



## 6287 ALLY™ Q&A

---

**Q. What is a 6287 ALLY?**

**A.** A 6287 ALLY is a printer interface controller (protocol converter) that allows mainframe computer systems to be connected to serial and parallel ASCII or EBCDIC output devices such as laser printers, plotters and rasterizers.

**Q. Why do I need the ALLY?**

**A.** Mainframes and PC printers speak different languages (ASCII for most PC printers and EBCDIC for the IBM system), and they can't be physically connected. The ALLY provides code conversion and serves as the physical link between the two otherwise incompatible devices.

**Q. How do I connect our mainframe to the PC printer?**

**A.** The ALLY provides one coaxial connection, one parallel output port and one serial output port.

**Q. Can I use it in our PC network or with other non-mainframe hosts?**

**A.** No. The ALLY provides a basic connection only between a mainframe host and a PC printer dedicated to mainframe printing.

**Q. How fast does the ALLY transmit data to the printer?**

**A.** Based on a standard benchmark test of 4800 characters per page, the ALLY's throughput speed is about 60 ppm at 100 percent print density.

**Q. Will it keep up with my printer?**

**A.** Yes, unless the printer you're using has a rated speed of more than 60 ppm using the same benchmark.

**Q. What IBM printers does it emulate?**

**A.** The ALLY emulates several IBM printers, such as 3287, 3289, 4224 and 3262 printers.

**Q. What is the removable ROM cartridge for?**

**A.** The ALLY stores its operational software and user configuration in the removable ROM, making the product easy to reconfigure and maintain. This feature also facilitates customization and upgradability to meet future requirements.

**Q. What are the ALLY's other main features?**

**A.** The ALLY has a small footprint and low power consumption. It also features various transparency modes, DSC and SCS conversion, user-definable function strings and APL support.



**Q. How do I configure the ALLY?**

**A.** The converter can be configured through the host system. You may also call 1-800-538-1634 for assistance.

**Q. Who installs the equipment?**

**A.** The ALLY is an easy-to-use device that can be installed by the end user.

**Q. What kind of support is available, and how do I get technical help for the product?**

**A.** AGILE provides toll-free technical support for its products. The product is also backed by a standard two-year warranty, with optional warranties available.