

Bar Codes 101

How to Assess Your Application

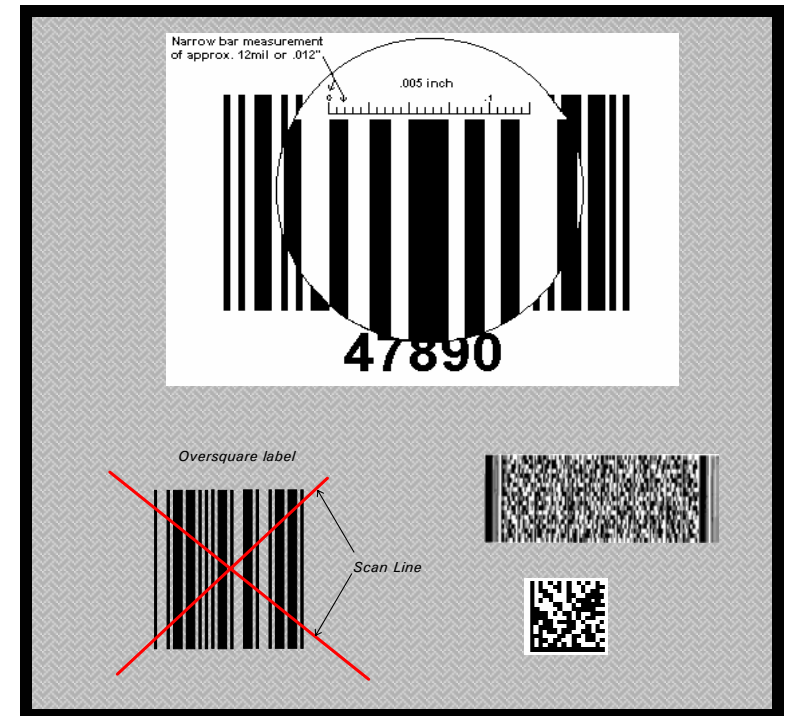
The rule of thumb

Does it make more sense to present the scanner to the object or the object to the scanner?

Symbology

What type of symbology will be used?

- Symbology types
- Differences between bar codes
 - Narrow-bar width
 - Ratio
 - Quiet Zone
 - Label Speed
 - Label dimensions
- Print quality



Object to be scanned

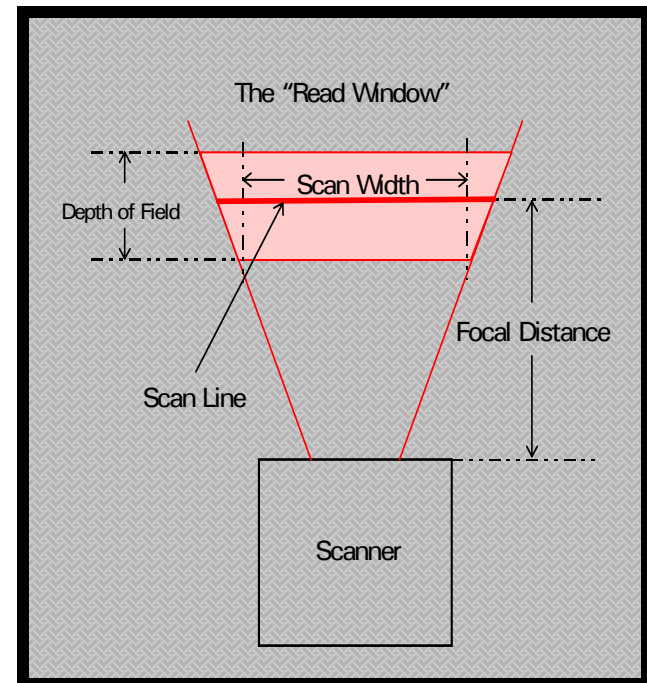
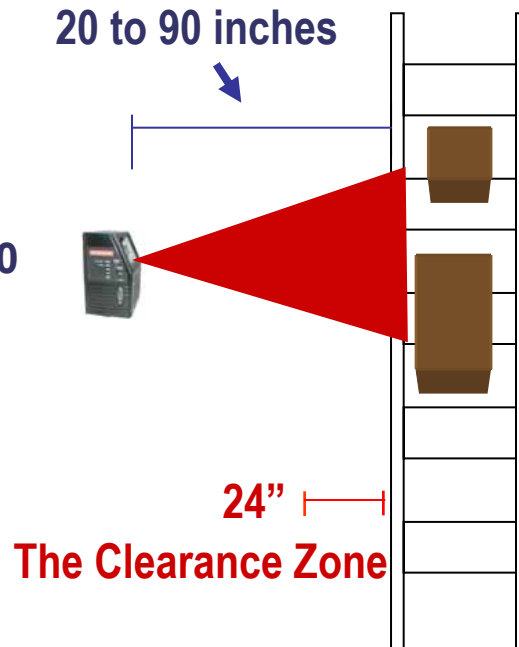
What is being scanned?

