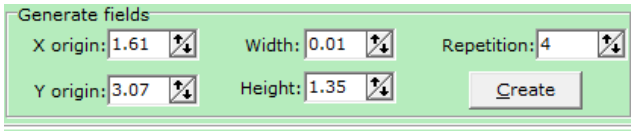
The **Sequential Link** Creation feature is designed to automate the placement of multiple, equally spaced fields, ideal for repetitive labeling applications such as **terminal blocks, cable markers**, or multi-row tags. This saves time and ensures precision across the entire layout.

Purpose

Sequential link creation defines multiple fields with identical dimensions and consistent spacing by using a single configuration step. Once set, the system automatically creates the fields in a row or column format based on your input parameters.

How It Works

To activate this feature, you'll use the **Generating Fields** section as shown in the image. Here's how each input functions:



Field	Description
X Origin	The horizontal starting point (left edge) of the first field on the tag layout.
Y Origin	The vertical starting point (top edge) of the first field.
Width	The width of each field in the sequence.
Height	The height of each field.
Repetition	The number of fields to generate in sequence.
Create	Triggers the field creation process based on the input values.

Step-by-Step Instructions

1. **Check the "Element No."**
    - Always begin with **Element No. 1** to apply changes across all tag instances.

    - This ensures consistency across the layout and simplifies batch modifications later.
2. **Define Field Parameters**
    - Input the starting coordinates in **X Origin** and **Y Origin**.
    - Set the **Width** and **Height** for the field area.
    - Choose how many fields you need by entering the **Repetition** count.
3. **Click Create**
    - The software generates the first field at the origin coordinates.
    - Each subsequent field is automatically positioned to the **right** of the previous one, using the defined **width**.
    - The sequence follows the standard printing path: **left → right, then up → down**.
4. **Editing or Deleting**
    - You may delete a field by selecting it and pressing **"Cancel"** on the keyboard.
    - After creating several fields, it's good practice to **verify the origin coordinates** before adding new ones.

Field Repetition Example

- If:
    - **X origin = 0.00**
    - **Y origin = 0.00**
    - **Width = 10.00**
    - **Height = 5.00**
    - **Repetition = 3**
- Then pressing **Create** will generate 3 fields:
    - Field 1 at X=0.00
    - Field 2 at X=10.00
    - Field 3 at X=20.00

Result: You get a linear layout of equally spaced fields, perfect for strip-style markers.

Tips

- **Element No. 1** should be used as your master layout. Any changes will propagate to all subsequent tag elements.
- Use consistent repetition and sizing when creating fields to maintain alignment and avoid print misalignment.
- **Avoid overlapping fields**—this may cause layout or printing errors.
- Use **Exit** to finalize and save the field link definition once setup is complete.

Summary

Feature	Functionality
X/Y Origin	Sets initial position
Width/Height	Defines size of each repeated field
Repetition	Determines how many fields to generate
Create	Launches sequential generation
Element No.	Ensures fields are placed on the correct tag layout

This tool provides speed, precision, and consistency when designing structured marker layouts, essential for high-volume or production environments.

3.4.5 Text Properties (Text Field Settings)

When you select a **text field** within the Article Customization window, a range of powerful formatting tools becomes available (see figure 22). These settings allow you to precisely define the **appearance, behavior, and restrictions** of the text within each marker field. This ensures legibility, consistency, and customization flexibility across your printing applications.

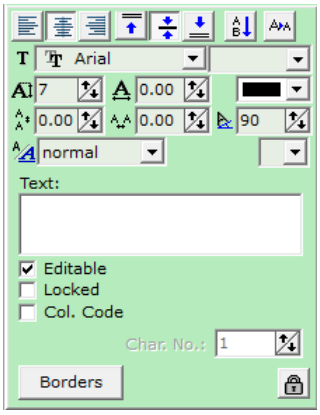


Figure 42: Text Properties tool

3.4.5.1 Alignment and Orientation

You can control both horizontal and vertical positioning of the text within the field:

- **Horizontal Alignment**:
  - **Left**: Aligns text to the left edge of the field.
  - **Center**: Centers the text horizontally.
  - **Right**: Aligns text to the right edge of the field.
- **Vertical Alignment**:
  - **Top**: Aligns text to the top edge.
  - **Center**: Centers text vertically.
  - **Bottom**: Aligns text to the bottom edge.
- **Text Orientation**:
  - Enables **vertical writing** where characters are stacked top-to-bottom.
  - Ideal for narrow vertical markers or rotated label applications.

3.4.5.2 Font Behavior and Appearance

You can tailor the appearance of the text with several key parameters:

- **Font Selection**: Choose from any installed system fonts. “Grafoplast” font is required for optimal display in standard layouts.
- **Font Size**:
  - **Height** (in mm): Adjusts text height. Displayed in the tooltip when hovered.
  - **Width**: Controls character width. Set to 0 for default auto-scaling based on font size.
- **Font Color**: Select from the color palette for enhanced visual coding or visibility.

- **Automatic Character Reduction**:
  - When enabled, the software auto-adjusts text size to fit the field boundaries.
  - A **minimum height** can be set to prevent the text from becoming too small.
- **Spacing Settings**:
  - **Line Spacing**: Sets vertical space between lines. If 0, uses font defaults.
  - **Character Spacing**: Controls horizontal spacing between characters. Useful for improving legibility.
- **Text Rotation**:
  - Set a rotation angle (e.g., 90°) for sideways or diagonal printing.
  - Especially useful for applications with rotated marker layouts or limited space.

3.4.5.3 Text Style and Special Functions

The Text Style and Special Functions options within ContaPrintMAX's item editor give you powerful tools to format your text and insert special technical symbols, ensuring your printed labels are not only visually clear but also professionally compliant with electrical, industrial, or safety standards.

Text Style:

This function controls how the **text appears** on your labels, allowing you to visually differentiate or emphasize certain fields.

  - Supports **normal, bold, italic**, and **bold/italic** combinations.
  - Used to emphasize content or comply with industry labeling norms.

Available Styles:

Style	Description	Example Use Case
Normal	Standard font (no emphasis)	General labeling like "L1", "GND", "Panel 2"
Bold	Thicker, heavier font for emphasis	Warning labels like "DANGER", "LIVE"
Italic	Slanted font style	Comments, auxiliary fields, or conditional states
Bold Italic	Bold + Italic	Highlighted or dynamic tags such as "EMERGENCY" or "DO NOT OPERATE"

Why Use Text Styles?

- **Emphasis:** Use bold or bold+italic to make certain terms stand out (e.g., circuit numbers or phase identifiers).
- **Categorization:** Italics can be used to denote temporary states (e.g., "Under Test").
- **Compliance:** Some industry standards (e.g., IEC, UL) may require clear visual differentiation between data types.

Examples of Text Style in Action

Input Text	Text Style	Result Appearance	Use Case
L1	Bold	**L1**	Phase label

TEST MODE	Italic	*TEST MODE*	Temporary condition
DANGER	Bold Italic	***DANGER***	High-visibility warning
MOTOR 2	Normal	MOTOR 2	Standard tag

3.4.5.4 Special Symbols:

- Allows insertion of electrical, schematic, or custom symbols inside the field.
- Critical for accurate technical labeling.

Available Symbol Types:

Symbol Category	Examples	Application Examples
Electrical Symbols	⏚ (Ground), ⎓ (DC), ⎍ (AC), ↯ (Voltage)	Circuit diagrams, terminal labeling
Logic/Schematic	∧ (AND), ∨ (OR), ⊕ (XOR), ⊥ (False)	Logic circuits, PLC instructions
Greek Letters	Ω (Ohm), μ (Micro), Δ (Delta)	Resistance, tolerances, temperature
Mathematical Symbols	± (Plus-minus), ≤, ≥, ≠	Tolerance, rating, specification
Custom Company Symbols	Company logo, ISO tag, barcode	Branding, traceability, compliance

How to Insert Special Symbols

1. While in any text box, change the font to **E_Symbol**.
2. Use the following Chart to find the selected symbol you want to insert.
3. Type the **corresponding keyboard key** (e.g., press K for ↯).
4. The display will show the symbol instead of the letter.

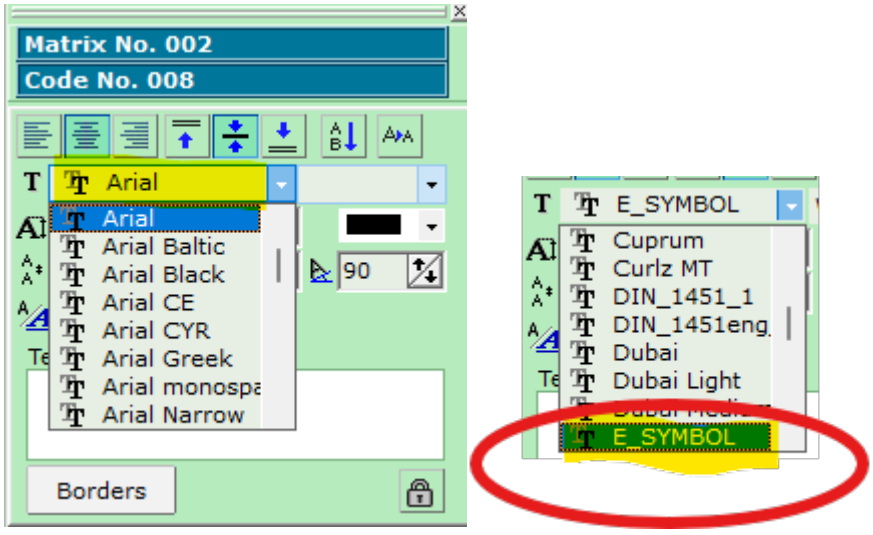
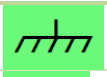


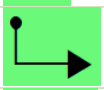
Figure 43: Font Window Can be used for entering special characters

The **E_Symbol** font used in ContaPrintMAX contains a variety of **special symbols** (like electrical, schematic, and industrial symbols), and it works by **replacing normal keyboard characters with symbols**, this is also called **keyboard mapping**.

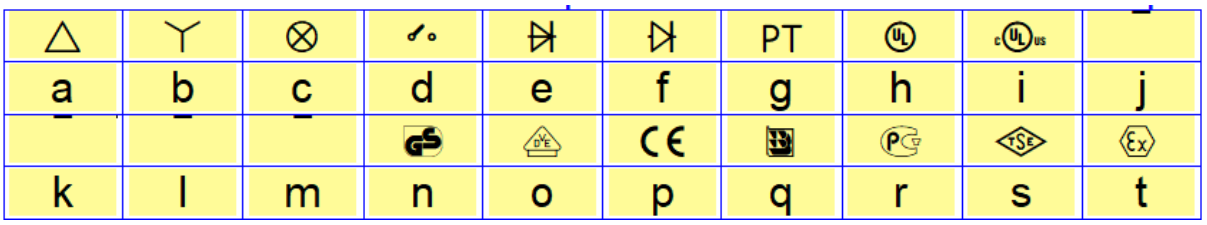
Below is a **cross-reference chart** showing **which keyboard keys (standard QWERTY)** correspond to **which symbols** in the **E_Symbol** font:

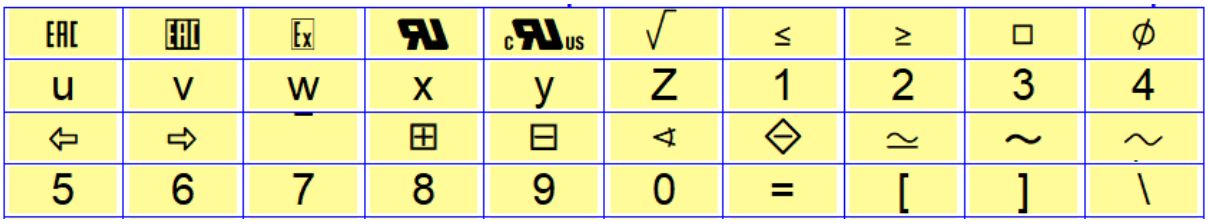
E_SYMBOL Cross Reference Chart

Keyboard Key	Symbol (E_Symbol Font)	Description
A		Protective Earth / Ground
B		Registered Trademark
C		ohm
D		Variable Resistor (or Potentiometer)
E		Zener Diode
F		Light / Lamp / Illumination Source
G		Warning Symbol / General Triangle (Upward)
H		Direct Current (DC), Plus-minus, fixed polarity, positive/negative
I		Alternating Current (AC) / Downward Arrow
J		CE Marking (Conformité Européenne), Common Earth, Neutral reference conductor
K		High Voltage / Lightning Bolt Symbol(Commonly used to indicate electrical hazard or high voltage areas), Y-shaped branching path
L		Earth" or Ground reference point, Greek letter Phi
M		House / Building Symbol (General Symbol for Structure or Enclosure), Greek letter Pi “Π”
N		High Voltage / Lightning Bolt, high voltage, shock danger, power input terminals
O		Alternating Current (AC) / Downward left

P		Alternating Current (AC) / Downward right
Q		Restart / Loop, cyclical action, motor rotation, looped signal path
R		Diode anode (left side)/ cathode (right side)
S		Mechanical or Manual Operation
T		Ground (Protective Earth)
U		Alternating Current (AC) / Downward Up
V		Node or connector, electronic signal routing
W		Return / Undo / Backward Flow
X		Capacitor
Y	TM	TradeMark
Z	€	Euro Symbol (€)

Additional Symbols Font from `Symbols_1_1`:





Symbols can be used **standalone** or **embedded** with other text.

Tip:

- This chart is based on **standard mappings**, but symbols may slightly vary depending on the version of the E_Symbol or Symbol_1_1 font installed.

- For precise symbol reference, create a test label in ContaPrintMAX using E_Symbol and type each keyboard key to preview results.
- Depending on the **Windows version used, ContaPrintMAX** will use all of the Windows Fonts installed, which could range in over 275 different Font selection styles.

3.4.5.5 Editable, Locked, and Fixed Content Settings

These properties determine how text behaves during printing and job execution:

- **Editable (Modifiable)**:
  - When checked, the field content can be edited later during a job (dynamic input).
  - Useful for templates or frequently reused formats.
- **Locked**:
  - Prevents the field from being moved or resized.
  - Essential for protecting fixed layout positions once finalized.
- **Test vs Fixed Text**:
  - **Test Text**: Used during design or sample printing. Not intended for final output.
  - **Fixed Text**: Content is static and will be printed exactly as displayed.

Tip: If "Test" is selected, **Modifiable** must be **deselected** to avoid conflicts.

3.4.5.6 Additional Options

- **Borders**:
  - Adds a visible border around the text field.
  - Helpful for layout visualization or aesthetic styling.
- **Colour Code (Col. Code)**:
  - If enabled, allows grouping of fields by color.
  - Text content can be linked and transferred across sub-partitions using this code.
- **Number of Characters** (Char. No.):
  - Sets a limit on how many characters are allowed in the field.
  - Only active if **Colour Code** is enabled.

3.4.5.7 Summary of Functions

Setting	Functionality
Alignment	Controls text position within field
Font Settings	Select font, size, color, style
Auto-Reduction	Adjusts size to fit within constraints
Spacing	Line and character spacing controls
Rotation	Angles the text within the tag
Editable	Allows later user input
Locked	Prevents movement or modification
Fixed/Test Text	Static or placeholder content
Symbols & Styles	Insert technical characters and adjust font behavior

Borders & Limits	Add visual borders, limit input length, assign by color code

3.4.6 Picture Properties (Image Field Settings)

You can assign images to fields using the **Picture** option.

