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"Codesoft 6 Premier" Overview Manual

Thermocode Series 2 (all Printers)

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Foreword

Through out this document, trademarked names may be used. Rather than put a trademark (™ or ®) symbol in every occurrence of a trademarked name, we state that we are using the names only in an editorial fashion, and to the benefit of the trademark owner, with no intention of infringement.

This manual is a only a general overview on setting up the Thermocode Series 2 range of Thermal transfer printers, so they can be controlled & programmed from within the Codesoft software. If you experience any difficulties in setting up your printer, please contact your local supplier.

All the Thermocode Series 2 printer's, utilise True type or Bitmap fonts that can be downloaded from within Codesoft. This enables all types of variable text and counter fields to be created and then controlled from within the printer software.

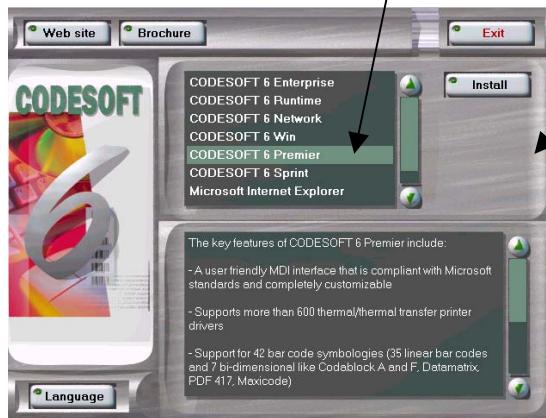
As well as this User's Guide & within the Codesoft software there are comprehensive "help" menu's that also assist in design of the required formats for printing.

Codesoft Installation

Supplied with the Software is a dongle, a Software Protection key. Which must be installed, into the printer port of your computer (LPT1 normally). Once installed, allows Codesoft 6 Premier to work correctly.

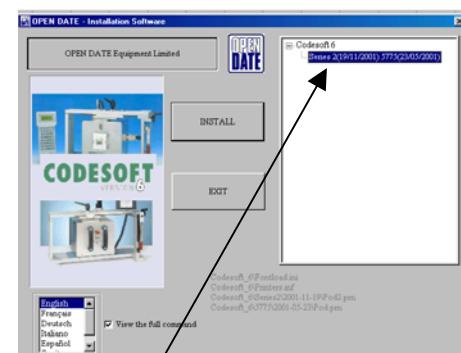
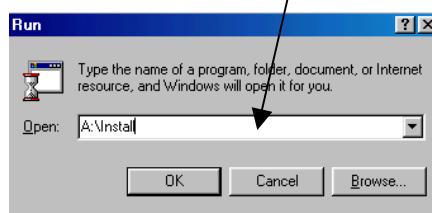
The Codesoft 6 CD will automatically load the software and display the dialog box shown below.

Highlight CODESOFT 6 Premier and Click on Install. Follow the Instructions.



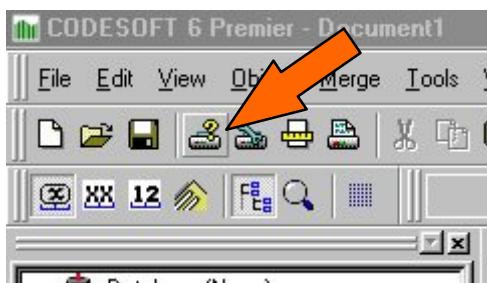
Normally the Printer has been supplied with a "Cs6 Open Date Driver Disk. Upgrade Disk 1 of 1."

Insert the Diskette in Drive "A" of the computer. Click on Run. Type A:\ Install Click on OK.



Click on Codesoft 6, Click on Series 2 (Date) 5775 (Date) & then Click on Install. Follow the instructions.

Printer Set Up

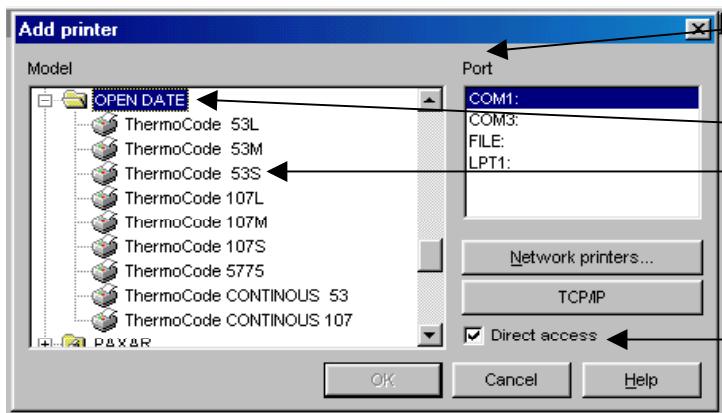
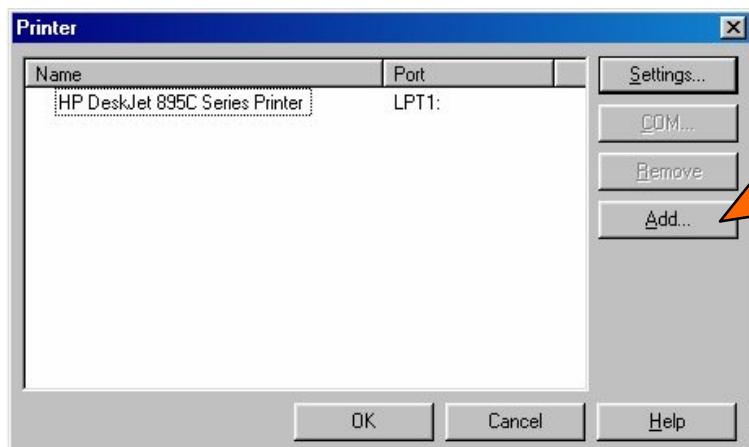


After Codesoft 6 Premier is Installed.

You must set up the model of Printer being used.

Click on the icon showing a printer which is highlighted with a question mark.

The Dialog Box below will appear. Click with your mouse on "Add"



A new Dialog Box will appear.

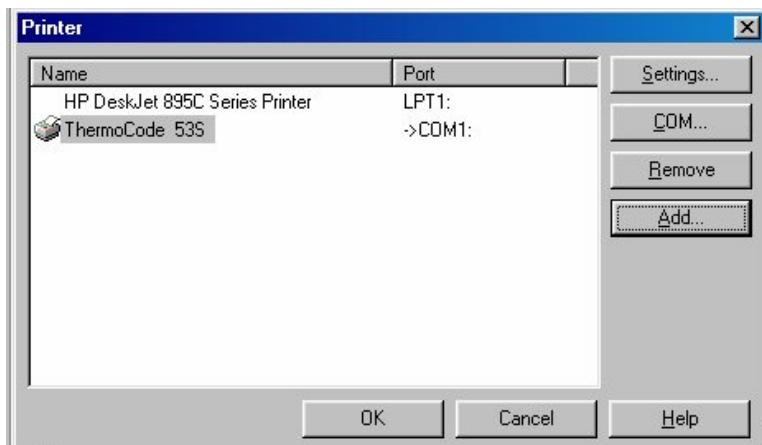
Select the "OPEN DATE" directory

Select the model of Printer.

Select the communications port your Computer uses.

Ensure the "Direct access" is ticked.

Then Click on "OK", to save settings.

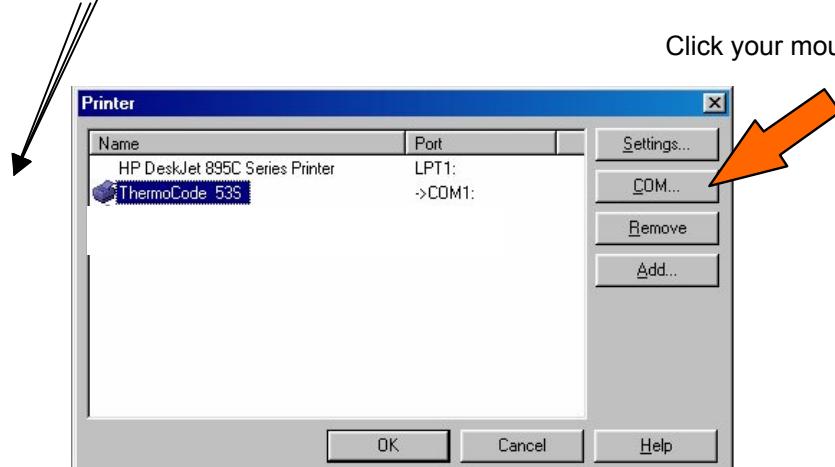


If more than one model of printer is to be used, repeat the above.

Before clicking "OK" see next page

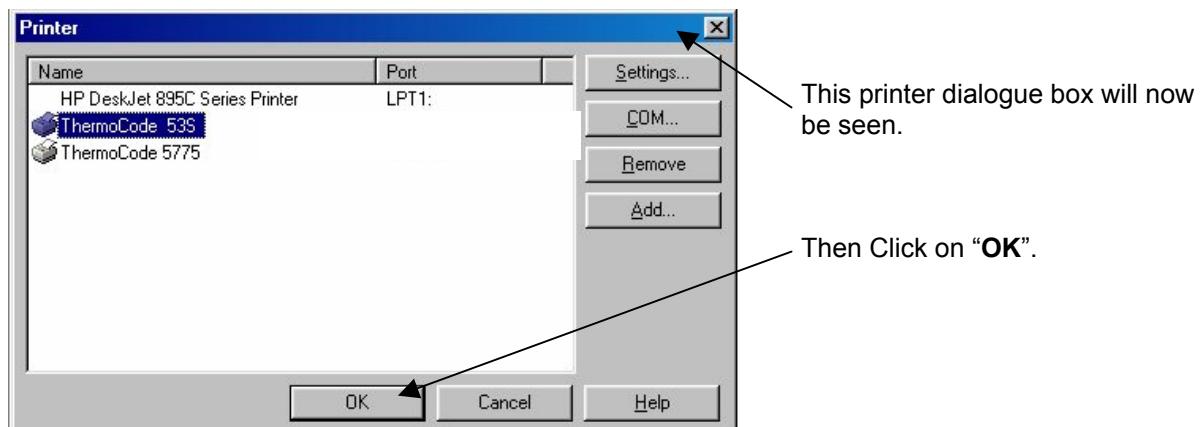
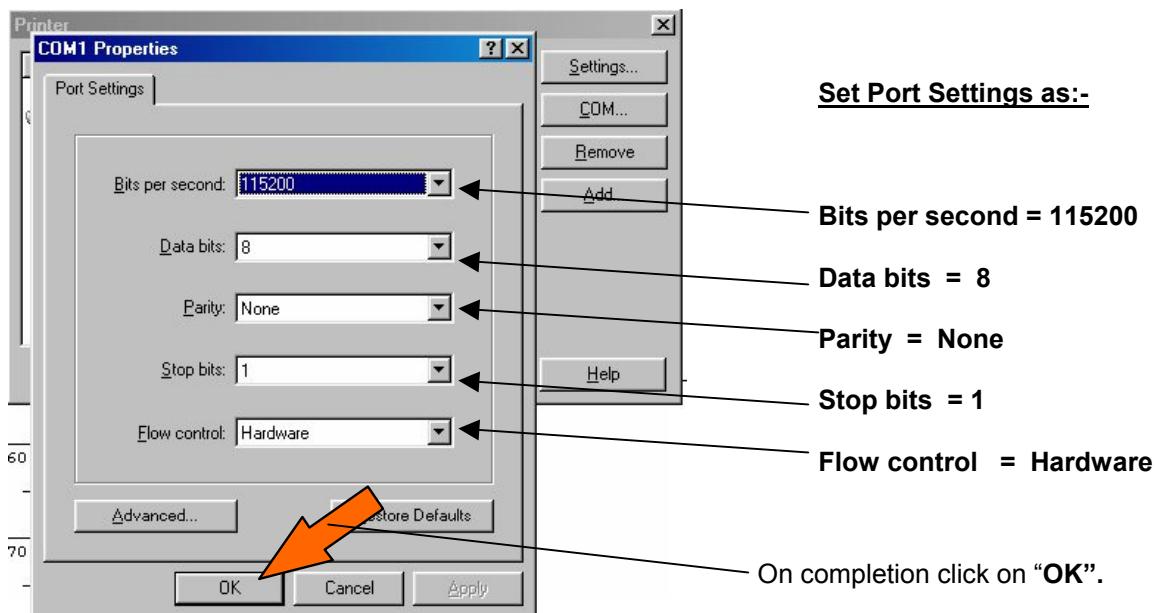
Printer set Up (continued)

Before clicking on "OK" The printer communication settings have to be set up.



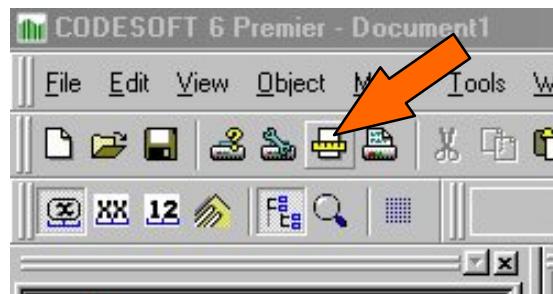
Click your mouse on "COM"

All the Thermocode Series 2 Printers, have a maximum Baud rate of **115200**.

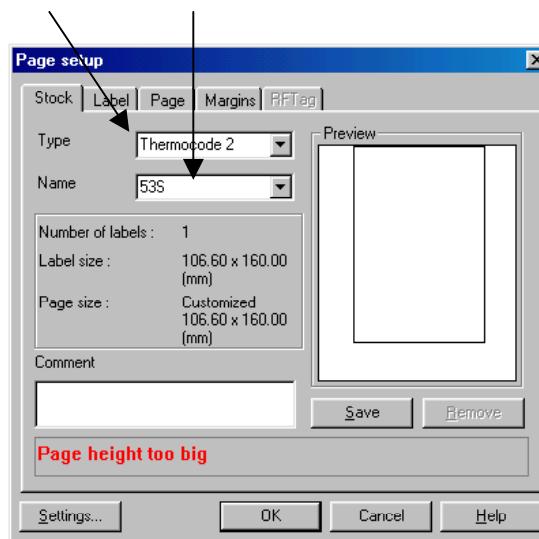


Page Set Up

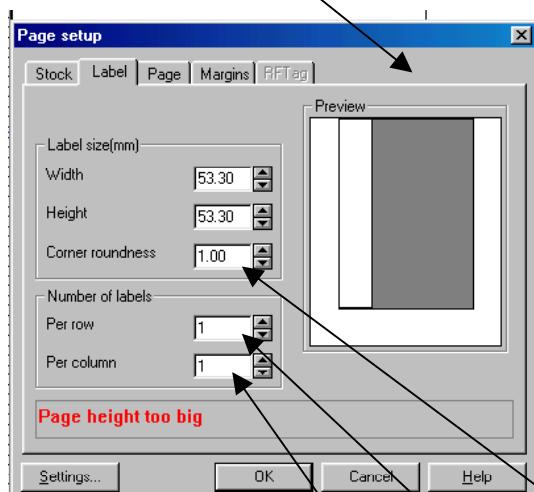
Page Set up (maximum Print area), Click on the icon displayed as a page with the Ruler.



