

Using IntelliScanner barcode readers with FileMaker Pro

Getting Started

FileMaker Pro and IntelliScanner barcode readers integrate easily. In this inventory database example, we are associating a barcode with the inventory items. Using our preprinted Asset Tags, I've attached them to the items, scanned the number into the database and filled in the detail information.

Integrating your IntelliScanner with FileMaker Pro

Integrating your IntelliScanner with FileMaker Pro is quick and easy. All of our small-business barcode readers - [IntelliScanner Pro](#) and [Scanabout Pro](#) - are designed to work with FileMaker Pro (and many other applications) without additional configuration.

IntelliScanner Pro advanced configuration. If you are using an IntelliScanner Pro (tethered USB model), there is no setup necessary – simply plug it in and start scanning away. One function you may want to utilize is to change the end-of-text character. By default, the IntelliScanner Pro types a carriage return (CR) after each scan. When using it with FileMaker Pro, you may want to change the end-of-text character to "tab" to the next column - [here's how to change the end-of-text character to a tab](#).

Scanabout Pro advanced configuration. First, make sure you've [paired](#) your Scanabout Pro with your computer. One function you may want to utilize is to change the end-of-text character. By default, the Scanabout Pro types a carriage return (CR) after each scan. When using it with FileMaker Pro, you may want to change the end-of-text character to "tab" to the next column - [here's how to change the end-of-text character to a tab](#).

Batch Data Processing with your IntelliScanner and FileMaker Pro

This FileMaker Pro example is designed to show you some ways in which you can batch process data with your IntelliScanner. In this database example we are managing asset inventory to update an item's location and status. This database is designed to take the barcode values you scan and update the related records with values you set for status and/or location.

Step 1: When you are ready to batch process scans, make sure your cursor is in the "Barcode Values" field, then begin scanning.

Step 2: For the purpose of this example, I have created two fields for Status and Location. You can set either Status or Location or both by selecting values from the drop down list.

Step 3: Click the "Process Barcode Data" button. A script will parse through the barcode values and set the Status and/or Location in the Inventory table. The Processed field changes to "Yes"

to let you know this batch has been processed and prevents the script from processing this batch a second time.

Step 4: Click the "Reset Form" button to clear the barcode numbers and reset the entry form when you have finished processing your data.

Using the Code 39 font

We have included an open source Code 39 font so you can easily incorporate barcode images into your database. To use these fonts, you will need to install the Code 39 font that comes as part of the IntelliScanner Pro and Scanabout Package.

Normal Code 39 characters are 0 through 9, A through Z (uppercase), and the punctuation characters period, dollar, space, slash, plus, and minus. Code 39 fonts require an asterisk to be the first and last character (The asterisk doesn't appear in the scanner output because it only acts as a start/stop marker). For most Code39 fonts, if you need a space in the bar code output, use an underscore as the source character. All the barcode fonts here create uppercase barcode outputs from upper or lower case letter inputs. These fonts also allow you to use any undefined character instead of an asterisk for the start/stop character. A proper asterisk bar code will be generated, but using a non-standard start/stop character will suppress the plain-text display of the asterisk (for those fonts that display text).

Additional information about the Code 39 barcode font we provide can be found here: <http://ericphelps.com/barcode/>

The barcode number is represented on the main layout (Form View) as both a human-readable number format and a machine-readable Code 39 format. You do not need to enter the start/stop characters - they are automatically added for you. To make the values in the "Barcode" field appear as a machine-readable barcode, we have added a merge field and set the font for that field to 39 Tall. You can highlight this merge field and change the font to any human-readable font (Arial, for example) to see how this merge field looks.

<<Barcode>>

This is what the merge field looks like in Arial - to assign a Code 39 font to a merge field, hold down the Option & Command keys on the keyboard as you select the font, otherwise, the merge field will not display properly.

You can incorporate this solution into your current database and automatically generate Code 39 barcodes for items in your inventory -and- print customized labels for your items with a description, logo and barcode - whatever you want! We've included a layout for standard Avery 5160 labels as an example of how you can use barcodes on your own labels.