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Printers: Difficulties With 9-Part Forms

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TOPIC -----

Can you recommend a third-party printer product that prints a 9-part tractor feed form?

DISCUSSION -----

We were unable to find a printer on the market that prints a 9-part form. The closest we found was one manufactured by Toshiba that prints up to 6-part forms.

The problems encountered with 9-part forms concern the print head. To put enough power behind the pins of a dot matrix to print on the ninth part of the form, the pins will penetrate the first and probably the second part of the form, leaving holes. Also, the pins often get caught in the form as it moves and are bent and the print head needs to be replaced. Unfortunately, printers designed for microcomputer use just aren't up to the task of printing 9-part forms.

Daisy-wheel printers have similar problems. The energy demanded to print through nine layers would break a plastic print wheel and bend metal print wheels out of shape.

Even heavy-duty Printronix line printers are rated only to 6-part forms.

We suggest that you contact the paper company that makes the 9-part forms and ask what printers they recommend for use with these forms.

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