This Dialog Box will appear. Ignore the warning message in red and label page size. Enter the Printer Type and the Model name of the Printer. Then Click on "Label".



This Dialog Box will appear, enter the width and height of your Print area. (see chart below)



Model	Width (mm)	Height (mm)	Max Length (mm)
53E	53.3	30.0	30.0
53C	53.3	53.3	500
53S	53.3	53.3	53.3
53M	53.3	106.6	106.6
53L	53.3	160.0	160.0
107S	106.6	53.3	53.3
107M	106.6	106.6	106.6
107L	106.6	160.0	160.0
107C	106.6	106.6	250

Set the following values:-

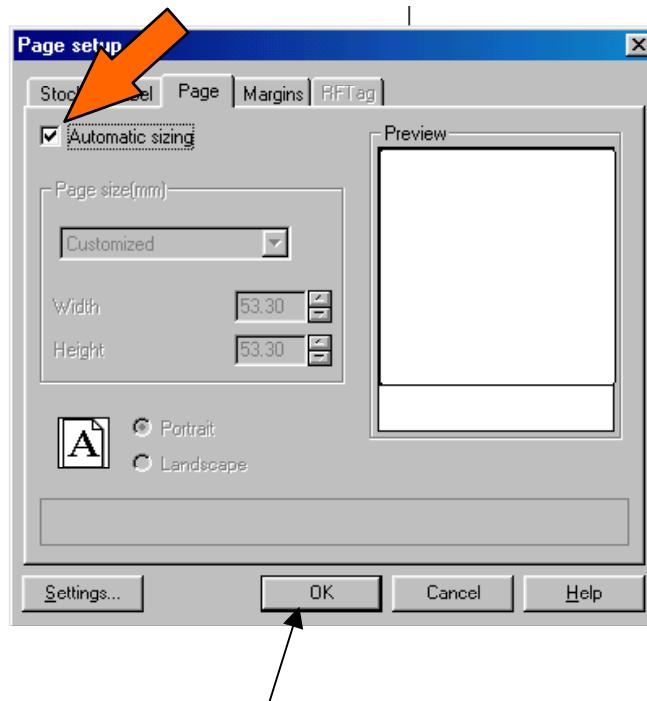
Corner roundness = 0.00

Labels Per row = 1

Labels per column = 1

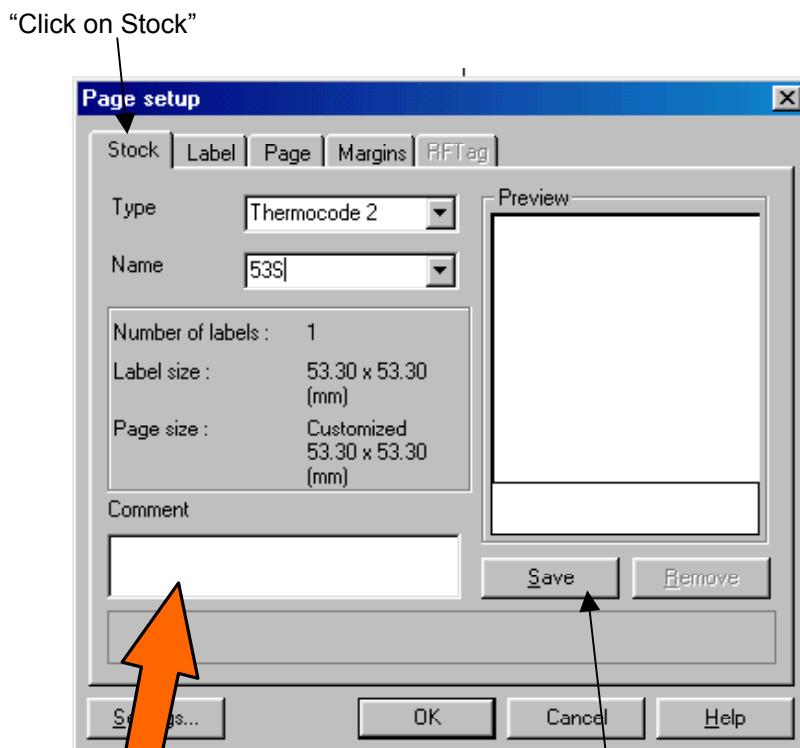
Page Set Up (continued)

Select "Page", then ensure that "Automatic sizing" is checked.



Click on "OK" to save the page and sizes.

Alternatively you can save the label with some comments.

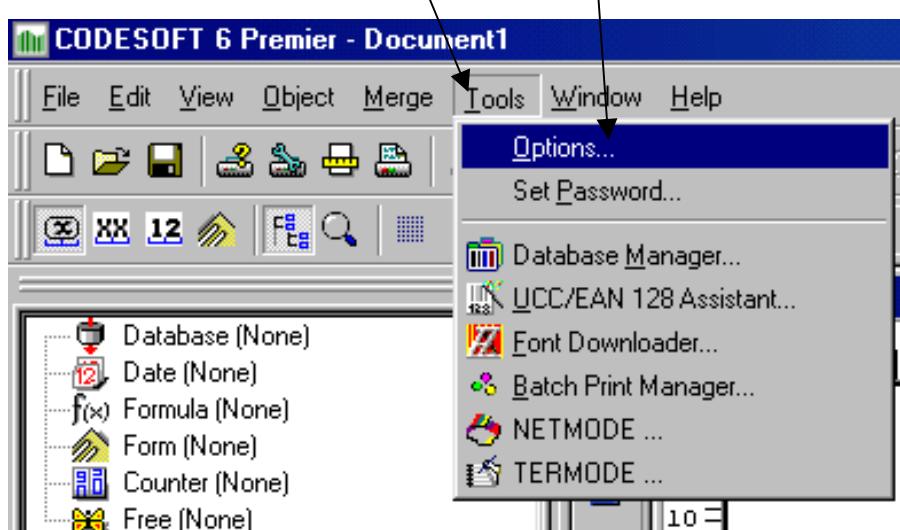


You can add Comments with in this Box if required.

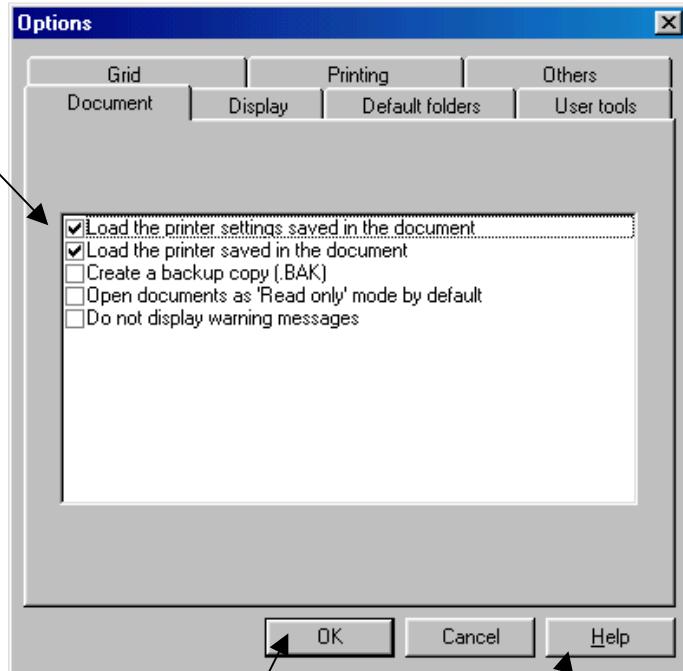
Press "Save" when finished, then press "OK"

Configuration of saved Formats (label designs)

Click on "Tools" then "Options".



Check the first two boxes shown.

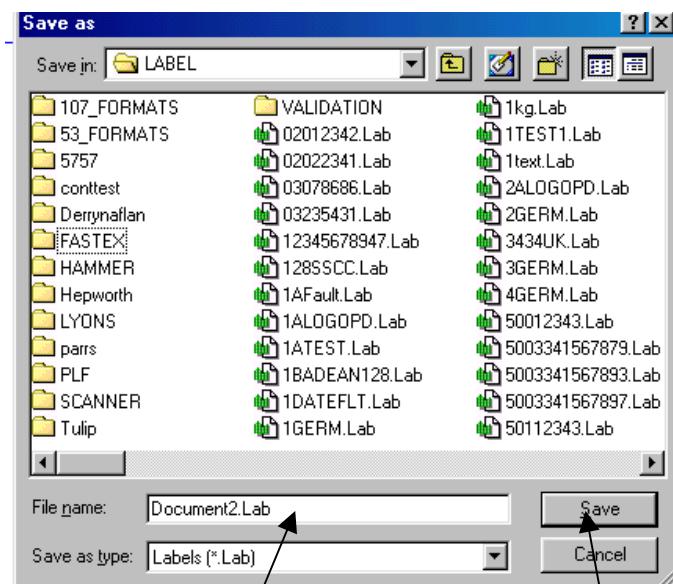
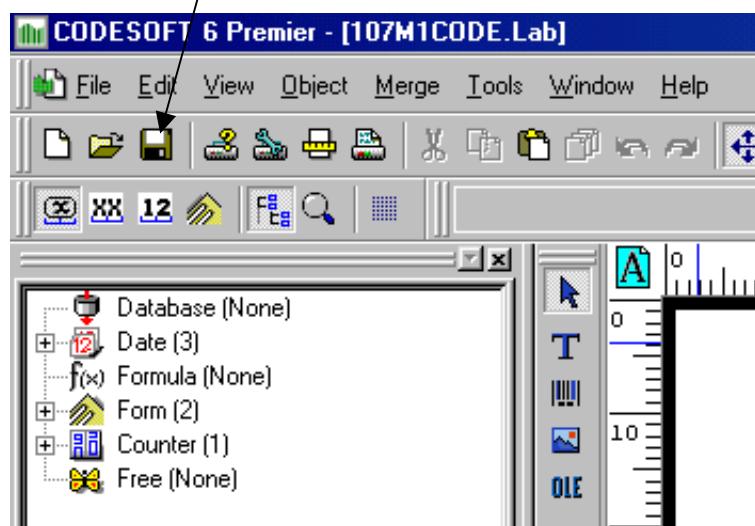


Click on "OK" to save settings.

For further information on the other check boxes and menus click on the Help

Saving a New Format (label design)

Click on the Disk Symbol to save the new format.



Enter the file name you require.

Then click on save

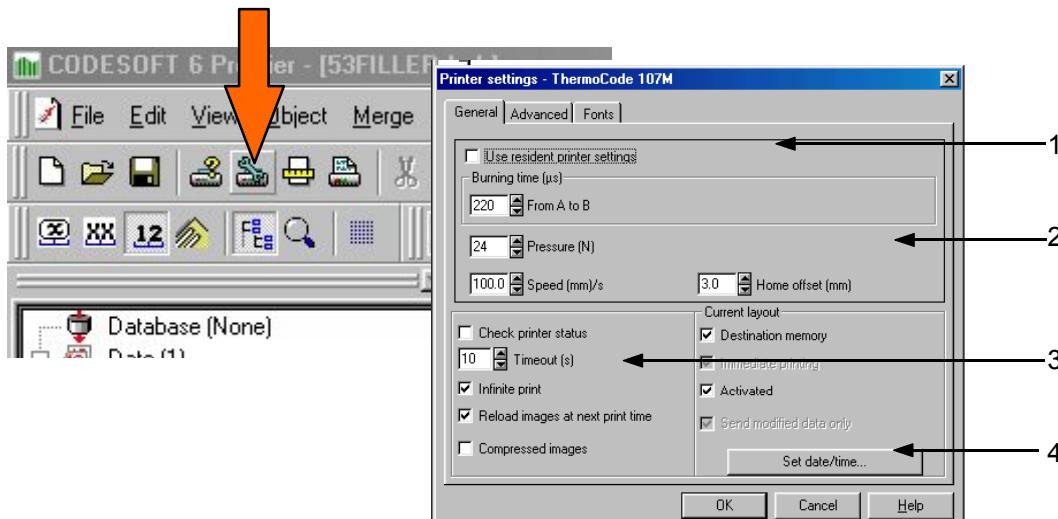
Printer Settings (General Menu)

Forward

The Printer settings are very important, ensuring that the print quality is optimised for product being printed.

Ideally you should leave the values Burn, Pressure, Speed and Home offset as the defaults that have loaded with the software. Once a test print on the substrate to be printed has been done, fine tuning can take place to suit your required application.

Click on the icon that shows the Printer with the Spanner, the printer settings dialog box is then shown.



1. **Use resident printer settings:** With this clicked on, no print parameters are sent to the Printer with the format design. The Printer will then automatically uses the default values as set up in "Supervisor" menu of the Terminal.
2. **Printer Settings:** Are the **Burn**, **Pressure**, **Speed** and **Home offset** values that will be down loaded with the format design, if the **Used resident printer settings** box has not been checked. (Normal operation)
3. **Check printer status:** With this box checked, the Printer is checked to ensure everything is **OK** before sending a format etc.

Timeout (s): The amount of time in seconds that the Printer will be checked. (Any errors will be displayed)

Reload images at print time: After down loading a Format with variables or graphics, Codesoft does not send these items again, as they are held in the Printer File store and memory of Codesoft. If an Initialisation is carried out, then sending the Format without checking this box, you will have an error message as Codesoft believes the files are already within the printer. Ticking this box will send the complete Format.

Compressed images: This allows Graphics to be compressed for high speed loading to the Printer, this mainly used when Variable Graphics are being loaded to a Printer from a Database.

Infinite print: With this not ticked the printer will only print one label.

Destination memory: Sends the Format to the Printer File Store only.

Send modified data only: Updated information only, not the complete format. (after first print)

Immediate printing: Format is automatically printed as soon as it has downloaded to the Printer.

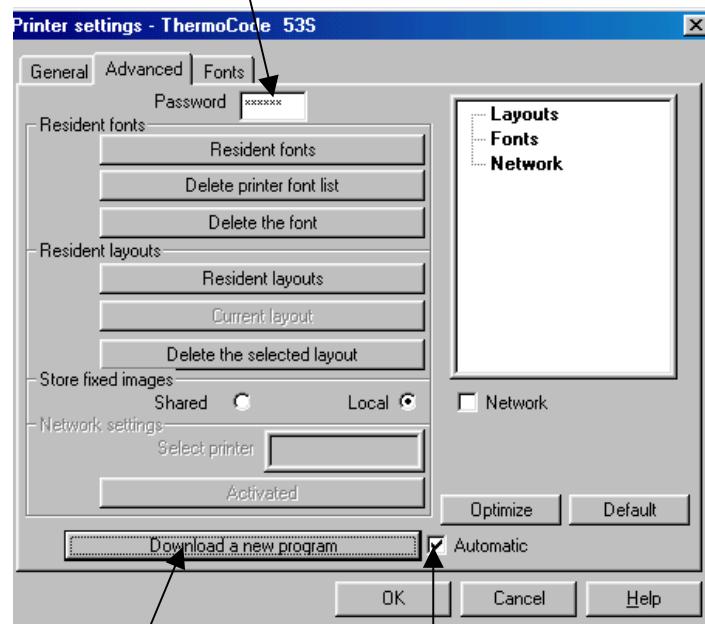
Activated: Send the Format to the Print Head Memory and Printer File Store.