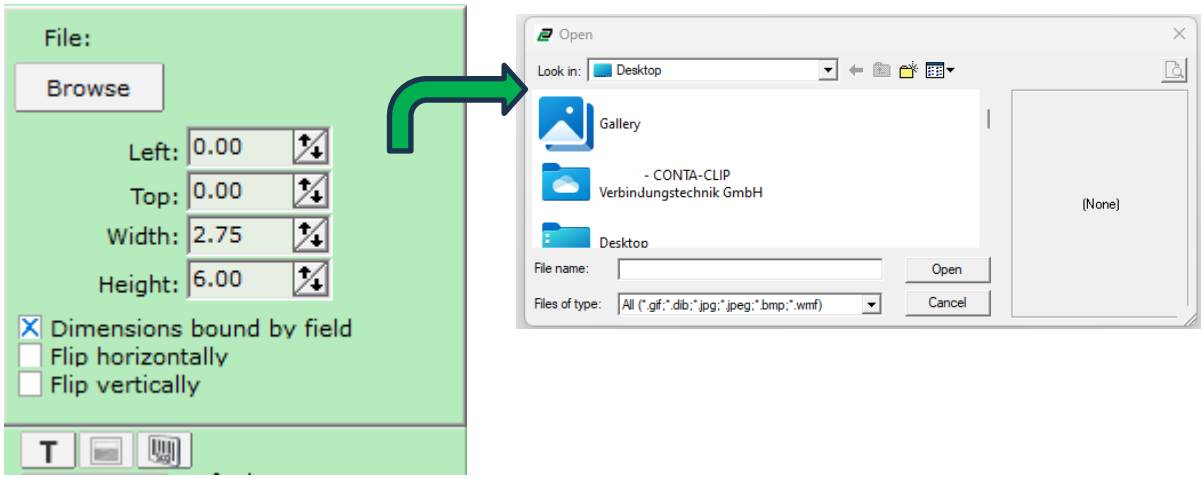


Figure 44: Picture Window for Resizing/Modifying the selected Image

Supported Formats:

- `.gif`, `.jpg`, `.jpeg`, `.bmp`, `.wmf` (vector format)

Features:

- **Import** via “Browse” and load into field
- **Precise positioning** using X (Left) and Y (Top) values
- **Resize** using Width and Height inputs
- **Rotation** (horizontal or vertical)
- **Lock field** to prevent movement
- **Switch field type** back to Text (erases image)

Best Practice: Lock the picture size and position if it should not shift during printing. Enable "Modifiable" only when needed.

Summary

The **Custom Item Management** module provides robust tools to:

- Design flexible, reusable marker layouts.
- Create multilingual and multi-format labels.
- Include dynamic fields for sequential or fixed data.
- Add graphics, adjust font properties, and control layout precision.

This flexibility is essential for professional environments where labeling must adapt to both electrical design complexity and customer-specific standards.

3.5 Strip Customization and Configuration

3.5.1 “Customize Strip” Customizing Individual Marker Items

The **Customize Strip** function allows you to define the **layout, width, heading, and content** of individual fields within a marker strip. It’s especially useful when working with **multi-marker layouts** where each marker in the strip must carry distinct content or spacing.

Key Interface Elements (Based on Screenshot below)

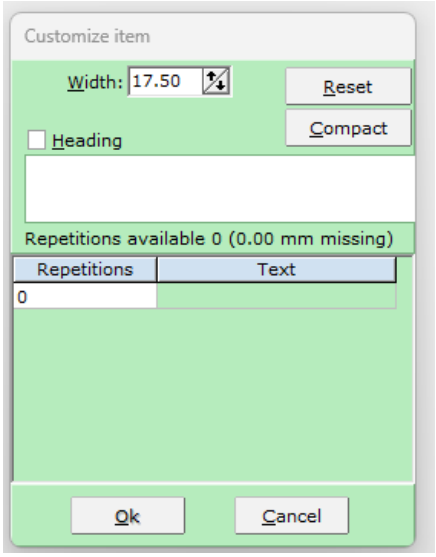


Figure 45: Customize Strip window

Field / Button	Description
Width	Set the width (in mm) of the item. This adjusts the physical space allocated for the field on the strip.
Reset	Restores the width to the default value for the item type.
Compact	Compresses the spacing if there's excess width, optimizing layout usage.
Heading	If checked, allows a separate text field above the strip (e.g., for titles or identifiers).
Repetitions Available	Indicates how many label segments are available based on the strip length and current width setting.
Repetitions / Text Table	You can manually enter how many repetitions (fields) are to display the same text. For example, "3 - L1" would mean the next 3 segments will show “L1”.

This function is particularly helpful for defining:

- Variable text within a single strip
- Grouped repetition of content
- Differentiated field widths or special formatting needs

3.5.2 “Delete Customized Items”

This command allows you to **delete a previously created customized article or strip definition**. It reverts the article to its original base template from the standard library, removing all manually defined customizations.

3.5.3 “Configuration” System-Wide Settings

The **Configuration window** is where you define **default behaviors**, visual validation preferences, and printing accuracy for your environment.

3.5.3.1 Key Configuration Settings Explained

Text Overflow Warning Sensitivity

- When text exceeds the item area, the background turns red.
- However, the software reserves space above/below characters for accents and descenders (like “g” or “p”), which may cause **false warnings**.
- The **"Overflow Sensitivity (%)"** setting helps reduce these false alerts.
- You can adjust horizontal and vertical thresholds individually (e.g., 3% and 20%) to fine-tune visibility.

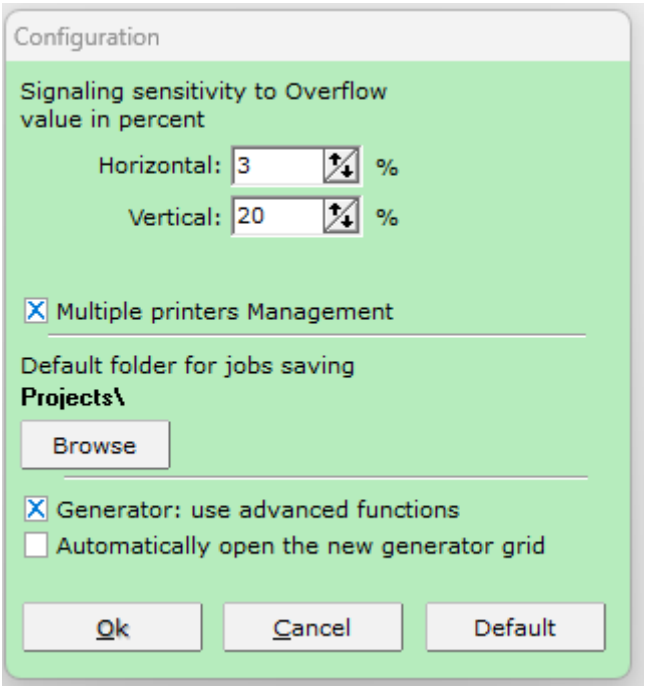


Figure 46: Configuration Window (Text overflow)

Font Accuracy for Printing

- Fonts are printed as **vector curves approximated with straight lines**.
- The **“Print font precision”** value defines the number of line segments per curve.
    - **Lower value** (e.g., 2): Less precision, faster print (useful for small fonts).
    - **Higher value**: More detail, better output (ideal for logos or large text).

MultiPrinter Management

- Allows support for **up to 10 printers** (e.g., **other thermal**, or **laser printers**).
- Necessary for thermal printer operation.
- You can assign different configurations to different printers (e.g., DPI, format, printer-specific behavior).

3.5.3.2 Job and Generator Defaults

Setting	Description
Default Folder for Job Saving	Pre-assign a path for where new projects/jobs are saved (e.g., "Projects")
Use Advanced Generator	Enables the new Excel-like generator system for structured input and smart formatting
Automatically Open Generator Grid	When selected, the generator opens automatically when a new job is started

3.5.3.3 Summary of Configuration Options

Feature	Purpose
Overflow Sensitivity	Adjusts the margin before an overflow warning is triggered
Font Print Precision	Controls rendering detail of vector fonts
MultiPrinter Management	Enables control of multiple simultaneous printers
Default Folder Path	Saves jobs consistently in a user-defined location
Advanced Generator	Switches to the latest layout generator (Excel-style)
Auto-Open Generator	Ensures generator launches with every new job

3.6 “Information” menu

The program shows the information on the Installation of the Software that is Software Version, Registration, Info on Item database.

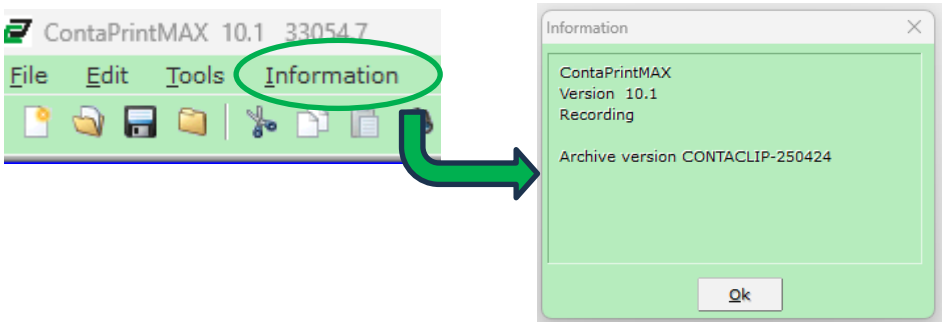


Figure 47: Information Window (Software Version)

4 – Performing Printer Centering and Alignment Adjustments

4.1 Printer Centering and Adjustment

This procedure is used to fine-tune the starting point of printing on your marker or label to ensure that the text or graphic is perfectly centered and aligned on the card, strip, or inlay.

4.1.1 What Is Printer Centering?

Printer Centering refers to adjusting the origin of the printed text relative to the physical item (e.g., terminal block marker, cable tag). These adjustments are made in **X (horizontal)** and **Y (vertical)** coordinates to fix alignment issues (**see figure 47**).

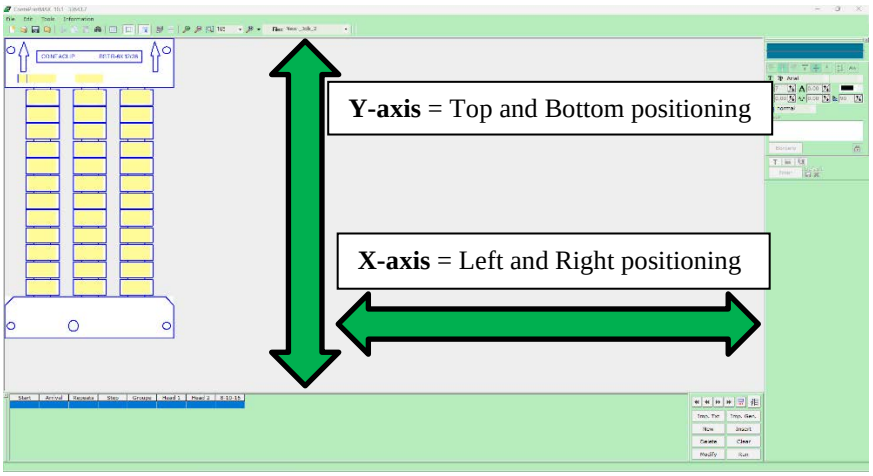
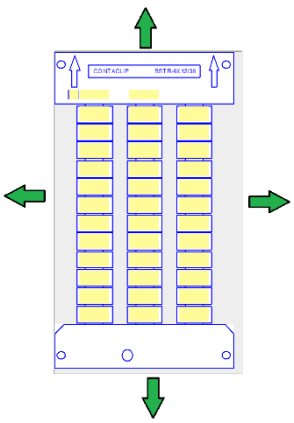


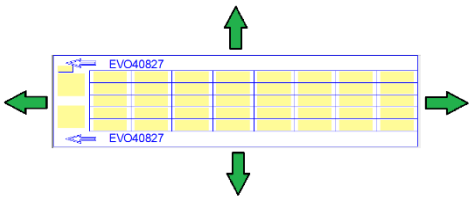
Figure 48: Text Properties tool

Direction Definitions

- **+Y** = Shift the print **upward** on the tag
- **–Y** = Shift the print **downward**
- **+X** = Shift the print **right**
- **–X** = Shift the print **left**



Terminal Block Marker



Device/Installation Marker

Note: These directions are always in reference to how the tag or strip is displayed in the **ContaPrintMAX window**, not necessarily the printer's physical orientation.

4.1.2 Step-by-Step Procedure for Centering

Step a.1 – Launch the Software

- Open **ContaPrintMAX** on your computer.

Step a.2 – Open Printer Setup

- From the top menu, go to:
  File → Printer Setup

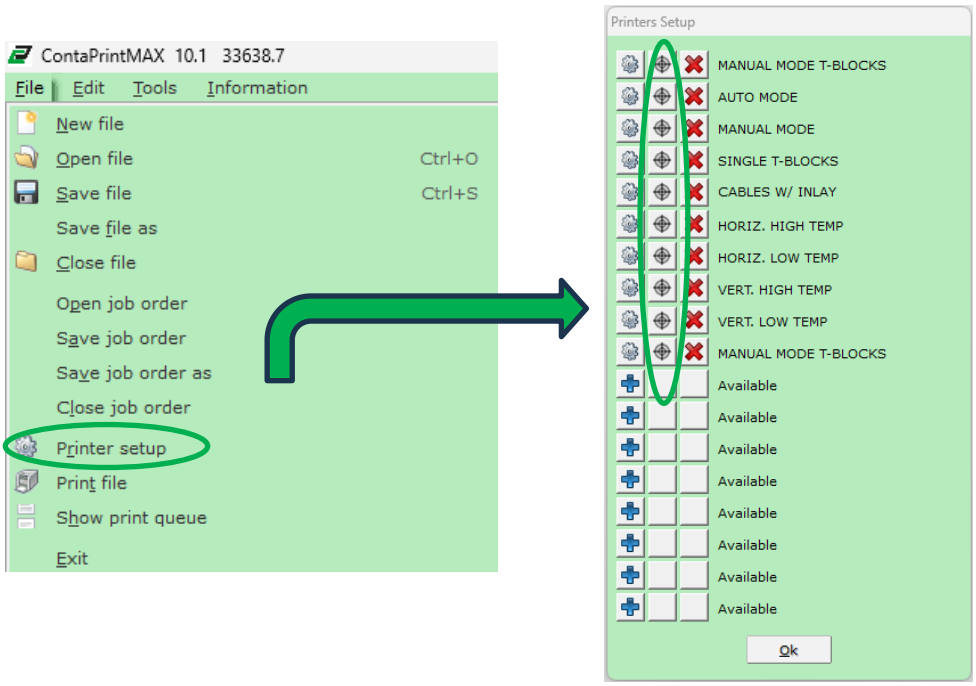


Figure 49: Printer Setup Menu

Step a.3 – Open Centering Panel

- Locate the device/printer profile
  you want to calibrate
  (e.g., "Manual Mode", "Auto Mode").

- Click the **second button** (black cross icon) in the row of three buttons next to the printer name – this opens the **centering and calibration window**.

