PrintMate

WI-FI PRINT ADAPTER

User Manual

Print invoices, delivery challans and receipts from an Android phone on an Epson dot-matrix printer, with the PrintMate app: from your billing app or WhatsApp, or straight from the app.



No computer
Print from any phone or tablet

No internet
PrintMate has its own Wi-Fi

PDFs and text
Invoices, challans, receipts

Version A · last changed 20/10/26 · for the PrintMate app 0.3.0 and later

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1 What PrintMate does

PrintMate is a small adapter that plugs into the USB port of an Epson dot-matrix printer. PrintMate has its own Wi-Fi network. The PrintMate app on the phone joins that network and sends the document to be printed.

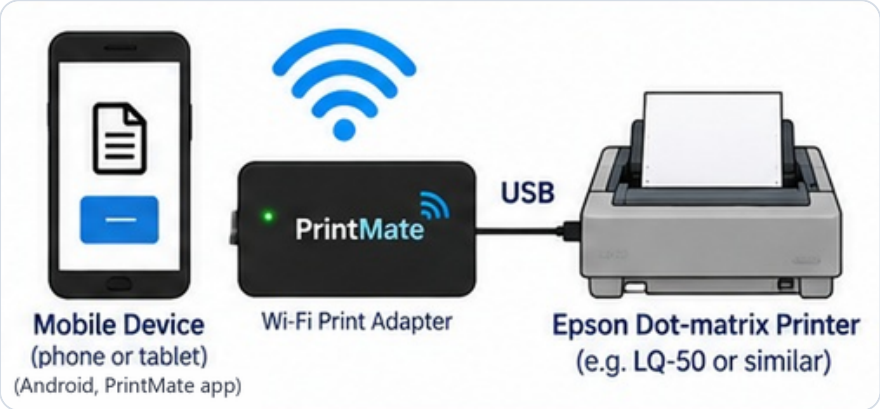


Figure 1 *The phone sends the document to PrintMate over Wi-Fi, and PrintMate passes it to the Epson printer over USB.*

- **Two ways to print.** From your other apps: the billing app's **Print** button, or **Share** from WhatsApp or email (section 6). Or open the document in the PrintMate app itself (section 7).
- **The phone stays online.** Only the PrintMate app uses PrintMate's Wi-Fi. WhatsApp, email and the billing app keep using mobile data.
- **No internet needed for printing.** PrintMate works anywhere, even with no mobile signal.
- **The invoice prints as it came.** The app shows a preview, which can't be changed.
- **One light tells you everything.** A coloured light on the adapter shows whether a phone and a printer are connected, and whether the printer needs attention.

2 What you need

Item	Notes
PrintMate adapter	Each unit has its own label on top, with its Wi-Fi name and password
USB-C to USB-B printer cable	Connects PrintMate to the printer's square USB socket
5 V USB power	A good-quality vehicle USB charger (12 V socket) or any USB charger, with a USB-C cable
Epson dot-matrix printer with USB	For example the LQ and LX series; the printer has its own power supply
Android phone	Android 10 or newer, with the PrintMate app (section 5)

3 The adapter

PrintMate has two USB-C sockets at one end. The label on top shows which socket is which, and the status light shines through the label inside the small ring.

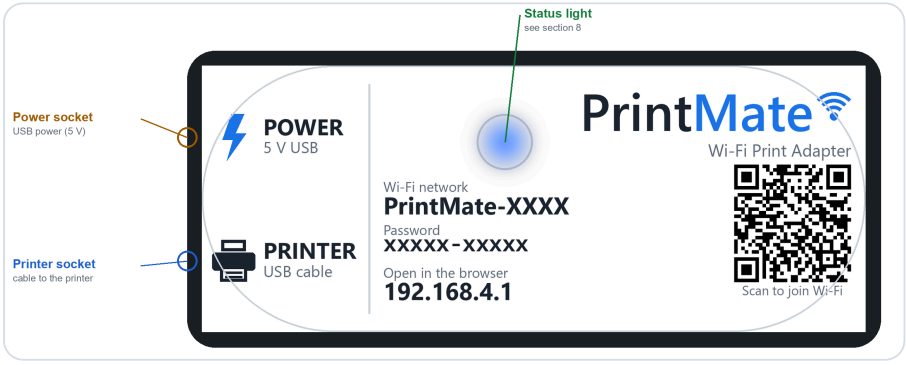


Figure 2 *The adapter seen from above, with its label.*

Socket	On the label	Connect
Power	Lightning bolt, **POWER**	5 V USB power: the vehicle USB charger or any USB charger
Printer	Printer symbol, **PRINTER**	The USB-C to USB-B cable to the printer

The two sockets look the same. If they are swapped nothing is damaged, but PrintMate will not find the printer, so always check the label.