4. **Set date/time:** Allows the user to configure the Printer Date & Time to be in synchronisation with the PC, or as the user requires.

Downloading Firmware (automatically update)

Select the “**Spanner icon**”, then the “**Advanced**” of Printer settings.

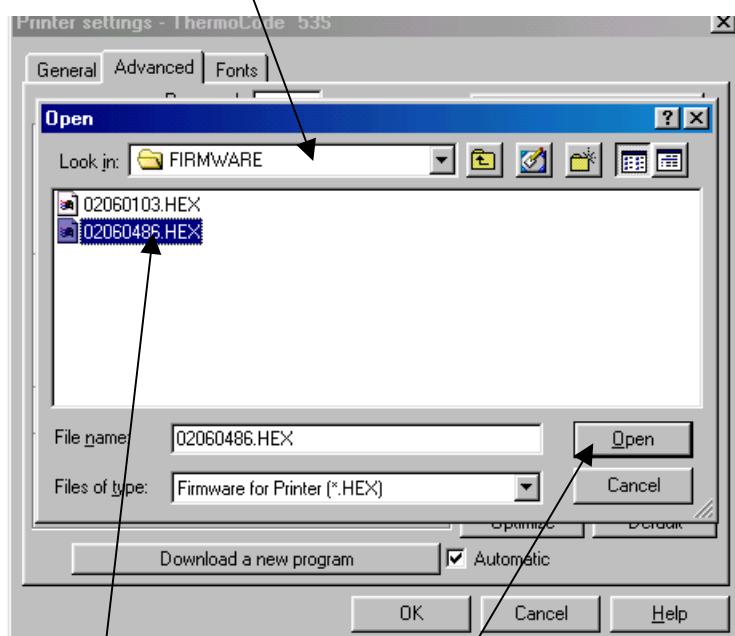
1. Enter password “**688065**” (this can be changed see page 23)



2. Automatic Checked

3. Select “Download a new program”.

4. Select the directory where the *.hex files are stored

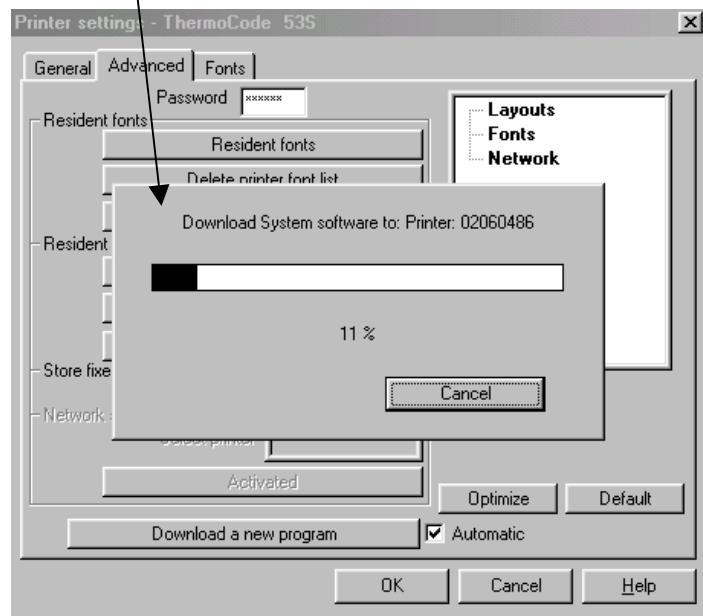


5. Highlight the file to download.

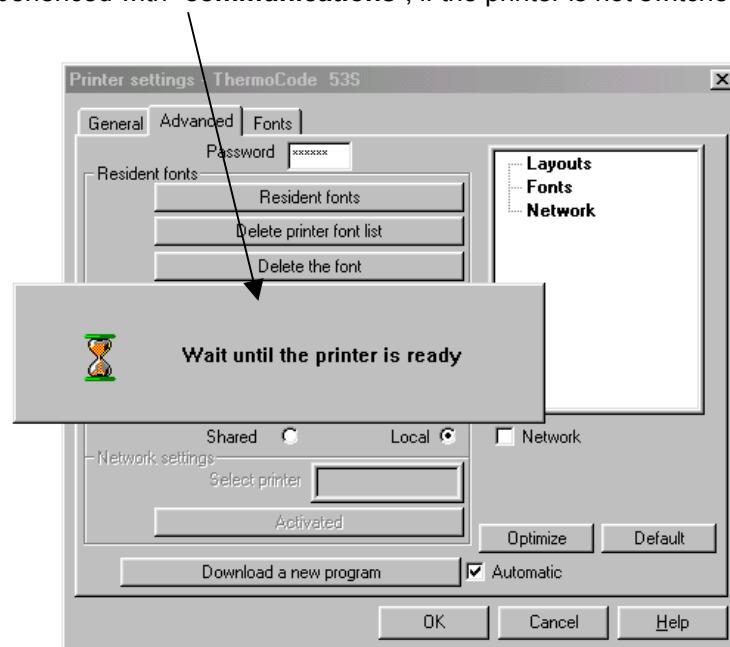
6. Then click on “Open”

Downloading Firmware (automatically update) continued.

This dialog box will appear when the Firmware has started to load.



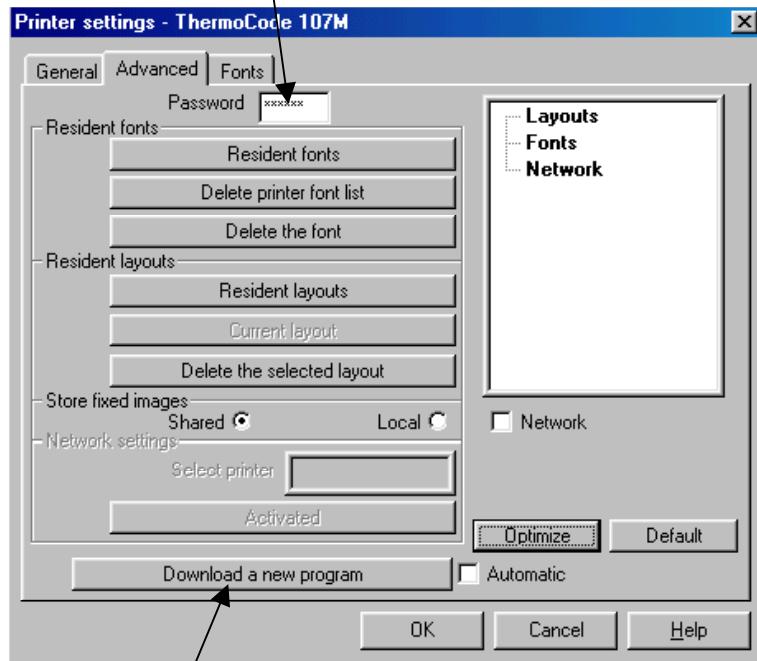
Problems maybe experienced with "**communications**", if the printer is not switched "**on**" or not "**connected**".



Downloading Firmware (manually)

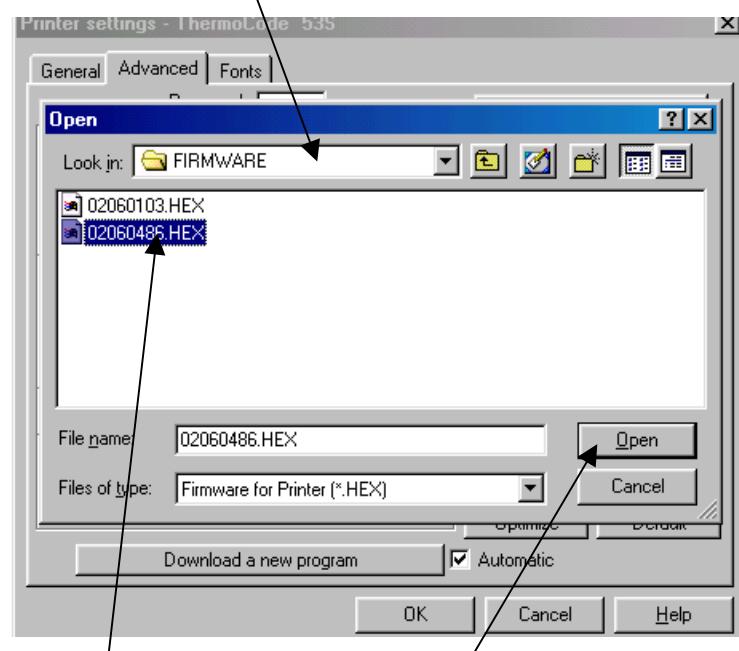
Select the “**Spanner icon**”, then the “**Advanced**” of Printer settings.

1. Enter password “**688065**” (this can be changed see page 23)



2. Download a new program”.

3. Select the directory where the *.hex files are stored

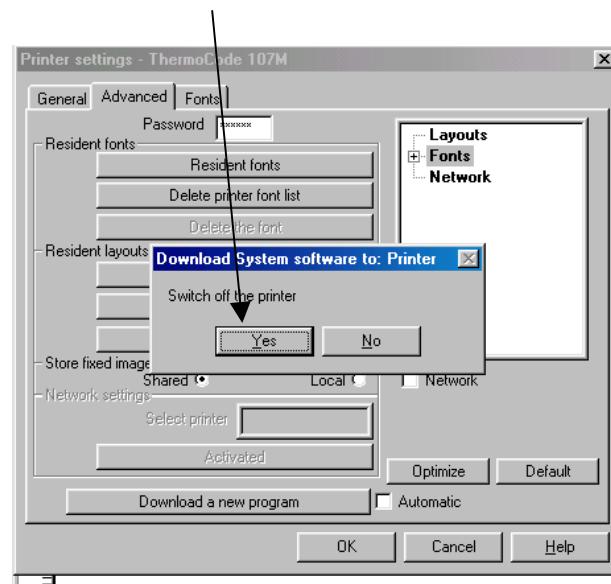


4. Highlight the file to download.

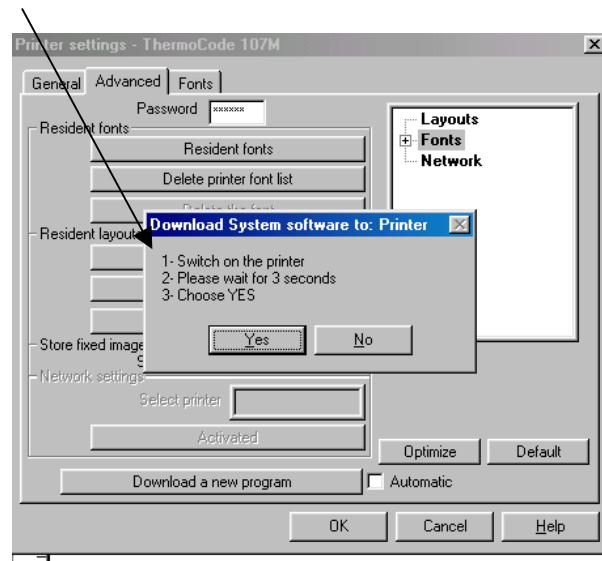
5. Then click on “Open”

Downloading Firmware (manually)

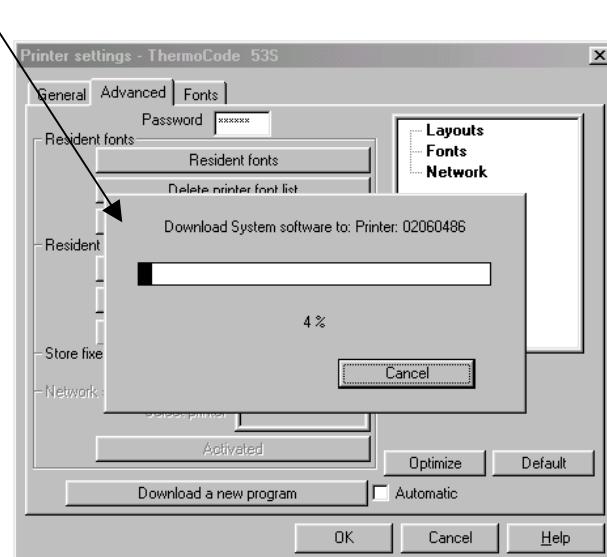
Switch the Printer off, then click on "Yes"



Follow "on screen" instructions.

