



Update

Fujitsu-ICL 9900 Scanner Update

October 9, 2000

We have a couple stores using the 9900 S/S. We've had no problems. I personally think it's the best S/S ICL has ever made.

— *Fujitsu-ICL RETAILpartner on the Dealer Network*

Despite these kind words, Fujitsu-ICL knows that the Series 9900's design can drive this scanner to be far more effective than the production units seen so far. Here is a summary of the technical improvements in the 9900 that are being implemented.

Firmware: Fujitsu-ICL has made a number of firmware enhancements that improve performance on certain labels — especially low-quality labels, marginal labels and labels that are out-of-spec and out-of-tolerance in the area of quiet zones, module widths etc. Also, the original firmware was drastically over-conservative, requiring a large number of successful reads during one pass to accept a label as “good” and send it to the system. These firmware changes are in final in-store testing with a very large customer, and will be cut into manufacturing over the next ten days. Soft copies of the firmware will be posted for those who wish to upgrade existing 9900 sites.

Pre-amp and signal-processing: the 9900 will now provide significantly improved performance on historical “problem” labels — those with poor contrast such as egg cartons and in-store printed meat labels (e.g. squiggly bars, wrinkles, liquid, deterioration and bleeding). Fujitsu-ICL will make this enhancement as a small manufacturing change to the 9900's pre-amp board. No component changes are required, and the minor wiring changes will be cut into the manufacturing process around the end of this month.

Optics: the fundamental optical design of the Series 9900 has been reviewed multiple times, and no design changes will be necessary for consistent and superb performance. Ongoing manufacturing changes will continue to be made over time for maximum process control to ensure, for example, absolute consistency of the output scan pattern.

Parameter defaults: the original default parameters for the Series 9900 were extremely conservative. Although these parameters are easily changed on-site, new defaults (for example, the clear/label, same-label, full laser, and motor timeouts) will ensure much higher responsiveness and performance without compromising accuracy or keeping the Support people up late programming. Cashiers will especially appreciate these changes.

Documentation error: e.g., one of the labels in label set (the Remote Power label) will lock up the scanner if used. This error has been removed in the updated documentation.

Fujitsu-ICL is fully committed to making the Series 9900 the technical and commercial winner it was designed to be, and fulfilling its high-end scanner/scale position. To your success,

Tony

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