The label

The label covers the top of the adapter and has what the app needs to connect:

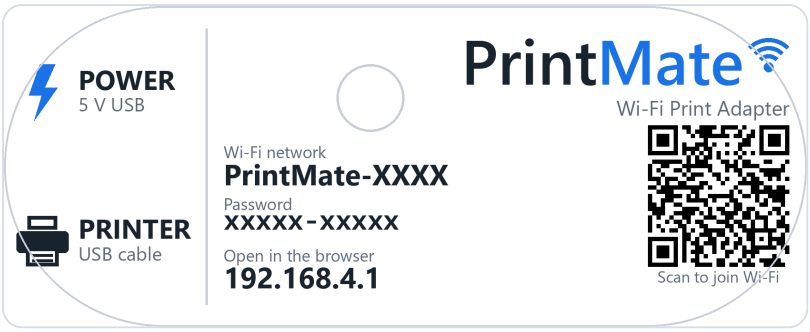


Figure 3 *The unit label. The app scans the code once to set the phone up.*

- **Wi-Fi network:** the unit's own network name, `PrintMate-` followed by four characters.
- **Password:** unique to this unit. It never changes, so the label always works.
- **The code:** scanned by the app to set up the phone (section 5).
- **The ring:** the status light shines through the label here, so nothing is printed there.

Keep the label clean and readable, and don't peel it off or cover it. If two vans park side by side, each phone joins only its own PrintMate, because each unit has a different name and password.

4 Installing in the vehicle

1. Place PrintMate near the printer, where it won't be knocked or get wet. A pad of double-sided foam tape (VHB) on the flat underside holds it in place.
2. Connect the **printer cable** to the **printer** socket and to the printer's USB socket.
3. Connect the **USB power** to the **power** socket. The light comes on blue within a few seconds.
4. Switch the printer on. When PrintMate recognises it, the light turns **green**.

PrintMate uses very little power and can stay connected. It doesn't need to be switched off when the vehicle is parked; it simply restarts the next time power comes on.

5 Setting up the phone

You only need to do this once per phone.

Installing the app

The app is free. It is not in the Google Play Store; download it from PrintMate's website:

`https://tech.padnova.biz/printMate/printMate.apk`

Or scan the **Android app** code on the last page of this manual with the phone's camera. Download it while the phone has internet (mobile data or your usual Wi-Fi).

1. Open the link in Chrome on the phone. If Chrome warns that this type of file can be harmful, tap **Download anyway**.
2. When the download finishes, tap **Open** (or open `printMate.apk` from **Downloads**).
3. If Android says it can't install apps from this source, tap **Settings**, turn on **Allow from this source**, go back and tap **Install**.
4. If Google Play Protect says it doesn't recognise the app, tap **More details** → **Install anyway**. This appears for any app installed from outside the Play Store.

To update the app later, download and install it again the same way; its setup is kept.

Connecting the app to PrintMate

1. Open the PrintMate app. When it asks to send notifications, tap **Allow**: printing from your billing app needs it (section 6).
2. Tap **Scan the label** and point the camera at the code on PrintMate's label. (Or tap **Type the name and password** and enter them exactly as on the label.)
3. If Android asks to allow **nearby devices**, or whether to connect to `PrintMate-xxxx`, allow it.
4. After a few seconds the print page appears inside the app. The phone is set up; from now on the app connects by itself.

