

Elite XL 1208/1208S Supplement

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Introduction

Congratulations on your purchase of a GCC Technologies® Elite™ XL 1208 or 1208 SuperSize laser printer. The advanced hardware of the Elite XL 1208 and 1208S incorporates a number of new features not detailed in the *Elite XL User's Manual*. The Elite XL 1208 and 1208S include the following features:

- Higher output resolution
- Smoothing
- TonerMiser™
- Output calibration
- Support for Super B paper size
- Support for 12 x 20 inch paper size (XL 1208S only)

This supplement provides details of these features; please keep it with your *Elite XL User's Manual*.

Setting up the Elite XL 1208/1208S

Follow the instructions in Chapter 1 of the *Elite XL User's Manual* to set up the printer.

Software installation

Follow the instructions in Chapter 3 of the *Elite XL User's Manual* to install the software onto a Macintosh.

Follow the instructions in Chapter 4 of the *Elite XL User's Manual* to install the software onto a PC running Windows 3.1 and Windows 95.

Follow the instructions in the *Elite XL Networking Guide* to install the software onto a PC running Windows NT.

User interface changes

Because of the additional features of the Elite XL 1208 and 1208S, some changes have been made to the printer's front panel menu system as well as to the Macintosh® and Windows™ printer driver interfaces.

Print Control Menu

The **Print Control** menu has been added between the **Info Pages** menu and the **Energy Save** menu in the printer's front panel menu system. (See Chapter 2 of the *Elite XL User's Manual* for detailed information about the Elite XL front panel menu system.)

The **Print Control** menu contains four submenus: *TonerMiser*, *Smoothing*, *Print Cal.* (calibration) *Pages*, and *Calibration*. See individual options on the following pages for more information.

Macintosh and Windows interface changes

TonerMiser and Smoothing have been added to the Macintosh (LaserWriter 8 and Elite XL GX) **Print Options** dialog box. Smoothing has been added to the Windows **Options** dialog box accessed via the **Setup** button.

For both the Elite XL 1208 and the 1208S, Super B has been added as a paper size to the **Paper** pop-up menu in the **Page Setup** dialog box (for Macintosh) and to the **Paper Size** drop-down menu in the **Print Setup** dialog box (for Windows).

For the Elite XL 1208S, 12 x 20 has been added as a paper size to the **Paper** pop-up menu in the **Page Setup** dialog box (for Macintosh) and to the Paper Size drop-down menu in the **Print Setup** dialog box (for Windows). See individual options on the following pages for more information.

Elite XL 1208 and 1208S features

This section of the supplement describes each Elite XL 1208 and 1208S feature not mentioned in the *Elite XL User's Manual*.

TonerMiser

The TonerMiser feature decreases the amount of toner used to print a document. Using TonerMiser enables you to increase the number of pages printed per toner cartridge. However, the print quality will be decreased; black areas will be less dense with a gray appearance and lines will not be sharp. **Note:** *TonerMiser is overridden when printing at 1200 dpi resolution.*

Interface access:

Front Panel. TonerMiser can be turned on and off through the printer's front panel. The **TonerMiser** option is located in the **Print Control** menu. TonerMiser settings are *Enabled* and *Disabled*; Disabled is the default.

Macintosh software interface. TonerMiser can be switched on and off (overriding the printer's front panel setting), for the current document, using the **TonerMiser** pop-up menu in the LaserWriter 8 **Print Options** dialog box (or the **Elite XL Options** panel if you are printing with QuickDraw GX).

TonerMiser options are *Printer's default* (i.e., the current TonerMiser settings selected in the printer's front panel), *Enabled*, and *Disabled*. Printer's default is the default.

Windows software interface. TonerMiser is not supported in the Windows interface.

Smoothing

The Elite XL incorporates a smoothing feature. Smoothing reduces the jagged appearance ("jaggies") of text and line art printed at lower resolutions. The smoothing feature will only work when printing at 600 or 800 dpi.

Interface access:

Front Panel. Smoothing can be turned on and off through the printer's front panel. The Smoothing option is located in the **Print Control** menu. Smoothing option settings are *Enabled* and *Disabled*; Disabled is the default.

Macintosh software interface. Smoothing can be switched on and off (overriding the printer's front panel setting), for the *current* document, using the **Smoothing** pop-up menu in the LaserWriter 8 **Print Options** dialog box (or the **Elite XL Options** panel if you are printing with QuickDraw GX).