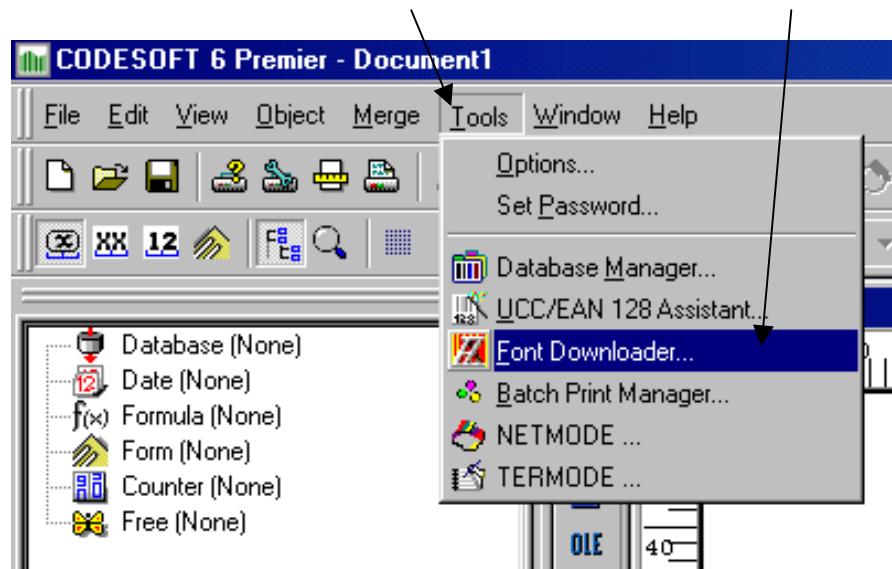


This dialog box will appear, when the Firmware has started to load

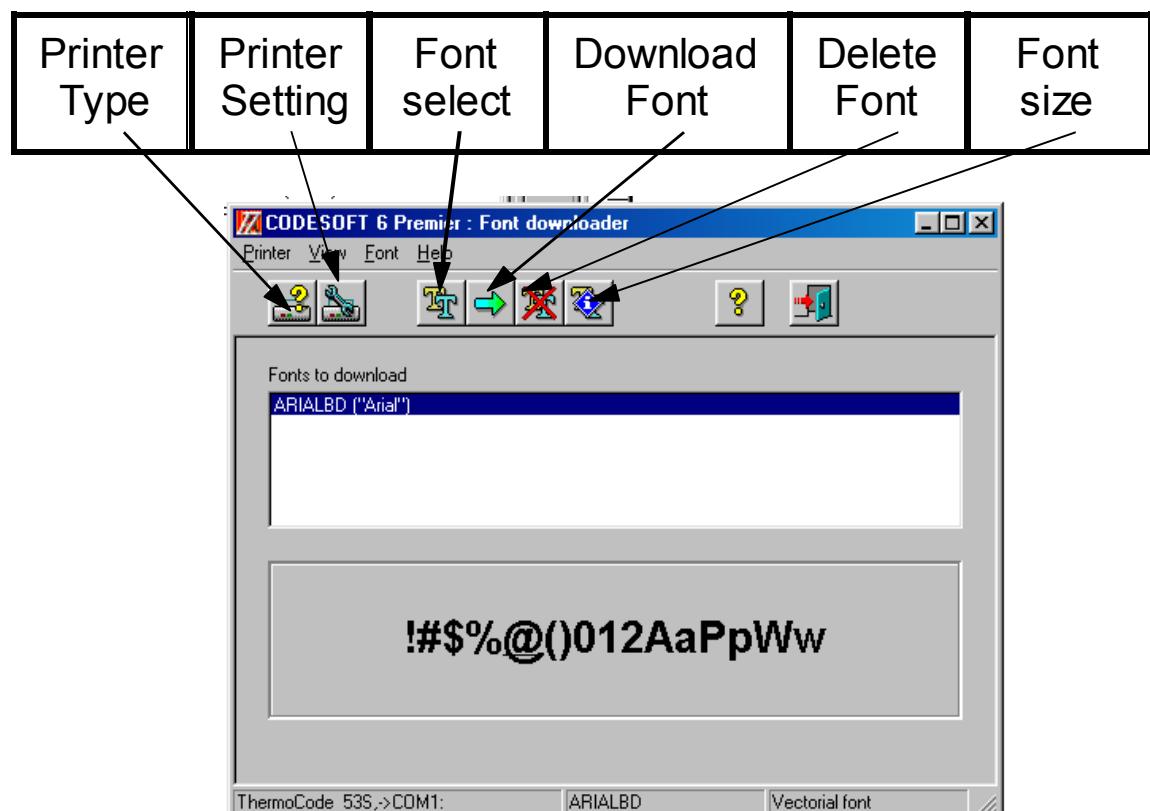


Downloading True Type Fonts (*.TTF)

Click on "Tools" and then click on "Font Downloader"

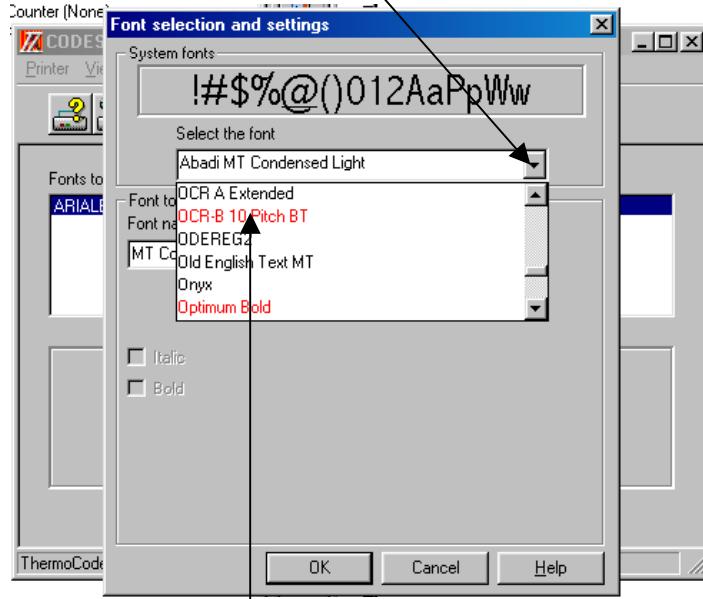


Font "Icon" Descriptions.

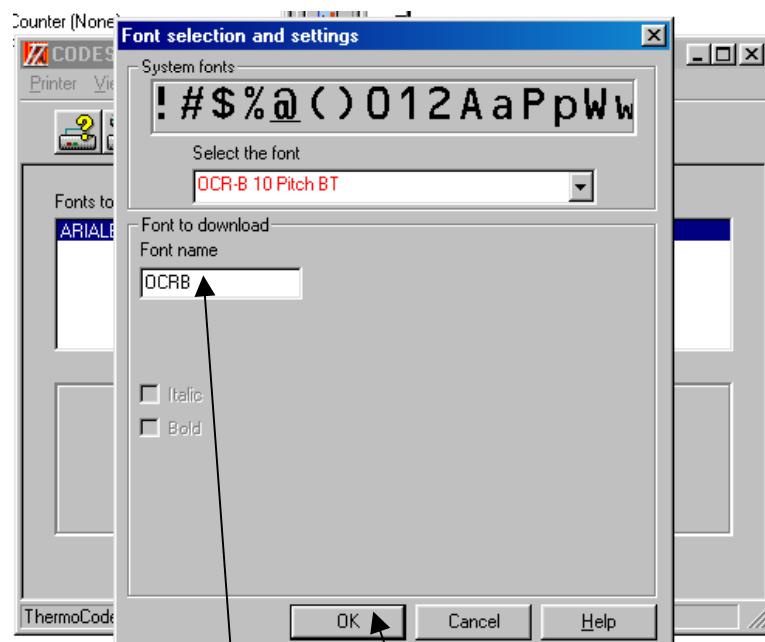


Downloading True Type Fonts (*.TTF) continued

1. Click on “Font select”, scroll down and search for the font you require.



2. In this case “OCR-B 10 Pitch BT”, click on the “font name”

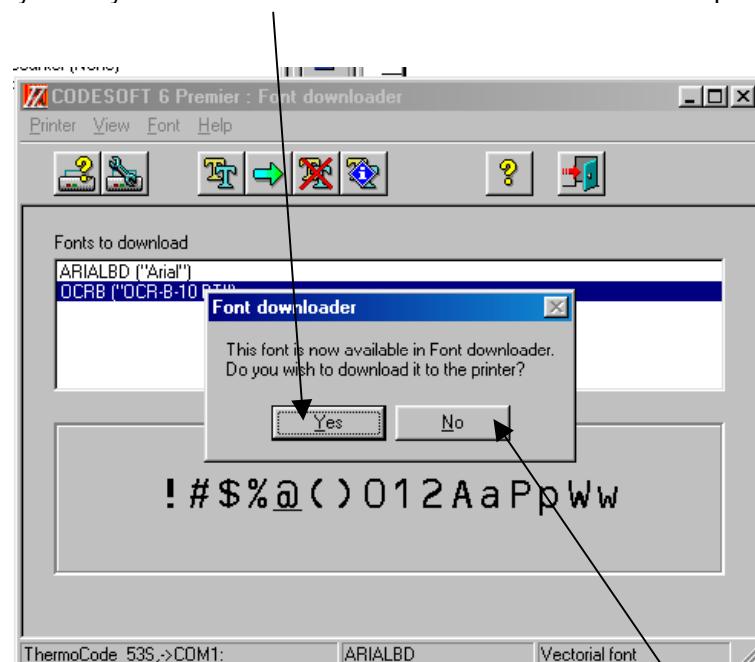


3. Edit the font name, if required.

4. Click “OK” when completed

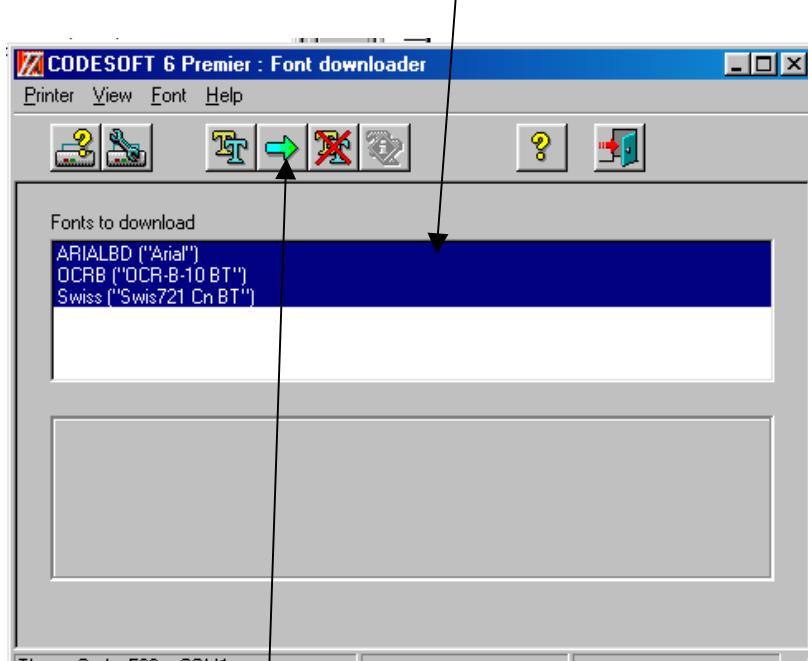
Downloading True Type Fonts (*.TTF) continued

Automatically when you select “**Yes**” the font will be downloaded to the printer.



Alternatively you may wish to load several different types of fonts, click on “**No**” and see instruction below.

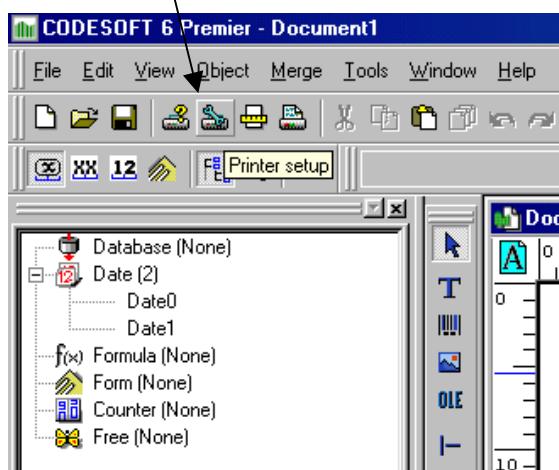
Holding the “**shift key**” and the “**down arrow**”, selects all the fonts ready to load to the printer at once.



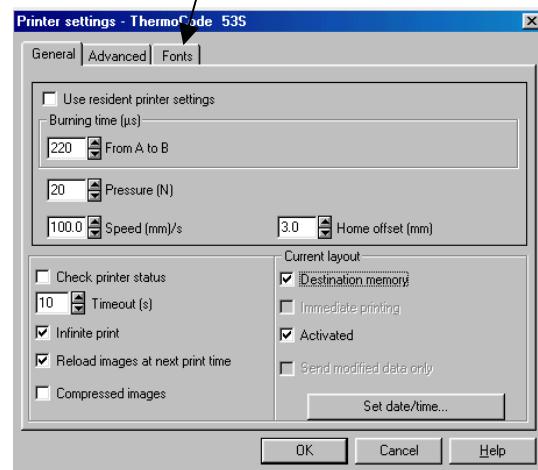
Click on the “**Download Font**” button, this will copy all selected fonts to the printer.

Downloading Bitmap Fonts (*.SFP)

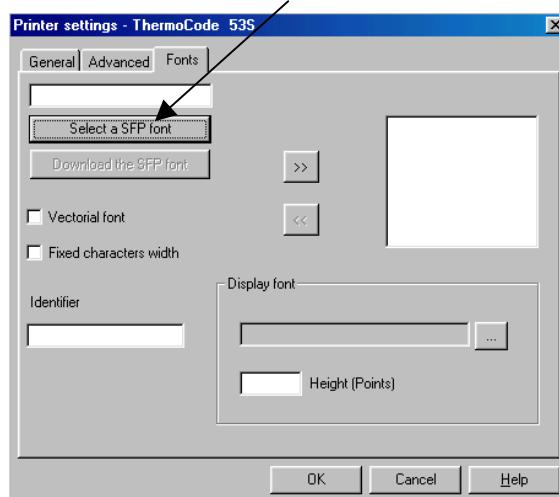
1. Click on Printer setting



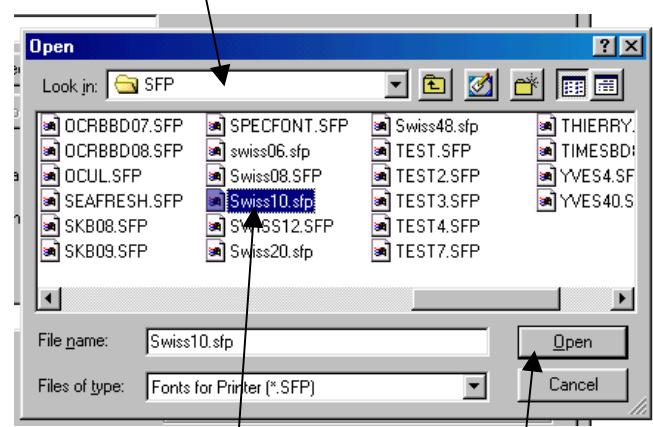
2. This Dialog Box will appear Click On Fonts



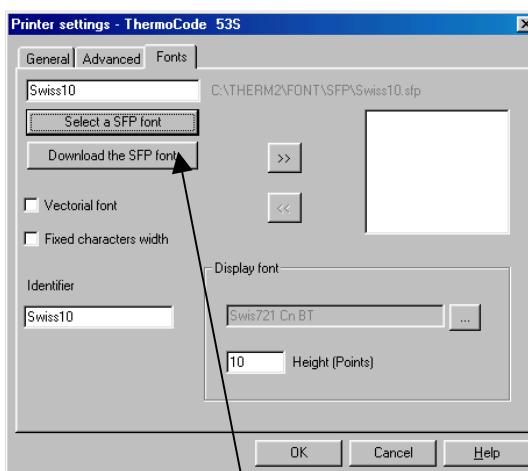
3. Click on "Select a SFP font".



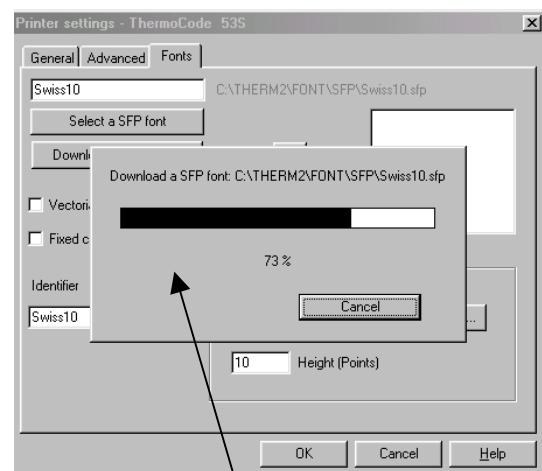
4. Select directory with "*.sfp" fonts.



5. "Highlight" the font you wish to use.



