

Credentials 125 kHz Cards Handling Guide

General Information

Hirsch 125 kHz proximity credentials are made with layers of PVC or composite materials (60% PVC and 40% PET) with a glossy surface that is intended for photo ID printing. These credentials can be printed with standard card printers using direct-to-card (DTC) or retransfer film technology.

All contactless credential cards contain an IC or Integrated Circuit (chip) and an antenna coil. For this reason, special care should be taken when handling and printing to ensure the best cosmetic and performance results occur.

Printing and Credential Design

Color variations or voids may occur with direct-to-card printers due to surface variations over the chip and antenna area. Avoid printing large areas with solid or halftone designs. It is best to choose artwork with varied colors and patterns to minimize these variations. Do not place a photo or barcode over the chip area on the credential. The Hirsch team can tell you where the exclusion area (around the chip) is found.

It is always best to print a few test cards before running an entire batch to ensure that the print is as you desire. Make alterations to your artwork as needed to obtain the desired results.

Card Handling

Our printable credentials are shrink-wrapped when they arrive. Take care when removing the credentials from the packaging so they do not get scratched.

Always handle cards from the edges and not from the flat, glossy surface. Use lint-free gloves or finger cots to prevent oil and fingerprints transferring onto the card.

Card image quality may vary even with careful handling. This can be due to variations in printer set up, environmental changes, storage temperature, or artwork color selections.

Hirsch is not responsible for image quality or variations in print. Our cards have been tested to meet requirements for high-quality images. Failure to achieve these results is not the fault of the card.

Printing Tips

To achieve optimum results, follow these tips:

1. Always check for debris on the card before placing it into a printer. If debris is detected, the card can be cleaned using 99% pure isopropyl alcohol and a soft, lint-free cloth.
2. Fine scuff marks may appear on the card's surface. These marks do not affect the printer and should not affect the printed image. These scuff marks can occur during final inspection and testing.
3. Printer manufacturers discourage printing on slot-punched credentials. The edge of the slot punch may have a burr or sharp edge that can tear or pull a printer ribbon. It is recommended to print the card first and then slot punch.
4. The office or area where you print should be clean and free of airborne particles.
5. Check the printer roller frequently per the manufacturer's directions.

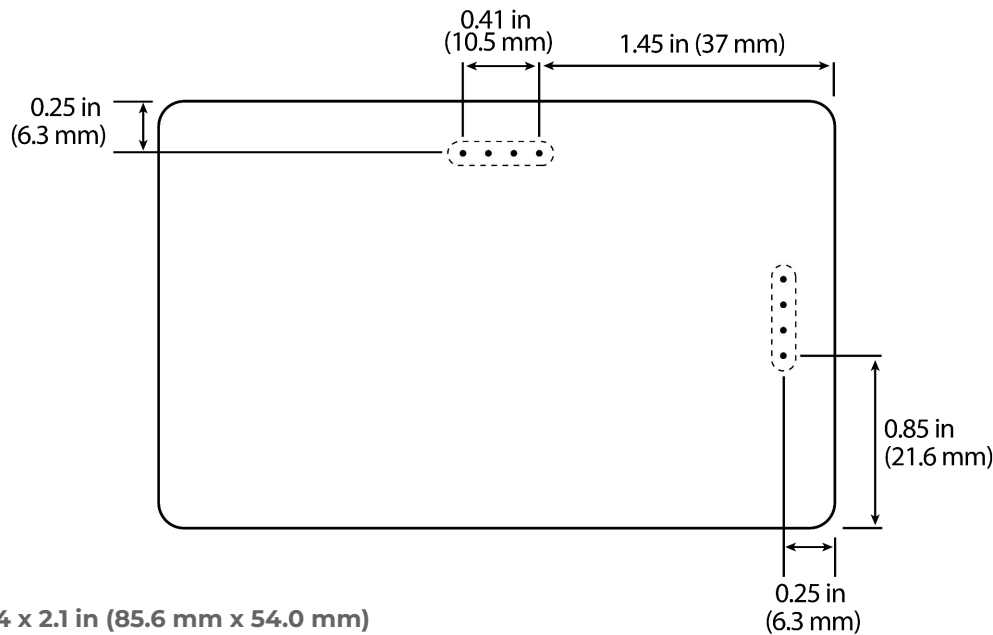
Note: For consistent print quality, regularly check the printer and make sure there is no dirt or debris in the card path. Some printer models may require a specific cleaning card or other accessories for cleaning purposes.

Slot Punching

Hirsch cards have slot punch indicators — small dots visible on the card back — which show the only allowable slot locations for the card.

It is strongly suggested to use badge grippers instead of slot punching the cards. If you slot punch the card, carefully center the indicator marks to the punch, and punch only where the indicator marks appear. Any other position may damage the electronics. If there are no marks, the card cannot be safely punched.

Always test the first card after printing and slotting. Once satisfied with the quality, continue printing the full card lot, then slot punch (Hirsch does not supply the equipment to slot punch cards).



Card size: 3.4 x 2.1 in (85.6 mm x 54.0 mm)
Slot hole size: 0.5 x 0.125 in (12.7 x 3.2 mm)

Note: Drawing not to scale. The shown slot punch marks are for illustration purposes only. Due to variations in antenna designs, not all cards accept a slot punch. The chip location can also vary and be in a different location.

Ordering Information

Credential Form Factor	Clamshell	ISO Card
Slot Punch	Vertical	Vertical or Horizontal
Material	Hard Shell: ABS Cover Label: PVC	PVC or Composite
Hirsch Part Numbers	4000	4010 (PVC) 4020 (Composite) 4030 (PVC mag stripe) 4032 (Composite mag stripe)