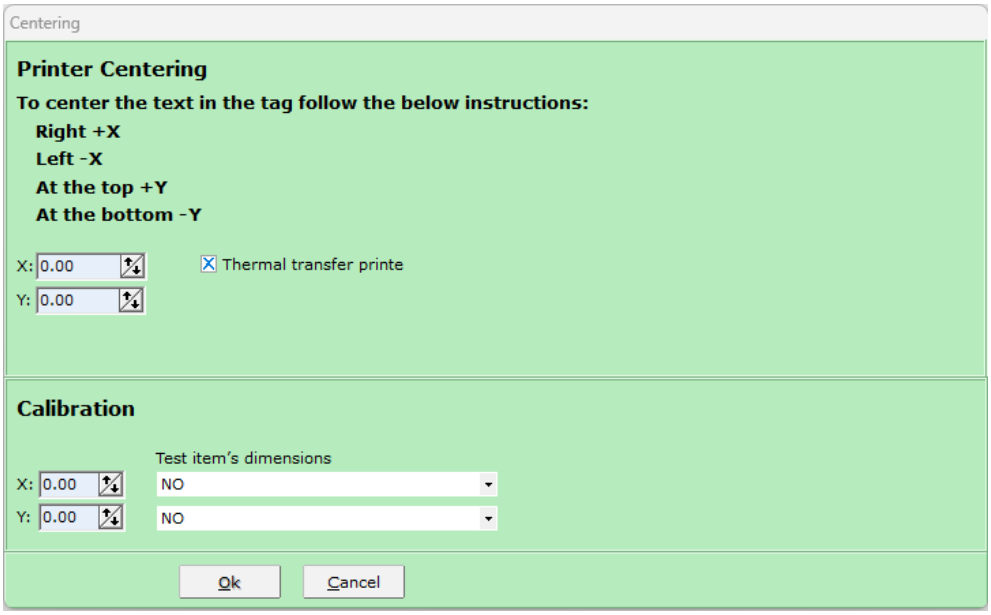


Figure 50: Printer Centering Window

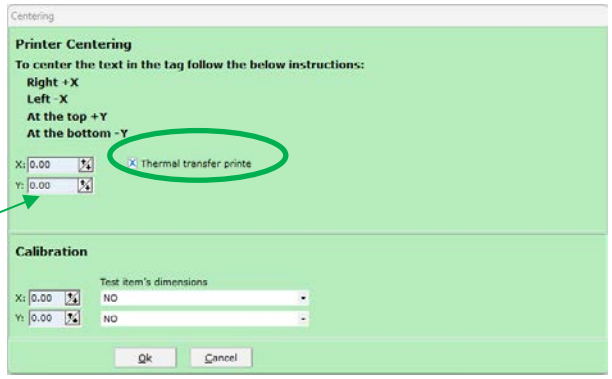
Step a.4 – Enable Thermal Transfer Printer

- In the centering window, check the box:
  "Thermal Transfer Printer"
- This activates the X/Y offset fields.

Input Adjustment Values

In the corresponding fields:

Goal	Axis	Value
Move text **up**	Y	Positive (+)
Move text **down**	Y	Negative (–)
Move text **right**	X	Positive (+)
Move text **left**	X	Negative (–)



- Input is accepted in **hundredths of a millimeter** (e.g., +0.20 mm).
- **Click OK to accept changes**

Verification Process

Now that adjustments are made, perform a **test print** to check alignment, to do so send perform a standard print job as described below.

Step a.5 – Create Test Job

- Create a **single-item job** in the software.
- Insert a simple repeating character like: **"H"** in the first tag.
  - This allows for visual clarity when checking alignment.

Step a.6 – Print the Job

- Send the job to the printer using the **correct virtual printer mode**.

Step a.7 – Inspect Printed Tag

Compare the printed result with these common alignment issues:

Issue	Solution	Sample Image Character Tags
NO ISSUE: TEXT IS CENTERED	**NO SOLUTION REQUIRED**	
Text is too high on the tag	Enter a **–Y** value to move down	
Text is too low	Enter a **+Y** value to move up	
Text is shifted to the right	Enter a **–X** value to move left	
Text is shifted to the left	Enter a **+X** value to move right	

Repeat the process by slightly adjusting values and reprinting until optimal alignment is achieved.

4.1.3 Final Recommendation

Perform this centering adjustment **once per virtual printer device profile** (e.g., Auto Mode, Manual Mode) and for **each type of item/inlay** used.

Once completed, the system will retain the alignment settings for all future jobs unless manually changed.

4.2 Printer Calibration (Length)

Printer calibration (length) is used to **adjust the print step length** to ensure that the entire printed output is correctly spaced and fully covers the intended area, especially when printing multiple markers or tags in sequence.

This is crucial for:

- Preventing **cumulative misalignment**
- Ensuring text is evenly spaced from **first to last tag**
- Compensating for mechanical tolerances or thermal shrinkage/stretch

4.2.1 Example of Correct Print Vs Miscalibration Print

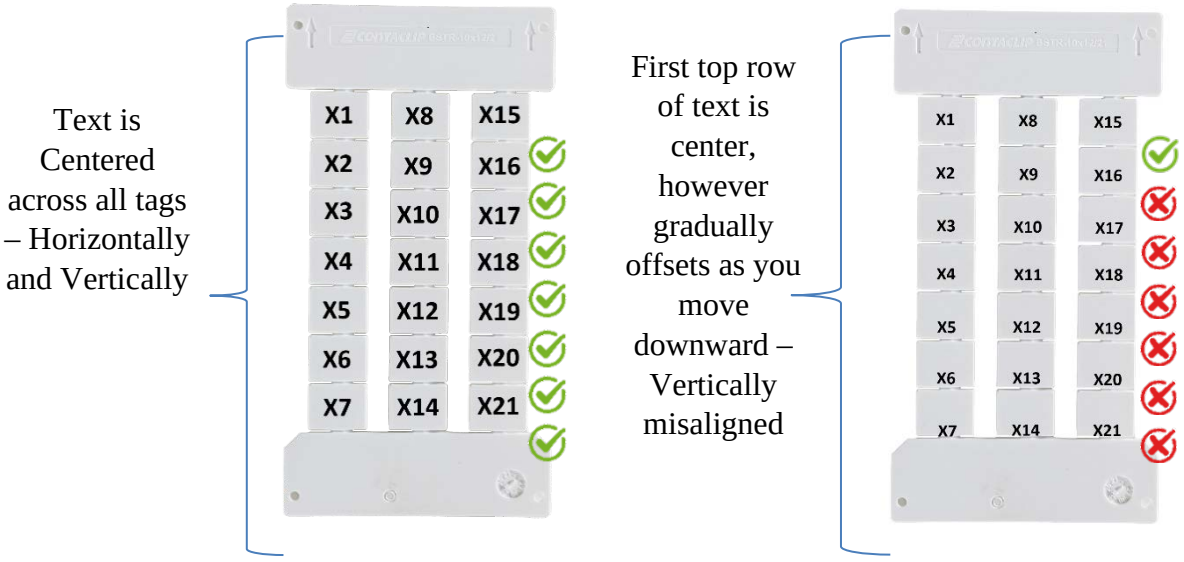


Figure 51: Miscalibration Gradual offset occurring at every tag

4.2.2 What Is Print Step Length?

Each item (e.g., a marker tag) is printed in sequence. The **"step length"** is the vertical or horizontal distance the printer advances between prints.

If the printer advances **too little**, your text will:

- Appear **compressed**
- Be misaligned by the last tag

If the printer advances **too much**, your text will:

- Be spaced too far apart
- Spill over the physical boundary of the tag/strip

4.2.3 How Calibration Works

- You provide the **actual measured print length**.
- The software **compares it with the reference length** (i.e., what it *should* be).
- The difference is **compensated automatically**: it scales the stepping length up or down.

4.2.3.1 Example 1: Horizontal Axis Calibration (X-Axis)

Let's calibrate the horizontal spacing using an item like **SI2K201** (print area: 220 mm):

Setup:

1) Launch ContaPrintMAX
2) Create a single-item job
3) Enter text **"HHHHHH"** into all tags
4) Print and observe the **first and last tags**

5) If you notice that the total printed width is **shorter than expected**, you need to **extend the print step**.

Example issue: First tag starts correctly, last tag ends too early.

Measure Deviation:

5.1) Measure:

- d1 = distance from left edge to first "H"

  Say in this case d1 = 3mm

- d2 = distance from left edge to first "H" of last tag

  Say in this case d2 = 1 mm
  Therefore the Difference = d1 – d2 = 3mm – 1mm = 2 mm
  Thus in this particular case it is: **2 mm short, so you have to extend the card by 2mm**.

Apply Calibration:

6) Go to **File → Printer Setup**
7) Click the **black cross icon** (2nd of 3 buttons) for the device
8) In the bottom-left of the window, find the **Calibration section**

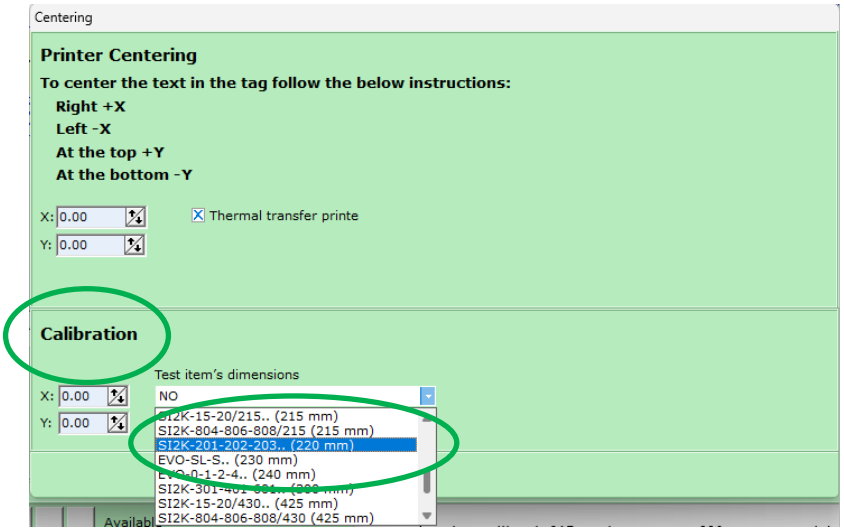
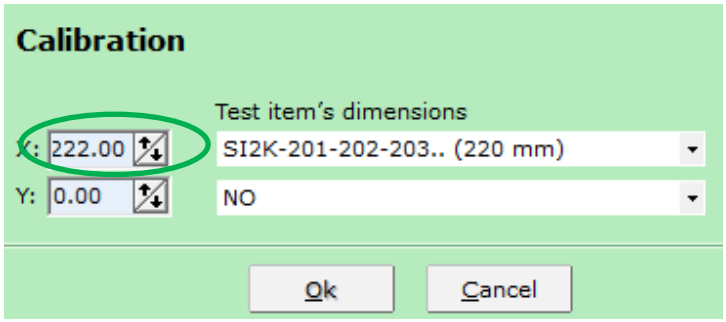


Figure 52: Calibration Settings Window

8.1) Select **SI2K201** in the **X-Axis** dropdown

8.2) Reference value shown: **220 mm** (official length)
8.3) Input the actual printed length: 220 + 2 = 222 mm. Enter 222.00 inside the box. And click **OK**



8.4) Software will adjust and **scale each print step** to match 217 mm

Result: From now on, the printer will scale 217 mm input across a 220 mm area, solving the spacing issue.

4.2.3.2 Example 2: Vertical Axis Calibration (Y-Axis)

Now, let's calibrate the **vertical step** using **SI2K02/15N** (print area: 85 mm):

Setup:

1) Launch ContaPrintMAX
2) Create a single-item job
3) Enter text "HHHHHH" into all tags
4) Print and observe the **top and bottom tags**

5) If the print appears **compressed vertically**, the print step is **too short**.

Measure Deviation:

6) Measure:

- d1 = top marker to start of text

  Say in this case d1 = 1mm

- d2 = bottom marker to start of text
  Say in this case d2 = 4 mm

  Therefore the Difference = d1 – d2 = 1mm – 4mm = - 3 mm (Note: negative, means short, Positive value means long)

  Thus in this particular case it is: **3 mm short, so you have to extend the card by 3mm**.

Apply Calibration:

7) Go to **File → Printer Setup**
8) Click the **black cross icon** for the device
9) In the bottom-left, find the **Calibration section**

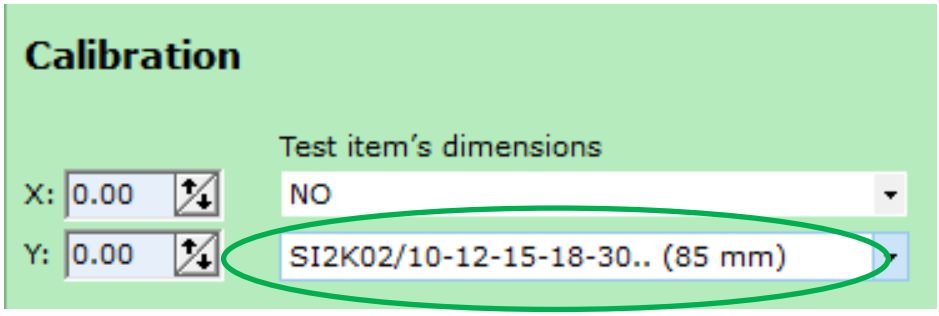


Figure 53: Calibration Menu

10) Select **SI2K02/15N** in the **Y-Axis** dropdown

11) Reference value shown: **85 mm**
12) Enter: 85 + 3 = 88 mm. And click **OK**

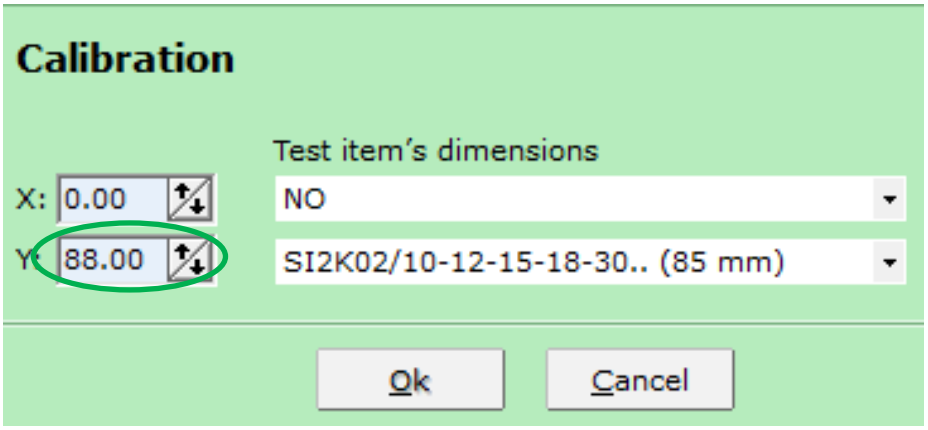


Figure 54: Calibration Adjustment entry

13) Software will scale 88 mm input across 85 mm area

Result: Each vertical step is now proportionally stretched to match the intended layout.

4.2.4 Summary Table of Key Fields

Field	What You Input		Why
X or Y Axis	Actual printed length		Corrects print spacing
Reference length	Predefined by software		Known tag/inlay length
Adjustment value	Difference (mm)		Correction needed
Device profile	Manual Mode, Auto Mode, etc.		Calibration is stored per device

4.2.5 Best Practices

- **Do not Perform calibration unless strictly necessary** for each virtual printer device (e.g., Auto Mode, Manual Mode). Often Centering Print centering offsets will do the trick in the x and y if necessary. Check loading of card on the inlay and other obstructions before attempting calibration.
- Use **test characters like "HHHHHH"** for clear visual feedback.
- Always **measure from fixed tag points**, not the edge of the inlay.
- Recalibrate if:
    - You change tag material
    - You adjust the inlay
    - You replace hardware (feeder, printer)

When using the calibration function, the card's reference size is only an approximate value, and the impact of adjustments depends on the proportion of change to the overall length. For example, increasing a 220 mm reference to 222 mm is about a 1 % change, whereas increasing a 54 mm reference to 56 mm is roughly a 4 % change, making the latter adjustment significantly more noticeable.

5 – Managing the Data Generator

The **Data Generator** in ContaPrintMAX is a powerful tool designed to automatically create sequential numeric, alphabetic, or mixed marker strings.
It streamlines the process of producing labels, tags, and markers for mono-article, bi-article, or multi-article jobs, reducing manual input time and minimizing errors.

When a new job is created, an **Article Plate** appears. At the bottom of the ContaPrintMAX window, the **Generator Panel** is displayed. This panel contains a grid (similar to a spreadsheet) that lists all parameters required for sequence generation.

