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LaserWriter IIf: Cable to Print from a DEC VAX

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TOPIC -----

I want to connect a LaserWriter IIf to a DEC VAX 8530. What wires do I pull from the VAX to the LaserWriter IIf for HP emulation, using the Serial DB-25 connector on the LaserWriter?

DISCUSSION -----

Setting configuration switch to 5 also sets the RS232-C port (DB-25) on the printer to 9600 baud, 8 data bits, 1 stop bit, and No Parity. You can use a standard RS232-C cable with DB-25 connectors on both ends if that is more accessible.

We don't know what device on the VAX 8530 provides you the terminal ports, or whether you are using a terminal server. It's helpful to find out whether the port is a DTE or a DCE. If they are RS232-C devices, you can try the following pinouts.

The minimum number of wires necessary for two-way communications is three: transmitted data in each direction (TXD 2, RXD 3) and signal ground (SG 7). To add handshaking for each direction, you need to add DSR (6), and DTR (20).

VAX	LaserWriter IIf
2	2
3	3
6	6
7	7
20	20

Since there is no standard that indicates whether certain devices should be DTE or DCE, sometimes you will have to connect two DTE devices or two DCE devices. In this case, you must connect pin 2 on the first device to pin 3 on the second, and pin 3 on the first device to pin 2 on the second. The handshaking wires must be crossed in the same way.

VAX LaserWriter IIf

2	3
3	2
6	20
7	7
20	6

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