Smoothing options are *Printer's default* (i.e., the current Smoothing setting selected in the printer's front panel), *Enabled* (causes smoothing to be applied regardless of how Smoothing and TonerMiser are set in the front panel), and *Disabled* (causes Smoothing and TonerMiser to be disabled regardless of how they are set in the front panel). Printer's default is the default.

Windows software interface. Smoothing can be switched on and off (overriding the printer's front panel setting), for the *current* document, using the **Smoothing** buttons in the Windows printing **Options** dialog box.

Smoothing options are *Printer's default* (i.e., the current Smoothing setting selected in the printer's front panel), *Disabled*, and *Enabled*. Printer's default is the default.

Using TonerMiser and Smoothing

TonerMiser and Smoothing *cannot* be used together. TonerMiser always takes precedence over Smoothing (unless you are printing at 1200 dpi).

Interface considerations:

If TonerMiser is set to *Enabled* in the printer's front panel, the Smoothing submenu will not appear. However, if you want to apply smoothing to your current print job, and TonerMiser is set to *Enabled* in the printer's front panel, choose *Disabled* from the **TonerMiser** pop-up menu in the **Print Options** dialog box, and then choose *Enabled* from the **Smoothing** pop-up menu.

Note: In LaserWriter 8, when *Enabled* is chosen in the **TonerMiser** pop-up menu, the *Enabled* option in the **Smoothing** pop-up menu will be dimmed (and vice-versa). The options will not be dimmed if you are using the Elite XL GX QuickDraw GX driver. However, the availability or unavailability of these options will be the same.

Calibration

The Elite XL 1208 and 1208S printers are designed to provide near-imagesetter print quality at a resolution of 1200 dpi (dots per inch). However, the following factors can affect print quality:

- **Individual printer engine variations**
- **Toner cartridge variations**
- **Environmental conditions (i.e., humidity and temperature)**

Therefore, in order to provide optimum output, the printer's software includes an easy-to-use calibration function that enables you to adjust your printer to compensate for the above factors.

Each printer has five user-selectable calibration *sets* built into the calibration software. Each calibration set contains a group of parameters that reflect different hardware and environmental variations. The ultimate effect of using any given calibration set is lighter or darker output.

The calibration sets are numbered 1 through 5, and are ordered so that Calibration 1 yields the lightest printing, and succeeding ones are each slightly darker in turn, with Calibration 5 being the darkest. The goal is that the Elite XL should be set to calibration that results in the best overall print quality at 1200 dpi. (When printing at lower resolutions, the calibration setting is ignored.)

In general, you should *not* need to frequently switch among the different calibration settings. Ideally, the factory setting should produce good output. However, factors affecting an individual printer will sometimes necessitate selecting a different calibration for a new printer. Furthermore, as the climate varies, and toner cartridges wear out and are replaced, print quality may be effected, also requiring a different calibration setting.

The calibration procedure

If you decide that your Elite XL is not printing at its best, and want to see if one of the other calibrations could improve your output, you will need to perform the calibration procedure. The calibration procedure is a two-step process:

Step 1 - Print the 5 calibration pages.

Step 2 - Select a calibration setting.

Step 1 - In order to determine the correct calibration setting, you must first print out the 5 calibration pages for evaluation.

To print the 5 calibration pages:

1. Turn the Print density dial to the “normal” position.

The Print Density dial is located on the back of the printer. When the notch on the dial is pointing straight up, it is in the “normal” position. (See page 1-9 of the *Elite XL User’s Manual* for information about print density and calibration).

2. Press the On Line key to take the printer off line.

3. Access the Print Control menu from the printer’s front panel.

Press the **Menu** key continuously until Print Control appears in the display window.

4. Access the Print Control submenus.

Press the **Enter** key. The display window should read **TonerMiser**.

5. Press the Menu key until Print Cal. appears in the display window.

6. Press the Enter key.

- The Elite XL begins to process a built-in PostScript job that will print the “calibration pages” for you to evaluate.
- In approximately 45-60 seconds, the five pages will start to print. Each page is labeled “Calibration *n*” in the upper right corner, where *n* is a number from 1 to 5.

