

Barcode & label cheat sheet

The barcodes on your dock: what each carries and where you meet it.



Linear · 1D

Laser-readable. Low data, no error correction.



Code 39 1D
Letters + numbers · legacy / DoD



Code 128 1D
Full ASCII · high density



(01) 0 09521 23454 3213

GS1-128 1D
Logistics · pallets · SSCC



0 12345 67890 5

UPC-A / EAN-13 1D
Retail checkout



ITF-14 1D
Shipping cartons



GS1 DataBar 1D
Small items · produce

Matrix & stacked · 2D

Camera-read. High data, Reed-Solomon error correction.



QR Code 2D
Consumer-scannable · marketing



Data Matrix 2D
Tiny parts · medical UDI



PDF417 2D
IDs · boarding passes



Aztec 2D
Transit tickets



MaxiCode 2D
Parcel carrier sortation

How they differ

Linear vs. matrix, at a glance.

DIMENSIONALITY
Bars in one direction
Modules in a grid

CHARACTER SET
Numeric / alphanumeric
Full ASCII + binary

CAPACITY
Low: tens of characters
High: up to kilobytes

ERROR CORRECTION
None / check digit
Reed-Solomon;
survives damage

READER
Laser / linear imager
Camera imager