6. Then click on "Open"

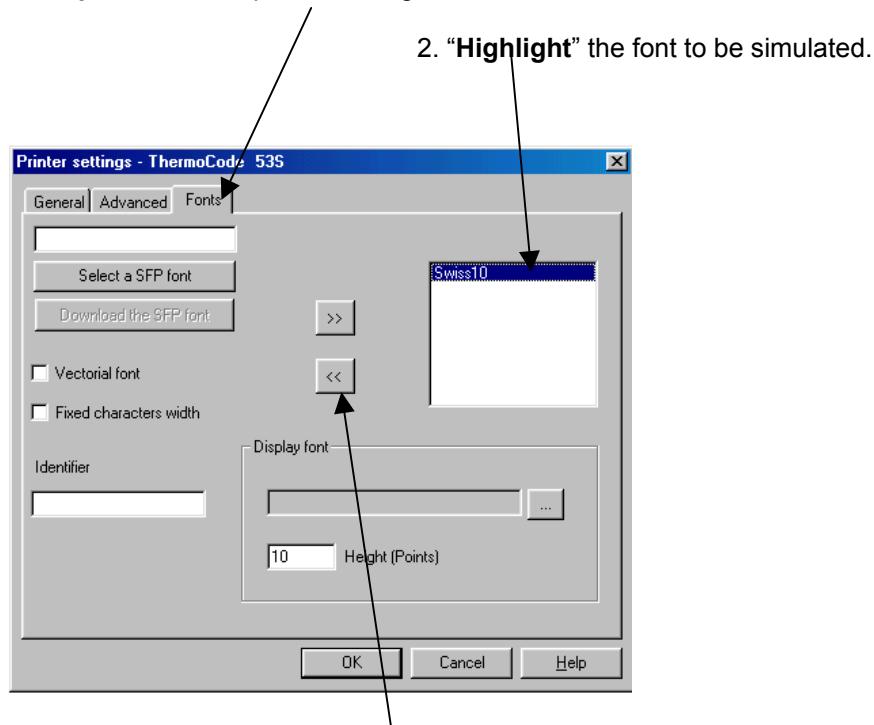


7. Click on "Download the SFP font" to load to the Printer.

8. Showing the download window.

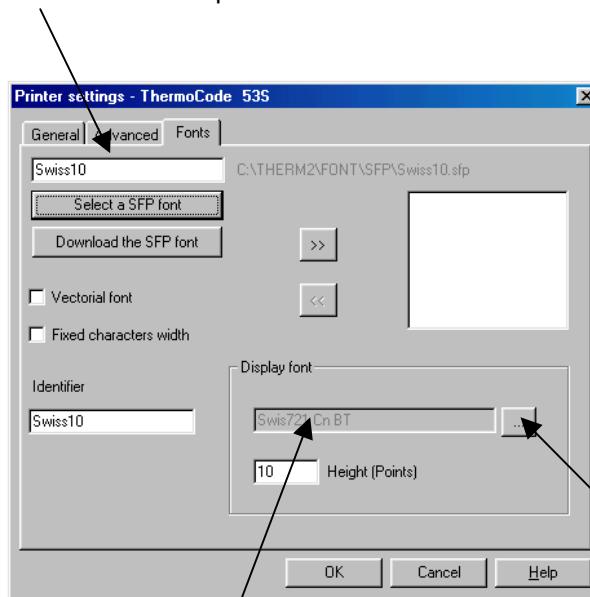
Simulating True Type for Bitmap Fonts

1. From the “Spanner Icon”, printer settings select the “Fonts” menu.



3. Click on the “Left Arrow”.

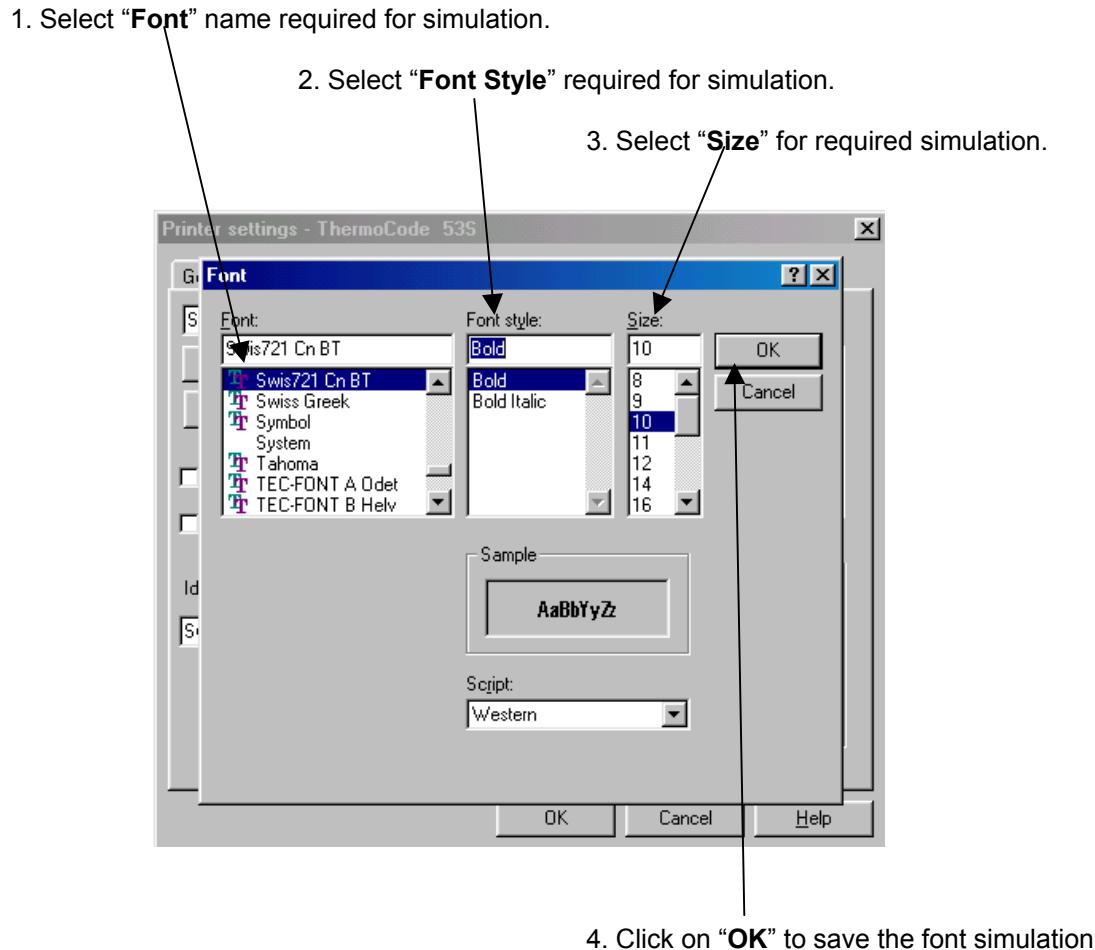
4. The “font name” is now imported to the to the “Select a SFP font” box as shown below.



5. This displays the “Truetype Font” being used for simulation.

6. To change the font style, click on the “button” indicated.

Simulating True Type for Bitmap Fonts (continued)

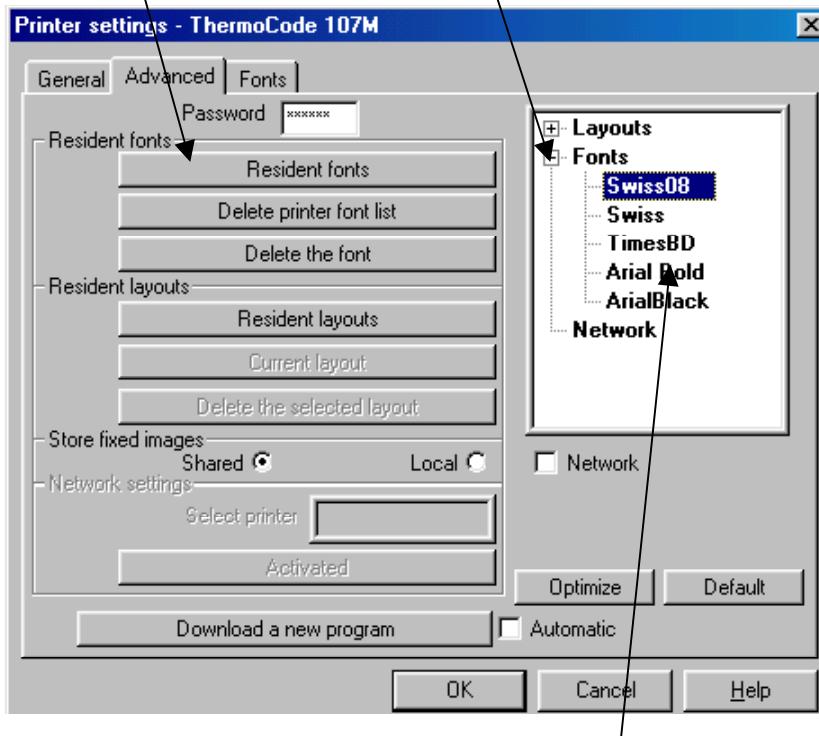


Checking Font Installation

1. From the “Spanner Icon”, printer settings, select the “Advanced” menu.

2. Select “Resident fonts”

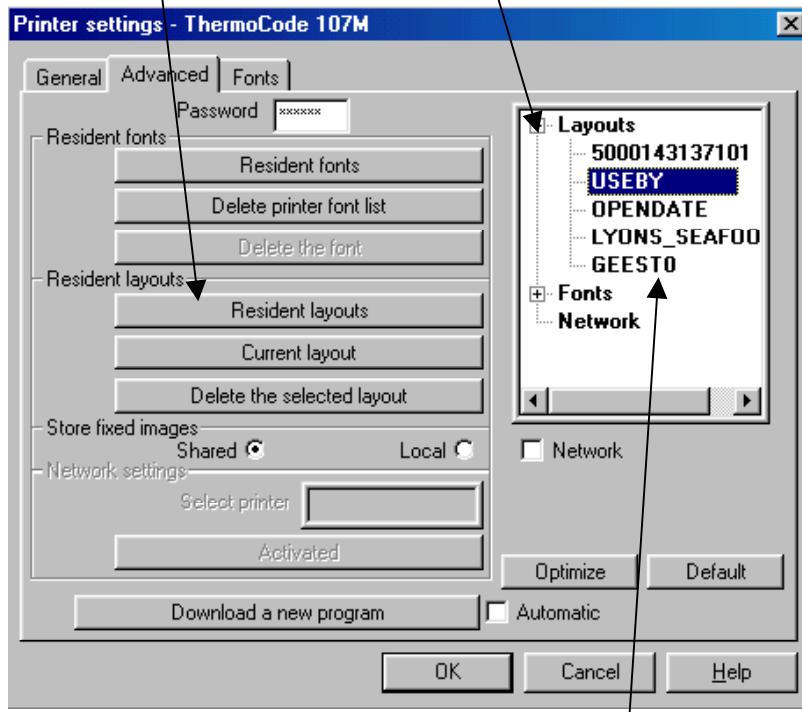
3. Select the “+” next to Fonts.



3. Displays “all Fonts” loaded to the Printer.

Checking Format Installation

1. Select “Resident layouts” 2. Select the “+” next to Layouts.



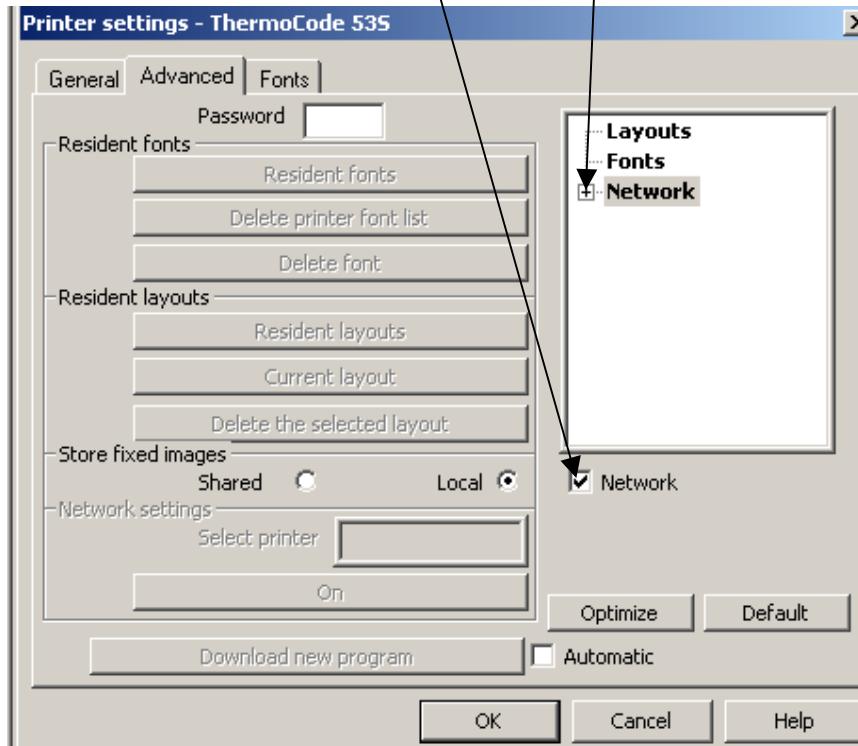
3. Displays “all Formats” loaded to the Printer

Networking Setup

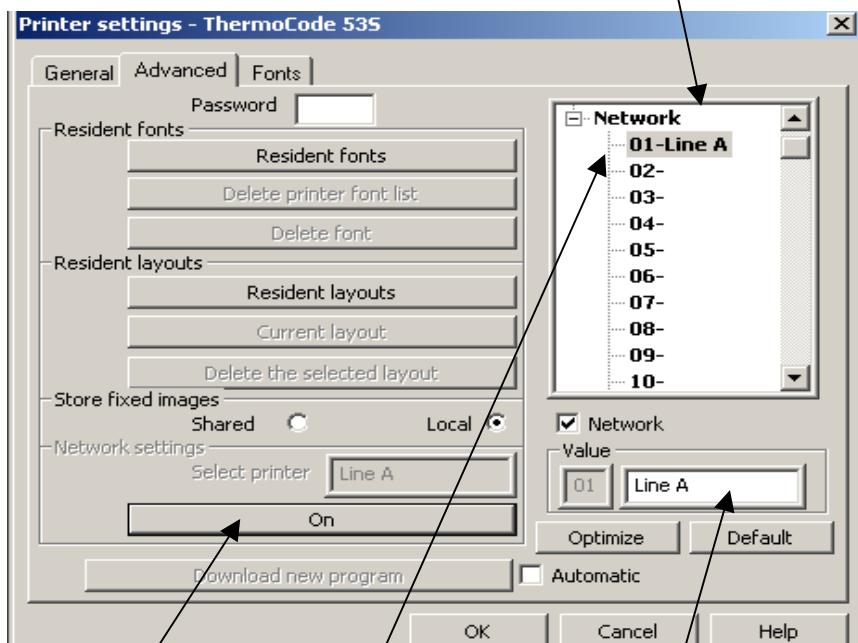
1. From the “Spanner Icon”, printer settings, select the “Advanced” menu.