5.1 Understanding the Generator Layout

The Generator works by defining sequences based on a starting point, an end point, and additional parameters such as repetition and step values.
The main fields in the Generator are:

Field	Description
Start	The number, letter, or string where generation begins.
Arrival	The final number, letter, or string where generation ends.
Repetitions	Number of times each marker should be repeated before moving to the next in sequence.
Step	Increment or decrement value applied to numeric progressions (can be fractional or whole).
Group	Optional label grouping markers for easier selection and management.
Head 1 / Head 2	Additional fixed text fields that can be associated with each generated marker.
8-10-16	Numerical base for progression (Octal, Decimal, Hexadecimal).

Tip: The column widths in the generator grid can be adjusted by dragging the divider lines between headers. The currently active row is highlighted in **blue**.

Figure 55: Generator Panel highlighted in Red

5.2 Generator Functional Buttons

Within the **ContaPrintMAX Data Generator** window, a set of functional pushbuttons is available on the right-hand side.
These tools allow users to import, create, modify, and manage generator data efficiently, minimizing manual input and reducing errors.

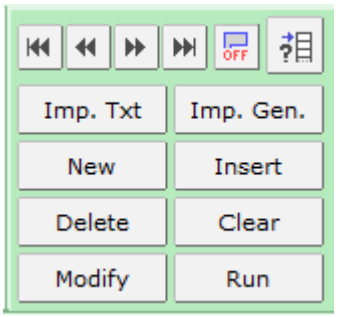


Figure 56: Generator Tools Side Panel

1. Imp. Txt (Import Text File)

- Allows the automatic import of marker data generated by popular electrical design applications (e.g., Elecad, CADelet, EPLAN).
- These programs can export marker or label data in **ASCII text (*.txt)** format.
- When the file follows the **Record Tracing** format recognized by ContaPrintMAX, it can be imported directly, saving significant time and eliminating manual typing errors.
- **Process:** Select the desired `.txt` file and press **Enter**. ContaPrintMAX automatically processes and imports the data into the generator.

2. Imp. Gen. (Import Generator File)

- Imports generator data from:
  - `.cms and .glv` files created in **ContaPrintMAX**
- This feature allows reusing pre-configured marker sequences from one job in another, even if the articles differ in type or size.
- **Example:** Marker data originally prepared for cable supports can be transferred to pin supports without retyping.

3. New

- Creates a **new blank generator line** at the bottom of the table.
- Used when adding new marker sequences from scratch.

4. Enter

- Inserts a **new generator line directly above** the currently selected (active) line.
- Useful when needing to add a sequence in between existing ones.

5. Delete

- Permanently deletes the selected (active) generator line.
- Requires prior selection with the mouse.

6. Clear

- Removes **all generator lines** from the table, effectively clearing the generator's entire content for the current job.

7. Modify

- Opens the selected generator line for **editing**.
- Used to adjust sequence start/end values, repetitions, step size, or other parameters.

8. Run

- Executes the generation process based on the parameters defined in the generator table.
- Automatically populates the layout with the generated markers or sequences.
- If the generated set exceeds the available tags on the current plate, ContaPrintMAX adds new plates automatically.

9. Navigation Arrows

- Quickly move between generator lines:
  - |◄◄– Jump to the first line
  - ◄◄ – Move to the previous line
  - ►► – Move to the next line
  - ►►| – Jump to the last line

10. Heading Management (ON/OFF)

- **OFF (Default):** Generated markers are placed sequentially into tags, ignoring any **Head1** and **Head2** values.
- **ON:** Maintains the link between generated markers and their associated **Head1** and **Head2** headings.
  - To maintain alignment, ContaPrintMAX may insert **empty tags** as placeholders.
  - Once headings are inserted, switching back to OFF will not remove placeholders automatically; they must be manually deleted.

11. Find Start Text

- Opens a search function to quickly locate existing strings within the generator.
- Particularly useful for large datasets with many sequences.

5.2.1 Entering or Modifying Generator Data

You can:

- **Create a new line** – Use **New**.
- **Modify an existing line** – Use **Modify**.
- **Insert between lines** – Select the row before the insertion point and use **Enter**.

In the edit dialog, you can set:

- **Start** – Starting marker value.
- **Arrival** – Ending marker value.
- **Repeats** – Number of repetitions per marker (≥1).
- **Step** – Increment/decrement between markers.
- **Group** – Assign grouping label (optional).
- **Head 1 / Head 2** – Text to appear in the respective heading fields.

5.2.2 Sequence Types

ContaPrintMAX supports three main sequence types:

1. **Numeric Progressions**
    - Example: Start = 1, Arrival = 10 → 1, 2, 3 … 10.
    - Step can be positive (increment) or negative (decrement).
    - Leading zeroes are preserved (e.g., 01 → 10).
2. **Alphabetic Progressions**
    - Example: Start = A, Arrival = F → A, B, C, D, E, F.
    - Supports both upper and lower case.
    - Step must always be **1**.
3. **Mixed Initials/Markers**
    - Combines fixed and variable parts.
    - Examples:
        - A1 → A10
        - B01 → B20
        - V/100 → V/001 (reverse sequence)
4. **Double Generation**
    - Handles two variable elements in one marker.
    - Example: A01 → B10, 22/C → 50/H.

5.2.3 Alignment & Selection Features

- **Column Alignment** – Clicking a column header sorts rows alphabetically or numerically.
- **Select by Group** – Highlights rows with a matching Group value.
- **Select by Head 1 / Head 2** – Highlights rows matching specific headings.

5.2.4 Copying & Pasting Generator Data

You can copy data from one job to another:

1. Select the desired rows.
2. **Edit → Copy data from the generator**.
3. Open another job.
4. **Edit → Paste data in the generator**.
5. Press **Run** to apply.

5.3 Excel-Like Generator Mode

The **Excel-Like Generator Mode** in **ContaPrintMAX** provides a spreadsheet-style interface for entering, managing, and generating marker data.
This mode is designed for users who are familiar with Microsoft Excel or similar applications, enabling faster data entry, easy bulk modifications, and powerful import/export functions.

It supports **all types of text and numeric sequences** that can be used in the marker generation process.

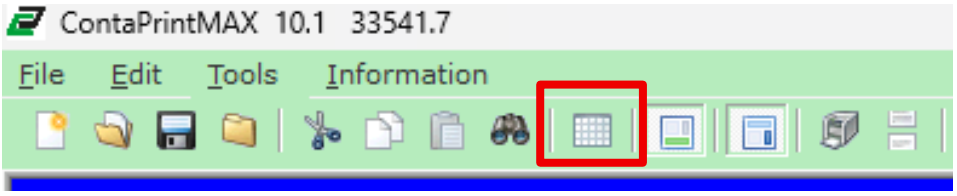
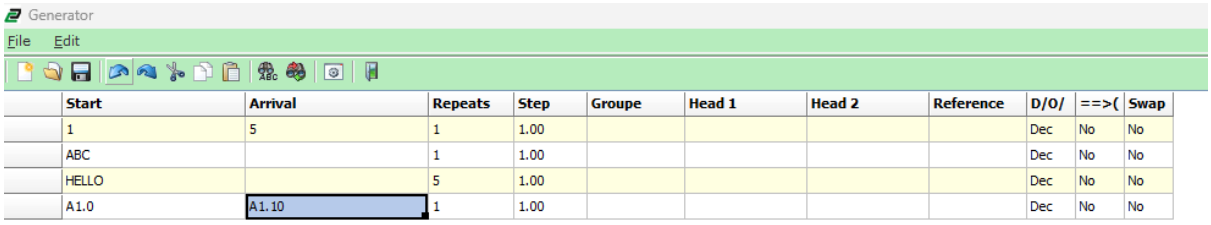


Figure 57: Excel-Like Generator Tab

It includes:

- **Standard Spreadsheet Functions** – Cut, Copy, Paste, Find, Find & Replace.
- **SmartClipboard** – Automatically fills sequences when dragging or selecting multiple cells.
- **XLS File Import/Export** – Directly open or save jobs in Excel format.



	Start	Arrival	Repeats	Step	Groupe	Head 1	Head 2	Reference	D/O/	==>(	Swap
	1	5	1	1.00					Dec	No	No
	ABC		1	1.00					Dec	No	No
	HELLO		5	1.00					Dec	No	No
	A1.0	A1.10	1	1.00					Dec	No	No

Figure 58: Excel-Like Generator Mode

Excel File Structure:

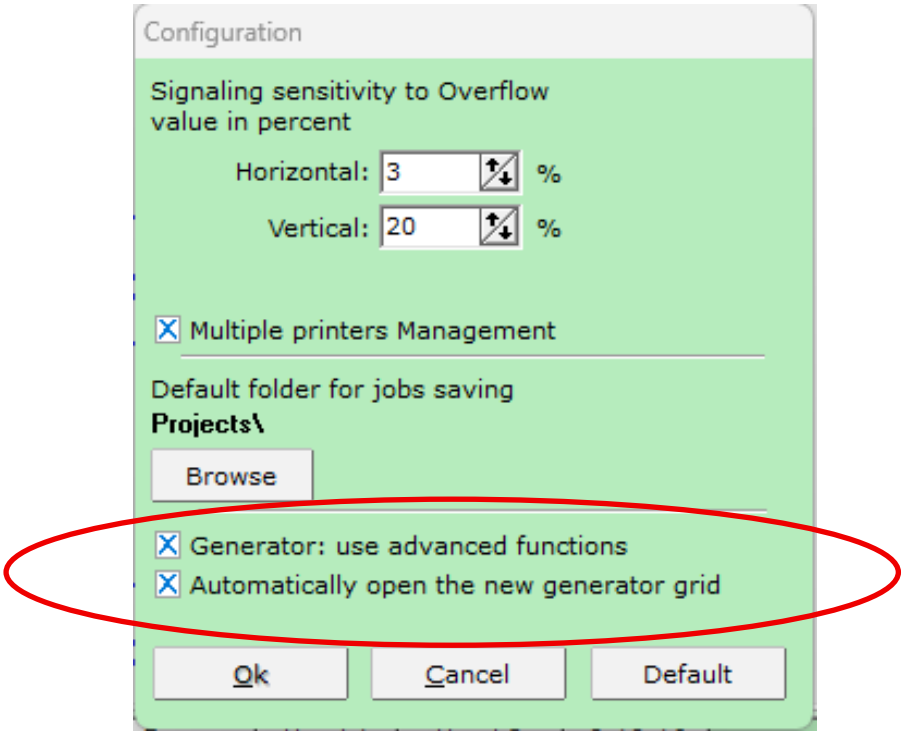
1. Start
2. Arrival

3. Repeats
4. Step
5. Group
6. Head1
7. Head2
8. Reference
9. Numbering base (D, O, H)
10. Direction (N = Left→Right, Y = Right→Left)
11. Swap (N = No, Y = Yes)

5.4 Activating the Excel-Like Generator

Before using this mode, it must be enabled in **Configuration**:

1. Open **ContaPrintMAX**.
2. Go to the **Tools** menu → **Configuration**.
3. Two options control this mode:
    - **Generator: Use Advanced Functions** – Enables the Excel-Like Generator functionality.



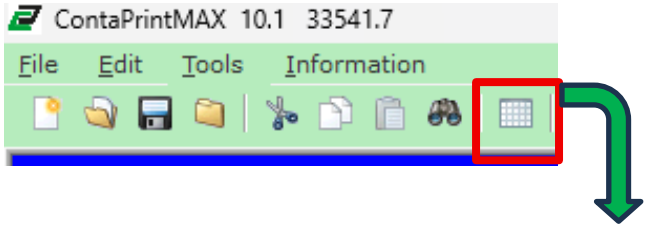
    - **Automatically Open the New Generator Grid** – Opens the Excel-Like interface by default whenever a new job is created.

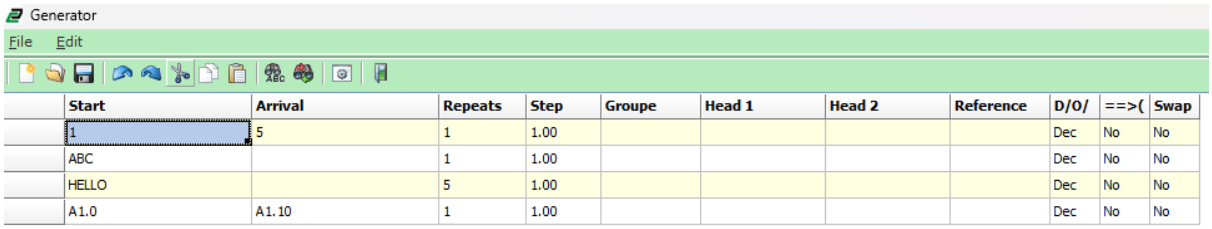
Note: When enabled, you can access the Excel-Like grid at any time.

5.5 Opening the Excel-Like Generator

After creating a new job:

- Click the **"Show Generator Grid"** button from the main toolbar.
- The system will display the spreadsheet-like interface for entering your generator data.





Start	Arrival	Repeats	Step	Groupe	Head 1	Head 2	Reference	D/O/	==>(	Swap
1	5	1	1.00					Dec	No	No
ABC		1	1.00					Dec	No	No
HELLO		5	1.00					Dec	No	No
A1.0	A1.10	1	1.00					Dec	No	No

5.6 Layout and Fields

The Excel-Like generator is structured in **columns**, each representing a specific parameter in the sequence generation.
Key fields include:

Field	Description
Start	Starting number, letter, or alphanumeric string from which generation begins.
Arrival	Ending number, letter, or string where generation stops.
Repeats	Number of times each marker should be repeated before incrementing. Must be ≥ 1.
Step	Increment or decrement value for numeric sequences. Accepts decimal values for precise adjustments. Alphabetic progressions always use **Step = 1**.
Group	Optional grouping label for classifying generated markers.
Head1	Optional text inserted into the marker's "Head1" field (e.g., a category name).
Head2	Optional text inserted into the marker's "Head2" field.
D-O-H	Numbering type: **D** = Decimal, **O** = Octal, **H** = Hexadecimal.
Generation Direction	Defines sequence order when multiple variables are used:

- **Left to Right** – Example (R1 → T2): R1, S1, T1, R2, S2, T2

- **Right to Left** – Example (R1 → T2): R1, R2, R3, T1, T2, T3 |
| **Swap** | For double-generation markers, reverses each marker's content (e.g., R1 → 1R).

5.7 Functional Buttons

The **Excel-Like Generator** includes a set of toolbar buttons for job management, data editing, and sequence configuration:

File & Job Management

- **New** – Create a new job.
- **Load File** – Open an existing job from an .XLS file.
- **Save** – Save the current generator data to file.

Edit Controls

- **Cancel Modification** – Undo the most recent change in the current entry step (**F2**).
- **Restore Modification** – Redo a change undone in the current entry step (**F2**).
- **Cut** – Remove selected rows or cells and place them in the clipboard.
- **Copy** – Copy selected rows or cells to the clipboard.
- **Paste** – Paste rows or cells from the clipboard into the grid.
- **Find** – Search for data in the sheet.
- **Find / Substitute** – Search and replace values in the sheet.

Property Window – Bulk Input Settings

Allows you to:

- **Copy from Previous Row** for:
  - Start, Arrival, Repeats, Step, Group, Head1, Head2, Reference, Dec/Ott/Hex, Direction, Swap
- **Set Default Values** for:
  - Repeats (must be > 0)
  - Step (must be > 0)
  - Numbering type (Decimal, Octal, Hexadecimal)
- **Options**:
  - **Copy Start to Arrival** – Useful when saving external files to avoid empty columns.
  - **SmartClipboard** – Enables automatic filling:
    - Enter values in the first two cells (e.g., 1 and 2 in the Start column).
    - Select both cells, drag down or use Shift + mouse to autofill the sequence.

Exit

- Return to the standard **ContaPrintMAX** layout.