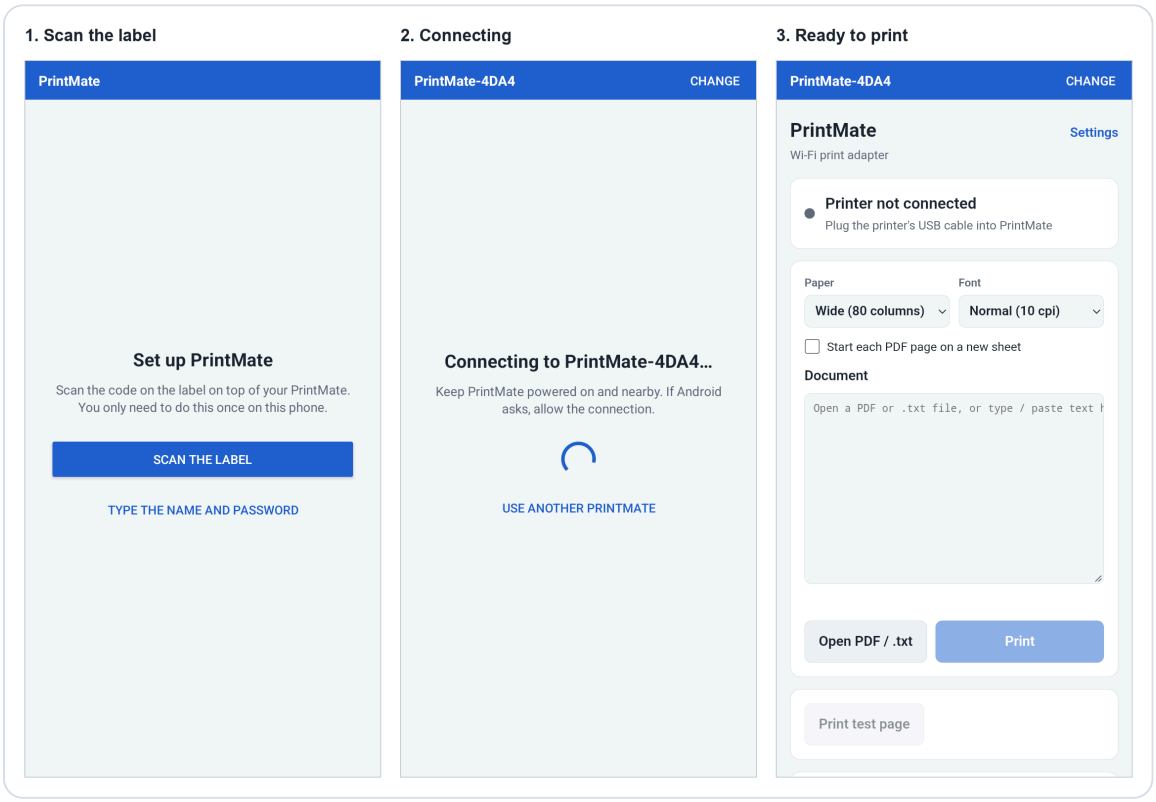


Figure 4 *Setting up the app: scan the label once; after that the app connects by itself each time it opens.*

PrintMate as a printer

Installing the app also adds **PrintMate** as a printer to Android, for the Print button in other apps. It is normally switched on by itself. If PrintMate is missing from the printer list in section 6, switch it on in the phone's **Settings** → **Printing** (on some phones under **Connected devices** → **Connection preferences** → **Printing**).

6 Printing from your other apps

With this way, you work in your billing app or WhatsApp as usual and PrintMate does the printing in the background. The PrintMate app opens only to show the preview.

From the billing app's Print button

1. In the billing app, open the invoice and tap **Print**.
2. At the top of Android's print screen, choose the printer **PrintMate-xxxx**. The first time, tap **All printers** to find it, then **OK** on Android's "*Use PrintMate?*" message. Android remembers the choice for next time.
3. Tap the round **print** button.
4. A notification appears: **Ready to print on PrintMate**. Tap it.
5. The PrintMate app opens, connects and shows the invoice. Check the preview and tap **Print** (section 8).