- Consider the following characteristics of the object to be scanned:
 - Available real estate
 - Object orientation
 - Size-variance
 - Unusual characteristics

Required distance

How far do you need to read?

Microscan's MS-880 can read a 20 mil label out to 90 inches.

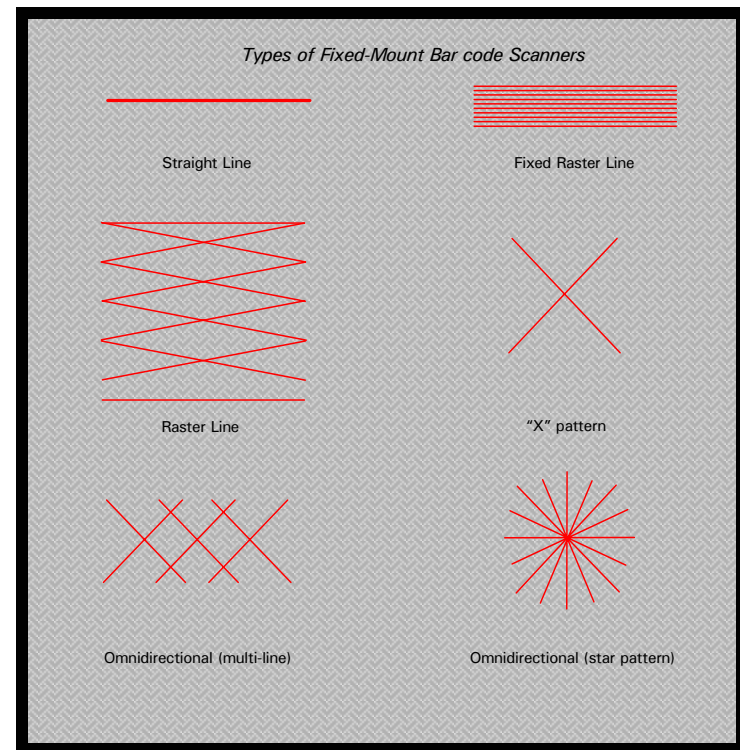


Some facilities have a designated clearance zone, where scanners and other equipment cannot be mounted within specified boundaries.

Symbol placement

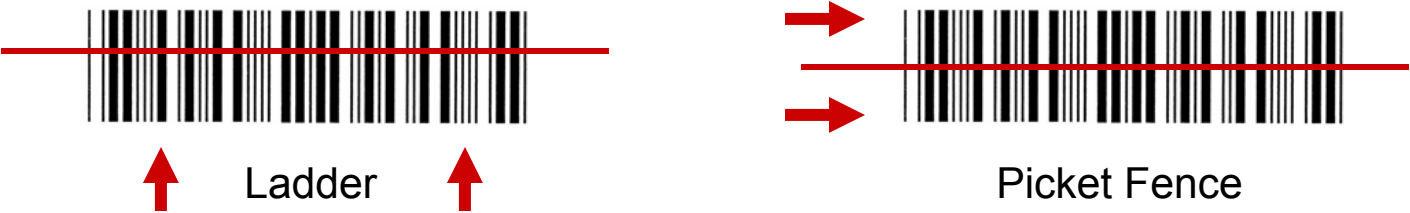
Is code placement consistent?

- Are codes hand applied or affixed by machine?
- How are items oriented in relation to the scanner?



Speed

- What is the speed of the application?



NOTES: Requirements for a 10 character Code 39 label in ladder orientation. Label heights to allow for the optimum rate of 5 complete scans per label.

Environment conditions

- Are operating conditions:
 - Clean or filthy?
 - Dry or wet?
 - High level of dust in the air?
 - Airborne materials or cleaning solvents?
 - What is the temperature range?
 - Will the scanner operate in direct sunlight?
- IP54 and IP65 ratings



**INDUSTRIAL
CERTIFIED**

Summary

- Make sure the bar code scanner you select meets the needs of your application by asking these important questions.
- First determine: fixed-mount or hand-held?
 - What type of symbology will be used?
 - What object will be scanned?
 - How far will you need to read the symbol?
 - Is code placement consistent?
 - What is the speed of the application?
 - What is the environment like?

More information

- If you have questions regarding this topic, send us an e-mail to training@microscan.com
- If you would like further information, we recommend you view **Guidelines for Creating Good Bar Codes** or **10 Ways Bar Codes can Improve Your Business**