2. Check the “Network Box”

3. Select the “+” next to Network.



4. Displays all printers on the “Network”



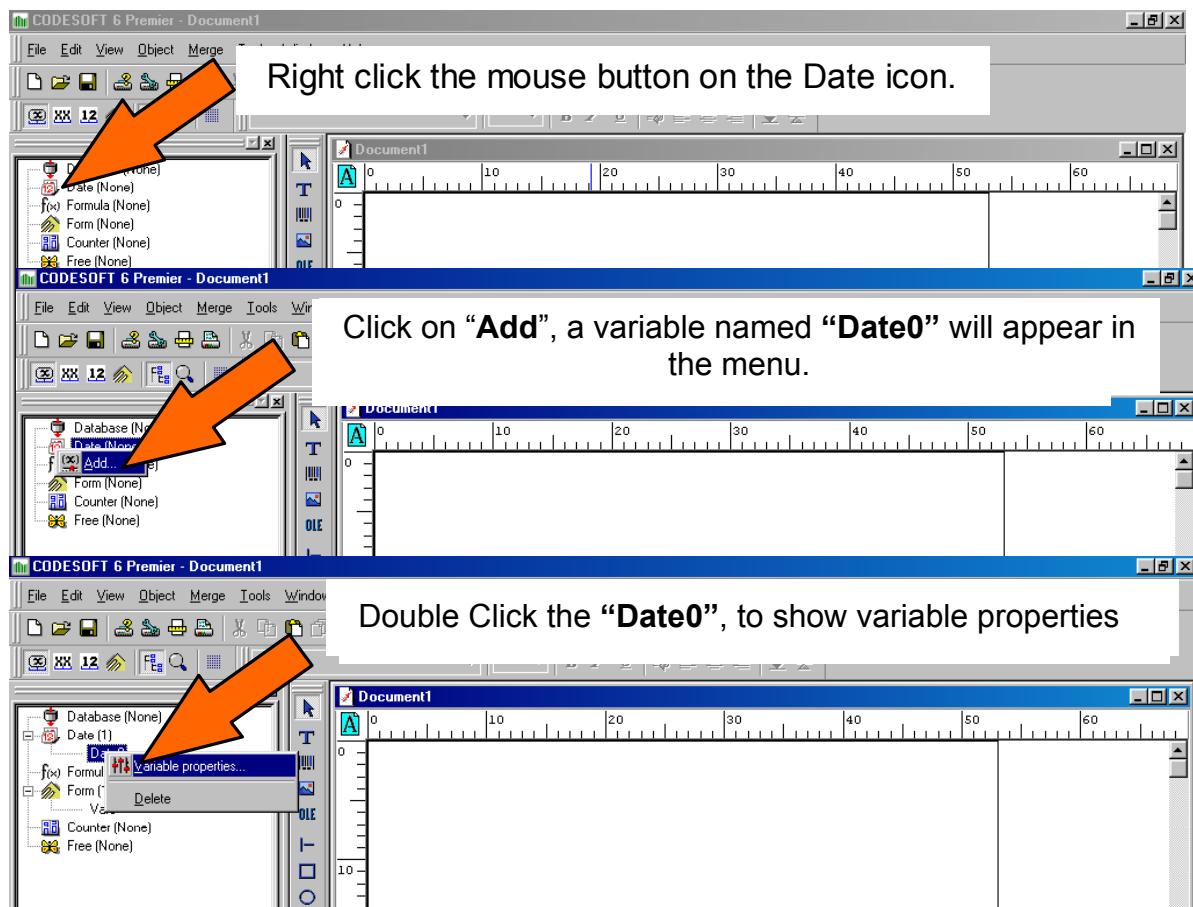
5. Select a “Printer No”

6. Enter a “Name” for reference.

7. Select “On” to communicate with an individual network printer.

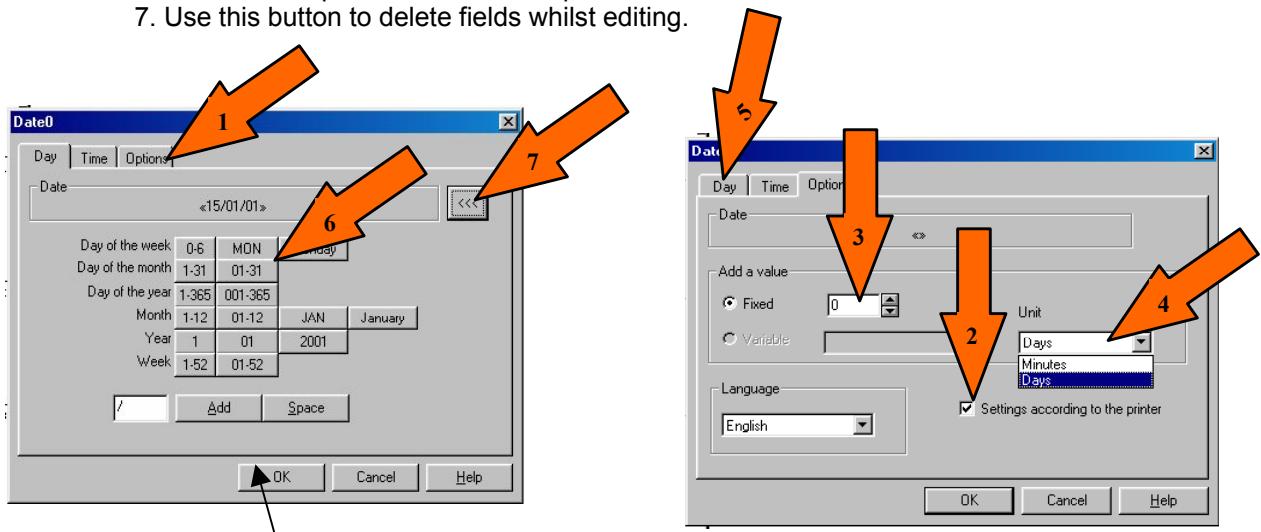
Creating Automatic Date & Time fields

Automatic date fields, are text fields that will be automatically updated by the Printer. Typically a "Best Before" date could have an automatic offset of 5 days. At midnight the date will automatically advance by 1 day, ensuring the customer always has a 5 day offset in the date.



Follow the numbered instructions below, referring to the "Arrow numbers".

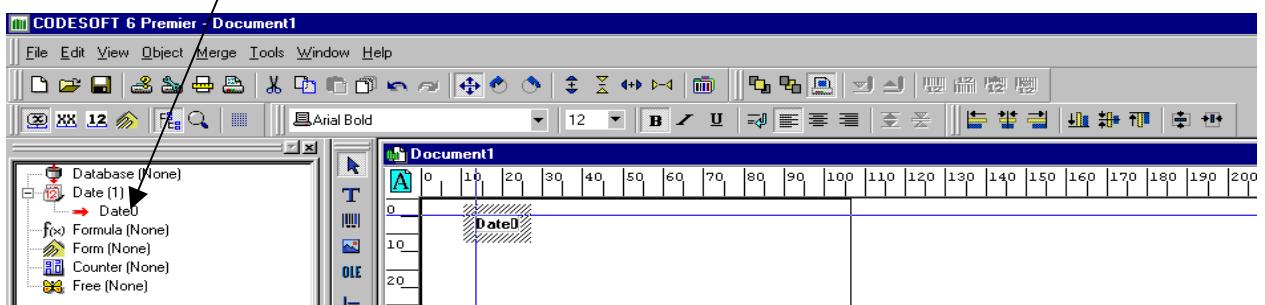
1. Click on "Options", opens up the options dialogue box.
2. Check the box "Settings according to Printer"
3. Check the box "Fixed" if no offset of date or time is required.
4. If an offset is required, choose which "unit" of offset is required.
5. Select "Day" function within the options dialogue box.
6. Select & compile the date field required from the available fields shown on the screen
7. Use this button to delete fields whilst editing.



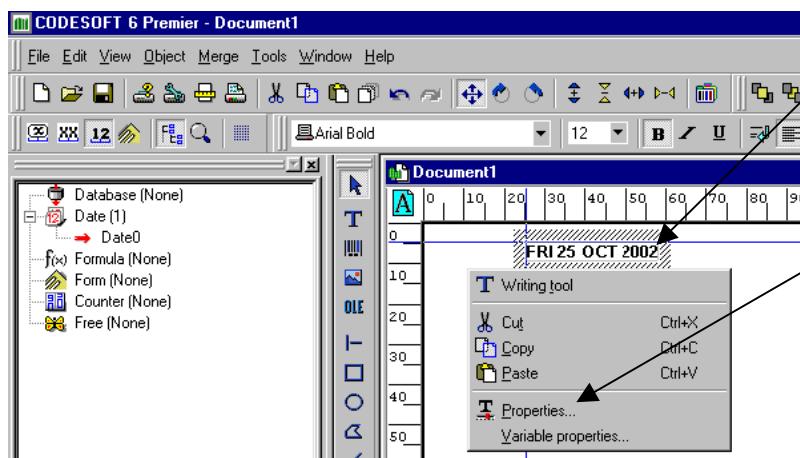
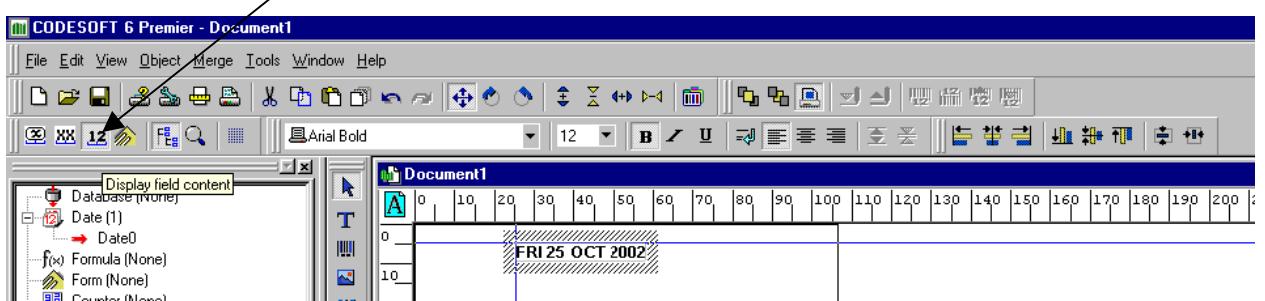
Select "OK" when finished creating.

Creating Automatic Date & Time fields (continued)

Click and hold on “Date0”, then drag and drop on the page. Ensure text display is selected.



Clicking on the “12 icon” will Display field contents.

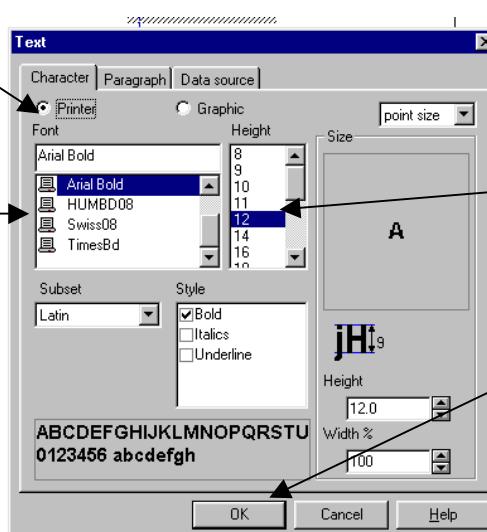


Left Click the “Date0” to highlight itself, then Right click to show this menu.

Left click on Properties, this allows you to change the font properties.

All Variable Fields **Must Use**
a Printer Resident Font

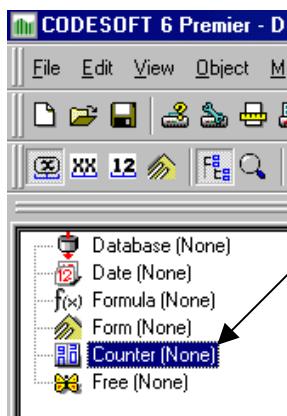
1. Select the required font



2. Select the point size

3. Click on OK

Creating a Variable Counter Fields

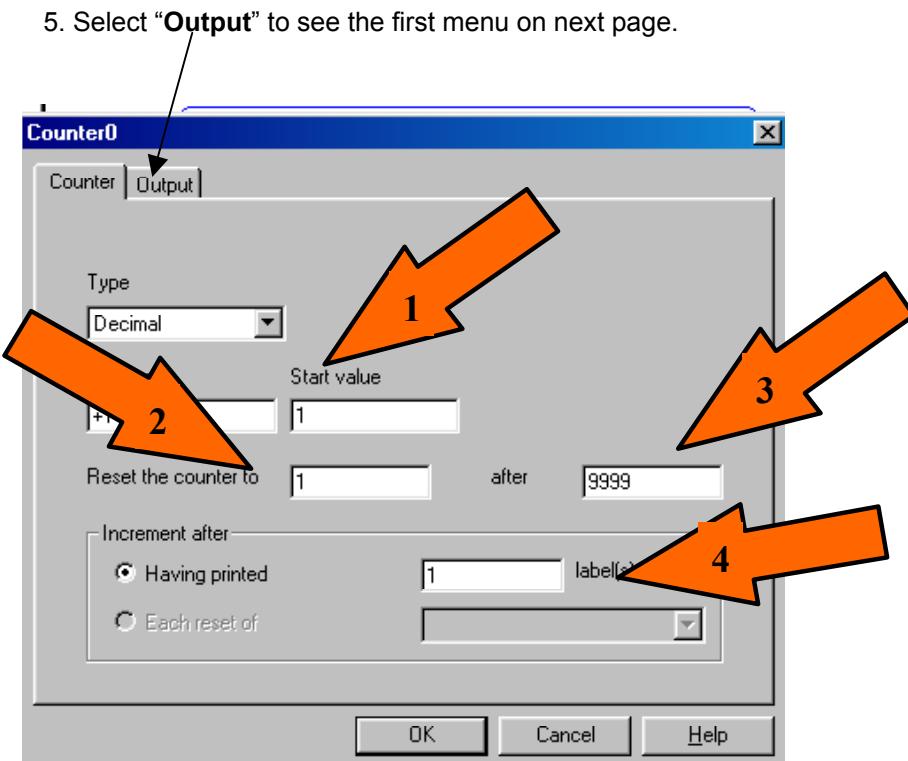


Variable Counter Fields are created initially in the same way as Date Fields.

1. Right click the mouse button on the “Counter icon”.
2. Click on “Add”, a variable named “Counter0” will appear in the menu.
3. Double click on “Counter0”. The Counter Variable will appear, shown below.