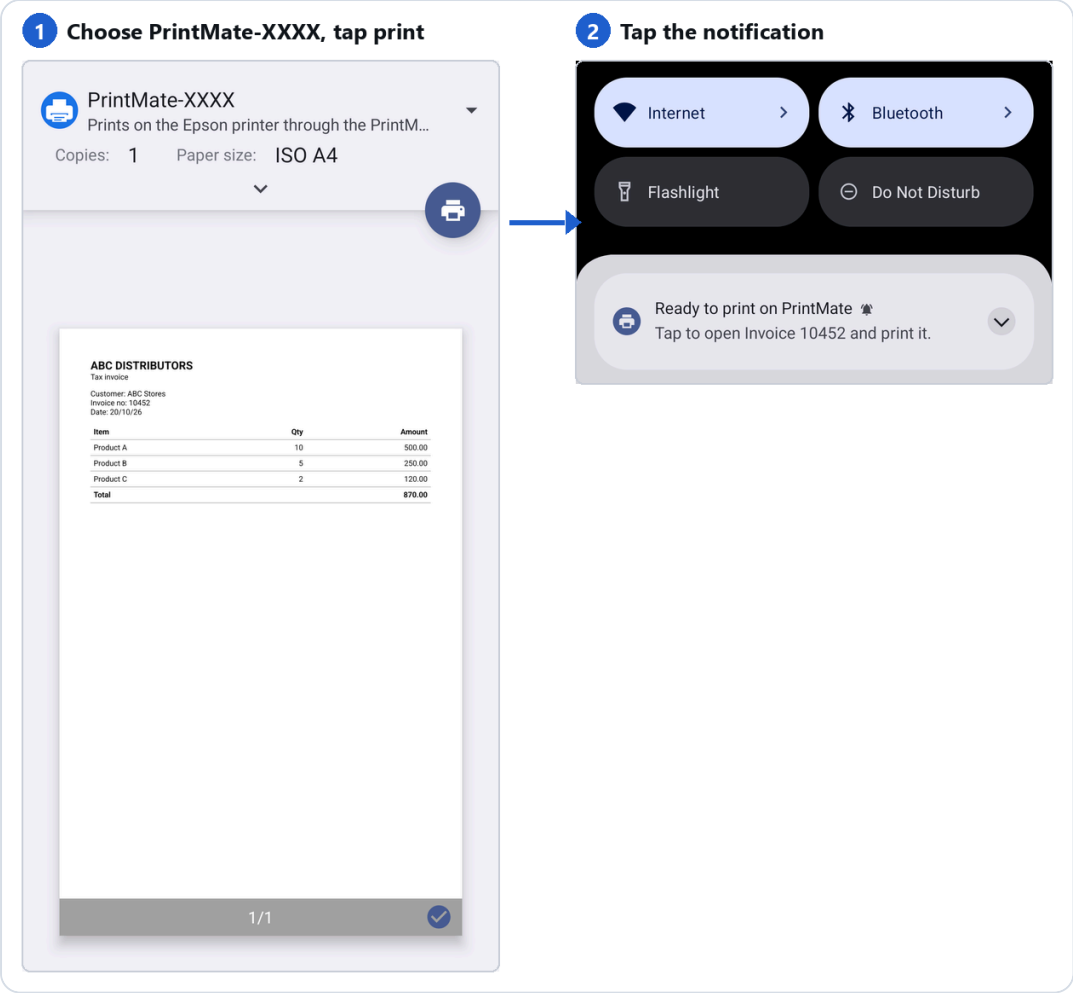


Figure 5 *Android's print screen with PrintMate chosen (left), and the notification that opens the invoice in the PrintMate app (right).*

The paper size on Android's print screen doesn't matter: PrintMate lays the invoice out for the dot-matrix printer itself. If no notification appears, pull down the notification shade; if it still isn't there, allow notifications for PrintMate in the phone's **Settings** → **Apps** → **PrintMate** → **Notifications**.

Sharing from WhatsApp, email or Files

1. In WhatsApp, **long-press the PDF** in the chat, tap **Share**, and choose **PrintMate**. From an opened PDF, use ⋮ → **Share** instead. Email, Files and billing apps work the same way.
2. The PrintMate app opens, connects and shows the document.
3. Check the preview and tap **Print** (section 8).

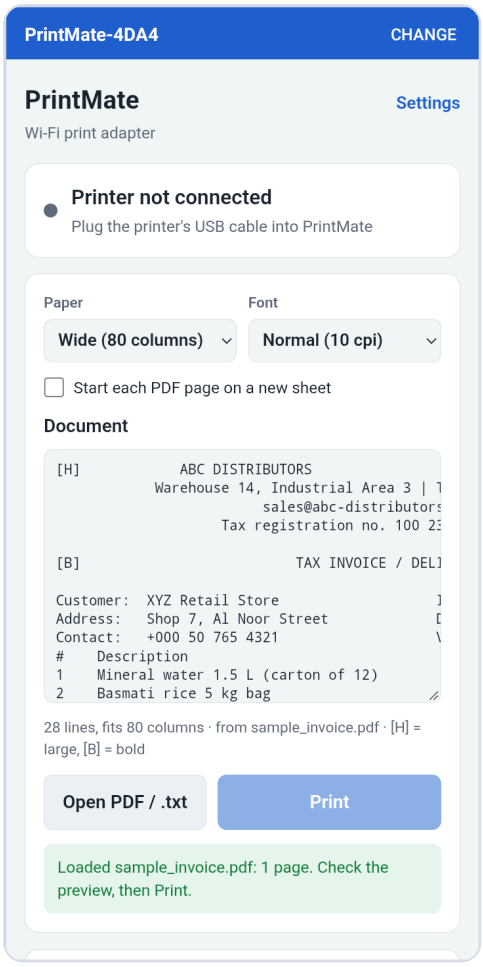


Figure 6 *An invoice shared to PrintMate, laid out and ready to print.*

If PrintMate isn't in the list of apps to share to, scroll the list or tap **More**.

