6287 ALLY PLUS™ Q&A

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

A. A 6287 ALLY PLUS is a high-speed 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 PLUS?**

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 PLUS provides code conversion and serves as the physical link between the two otherwise incompatible devices.

Q. **How do I connect our mainframe and PC devices to the ALLY PLUS?**

A. The ALLY PLUS provides one coaxial connection, one parallel and one serial input ports, one parallel input/output port and one serial input/output port.

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

A. Yes. The ALLY PLUS can be used with a variety of alternate hosts, such as LAN servers, printer sharing devices or simply a standalone PC. In other words, any equipment capable of interfacing via Centronics parallel or RS-232 serial can be connected to the ALLY PLUS.

Q. **Can I use a printer with a PC and a mainframe at the same time?**

A. Yes. With the ALLY PLUS's printer sharing feature, you can attach a coaxial cable to the ALLY PLUS and connect up to three alternate hosts to one printer, or two alternate hosts to two printers, simultaneously.

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

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

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

A. Yes. The ALLY PLUS is faster than any distributed printer on the market today.

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

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

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Q.   What is the removable ROM cartridge for?

A.   The ALLY PLUS 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 PLUS's other main features?

A.   The ALLY PLUS 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 PLUS?

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 PLUS 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.