Making Your EAN-13 Bar Codes Look Good

Supplementary Documentation

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EAN-13 bar codes are displayed a little differently from other formats, so this document is provided as a supplement to the regular Barcode Basics documentation available on the web page listed above.

Note that there are 3 groups of numbers displayed: one off to the left, and the other two overlap the bottom part of the barcode a little bit. Note that if this becomes problematic, the overlap is **not a requirement** and your barcodes will still scan even if you decide to skip this. You can just place the numbers completely below the barcode if you wish.

The barcode starts with two thin lines, has two thin lines in the middle, and has two thin lines at the end. Between each of these are 42-pixel wide spaces: six characters, each needing 7 pixels to make two dark lines and two light lines of varying widths.

When you copy the barcode from the gOutput field in Barcode Basics into a local field in your database, you might also choose to grab the values from gLeft, gMiddle, and gRight. These are the three numeric fields. Barcode Basics has done the work of generating your checksum character, which is the last character in gRight, so it's probably important that you grab gRight if you want to display it properly.

Position your three fields where shown in the example above. Make them opaque white, so they will mask out the bars beneath them. Make the gMiddle and gRight fields each 42 pixels wide, and position them so that they just let the two thin bars peek out on the left, center, and right of the barcode.

Depending on what printer, printer driver, and platform you're using, you may need to move things around when you test print it. You should be able to find a combination that prints very well.

Good luck,