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Features and Limitations of Dot Matrix Printer by [James Blee](#)

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A dot matrix printer is characterized by two features, running in up and down motion across the page and printing by impact. The letters are formed due to the contact made by a ribbon soaked in ink with the paper. The printer has pins or rods which are tiny in size and produce dots, which is what gives the printer its name. One of the biggest advantages of these printers is the cost. Also known as an impact printer, it can provide multiple carbon copies, at a highly reduced cost..

One of the reasons why a dot matrix printer is preferred is for its reliability, which is why they are used a lot. You would get ample warning about the fact that the ink is running out as it fades out gradually. The printer also has its fair share of disadvantages. For example, it isn't rated very highly when it comes to performance. Similarly, printing colored material could be a tricky task. The speed is low when you are using this printer.

One of the biggest disadvantages of this printer is that not only is it time consuming when you have to use single sheets, but it also gets jammed from time to time. It can only print on paper and not on film that is used with projectors. In that way, it is limited slightly in its functionality. However, it is largely used for printing out bills and invoices, saving money on printing costs. The durable, low cost printers provide cheap printing especially when you don't need high quality printed documents. For home use as well as for making rough copies of reading material, you can make use of these printers, which tend to be slightly noisy as well.

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