- Before printing each page, the printer temporarily selects the calibration setting corresponding to the label on the page. Thus, the page with the label “Calibration 1” is printed with Calibration 1 temporarily selected, the page labeled “Calibration 2” is printed with Calibration 2 temporarily selected, and so on.
- After the fifth page prints, the Elite XL restores the calibration setting to the value it was at before the Enter key was pressed.

7. Examine the calibration pages.

- Examine the pages carefully. Depending on the printer and the environment, the pages may look very similar or radically different, but it is important to note that aside from the change to the label information, the print data for all the pages is *exactly the same*.
- The page components are specifically designed to stress the capabilities of the printer; text next to each item describes how it should look under ideal circumstances.
- Most printers will not be able to print a page in which all the elements are perfect. However, with guidance from the text, you should be able to select the page that looks best overall.

Tips for evaluating the calibration pages:

- Give the most consideration to the items that consist of line art, especially fine lines. In general, that’s where the differences will be most apparent. Legibility of text at small point sizes is next, followed by the appearance of other text, and then gradients.
- If two pages seem equal, choose the page with the higher calibration number.

Step 2 - Once you have selected what you feel is the best looking page, you must set the printer to the calibration setting corresponding to the calibration page.

To select the calibration setting:

1. Access the Calibration submenu.

Press the **Menu** key once. The display window should read **Calibration:** along with a number from 1 to 5.

Note: The number displayed will not necessarily be the same on all printers. (The calibration procedure is run at the factory, and an appropriate setting is chosen.)

2. Select a calibration setting.

Press the + or - key continuously until the correct calibration number appears in the display window.

3. Save the calibration setting.

Press the **Enter** key. An asterisk (*) will appear in the display window, indicating that the setting has been saved.

Print density and calibration

The Elite XL incorporates a **Print Density** dial to lighten or darken output. The Print Density dial is located on the back of the printer (see page 1-9 in the *Elite XL User's Manual*). The dial should almost always be set to its “normal” (notch on the dial pointing straight up) position.

You should change the position of the dial if the calibration procedure was *first performed with the dial in normal position* and either *all* the calibration pages were too light or *all* were too dark. If this was the case, move the dial either to the 2:00 position (calibration pages too light) or 10:00 position (calibration pages too dark) and then repeat the calibration procedure.

You may also consider adjusting the density dial *slightly* if some of the elements on the chosen calibration page are too dark or too light.

Note: It is not recommended that the Print Density dial be adjusted past 10:00 or 2:00 to further “tune” the calibration process. This is because the interaction between the calibration and the density functions could cause other unwanted artifacts in your output. Also, be aware that the Print Density dial affects output at *all* resolutions, and a density setting that produces good output at 1200 dpi could produce unacceptable output at 600 dpi.

Super B paper size

The manual feed slot on the Elite XL 1208 and 1208S printers support Super B paper size printing, which has dimensions of 11.69 x 17.32 inches (297 x 440 mm), and provides edge-to-edge printing. This allows full bleed printing of 11 x 17 inch spreads.

Interface access:

Front Panel. The Super B paper size option is located in the **Default Size** submenu of the **Paper Handling** menu.

Macintosh software interface. The Super B paper size can be selected from the **Paper** pop-up menu (located in the **Page Setup** dialog box).

Windows software interface. The Super B paper size can be selected from the **Paper Size** drop-down menu (located in the **Print Setup** dialog box).

12 x 20 inch paper size (1208 SuperSize only)

The manual feed slot on the Elite 1208S supports a paper size as large as 12 x 20 inches (304.8 x 508 mm). The printable area is 11.69 x 19.29 inches (297 x 490 mm), which allows full bleed printing of 11 x 17 inch spreads, along with registration marks and page labels.

The paper capacity of the manual feed slot (when stacking 12 x 20 paper) is reduced from the specifications listed in the *Elite XL User's Manual*. The maximum amount of 12 x 20, 20lb paper that will feed properly into the manual feed slot is 25. If your Elite XL printer is equipped with a 20 inch paper feed tray, the original paper capacity specifications apply.

Interface access:

Front Panel. The 12 x 20 paper size option is located in the **Default Size** submenu of the **Paper Handling** menu.

Macintosh software interface. The 12 x 20 paper size can be selected from the **Paper** pop-up menu (located in the **Page Setup** dialog box).

Windows software interface. The 12 x 20 paper size can be selected from the **Paper Size** drop-down menu (located in the **Print Setup** dialog box).

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