7 Printing from the PrintMate app

With this way, you open the document in the PrintMate app itself.

1. Open the PrintMate app. It connects to PrintMate and shows the print page.
2. Tap **Open PDF / .txt** and choose the invoice, for example from **Downloads** or a folder your billing app saves to.
3. Check the preview and tap **Print** (section 8).

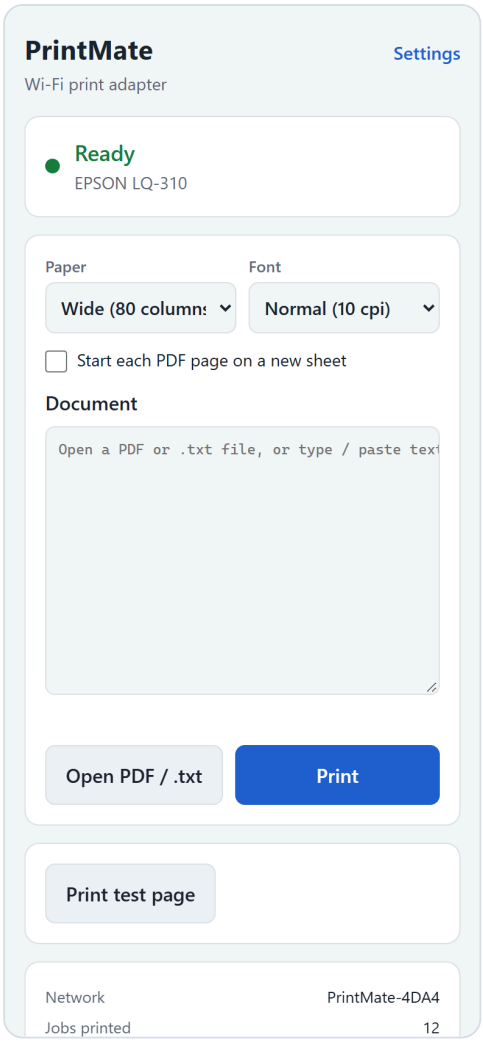


Figure 7 *The print page in the app, with the printer ready.*

The top of the page shows the printer. **Ready** with a green dot means you can print.

8 The print page

Whichever way the document arrived, the print page shows it laid out for the printer.

The preview

PrintMate reads the PDF on the phone and shows its text in the **Document** box, laid out in the printer's columns. This takes a moment for long documents. The box doesn't wrap lines, so scroll it sideways to see the right-hand side.

The preview can't be changed: the document prints exactly as it came from the billing app.

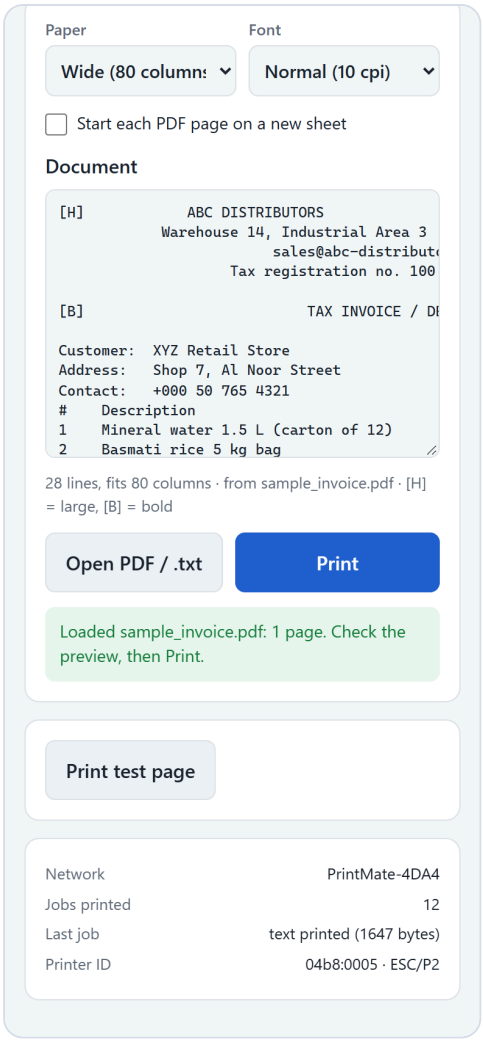


Figure 8 *An invoice laid out for the printer. Lines starting with [H] print large, lines with [B] print bold.*

Choosing paper and font

Setting	Choose
Paper	**Wide (80 columns)** for standard printers such as the LQ-310 / LX-310; **Narrow (50 columns)** for compact printers such as the LQ-50
Font	**Normal** (10 characters per inch), **Elite** (12) to fit more, **Condensed** (17) for wide invoices
Start each PDF page on a new sheet	Tick it for multi-page PDFs on perforated continuous paper

The preview re-arranges itself when you change these. The hint under the box says whether every line fits. If it says a line is too long, try a narrower font. Your choice is remembered on that phone.

