

Loading Cards

This section shows how to load plastic cards into the P430i Printer. The P430i can use cards with a range of thickness from 10 mil (0.25 mm) to 60 mil (1.5 mm).



Note • Do not mix cards of different thicknesses!

The P430i Printer can also load and print cards fed individually. Information on this is given in the next chapter.



Note • DO NOT bend cards or touch print surfaces as this can reduce print quality. The surface of the cards must remain clean and dust free. Always store cards in an enclosed container. Ideally, use cards as soon as possible.



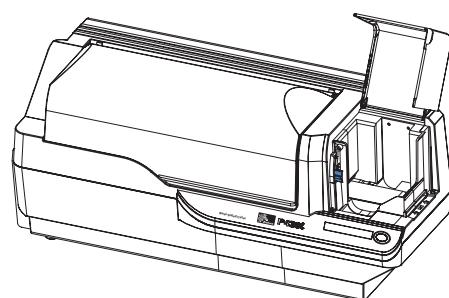
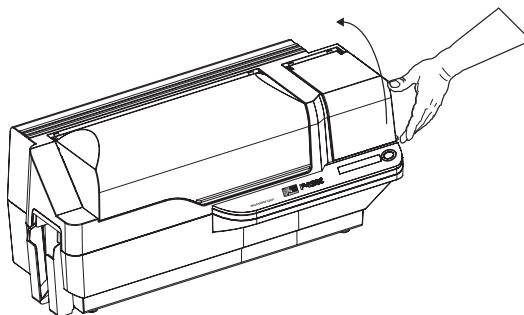
Note • For cards with magnetic stripe, refer to Appendix A for loading instructions.

The plastic cards generally come in decks of 100 cards; the Card Feeder can hold a full deck of 100 30-mil cards. Cards sometimes will stick together; this can cause mis-feeding or double-feeding. To avoid this, separate the cards before loading, as described in steps 2 through 4 below.

1. If the Card Feeder cover is closed, open it. The cover is hinged; lift it by the lip at the right front corner.

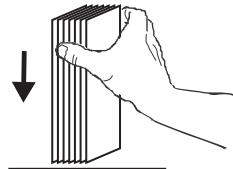


Note • To reduce contamination and ensure better print quality, minimize the time the Card Feeder cover is open.

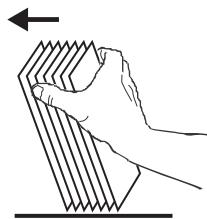


Caution • Do not touch print surfaces of the cards; this can reduce print quality

2. Remove all wrapping from the card deck.
3. Holding the card deck by the sides, hold it vertically against a flat surface such as a desktop. If the deck is too thick for your hand to hold it comfortably, use about half a deck at a time.

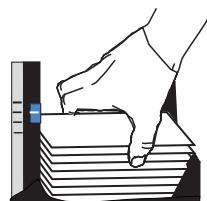


4. Push the stack back and forth to an angle of about 45° from vertical, so as to separate all of the cards.

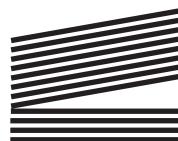


Note • Static charges and edge burrs from the card die-cutting process can render individual cards stuck together with significant adhesion force. These cards must be physically separated from each other before inserting into the feeder; if not separated, feeding or printing problems may occur.

5. Restore the card stack to its original squared-off condition, and place the cards in the input hopper.



6. Note that there will be a “gap” in the card stack, with several cards lying flat and the cards above angled upward, as shown in the exaggerated drawing below. **This is normal** and ensures proper feeding.



Note • Do not try to eliminate the gap by pressing down on the card stack in the input hopper; this can cause misfeeds.