5.8 XLS File Management

From the **File** menu, XLS-based data management includes:

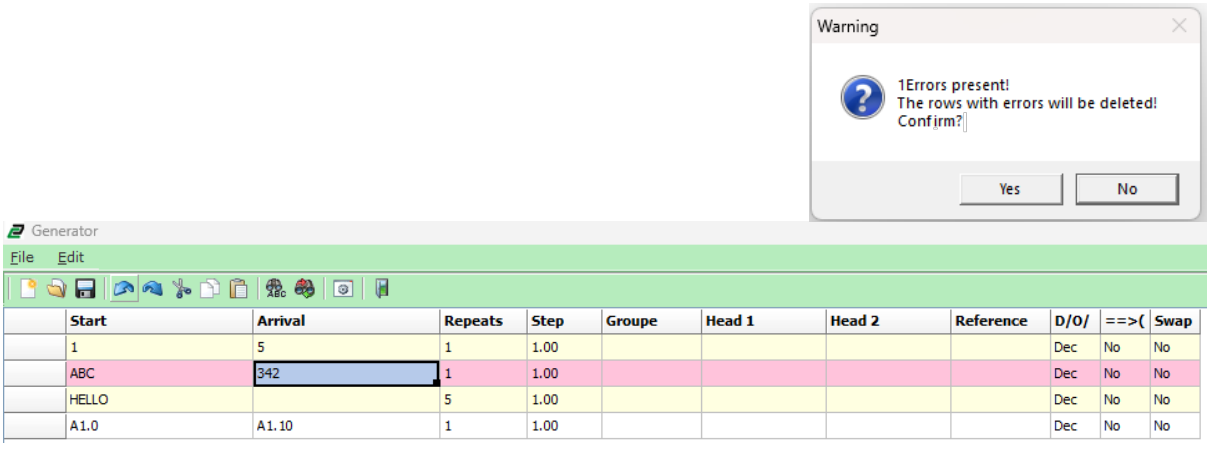
- **New** – Clears the current job for fresh input.
- **Load File** – Opens an `.XLS` file formatted with columns in this order:
    1. Start
    2. Arrival
    3. Repeats
    4. Step
    5. Group
    6. Head1
    7. Head2
    8. Reference
    9. Numbering Type (D/O/H)
    10. Direction (N = Left to Right, Y = Right to Left)
    11. Swap (N = No, Y = Yes)
- **Save File** – Saves current data to `.XLS`.
- **Save File As** – Saves with a new filename.

Note: Only the **Start** column is mandatory.

5.9 Data Validation

When closing the Excel-Like Generator window:

- The system checks **Start** and **Arrival** fields for validity.
- Invalid rows are highlighted in **pink** and ignored during generation.
- If issues are detected, a warning message appears.



5.10 Copy/Paste from Other Applications

You can paste data directly from Excel or similar programs:

1. In Excel, select a continuous cell range.

2. Press **Ctrl+C** (or **Ctrl+Ins**).
3. In ContaPrintMAX, click the first cell where data should be inserted.
4. Press **Ctrl+V** (or **Shift+Ins**) to paste.

5.11 Deleting Cells or Rows

- To delete **rows**: Select a range → **Ctrl+Delete**.
- To clear **cell contents only** (keeping row structure): Select cells → **Shift+Delete**.
    - The deleted content is first copied to the clipboard.

5.12 Summary of functions:

The following table outlines the key functions available within the *Generator* module of ContaPrintMAX. These functions can be accessed through two main dropdown menus, **File** and **Edit**, as shown in the screenshots.

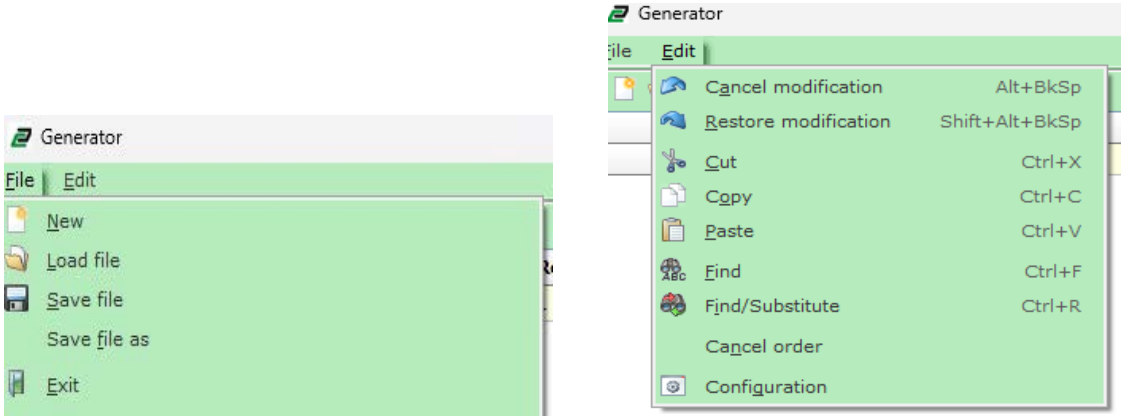


Figure 59: Excel-Like Generator Mode Drop down Menus

Each function supports job management, editing, validation, or automation during the label creation process. Shortcut keys are also provided where applicable.

Function	Description
New	Create a new job from scratch. This clears the current worksheet. *(File → New)*
Load File	Open an existing .xls job file. Used to continue work from previous sessions. *(File → Load file)*
Save	Save the current job in its current file. *(File → Save file)*
Save As	Save the current job under a new filename or location. *(File → Save file as)*
Exit	Close the Generator module and return to the main ContaPrintMAX layout. *(File → Exit)*
Cancel Modification	Undo the last change made in the sheet. *(Edit → Cancel modification
Restore Modification	Redo the last undone change. *(Edit → Restore modification
Cut	Remove the selected cells or rows. *(Edit → Cut

Copy	Copy selected cells or rows to the clipboard. *(Edit → Copy
Paste	Insert copied cells/rows into the selected location. *(Edit → Paste
Find	Search for data in the current sheet. *(Edit → Find
Find/Substitute	Search for and replace values in the sheet. *(Edit → Find/Substitute
Cancel Order	Cancels the current job or operation without saving changes. *(Edit → Cancel order)*
Configuration	Opens the configuration menu to define default settings (e.g., default fonts, fields). *(Edit → Configuration)*
SmartClipboard	Automatically detects patterns to autofill values across rows.
Property Window	Assigns default field values for new lines and allows duplication from previous entries.
Data Validation	Checks Start and Arrival fields for logic errors before saving.
Copy/Paste from Excel	Paste bulk data from an external Excel file directly into ContaPrintMAX fields.
Delete Rows/Cells	Delete specific cells or rows from the worksheet (via Ctrl+Del or Shift+Del).

6 – How to Manage Mass Import of Data

ContaPrintMAX allows for the efficient import of large volumes of labeling data via structured text files. This is particularly useful for automating repetitive labeling tasks across cables, panels, machines, and wiring harnesses in industrial projects.

This section explains how to:

- Import data using `.txt` or `.csv` files
- Understand the required field structure
- Manage multi-line entries
- Define correct formats and syntax

6.1 Terminology and Data Structure Used in ContaPrintMAX

- Before importing data, it is important to understand the terminology used within ContaPrintMAX.

Term	Description
Job	A complete dataset tied to specific article types and printer settings.
Family	A group of articles with shared structural or formatting characteristics.
Item Code	The unique identifier for an article in the Grafoplast catalog (e.g., `SI2K02W/10N` – a 10mm cable tag).
Module	A reference to a specific article type.
Bone / Flag	Defines the structure of a tag set. A **Bone** distributes tags on both sides; a **Flag** uses only one side.
Marking Text	The printed identification data for each tag, such as `AB01` to `AB36`. **(see Figure 59)**

Head 1	The primary information (e.g., project name, order number) associated with a Bone/Flag. **(see Figure 59)**
Head 2	Optional secondary information (e.g., CAD page or wiring harness ID). Not all articles support this.
Reference	Tag-specific descriptive info, typically 3 characters long. Examples: wire gauge or signal group. **(see Figure 59)**
Repetitions/ Numbering	Number of tags printed with the same marking text. Managed in the print settings. Progressive numbering of Bone/Flag
Group	Non-printing descriptor used for organizing and filtering data inside ContaPrintMAX.

Note: Exported data from CAD software varies depending on customer requirements. Typically, CAD systems allow mapping variables to the ContaPrintMAX record structure.

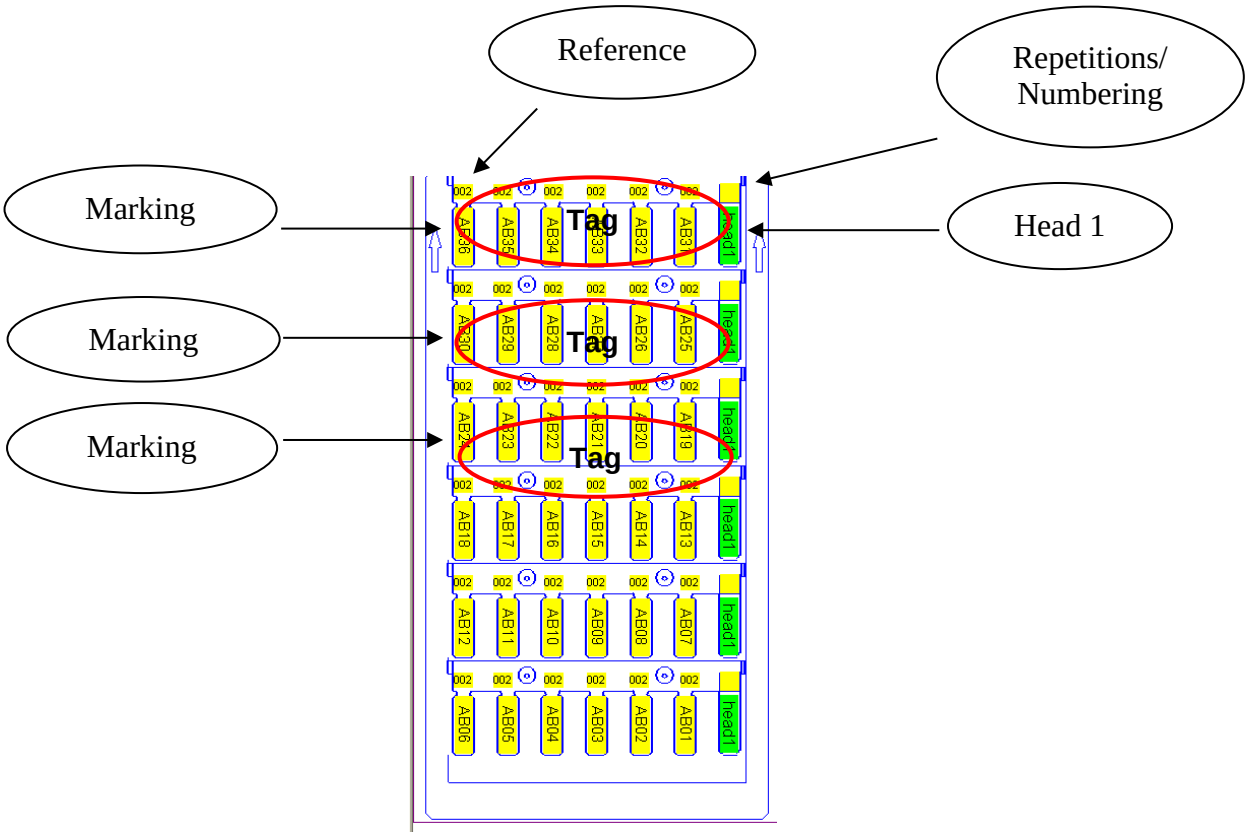


Figure 60: Typical Marker Showing data structure

6.2 Option 1: Import from ASCII File with Fixed Record Trace (.txt)

ContaPrintMAX supports importing ASCII files with fixed column positions. Each record must be formatted according to pre-defined character ranges.

Step-by-Step: How to Create a Fixed-Width ASCII File for Import

ContaPrintMAX expects a .txt file where each data field starts and ends at a **specific column position** in each row (this is called a **record trace by position**). This means **you must align your data precisely** using spaces so that the software can read each value based on its position, not based on separators like commas or semicolons.

Understand the Column Positions

Here is the required structure:

Field Name	Start Column	End Column	Length
Group	1	11	11
Head 1	12	23	12
Head 2	24	35	12
Reference	36	38	3
Repetitions	39	42	4
Marking Text	43 onward	—	Any

NOTE: You must make sure each piece of information **starts and ends in the exact column** listed above.

How to Create the File

You can use **Notepad**, **Notepad++**, or a **monospaced font editor** like **VS Code** or **Windows Terminal** for more precise alignment. Avoid using Word or Excel for this version.

Multi-Line Marking Text: Use the double ASCII character || (Alt+124) in the Marking Text field to insert line breaks.

Each line in your .txt file must be written like this:

Example: Fixed-width Format

Group	HEAD 1	HEAD 2	REFERENCE	REPETITIONS	MARKING TEXT
CUSTOMER1	JOB#1	PANEL	202	5	AB01
CUSTOMER1	JOB#1	PANEL	202	1	ON||OFF

Let’s break it down visually with column numbers:

Column: 1 12 24 36 39 43+

|---------|---------|---------|----|------|--------------------------------

Example: CUSTOMER1 JOB#1 PANEL 202 5 AB01

- CUSTOMER1 is in columns **1–11**
- JOB#1 is in columns **12–23**

- PANEL is in columns **24–35**
- 202 is in columns **36–38**
- 5 is in columns **39–42**
- AB01 starts at column **43**

Notes:

- Use **spaces** to fill in empty gaps between shorter values.
- Do **not** use tabs or other separators.
- The **text must be monospaced** (each character takes up the same space).
- Use **Notepad** or another plain-text editor to ensure proper spacing and alignment according to the field trace.

Multi-Line Tags

- If a tag requires **multi-line text** (e.g., "ON" in line 1 and "OFF" in line 2), insert `||` (double pipe characters using **Alt+124**) in the **Marking Text** field, like this:

CUSTOMER1 JOB#1 PANEL 202 1 ON||OFF

This will be printed as:

ON

OFF

Validate Your File

Before importing:

- Open the .txt file in Notepad or another plain text editor.
- Check that your content lines up correctly by counting spaces or turning on the **column ruler** in an advanced editor.
- Save the file as plain text (.txt), encoded in **ANSI** or **UTF-8** (no BOM).

Final Tip:

- To help you align content easily, you can even create a **header row of numbers** to match column positions (this is just for your reference—not for actual import):

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35
C	**U**	**S**	**T**	**O**	**M**	**E**	**R**	**1**				**J**	**O**	**B**	**#**	**1**					**.**			**P**	**A**	**N**	**E**	**L**							
C	**U**	**S**	**T**	**O**	**M**	**E**	**R**	**1**				**J**	**O**	**B**	**#**	**1**					**.**			**P**	**A**	**N**	**E**	**L**							

This ensures that every value fits exactly into its assigned position for ContaPrintMAX to read it correctly.

6.3 Option 2: Import from CSV File with Field Trace (.csv)

ContaPrintMAX allows you to import data using a CSV file—a comma-separated format that is widely used and easy to create in Microsoft Excel or other spreadsheet programs. It is the recommended method for most users due to its flexibility, readability, and compatibility

What is a CSV File?

A CSV (Comma-Separated Values) file is a plain text file where each data value is separated by a semicolon (;) instead of fixed character positions (as in .txt).

In ContaPrintMAX, each row represents one tag entry, and each column contains a specific type of data (like Group, Head 1, Reference, etc.).

CSV Field Requirements

Field	Mandatory	Default (if empty)	Description
Group	Yes (first row)	"."	Non-printed internal descriptor, used for filtering
Head 1	Yes (first row)	"."	Primary identifier (e.g. order number, machine name)
Head 2	Yes (first row)	"."	Secondary identifier (e.g. harness or CAD sheet)
Reference	Yes (first row)	"."	Tag-level descriptor (e.g. wire size or position)
Repetitions	Yes (first row)	1	Number of tags using the same Marking Text
Marking Text	Yes	—	The actual text to be printed
Item Code	No	—	Optional Grafoplast article code
Millimeters	No	—	Length or width for special tags
Number Format	No	Decimal, Octal, or Hexadecimal	Optional numerical formatting

Note: Do not leave mandatory fields empty in the **first row**. Some systems may interpret empty cells as missing columns.