Large and bold lines

PrintMate looks at the text sizes in the PDF. A line in much larger text (usually the company name) is marked **[H]** and prints double width and double height. A line in slightly larger text (titles, totals) is marked **[B]** and prints bold. The markers themselves are not printed.

Printing

Tap **Print**. The message **"Sent to printer"** appears, the light flashes **green** while the printer receives the data, and the printer starts.

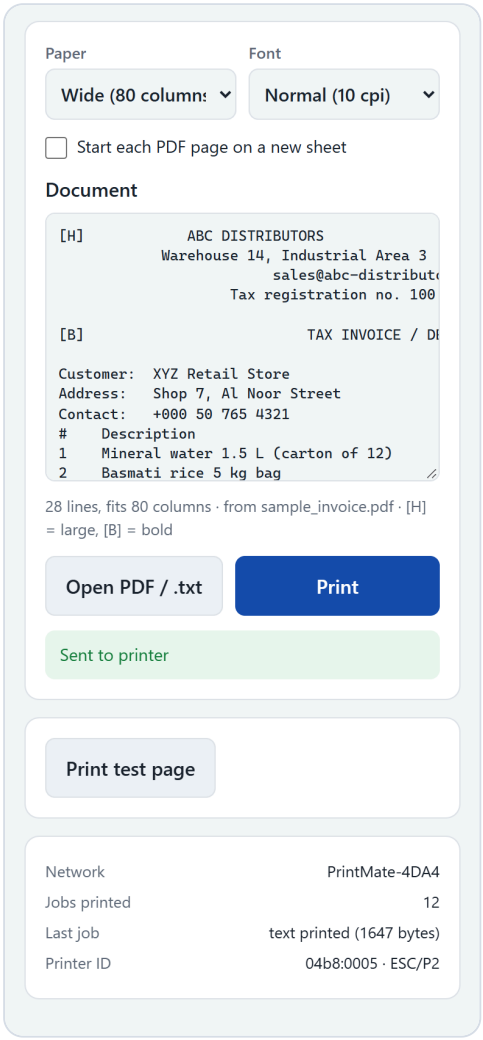


Figure 9 *After tapping Print.*

Print test page prints PrintMate's own test page: normal, bold, wide and condensed text. It is a quick way to check the printer and cable.

What prints and what doesn't

- **Prints well:** invoices, challans, receipts and reports made by billing or accounting software, which contain real text.
- **Doesn't print:** scanned documents and photos of documents. They contain no text, and PrintMate says so. Logos and lines in a PDF are left out; only the text prints.

- **Characters:** English letters, numbers and common symbols print as they are. The rupee sign prints as `Rs.`. Characters the printer's standard character set doesn't have, such as Arabic, print as `?` in this version.

Good to know

- Opening the app connects to PrintMate; closing it disconnects, and the phone goes back to its usual Wi-Fi or mobile data.
- If PrintMate is switched off and on, the app reconnects by itself.
- **Change**, at the top right, sets the app up for another PrintMate, for example when the phone moves to another vehicle.
- The app's version is shown at the bottom of its setup and connecting screens.

9 The status light

Light	Meaning
Blue	Ready and waiting: no phone and no printer connected
White	A phone is connected; no printer yet
Green	Printer connected and ready
Green, flashing	Printing: data is going to the printer
Two quick white blinks	A phone has just connected, or a document has just arrived
Amber	The printer is out of paper or offline (check the paper and the printer's *Online* light)
Red, flashing quickly	A print job failed (shown for a few seconds)
Red, slow blink	Something that is not a printer is plugged into the printer socket
Red	The printer reports an error, or PrintMate's Wi-Fi could not start

The same information appears at the top of the print page:

