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What is Banding and How Can I Cure It?

There are two different kinds of banding that can occur in Epson/Fujifilm Stylus Pro printers: horizontal or vertical banding. **Horizontal Banding** shows up as a lighter density line that appears to follow the direction of the print head, side to side. **Vertical Banding** appears similarly as a lighter density line but this time it follows the direction of the paper movement, up and down. So, what's different between the two?

Horizontal Banding is usually caused by one of two things, missing or defective nozzles, or a misaligned head.

> Determining if it is a nozzle problem.

Use the Control Panel Menu to run a Nozzle Check

1. Press the **Menu** button
2. Press the ▼ button until **TEST PRINT** is highlighted
3. Press **Menu** to select **NOZZLE CHECK**
4. Press **Menu**
5. Press ← to start printing the nozzle check pattern.

The nozzle check pattern is a bunch of different colored lines that correspond to each nozzle. If Auto Cleaning is turned ON, the machine automatically reads the pattern, and if it finds clogged nozzles runs a cleaning cycle. If Auto Cleaning is turned OFF, manually examine the lines with a loupe. If segments are missing, run a cleaning cycle by holding down the **Menu** button for at least 3 seconds. Run another Nozzle Check to see how you did. If segments are still missing, see your Printer Guide on running a Power Cleaning Cycle.

> Determining if it is a misaligned head.

The easiest way to do this is to uncheck (turn off) Hi-Speed printing in the driver. This allows the printer to print unidirectionally. If the banding goes away, it is probably a head alignment problem. See your Printer Guide for directions on Aligning the Print Head.

Vertical banding is usually caused by paper feed issues and is a bit more complicated to fix.

First make sure it really IS vertical banding by running a Nozzle Check. If it's okay, you will need to adjust paper feed in the printer driver via the Paper Configuration Option area.

> **Windows**- click on Custom in the main tab, click Advanced and click Paper Config button.

> **Mac**- choose Paper Configuration from the Copies & Pages drop-down menu.

1. Make sure the paper thickness matches the media you are using (3 = 0.3 mm or 11.8 mil).
2. Modify Paper Feed Adjustment, in the negative (-) direction and test. Make a large change first, -10, to get a feel for how the system works. Then make appropriate changes to "fill-in" the lighter density line seen on prints.

Are Inkjet Prints Archival?

The word "Archival" relates to a place where documents are preserved. The industry has determined that the best way to "archive" images is to keep them in the dark under controlled temperature/humidity conditions. You know, like in a refrigerator. Not easy to enjoy a picture in a refrigerator. Merely viewing prints makes them NOT archival. So the question should really be, how long will inkjet prints last?

Prints made with Epson/Fujifilm Stylus Pro printers using UltraChrome inks and Fujifilm or Epson papers will last as long, if not longer, than RA-4 prints. Durability will, of course, depend on how prints are displayed. Keeping prints away from direct sun light as well as extremes in temperature and humidity will provide many decades of print enjoyment.

Downloading Printer Manuals

If you can't find your printer manual (Printer Guide) it's easy to view or download a copy via a link on the Fujifilm Hunt Chemical site. Go to http://www.fujihuntusa.com/html/dpi_support_downloads.asp, scroll to the bottom of the page, click Drivers under your printer, click on the printer's name under **Support Links** and click on **Documents & Manuals**.