How to Prepare the CSV File

Option A – Use Excel (Recommended)

1. Open Microsoft Excel.
2. Create a new spreadsheet with the following **columns in this exact order**:

Group | Head 1 | Head 2 | Reference | Repetitions | Marking Text

3. Enter your data row by row.

Example: CSV Format

Group	Head 1	Head 2	Reference	Repetitions	Marking Text
CUSTOMER1	JOB#1	PANEL	202	5	AB01
CUSTOMER1	JOB#1	PANEL	202	1	ON||OFF

The **second row** will result in a tag that prints in **two lines**:

```
ON

OFF
```

```
Use || (double pipe characters – ASCII Alt+124) inside the Marking Text to indicate a line break.
```

4. Once your data is complete, go to:

- **File > Save As**
- Choose **CSV (Comma delimited) (*.csv)** as the file type
- Save the file

Option B – Use Notepad (Manually)

- If you prefer, you can manually create the CSV in Notepad. Each value must be separated by a **semicolon** (;) with no spaces in between.

```
CUSTOMER1;JOB#1;PANEL;202;5;AB01;

CUSTOMER1;JOB#1;PANEL;202;1;ON||OFF;
```

Always verify the saved .csv file in Notepad to ensure:

- Values are **separated by ;**
- No extra commas or tabs are present
- Encoding is **UTF-8** or **ANSI** (no BOM)

Best Practices

- **Use Quotes** only if values contain semicolons (;). Normally, quotes are not needed.
- **Keep fields in order** – even optional ones should appear after the required fields if used.
- **Validate multi-line entries** using the || separator in Marking Text.
- **Test with a small file first**, before importing a large data set.

How to Import the File into ContaPrintMAX

1. Open ContaPrintMAX.
2. Go to **File > Import ASCII File**.
3. Select the **CSV import option**.
4. Browse to your .csv file and open it.

5. The system will automatically parse the data and populate the marker layout grid.

If formatted correctly, all tags—including multi-line ones—will be loaded and ready to print or review.

Final Example (For Copy/Paste or Testing):

```
CUSTOMER1;JOB#1;PANEL;202;5;AB01;
CUSTOMER1;JOB#1;PANEL;202;1;ON||OFF;
```

This will create:

- 5 tags with "AB01"
- 1 tag with 2 lines: "ON" and "OFF"

6.4 How to Load a .txt or .csv File into ContaPrintMAX

- After you've prepared your **ASCII (.txt)** or **CSV (.csv)** file following the guidelines in **Sections 6.2 and 6.3**, you can import the data into **ContaPrintMAX** for printing or further editing.
- Below is a complete, **step-by-step guide** with screenshots references, examples, and best practices.

Step 1 – Launch ContaPrintMAX

- Open **ContaPrintMAX** on your computer.
- Make sure your printer drivers are installed and configured if you plan to print immediately after importing.

Step 2 – Navigate to the Import Function

- In the top menu bar, click:
  File → Import ASCII File
- A dialog window will open, allowing you to select the **file type** and the source file.

Step 3 – Choose Your Import Method

ContaPrintMAX supports **two import formats**:

Option 1 – ASCII Import (Fixed Position .txt File)

- Use this when your file has **fixed column positions** (see **Section 6.2**).
- Each data field must **start and end at exact character positions**.
- Example row from .txt file:

```
CUSTOMER1  JOB#1       PANEL       202 5   AB01
```

- Much easier to create and edit in **Excel** or other spreadsheet tools.

Tip: Always double-check which import method matches your prepared file. Using the wrong option can cause mapping errors.

Step 4 – Select the File to Import

- Click **Browse** and locate your prepared .txt or .csv file.
- Select the file and click **Open**.
- ContaPrintMAX will automatically detect the file format based on your chosen import method.

Step 5 – Confirm Field Mapping

Once you load the file, ContaPrintMAX will display a **preview window** showing how your data maps into the **marker layout grid**:

- Check that the columns are assigned correctly:
    - **Group**
    - **Head 1**
    - **Head 2**
    - **Reference**
    - **Repetitions**
    - **Marking Text**

If the data looks misaligned, verify:

- In .txt files → spacing and column positions
- In .csv files → semicolon separators and missing fields

Step 6 – Verify Imported Data

After confirming, ContaPrintMAX will display the data in the **design grid**.
Here's what to look for:

Example 1 – Simple Tag Import

CSV Input:

CUSTOMER1;JOB#1;PANEL;202;5;AB01;

Result in ContaPrintMAX:

- 5 tags created, all labeled **AB01**.

Example 2 – Multi-Line Tag Import

CSV Input:

```
CUSTOMER1;JOB#1;PANEL;202;1;ON||OFF;
```

Result in ContaPrintMAX:

- 1 tag created with **two lines** of text:

ON

OFF

Remember: Use || (double pipe, ASCII Alt+124) for multi-line content.

Step 7 – Save and Print

1. Once you verify the data is correct:
    - Go to **File → Save Job** to store the imported project.
    - Choose a descriptive job name for future reference.
2. If you're ready to print:
    - Click **Print**.
    - ContaPrintMAX will send the correctly formatted tag data to the selected printer.

Step 8 – Troubleshooting Common Import Issues

Issue	Cause	Solution
Data fields shifted or mismatched	Wrong import method selected	Use .csv option for semicolon files, .txt option for fixed positions
Missing Marking Text	Empty mandatory column in CSV	Ensure no blank fields, especially in the **first row**
Multi-line text not displayed	Incorrect separator used	Use `
Encoding errors or strange characters	Wrong file encoding	Save file as **UTF-8** or **ANSI** in Notepad

Final Checklist Before Importing

- Use the **correct file type** (.txt for fixed, .csv for semicolons)
- Check that all **mandatory fields** are filled in the first row
- Validate **multi-line formatting** using ||
- Preview your data in Notepad before importing
- Test a small dataset first before doing a large batch import

7 – How to Perform Print-Outs in ContaPrintMAX

ContaPrintMAX offers a flexible and powerful printing system that allows you to manage print jobs, define print options, and control output precisely. Printing is divided into two main stages:

1. **Preparing the Print Queue** → Define what to print, how to print, and where to print.

2. **Executing the Print Queue** → Send the prepared job to the printer.

This two-step workflow ensures complete control over the layout, page selection, repetitions, and printer assignment.

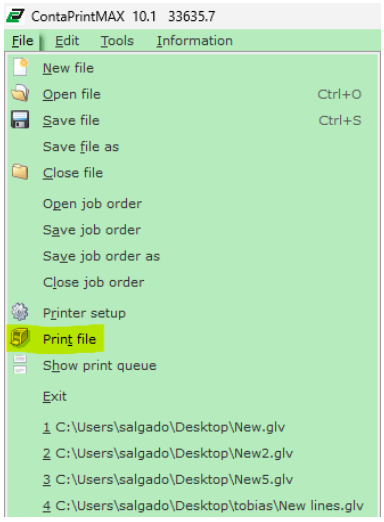
7.1 Print Job

7.1.1 Print Options Overview

Print Function(s) can only be done while in the Work Window.

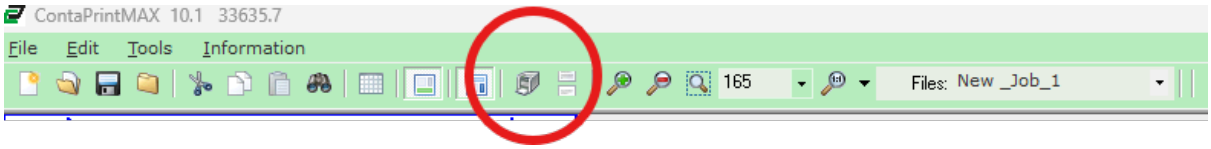
To access the print function:

- Go to **File → Print Job**



or

- Click the **Print Job** button on the toolbar.



The **Print Preparation Window** opens, divided into two main sections:

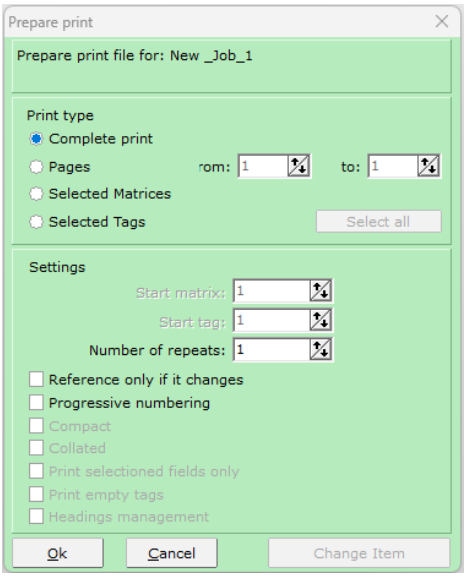


Figure 61: Print Preparation Window

A) Print Type Selection

Here, you choose **what** to print:

Option	Description	Use Case Example
Complete print	Prints the entire job	For printing all tags in one run
Pages	Select specific page(s) to print	Only reprinting Page 2 of a 5-page job
Selected Matrices	Prints specific modules (matrices)	Printing only Module 3 for quick changes
Selected Tags	Prints individual tags	Reprinting Tag A5 without touching others

Note: In ContaPrintMAX, the term **"Page"** refers to an **Item Module**.

B) Print Settings & Options

The second section defines **how** the data is printed:

Setting	Description	Example
Start Matrix	Choose which module to start printing from	Start from Matrix 3 instead of 1
Start Tag	Select the first tag within the chosen matrix	Start printing from Tag 5
Number of Repetitions	Defines how many times to repeat the selected print	Print Page 2 **three times**
Reference Only if Changed	Prints reference text only when it differs from the previous tag	Saves ink and speeds up printing

Progressive Numbering	Enables automatic numbering across tags	A1, A2, A3 instead of A1, A1, A1
Compact Mode	Eliminates blank tags or unused spaces	For wire labels with continuous numbering
Collated (Group) Tags	Groups tags logically during printing	Useful for CAD-driven imports
Print Selected Fields Only	Prints only custom-selected fields	Printing just the **logo** field
Print Empty Tags	Prints all tags even if they're blank	Pre-creating placeholder tags
Heading Management	Handles changes when **Head1** or **Head2** values differ	Starts a new print item whenever a header changes
Change Item	Switches to a **different article type** during printing	Changing from 10mm to 15mm tags mid-job

Once your selections are made, click **OK**. The prepared job is added to the **Print Queue** for execution.

7.1.2 Print All

This option prints the **entire job** from start to finish.

Settings Behavior

Setting		Availability
Start Matrix		Disabled
Start Tag		Disabled
Number of Repetitions		Enabled
Reference Only if Changed		Enabled
Progressive Numbering		Enabled
Compact Mode		Disabled
Collate Pages		Disabled
Print Selected Fields Only		Disabled
Print Empty Tags		Disabled
Heading Management		Disabled

Example: Complete Marker Cards

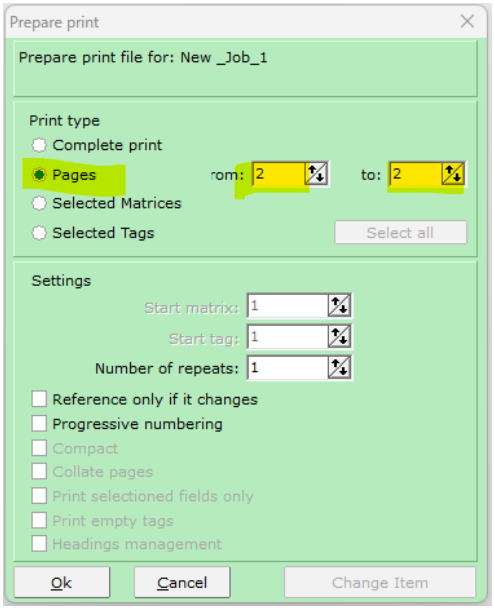
- Job = **3 cards**
- Repetitions = **2**

Repeat Cards Disabled **Repeat Cards Enabled**

Card 1 → Card 2 → Card 3 Card 1 → Card 2 → Card 3 → Card 1 → Card 2 → Card 3

7.1.3 Pages

This option prints **specific cards or commonly known as item modules** within a job.



Key Uses

- Ideal for **reprinting single Cards** after updates.
- Reduces material waste by excluding unnecessary Cards.

Example:

- Select **From = 2** and **To = 3** → Prints only Cards 2 and 3.
- Combine with **Repetitions = 2** for multi-run printing.

7.1.4 Selected Matrices

Allows printing **specific modules** (matrices) within the job.

Settings Behavior

Setting		Availability
Start Matrix		Disabled
Start Tag		Disabled
Number of Repetitions		Enabled
Reference Only if Changed		Enabled
Progressive Numbering		Enabled
Compact Mode		Enabled
Collate Pages		Disabled
Print Selected Fields Only		Disabled
Print Empty Tags		Disabled
Heading Management		Disabled

Example Scenario

You have 10 matrices, but only Matrix 3 and Matrix 7 need reprints.

- Select any tag within those matrices.
- ContaPrintMAX automatically highlights the corresponding modules.

Settings Behavior

- Start Matrix → Select a different starting point if needed.
- Compact Mode → Ensures matrices are printed continuously, without gaps.

7.1.5 Selected Tags

The **Selected Tags** option allows you to print **specific tags** from the current job instead of printing entire matrices or full pages. This is especially useful when:

- A few tags need to be corrected or reprinted.
- Only selected identifiers are required without wasting materials.
- Testing specific tags before a full production print.

How to Use Selected Tags

1. Manually **select the tags** you want to print:
    - Click individual tags in the job preview.
    - Or click **"Select All"** to highlight all tags without going back to the job window.
2. Open the **Print Job** window.
3. Choose the **Selected Tags** option.

Tip: Tag selection here is independent of matrix or page selection, giving you full control over what to print.

Settings Behavior

Setting		Availability
Start Matrix		Disabled
Start Tag		Enabled
Number of Repetitions		Enabled
Reference Only if Changed		Enabled
Progressive Numbering		Enabled
Compact Mode		Enabled
Collate Pages		Disabled
Print Selected Fields Only		Enabled
Print Empty Tags		Enabled
Heading Management		Enabled

Setting	Description	Availability	Example
Start Matrix	Defines a different starting matrix than the one containing the selected tags.	**Enabled**	Start printing from Matrix 2 even though Tag 1 is in Matrix 1.
Start Tag	Defines the **first tag** within the selected matrix to start printing.	**Enabled**	Start from Tag 5 instead of Tag 1.
Number of Repetitions	Prints the selected tags multiple times.	**Enabled**	Reprint Tag 2 five times for spares.
Reference Only if Changed	Prints reference data only when it differs from the previous tag.	**Enabled**	Saves ink if references repeat across tags.
Progressive Numbering	Automatically applies continuous numbering across the selected tags.	**Enabled**	Tag A1 → A2 → A3 automatically.
Compact Mode	Removes gaps by printing selected tags next to each other, ignoring empty tag positions.	**Enabled**	Tag 1, Tag 5, Tag 9 → prints as Tag 1, Tag 5, Tag 9 consecutively without spaces.
Collate the Tags	Controls the printing order when repeating selected tags multiple times.	**Enabled**	See collation example below.
Print Selected Fields Only	Prints **specific fields** within a tag, based on customization.	**Enabled**	Print only the logo area without any text.
Print Empty Tags	Prints tags even when they have **no text**, useful for tags containing images or placeholders.	**Enabled**	Pre-print logos before adding text later.
Heading Management	If a heading (**Head1** or **Head2**) changes, ContaPrintMAX automatically starts a new item type.	**Enabled**	Useful when grouping tags by project ID or customer name.