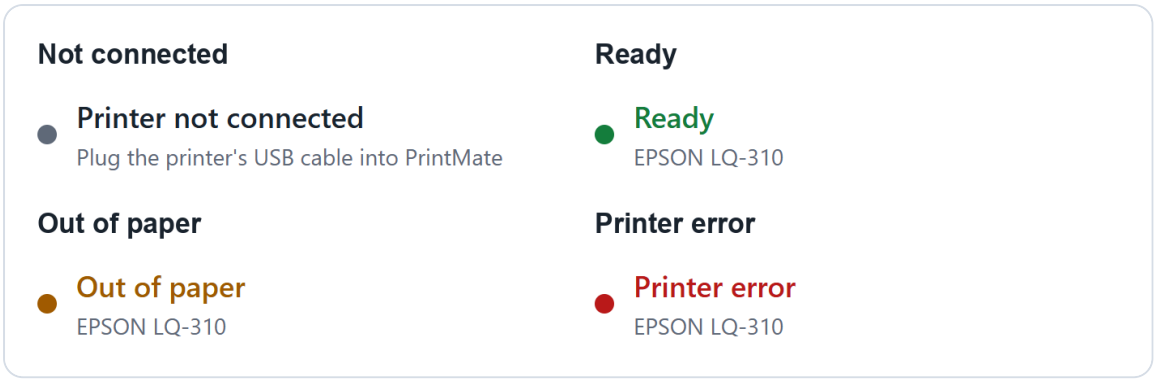


Figure 10 *The printer status on the print page: not connected, ready, out of paper and printer error.*

10 Settings

In the app, tap **Settings** at the top right of the print page; the phone's **Back** button returns to the print page. Changes are saved in the adapter and take effect when you tap **Save and restart**. The app reconnects by itself after the restart.

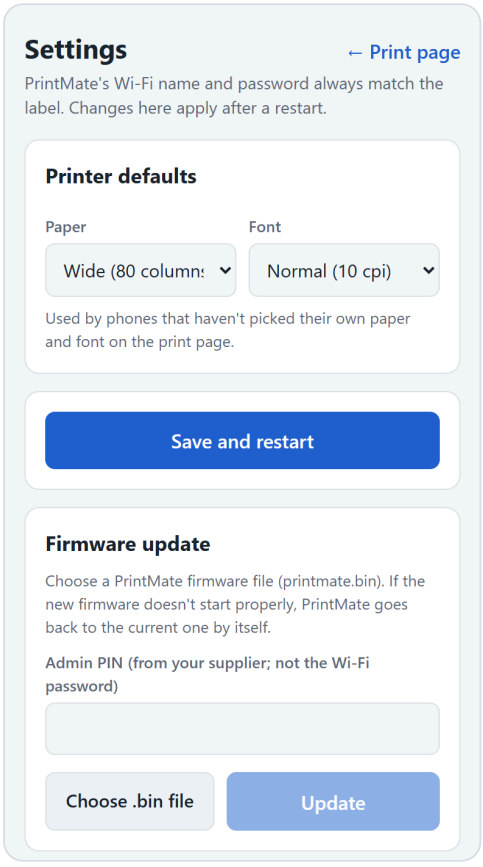


Figure 11 *The settings page.*

There is deliberately little to change. PrintMate's own Wi-Fi name and password are not settings: they always match the label, so whatever is changed here, the app can still connect with the label. The Wi-Fi channel is chosen automatically each time PrintMate starts.

The settings page has three parts: the printer defaults, the firmware update (section 11) and, under **Device**, the unit's details with **Restart** and **Factory reset** (section 12). Only the firmware update needs a PIN.

Printer defaults

The paper and font that phones use until they choose their own on the print page.

11 Updating the firmware

New versions of PrintMate's software come as a single file, `printmate.bin`.

Installing it needs the **admin PIN**, which your supplier gives to the administrator. It is not the Wi-Fi password on the label.

1. Save the file on the phone, open the PrintMate app, and tap **Settings**.
2. Under **Firmware update**, tap **Choose .bin file** and pick the file.
3. Enter the **admin PIN** and tap **Update**.
4. Keep the app open while the progress bar fills. PrintMate checks the file, installs it and restarts by itself.
5. Check the new version under **Device**.

