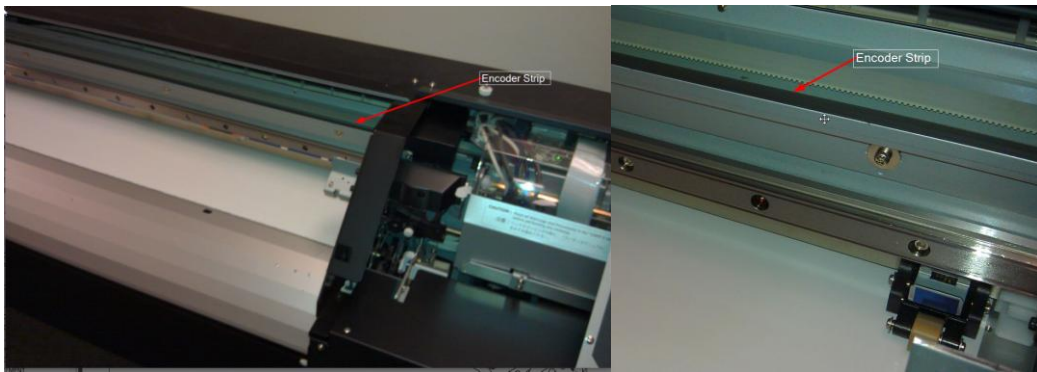


Cleaning the encoder strip

Why clean the encoder strip?

The encoder strip is like a measuring tape that tells the printhead where it is along the length of the printer. The encoder strip looks like a grey piece of plastic somewhere on the beam that the printhead travels on. It is actually a clear strip of plastic that has very fine lines on it. The encoder sensor counts these lines as it travels left and right. The pictures below are from a Roland VS-540 – the covers have been removed for illustration – you probably won't need to remove the covers to clean the encoder strip.



It can get dirty from dust, ink overspray, fingerprints, etc. When this happens you can get several different kinds of problems like:

- Stair-stepping in your prints
- Prints and cuts not lining up on print/cut machines
- Error codes related to your scan motor or y-axis

How to Clean the encoder strip:

You'll need a lint free cloth and some Isopropyl alcohol – **DO NOT USE THE CLEANING FLUID USED FOR REGULAR MAINTENANCE** – You can use alcohol wipes from the medicine cabinet in a pinch.

You want the cloth to be damp, not dripping. Gently wipe the encoder strip with the moistened cloth moving in one direction only. Do not pull hard on the strip and do not “scrub” the encoder strip. After cleaning the exposed part of the strip, move the carriage out of the docking area and clean the strip behind where the printhead carriage normally sits when idle.