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LaserWriter: Vertical/ Horizontal Skew Specifications (10/95)

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TOPIC -----

This article provides information about LaserWriter skew specifications.
This article provides a rule of thumb for LaserWriter printers.

DISCUSSION -----

Skew is a measure of alignment of LaserWriter output with the paper. Apple does not publish skew specifications for its LaserWriter printers for a couple of reasons. When print engine manufacturers design an engine, they usually write a skew specification, which may be horizontal, vertical, or both. It really depends on the manufacturer and on the engine itself.

When the print engine manufacturers write these specifications, they are designed for use in the manufacturing process and are tested under very controlled conditions which would be difficult to duplicate. Also, these specifications are generally very lenient which means that if Apple (or other laser printer manufacturer) says the skew specification should be 2 mm, the manufacturing specification might be 2.5 mm. In cases like this, if the laser printer manufacturer signs off on the print engine manufacturer's specification, the laser printer manufacturer has no recourse for going back to the print engine manufacturer to ask for a product fix.

As a rule, we consider horizontal and vertical skew to be within tolerance if the measurements taken are within 1.5 mm to 2.0 mm, depending on the engine. On the Select Series printers, approximately 2.0 mm is still considered within tolerance.

To determine the degree of skew for a given LaserWriter printer:

- 1) Have the LaserWriter print a box around the outside edge of the page leaving a 1/2 inch margin.
- 2) Measure the distance from the ends of each line to the edge of the paper.

The degree of skew is the difference between the measurements at the end of each

line.

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09 Oct 1995 - Revised to be a general rule article.

08 Sep 1994 - Article reviewed for accuracy.

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