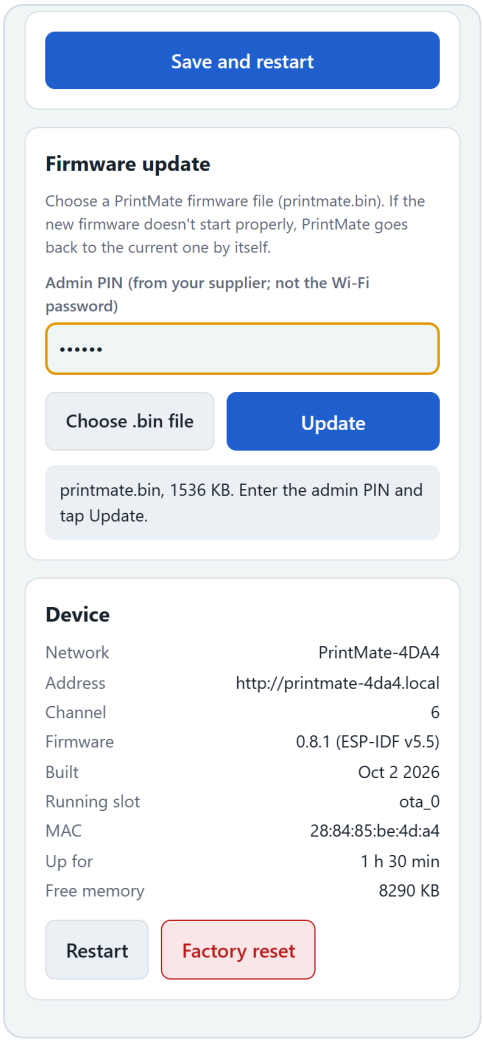


Figure 12 *A firmware file chosen and the admin PIN entered, ready to tap Update.*

PrintMate only accepts genuine PrintMate firmware, and refuses a file older than the version already installed. It keeps the previous version: if a new version doesn't start properly, PrintMate goes back to the previous one by itself. If the upload is interrupted, nothing changes. Your settings are kept through an update.

12 Restart and factory reset

Both are under **Device** at the bottom of the settings page.

- **Restart** restarts PrintMate, like unplugging the power. Nothing is lost.
- **Factory reset** puts the printer defaults back to the original values (Wide paper, Normal font). Use it if the settings got mixed up, or when handing the unit to someone else. PrintMate's own Wi-Fi is not affected; it always matches the label.

13 Troubleshooting

Problem	What to do
The light is off	Check the USB power and the cable in the **power** socket (lightning bolt). Try another charger.
The app says it couldn't connect	Check PrintMate's light is on and you are close to it, then tap **Try again**. If you closed Android's connection prompt, allow it this time.
PrintMate isn't in the billing app's printer list	Tap **All printers**. If it isn't there either, switch it on in **Settings** → **Printing** (section 5).
No "Ready to print" notification after Print	Pull down the notification shade. Allow notifications for PrintMate in **Settings** → **Apps** → **PrintMate** → **Notifications**.
PrintMate isn't in WhatsApp's Share list	Scroll the list or tap **More**. Check the PrintMate app is installed.
The page says "Printer not connected"	Check the printer is switched on and the cable is in the **printer** socket (marked PRINTER on the label). The light turns green when the printer is found.
The light blinks red slowly	The device in the printer socket is not a printer, or the printer was not recognised. Check the cable goes to the printer.
The light is amber	Load paper, close the printer cover, press the printer's *Online* button.
"This PDF has no text layer"	The PDF is a scan or a photo. Print it from the billing app instead.
Lines run over the edge of the paper	Choose a narrower font (Elite or Condensed), or Narrow paper if the printer is narrow.
Arabic or other letters print as `?`	This version prints English characters only.
The firmware update asks for a PIN	Updates are for the administrator. Ask them, or your supplier, for the admin PIN.
"Too many wrong PINs"	Wait the time shown (it grows with each wrong PIN, up to 15 minutes), then try again.
The settings got mixed up	In the app, open **Settings** → **Factory reset**.

14 Specifications

Item	Value
Wi-Fi	2.4 GHz 802.11 b/g/n, WPA2; PrintMate's own network, up to 4 phones at a time
Printer connection	USB (USB-C on PrintMate, USB-B on the printer)
Printer language	Epson ESC/P (dot-matrix printers)
Documents	PDF with text and plain text (.txt); up to 256 KB of text per job
Power	5 V USB, under 0.5 W
Status light	RGB, see section 9
Size	74 × 30 × 9.5 mm
Phones	Android 10 or newer, with the PrintMate app

PrintMate

Need help or more units?

For support, more units or firmware updates, contact us.

WEB

tech.padnova.biz/printmate.html

Scan the code with the phone's camera to open the page.

ANDROID APP

tech.padnova.biz/printMate/printMate.apk

Scan with the phone's camera to download the PrintMate app (section 5).

WHATSAPP

+91 98406 18472

Message us for help with your PrintMate.