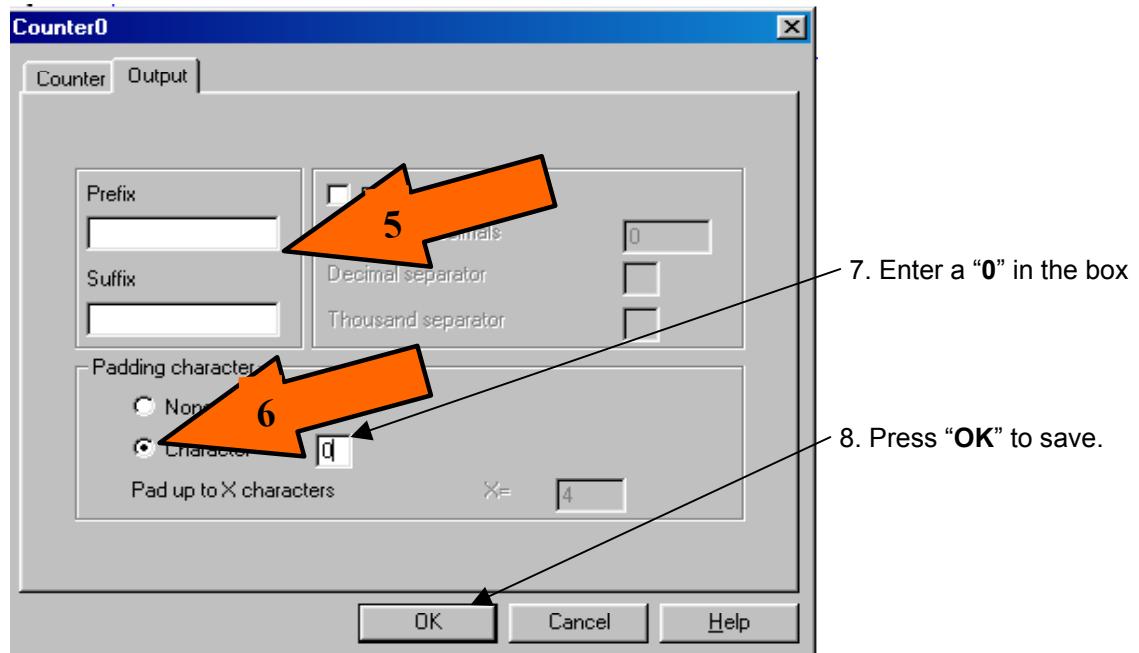
Follow the numbered instructions below, referring to the “Arrow numbers”.

1. **“Start value”**, click on box, edit and then specify the print value required.
2. **“Reset the counter to”**, click on box, and then specify the minimum value required. **“Set to 1”**
3. **“after”**, click on box, edit and the specify the maximum value required. Enter **“999999”**.
4. **“label(s)”**, click on box, edit then specify how many of the same labels required. **“Set to 1”**

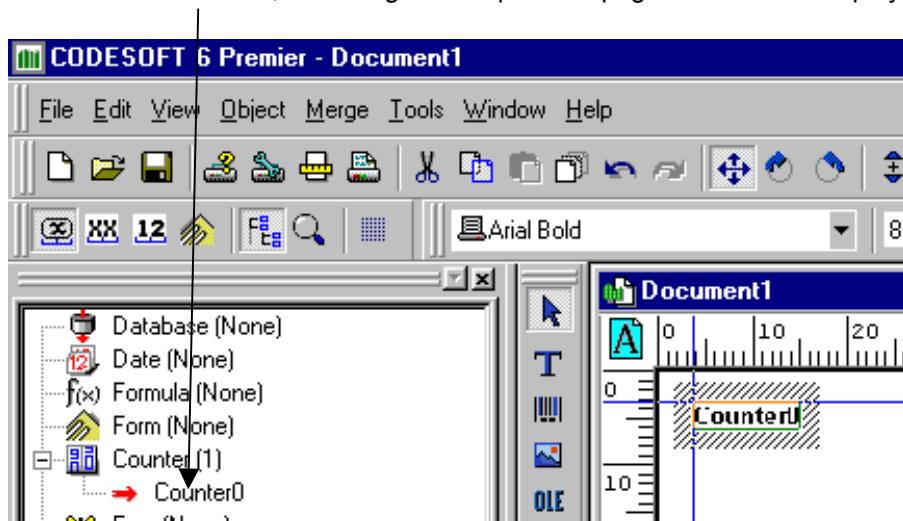


Creating a Variable Counter Fields (continued)

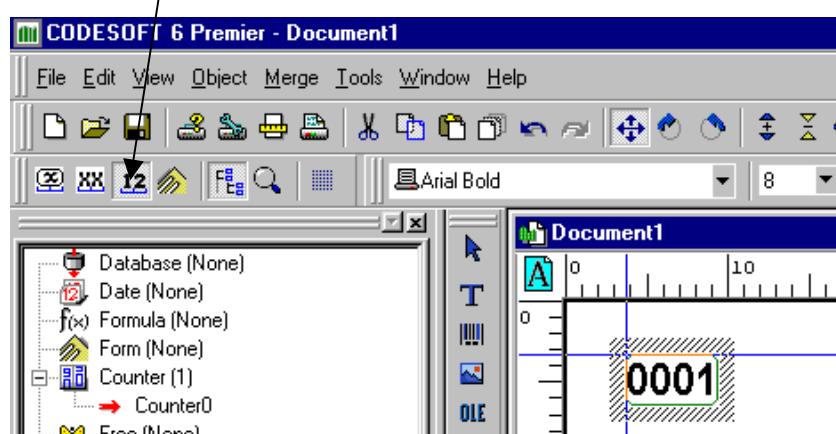
5. You can add a “**Prefix**” or “**Suffix**” to a counter field, this will become fixed text.
6. Clicking on “**Character**” allows you enter a padding character. Adding a “**0**” and to a counter field would print:- **000001** instead of **1**



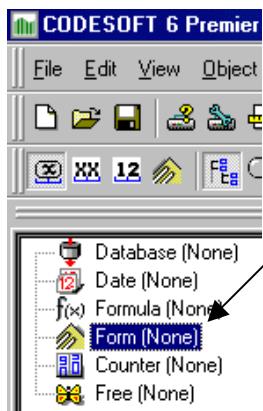
Click and hold on “**Counter0**”, then drag and drop on the page. Ensure text display is selected.



Clicking on the “**12 icon**” will Display field contents.



Creating a Variable Text Fields

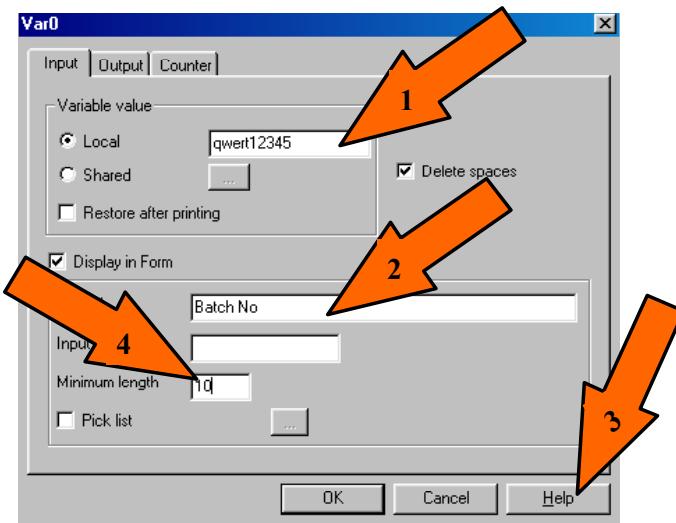


Variable Text Fields are created initially in the same way as Date Fields.

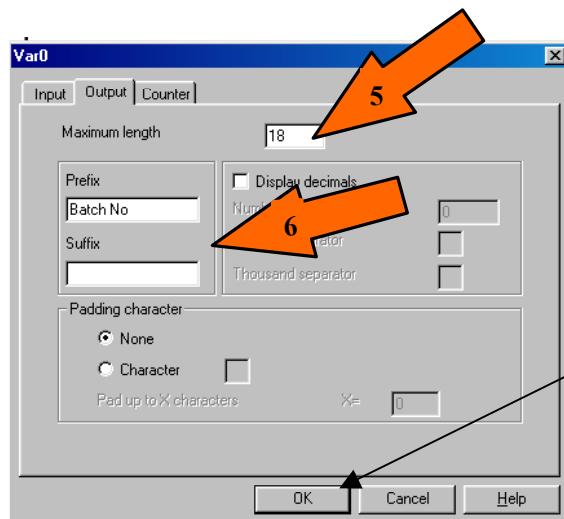
1. Right click the mouse button on the “**Form icon**”.
2. Click on “**Add**”. A variable named “**Var0**” will appear.
3. Double click on “**Var0**”. Variable text field will appear shown below.

Follow the numbered instructions below, referring to the “**Arrow numbers**”.

1. Click on box, input your “**Variable value**” as to be printed.
2. Click on box, enter the “**Prompt**” name required. Displayed when editing from the mini-terminal, (you cannot have spaces within the name chosen, use an underscore)
- 3 + 4. Input Format allows more security for the Variable field. Click on “**Help**” for more information



5. Select the “**Output menu**” Click on box, “**Maximum length**” of the variable field characters.
6. You can enter “**Prefix**” or “**Suffix**” to the variable. You have to add the amount of characters used in the prefix, to the total length for the total. Otherwise you may not see a correct view.



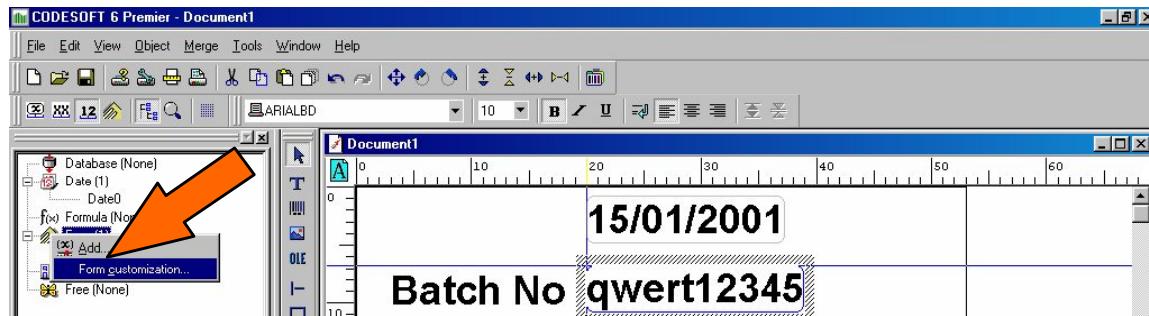
Select “**OK**” when finished

You can click and hold on “**Var0**”, to drag the variable on the label as required.

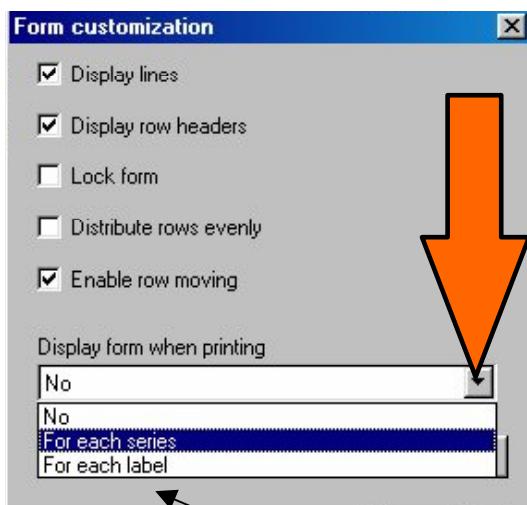
Displaying the filler (Variable fields)

To Display the Filler (variable text screen), allows editing the variables before downloading to the printer.

Click the mouse button “Form Icon”, then right click mouse button, to display “Form customisation”.

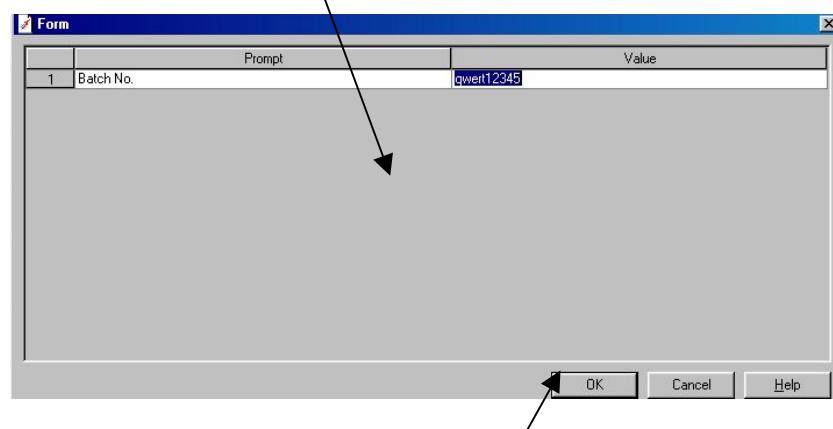


Click within the menu “Form customisation”, to display the possible options.



When you have made your choice, select “OK”.

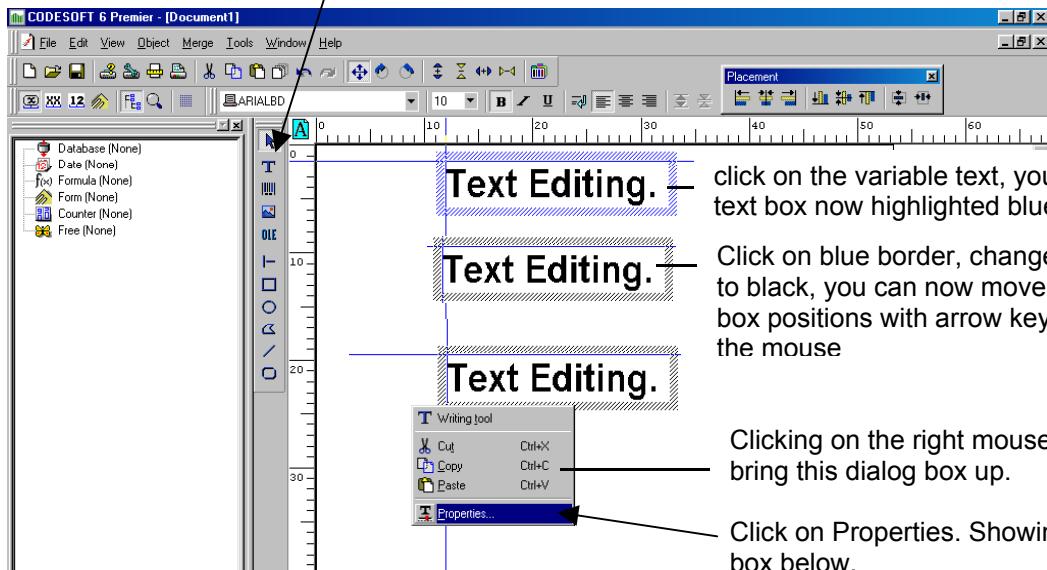
Now when you send a format to the Printer, the screen below is displayed.



Edit or change the variable text fields and select “OK” before the format is sent

Text Generation

Click on the "T" symbol, and then place the cursor within the print area and click again.