7.1.6 Collate the Tags – Printing Order Example

When you select multiple tags and set a **repetition count greater than 1**, ContaPrintMAX lets you choose **how tags are grouped** during printing.

Example:

- Selected tags = **Tag 1**, **Tag 2**, **Tag 3**
- Repetitions = **2**

Collate Disabled (Sequential Mode)

Tag 1 → Tag 2 → Tag 3 → Tag 1 → Tag 2 → Tag 3

- **Prints all tags once, then repeats the sequence.**

Collate Enabled (Grouped Mode)

Tag 1 → Tag 1 → Tag 2 → Tag 2 → Tag 3 → Tag 3

- **Prints each tag fully, then moves to the next tag.**

Tip: Use **Collate Disabled** when tags must maintain order (e.g., cable bundles).
Use **Collate Enabled** when you need multiple copies of the same tag consecutively.

Practical Example 1 – Reprinting a Single Tag

Scenario: Tag A3 has incorrect data, but the rest of the job is correct.

- Select **Tag A3** only.
- Set **Repetitions = 1**.
- Press **OK** → Only Tag A3 will be printed.

Practical Example 2 – Printing Spare Labels

Scenario: You want **five copies** of three specific tags for future use.

- Select **Tag 2, Tag 5, and Tag 8**.
- Set **Repetitions = 5**.
- Enable **Collate Enabled**.

Tag 2 → Tag 2 → Tag 2 → Tag 2 → Tag 2 → Tag 5 → Tag 5 → Tag 5 → Tag 5 → Tag 5 → Tag 8 → Tag 8 → Tag 8 → Tag 8 → Tag 8

Practical Example 3 – Printing Only Logos

Scenario: You have a custom article layout where the left side contains a company logo and the right side contains text.

- Enable **Print Selected Fields Only**.
- Select the **Logo** field.
- ContaPrintMAX prints **only the logo area**, leaving text spaces blank.

Key Takeaways for Selected Tags

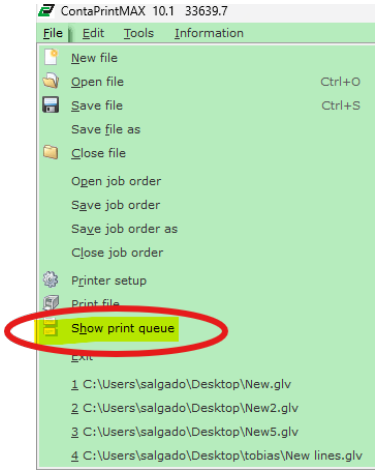
- Perfect for **small corrections** without wasting material.
- Supports **multi-tag reprints** with precise control.
- Offers flexible **printing order** via collation.
- Allows printing of **partial fields** or **empty tags** when needed.

7.2 Print Queue Management

ContaPrintMAX uses a **Print Queue System** to manage pending, active, and completed print jobs.

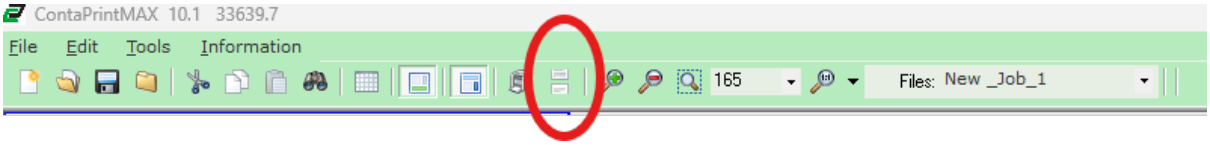
7.2.1 Accessing the Print Queue

- Go to **File → Show Print Queue**



or

- Click the **Print Queue** button on the toolbar.



7.2.2 Understanding the Print Queue Window

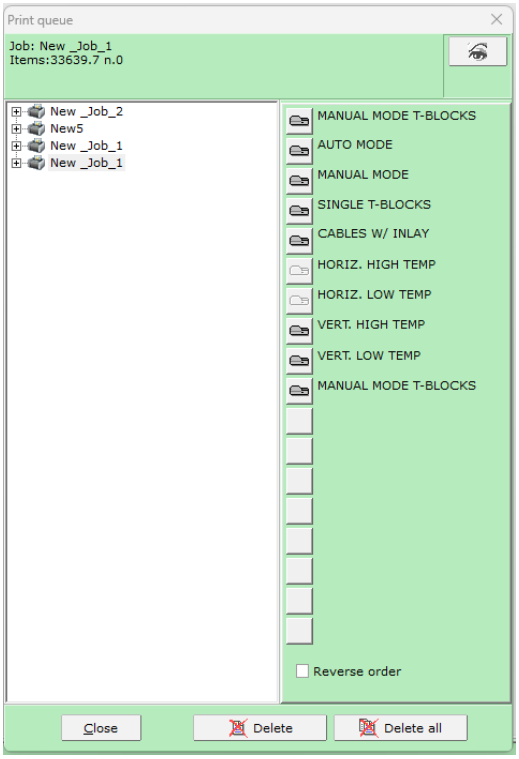


Figure 62: Print Queue Window

Left Panel – Job List

- Displays **all queued jobs**.
- Color indicators:
  - **Green** → Job printed successfully.
  - **Red** → Job pending or partially printed.

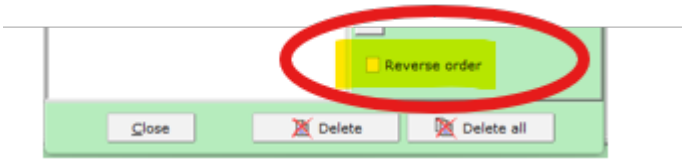
Right Panel – Printer Assignment

- Shows **available printers** (up to 10, more is possible).
- Click a printer button to send a job to that device.

7.2.3 Print Queue Actions

Button	Function
Delete	Removes the selected job from the queue.
Delete All	Clears the entire queue.
Preview	Opens a **Print Preview** before sending to the printer.
Reprint	Re-sends a completed job to the assigned printer.

In the **Print Queue** window of **ContaPrintMAX**, the **"Reverse order"** checkbox allows you to **invert the printing sequence** of the selected job(s) or items within the queue.



How it works

Normally, ContaPrintMAX processes and prints items in the **default sequence** defined by the job — for example, from **Tag 1 → Tag 100** or **Matrix 1 → Matrix 10**.
When you **enable "Reverse order"**, the print job will instead be processed **from the last item to the first**:

- Without **Reverse order**:
  Tag 1 → Tag 2 → Tag 3 → … → Tag 100
- With **Reverse order** enabled:
  Tag 100 → Tag 99 → Tag 98 → … → Tag 1

Use cases

This feature is useful when:

- **Physical tag stacking** is important
  Example: When tags are ejected from the printer into a stacker, reversing the order ensures that the **first tag you need** ends up **on top**.

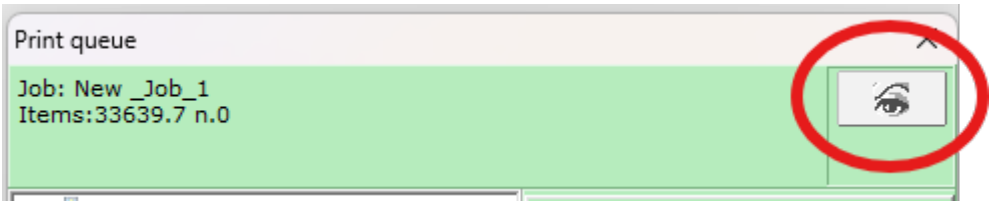
- **Back-to-front printing**
  In some layouts, especially when tags are pre-arranged, you may want to **print starting from the last matrix** to match the mounting sequence.
- **Reprints for partial batches**
  If you only need to print the **end portion** of a job, reversing the order helps avoid manual rearrangement afterward.

Important notes

- The **Reverse order** setting only affects the **currently selected job** in the queue, not all queued jobs.
- It applies whether you are printing:
  - An **entire job**
  - A **page range**
  - A **matrix selection**
  - Or **specific tags**

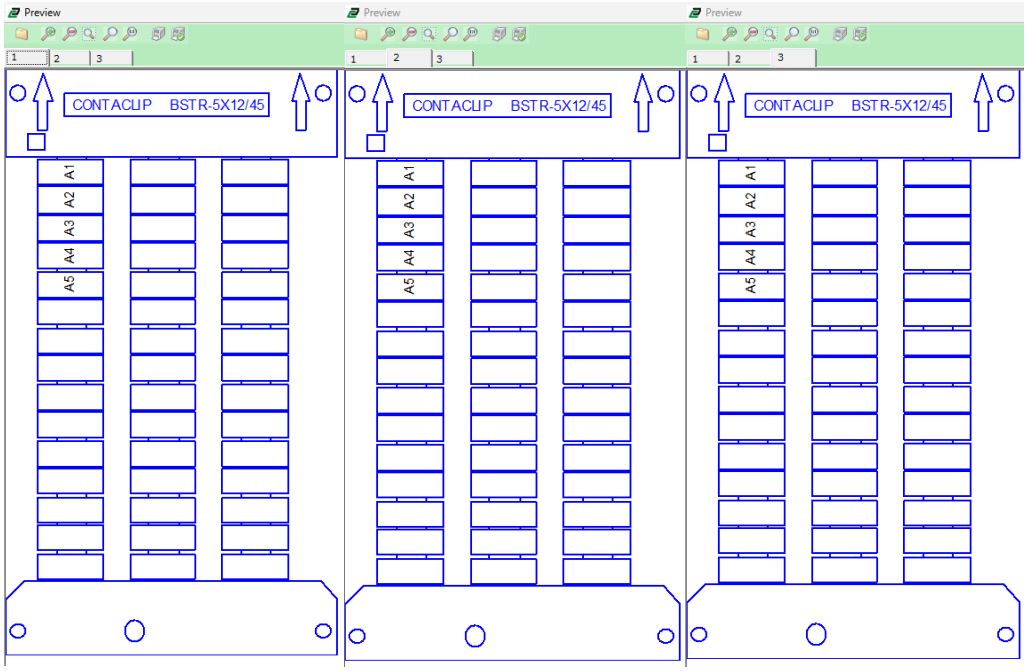
7.3 Print Preview (Real Printing Preview)

The **Preview Print** function shows **exactly how the tags will appear** before printing.



Example Setup

- Select Tags: **A1 – A5**
- Repetitions: **3**
- Start Matrix: **1**
- Start Tag: **1**



Result: Preview displays **A1 → A5** printed **three times** each on 3 separate cards.

Benefits of Print Preview

- Confirms correct **start positions**.
- Shows how **multi-line tags** (ON||OFF) will appear.

8 – Quick Guide: Creating and Printing a Sample Job

This chapter explains how to create, edit, and print a simple job in ContaPrintMAX.
We'll use a **practical case study**: printing a set of markers numbered from **ABC1 to ABC3000** on the article **33535.7 PC/UV-SI2K02W/10N**.
Think of it like printing name labels, but instead of names, you are creating professional cable or component markers.

8.1 Creating a Simple Job

8.1.1 Opening a New Job

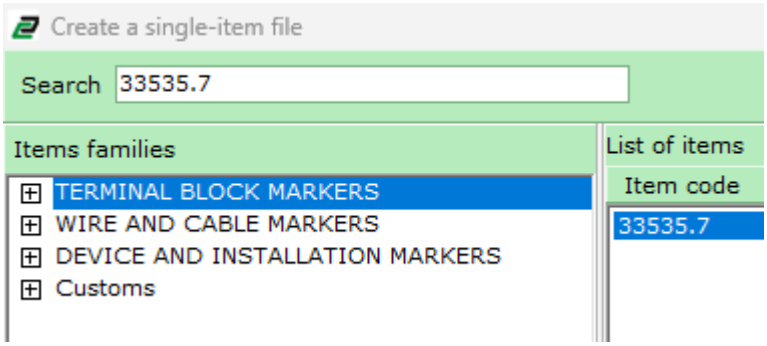
1. Start ContaPrintMAX.
   → The **Main Window** opens.
2. Either:
   - Click **File → New**, or
   - Press the **New** button on the toolbar.
     → The **Article Window** opens.

Example: Just like opening a blank document in Microsoft Word, here you are starting with a blank job where you can later decide what type of markers you want to print.

8.1.2 Selecting the Article

The **Article Window** is where you pick the type of marker plate.

1. In the **Search Box**, type:
   SI2K02W/10N or 33535.7
2. Double-click the result.
   → The **Preview Window** opens, showing what the selected article looks like.

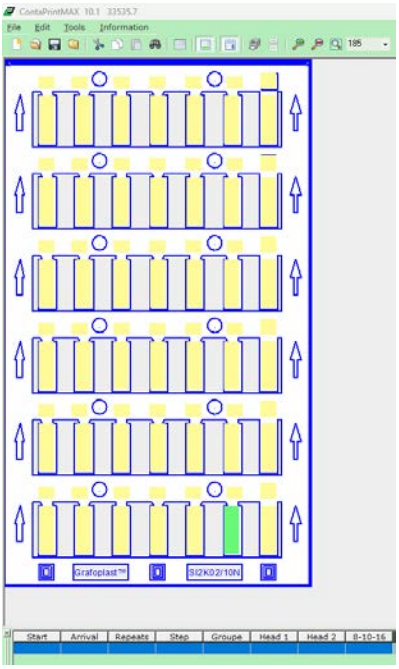


Example: If you're printing on a different size plate (say a 12-tag plate instead of a 10-tag plate), you would search for that article number instead. Choosing the wrong article is like choosing the wrong paper size before printing, your job won't fit correctly.

8.1.3 Managing the New Job

In the **Job Window**:

- **Top section:** Shows the software version + article code.
- **Center section:** Shows the **layout** (the actual marker plate).
- **Toolbar:** Contains zoom and navigation buttons.



Zoom Options:

- *Zoom in width* → stretches plate to fill screen width.
- *Zoom whole plate* → shows the full plate at once.
- *Standard zoom* → resets zoom to the default for this article.
- *Take back to origin* → re-centers to the first marker (top left).

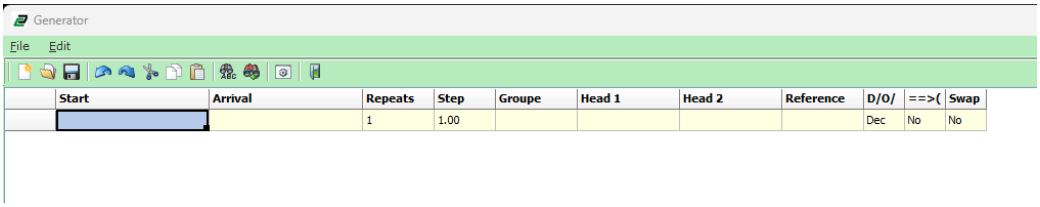
Examples:

- Use **Zoom whole plate** if you want to check how many markers fit on one plate.
- Use **Zoom in width** if you're editing one or two markers and want to see them big.
- If you scroll too far and get lost, use **Take back to origin** to snap back to the first marker.

8.1.4 Entering Data with the Generator

The **Generator Window** at the bottom is where you create sequences automatically.

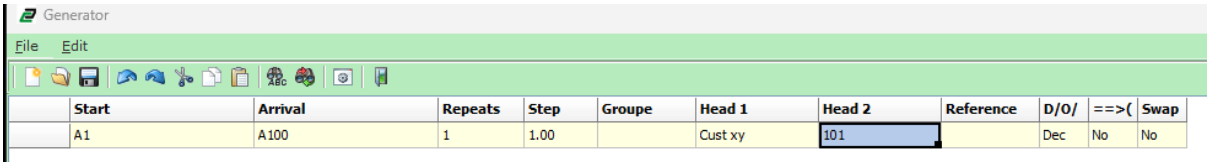
1. Click **on the Excel like Generator window.** 
   → The **Generator Data Management Window** opens.



