Encoder Specification & Selection Criteria for Inkjet Systems



To select the optimal encoder solution for each unique application, four primary encoder specification categories must be defined: Mechanical, PPR, Environmental and Interconnect. (Some of those variables are predetermined by encoder interface requirements. See chart, bottom of page):

Mechanical: Thru-bore encoders mount directly to the shaft via a collar, and are anchored by a flexible anti-rotation mount. Their bearings are designed to carry the encoder only. Shaft encoders can carry heavier loads and can be used with a measuring wheel. To define your mechanical requirements, determine the following:

- Space constraints
- Appropriate housing size
- The mounting method: to a motor, a driven shaft, a conveyor belt, etc.
- Whether or not loads will be applied to the bearings
- Whether or not a measuring wheel will be used

Pulses Per Revolution (PPR): PPR specification is commonly provided by the End Customer, Integrator or someone familiar with the system design and sensing/control requirements. See chart below for minimum PPR requirements.

Environmental: IP50 provides dust protection; IP64 or higher prevents ingress of extremely fine dust or moisture. Specify stainless steel and/or nylon for corrosion resistance (when possible).

Interconnect: For distances over 10 feet, select body-mounted connectors for ease of installation and after-market service. Integrated M12 cordsets are available on some models; Flying Leads are offered on all models. For cable lengths exceeding 30 feet, consult BEPC Technical Sales Engineers.

Encoder Interface Requirements:

| 1 | Supply Voltage to Encoder | + 24vcc |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|
| 2 | Encoder Output Type | Open Collector (OC), NPN, or Push Pull (PP) PNP |
| 3 | Number of Channels / Encoder Waveform | A & B in Quadrature |
| 4 | Max Encoder Frequency Response Output | 200kHz |
| 5 | Min Encoder PPR | ~ 20 pulse/mm linear travel |

Note: Requirements may vary depending upon the manufacturer and model of inkjet printer. Consult the specific model's manual for these specifications.

Useful Definitions and Formulas

Frequency Response of Encoder Output

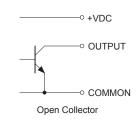
 PPR x RPM
 Hz
 Hz
 kHz

 60
 1000

Encoder Pulses with Measuring Wheel

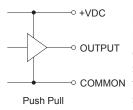
Encoder PPR Encoder Pulses/mm
Pulley Diameter (mm) x π

Open Collector

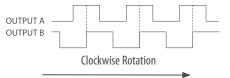


Designated **OC** in BEPC part numbers, this is an NPN type output. It is a current-sinking output that requires pull-up resistors external to the encoder. Typical values are 1.5K to 2.2K. BEPC's OC output allows for level shifting, where the encoder signal is pulled up externally to a different voltage.

Push Pull



Designated PP in BEPC part numbers, this is compatible with PNP circuits. Sometimes referred to as a "totem-pole" type of output circuit. When the output is in the logic high state, current is sourced to the load. When the output is in the logic low state, current is sinked from the load.



NOTE: All degree references are electrical degrees NOTE: If system is bi-directional, then both A and B outputs are required

Solutions for Packaging, Printing, Labeling, Vision

Typical Examples of Select Encoder Applications for Inkjet Systems