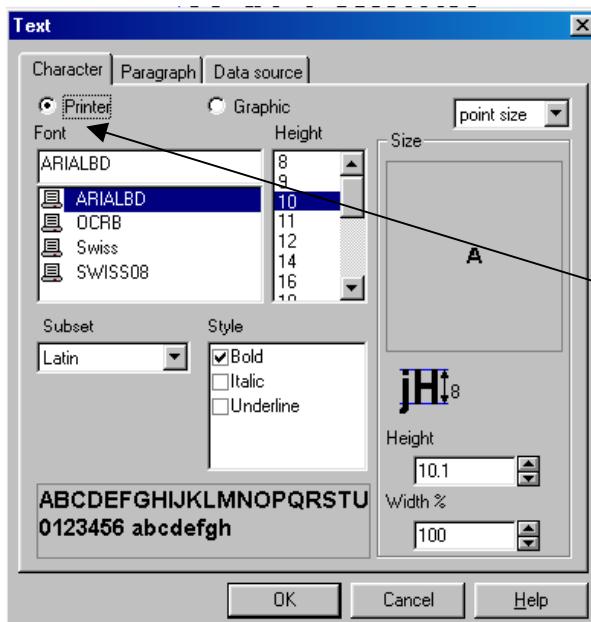


click on the variable text, you will see the text box now highlighted blue, for editing.

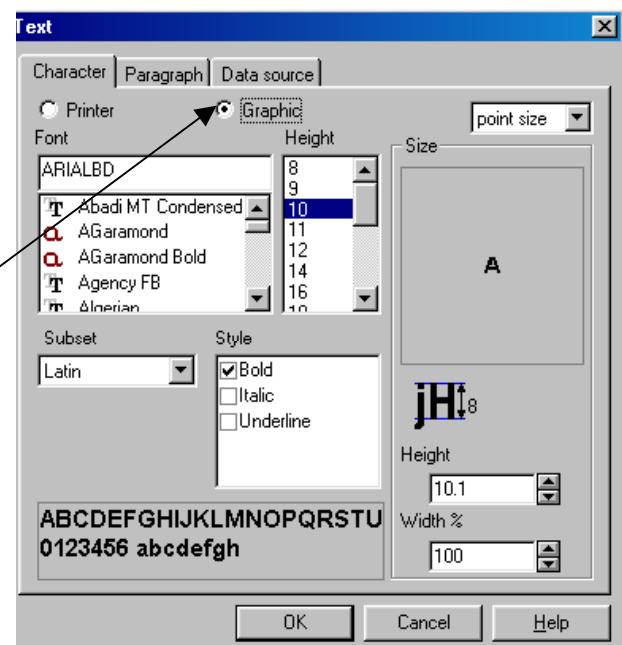
Click on blue border, changes colour to black, you can now move the text box positions with arrow keys or with the mouse

Clicking on the right mouse button will bring this dialog box up.

Click on Properties. Showing Dialog box below.



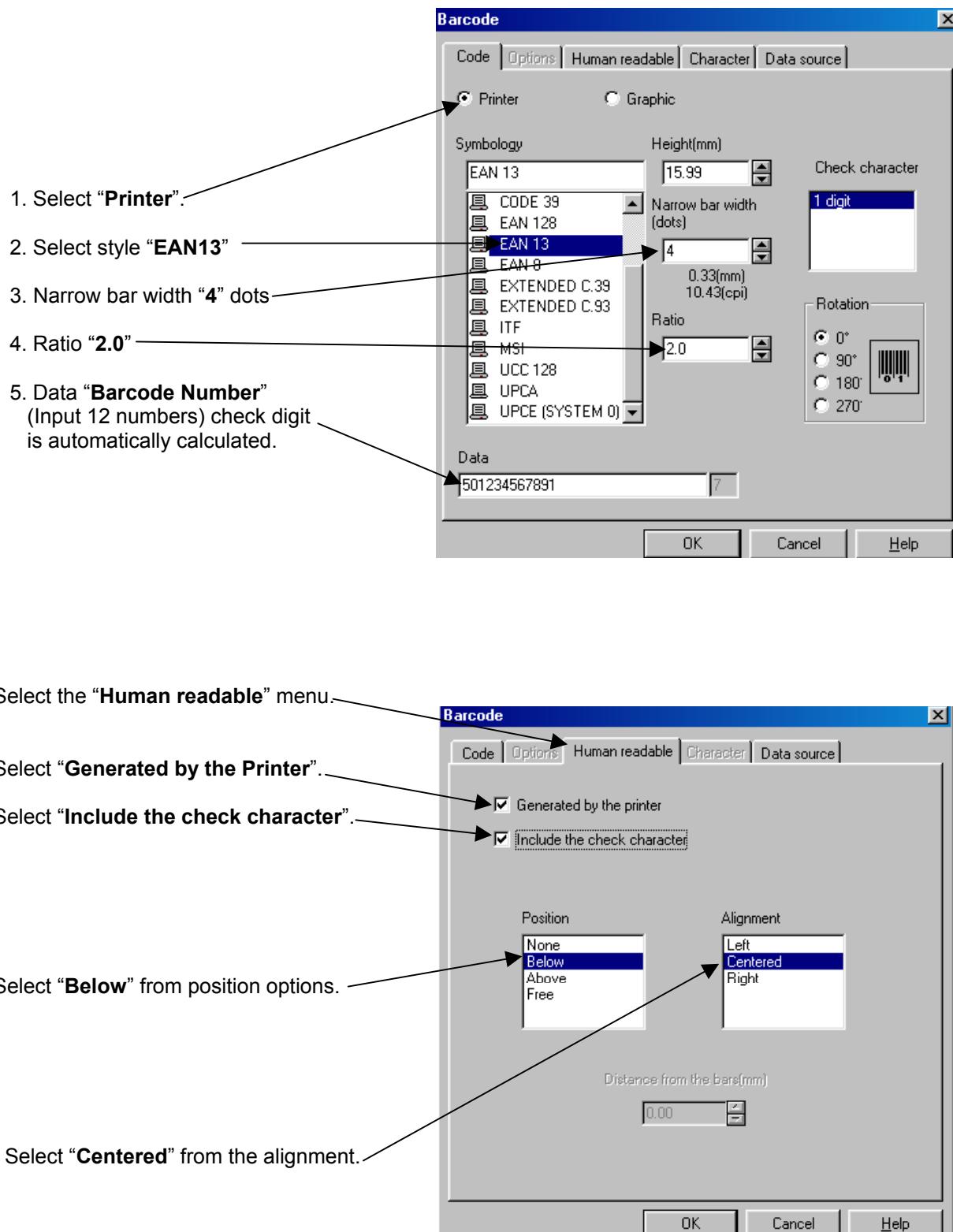
This will use the fonts loaded to the Printer



This will use "Graphic" fonts style as the truetype Font selected, but will download a bitmap for the printer.

Creating a Barcode

Click on the “Barcode” symbol, and then place the cursor within the print area and click again. The screen below shows the barcode menu.

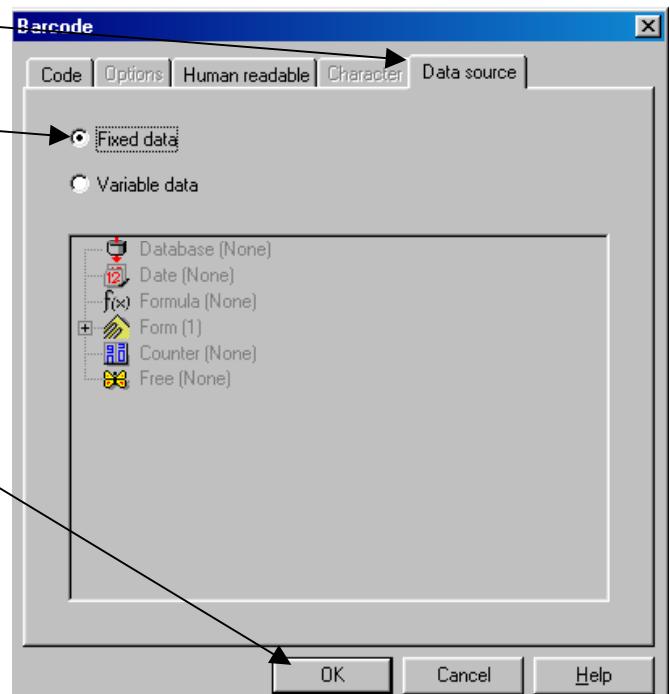


Creating a Barcode (continued)

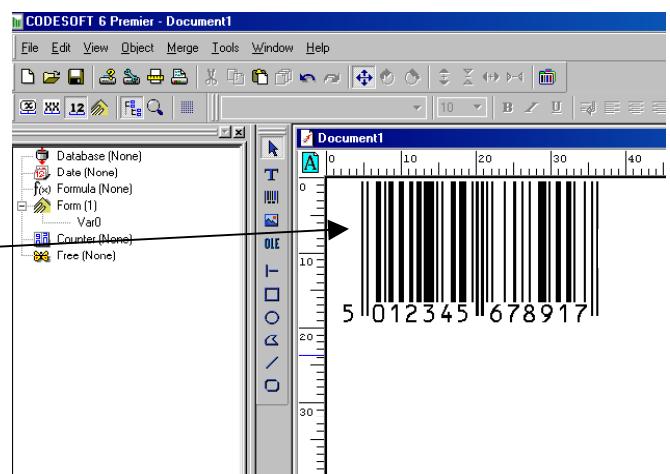
11. Select "Data Source" menu.

12. Select "Fixed data".

13. Select "OK" to save and return to menu below.



14. Barcode ready for Printing.



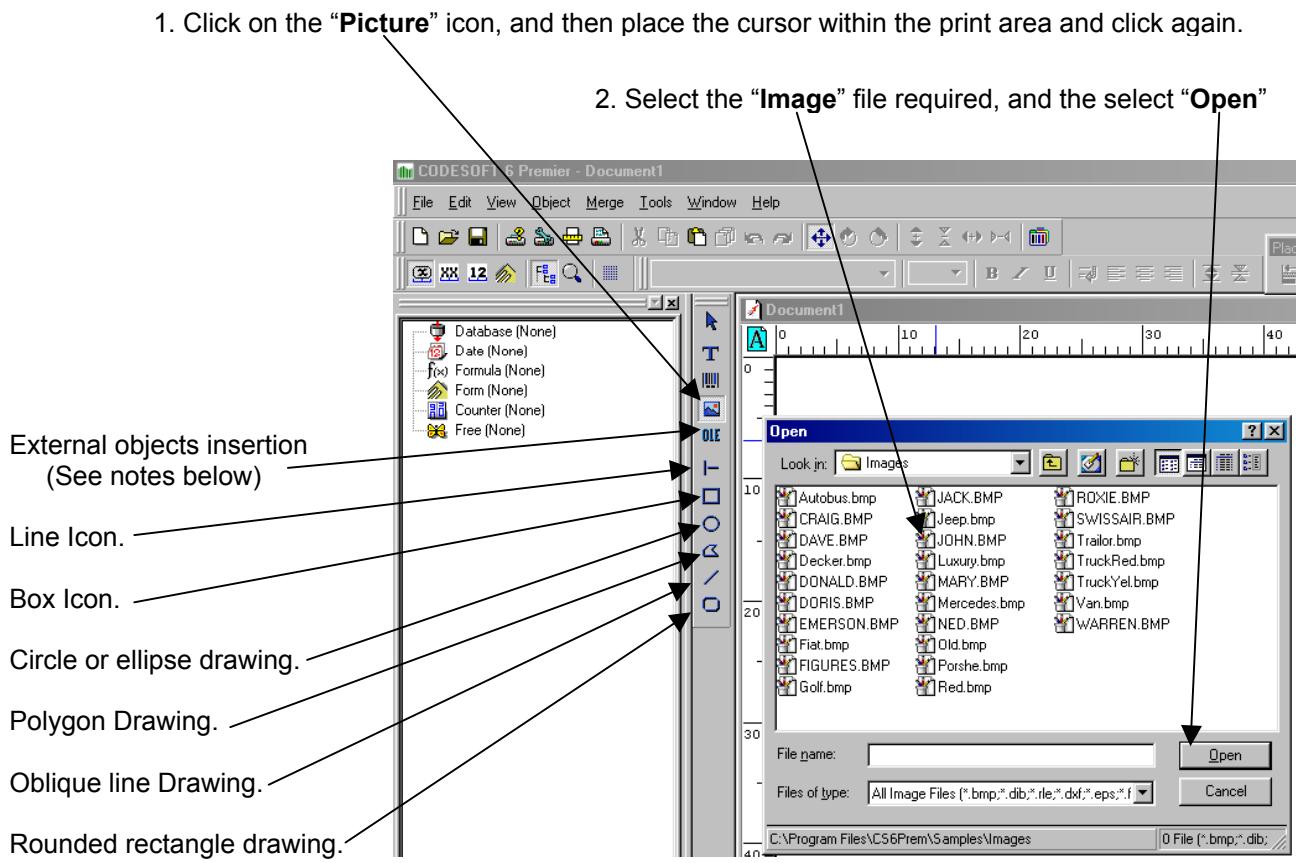
Notes !

The printer has an installed font for creating the human readable characters.

If you choose a different style of barcode, ensure you know all the regulations governing barcodes.

Creating a graphic style barcode can be very complex, it would be advisable to seek training.

Utilising Graphic Images



Click on the icon, then place the cursor within the print area. Click and hold down to drag the size required.

Notes !

Lines & Boxes are sent as printer commands, not graphics.

External object insertion, allows the insertion of any document or file into the label.

Shortcut Keys

ALT + F4	Exit the application.	F1	Help
CTRL + 0	Zoom x 0.5	F2	Open a Document
CTRL + 1	Zoom x 1	F3	Save Document
CTRL + 2	Zoom x 2	F4	Display the Form
CTRL + 3	Zoom x 3	F5	Select Printer
CTRL + 4	Zoom x 4	F6	Print
CTRL + A	Select All	F7	Open the Text dialog box
CTRL + C	Copy	F8	Open the Barcode dialog box
CTRL + D	Duplicate	F9	Open an ASCII table
CTRL + End	Go to end of paragraph		
CTRL + Right arrow	Go to start of next word		
CTRL + Left arrow	Go to start of previous word		
CTRL + Home	Go to start of paragraph		
CTRL + Insert	Copy		
CTRL + N	New Document		
CTRL + O	Open Document		
CTRL + P	Print a Document		
CTRL + S	Save a Document		
CTRL + T	Zoom right out		
CTRL + V	Paste		
CTRL + W	Display variable sizes		
CTRL + X	Cut		
CTRL + Y	Redo		
CTRL + Z	Cancel		
CTRL + F4	Close active window		
CTRL + F6	Move from one document to another		
Shift + F4	Display Variable value		
Shift + F9	Create an ODBC query		
Shift + F3	Save Document As		
Shift + Insert	Paste		
Esc	Display variable name		
End	Go to end of line		
Home	Go to beginning of line		