2. Fill in fields:
   - Start: A1
   - Arrival: A100
   - Group: CABLES
   - Heading 1: Cust xy
   - Reference: 101
3. Now the data grid looks like this:

Start	Arrival	Repeats	Step	Group	Heading 1
A1	A100	1	1	CABLES	Cust xy

or



4. Click **Exit Door**. 

5. The Three Cards are now created

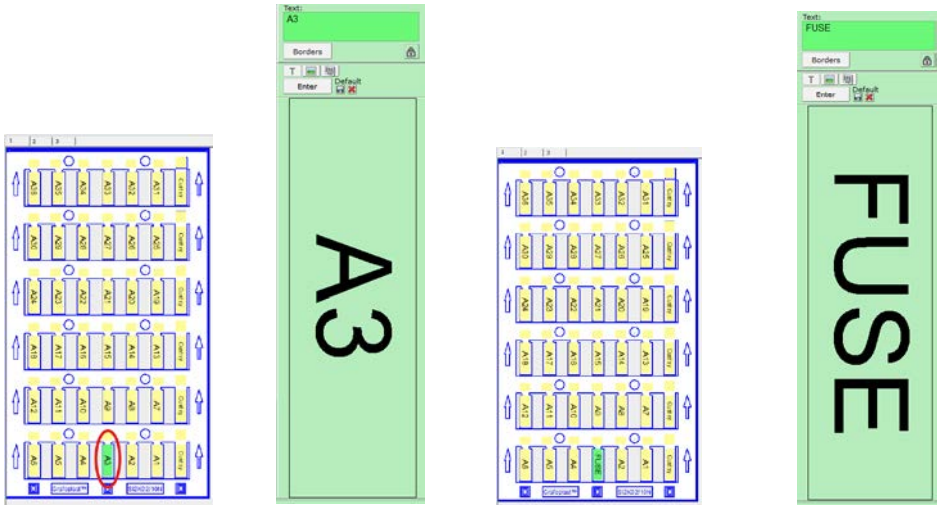
Examples:

- If you enter A1 → A20, only 20 markers are made.
- If you set **Repeats = 2**, each tag prints twice (A1, A1, A2, A2 …).
- If you set **Step = 5**, it prints every 5th marker (A1, A6, A11 …).

8.1.5 Editing Individual Markers (Properties Window)

The **Properties Window** (on the right) lets you change one marker at a time.

1. Click marker **A3** in the layout.
   → It turns green, and its text appears in the Properties box.
2. Replace "A3" with **FUSE** → press **Confirm**.
   → The tag updates instantly.



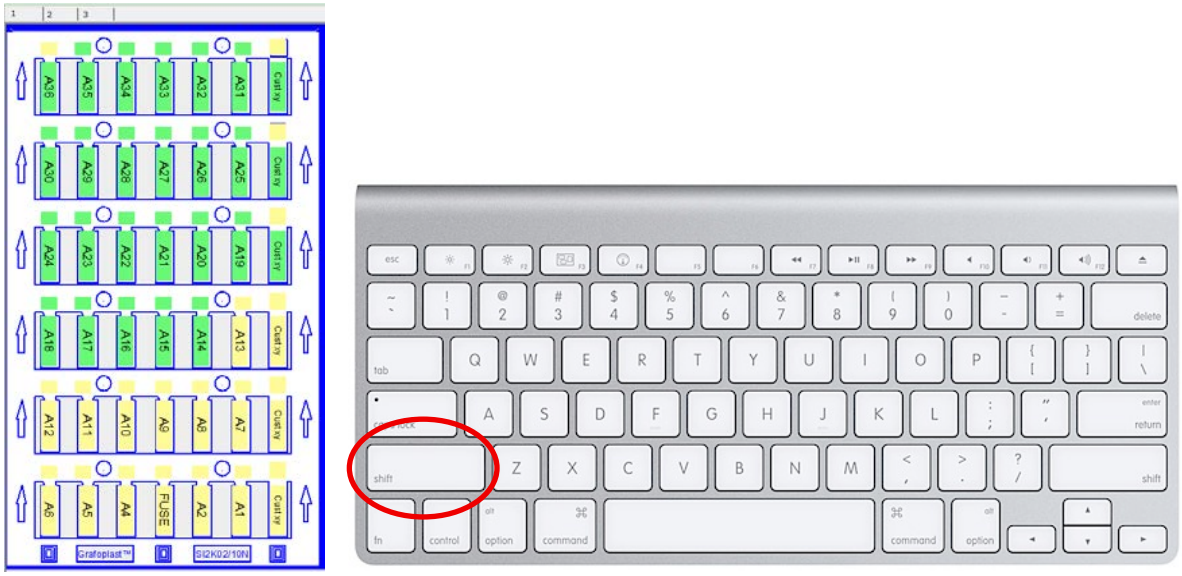
Examples:

- If you need special labels (e.g., “L1”, “L2”, “L3”), you can type them directly here.
- If you mistyped something in the generator, you don’t need to regenerate everything, just correct the one marker here.

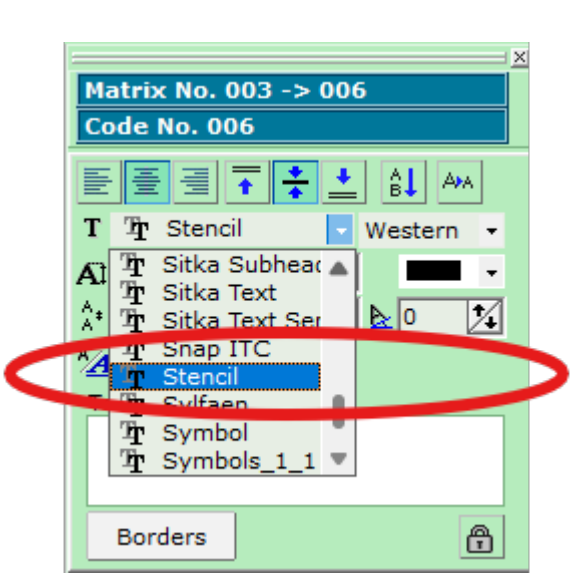
8.1.6 Changing Text Attributes

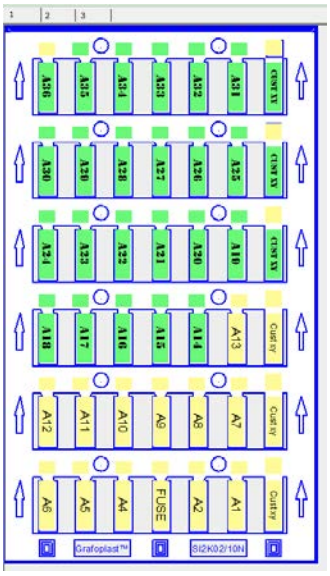
You can change font, alignment, or style for **multiple markers at once**.

1. Select a range:
    - Click on cell **A36**,
    - Hold **Shift**, then click cell **A41**.
      → All markers between are highlighted.



2. In **Properties**:
    - Change font to **Stencil** → all update immediately.





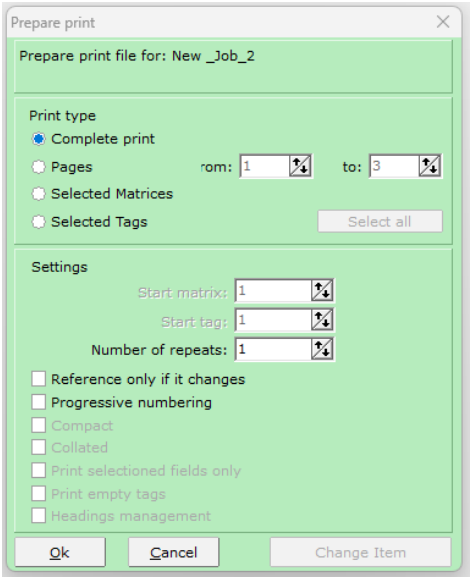
- Click **Align Left** → alignment changes.

Examples:

- Use bold, larger text for safety labels like "**DANGER 230V**".
- Align text to the right if printing numbers that should line up neatly.

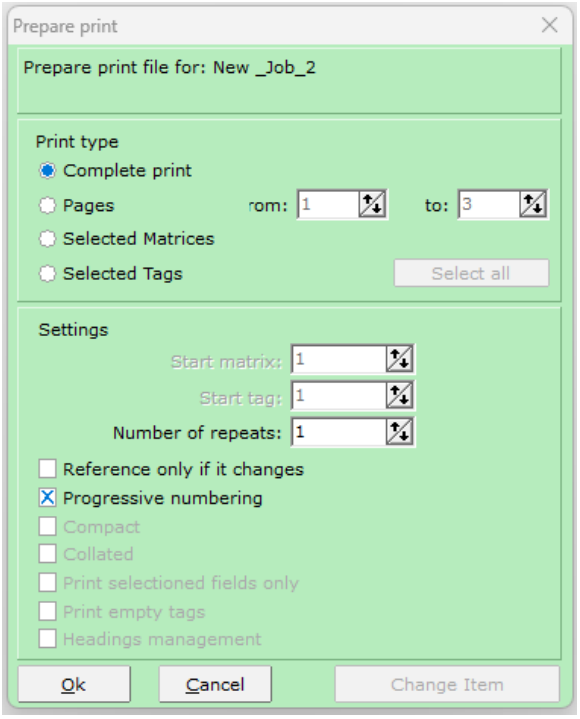
8.1.7 Printing the Job

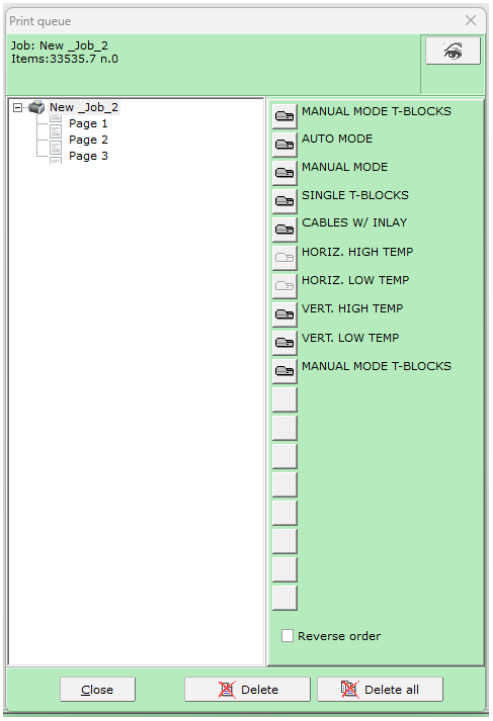
1. Click **Print Job**.
   → The **Print Settings Window** opens.



2. Choose:
    - Complete Print (to print all)
    - Reference only if it changes
    - Progressive numbering (optional)
3. Press **OK**.

→ ContaPrintMAX creates print files (1 per plate) and opens the **Print Queue Management Window**.





Examples:

- **Progressive numbering** turns “Cable” into “Cable 1, Cable 2, Cable 3 …”.
- **Reference only if it changes** saves ink by not repeating identical headings.

8.1.8 Managing the Print Queue

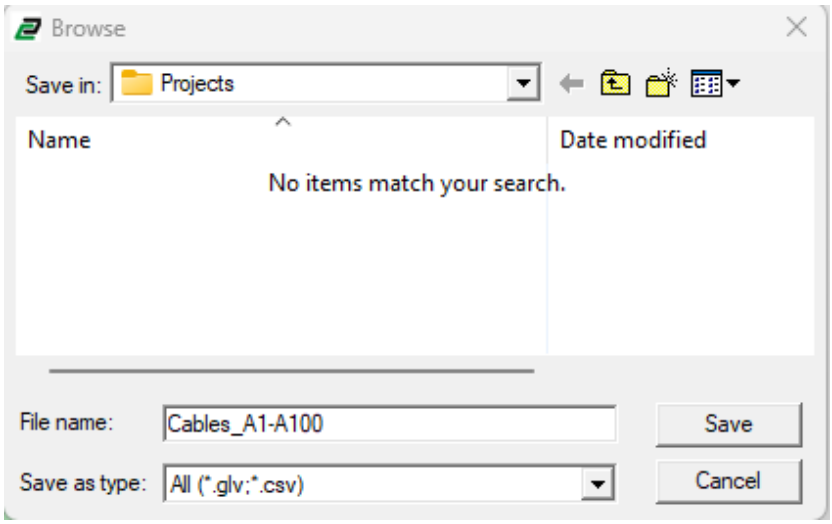
- **Top:** Shows job name (e.g., “New_job_1”) and article code.
- **Center:** Lists print files (plates).
- Select the job → click the **Printer** button.

→ The plates are sent to the installed printer.

Example: If your job had 7 plates, you’ll see 7 entries. You can re-print only plate 3 if it misfeeds, without reprinting the whole job.

8.1.9 Saving the File

1. To save:
    - Click **Save File**, or
    - File → Save File / Save Job As, **or**
    - File → Close File → confirm save.
2. Choose a folder (e.g., **Projects**).
3. Name it (e.g., **Cables_A1-A100.glv**).



4. Optionally add notes in **User Notes** (e.g., “Project X customer order”).
5. Click **Save**.

Examples:

- Save “MainSwitch_L1-L3.glv” so you can reuse it whenever you print breaker labels.
- Use project folders (e.g., “Factory_A” vs “Factory_B”) to keep jobs organized.

Final Recap

- Start a **new job** → choose article.
- Enter data in **Generator**.
- Modify individual tags in **Properties**.
- Change fonts/alignments in **Attributes**.
- **Print** → manage queue.
- **Save Job** for future use.

9 – Information on this Software Manual

9.1 Purpose of This Manual

This Software Manual has been created to support operators, engineers, and administrators in understanding and efficiently using the ContaPrintMAX software platform. It covers all essential workflows, functions, menus, and advanced features such as item customization, special symbols, printing formats, and Excel integration.

Its objective is to:

- Enable first-time users to get started quickly
- Serve as a daily reference for recurring functions
- Provide best practices for label generation, printing, and data integrity
- Ensure compliance with industry standards in technical labeling

9.2 Target Audience

This manual is intended for:

- Control panel and switchgear builders
- Electrical and mechanical design engineers
- Maintenance and production teams
- System integrators and technicians using ContaPrintMAX
- Conta-Clip brand label users and OEM partners

9.3 General Safety and Operational Considerations

While ContaPrintMAX is a software application, safe and effective usage also depends on:

- **Accurate data input:** Always verify that imported Excel (.xls) files follow the correct format (e.g., spacing, character encoding, symbol font usage).
- **Printer compatibility:** Use only supported printer TTPCardMAX
- **Regular updates:** Ensure that your software version is kept up to date to access the latest fonts, symbol libraries, and bug fixes.
- **Backup practice:** Frequently save and back up your project files to avoid data loss.
- **Correct symbol usage:** Use the E_Symbol font set correctly to avoid mislabeling, especially in industrial or safety-critical environments.

9.4 Closing Remarks

ContaPrintMAX is a robust and flexible tool designed to simplify complex labeling processes across a wide range of electrical and automation environments. Its modular design, intuitive interface, and integration with Excel give users both precision and speed in daily operations.

Whether used for small batches or large-scale production, this guide aims to empower users to operate the system with confidence and competence.

9.5 Recommendations for Users

To maximize the benefits of ContaPrintMAX:

- **Attend training sessions** offered by Conta-Clip or certified partners
- **Utilize the Custom Item Editor** for advanced formatting and layouts
- **Familiarize yourself with the E_Symbol chart** to correctly insert schematic and electrical symbols
- **Keep a printed copy of your marker templates** for quick visual inspection
- **Contact technical support** for advanced troubleshooting or font issues
- **Maintain your printer hardware** in accordance with manufacturer guidelines for consistent output quality

9.6 Document Control

- **Manual Version:** 1.0
- **Last Updated:** 9/4/2025
- **Software Version:** ContaPrintMAX v1.0
- **Prepared by:** Product Management Department