



# 30-up Barcode Type Sampler

Five examples of each barcode type arranged down the page.

## Included in the sampler

### DataMatrix

best option if your scanner supports 2D barcodes.



### QR

also 2D, widely supported.



### Aztec

compact 2D option on the 30-up layout only.



### Code 128

1D (linear), the only option if your scanner does not support 2D codes.



### MicroQR

compact 2D option on the 30-up layout only.



### PDF417

also 2D, available on the 30-up layout only.



This sampler shows 30 labels arranged down the page: five examples of each type. Print at 100% (Actual Size) with Autofit and "shrink to size" disabled, for the best match to the live layouts.

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# Barcode Damage Resilience Guide

*A quick guide for tags that may be bent, torn, muddy, or slightly damaged.*

## Recommended order of preference for damaged tags:

- 1. **DataMatrix** — best overall for small printed tags and partial damage.
- 2. **QR** — strong error correction and widely supported by 2D scanners.
- 3. **Aztec** — compact and resilient; a strong 2D alternative when space is tight.
- 4. **PDF417** — robust and rectangular, but usually a bit less compact for tags.
- 5. **Code 128** — suitable for 1D scanners, but more vulnerable to physical damage.
- 6. **MicroQR** — smallest and least forgiving, so it is the last choice for damaged tags.

## Pros and cons by barcode type

| Barcode    | Pros                                                                                                                                | Cons                                                                                                                                                                       |
|------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| DataMatrix | Excellent on small labels; very good resilience if part of the code is damaged; preferred for race-day style tags with 2D scanners. | Needs a 2D-capable scanner; can look unfamiliar to users expecting QR-style symbols.                                                                                       |
| QR         | Very strong error correction; widely recognised and easy to scan; good all-rounder for printed labels.                              | Usually larger than DataMatrix for the same data; still needs a 2D scanner.                                                                                                |
| Aztec      | Compact 2D symbol; good tolerance of damage and print variation; can work well when space is tight.                                 | Not as universally familiar as QR; scanner support is good, but not always as broad as QR.                                                                                 |
| PDF417     | Can carry more data; reasonably tolerant of damage; works well when a wider rectangular block is acceptable.                        | Takes more space than DataMatrix or QR; can feel cramped on small stickers if not sized carefully.                                                                         |
| Code 128   | Good for 1D linear scanners; simple and readable when printed large enough; useful when 2D scanning is not available.               | Less tolerant of tears, bends, or mud than 2D codes; needs more intact horizontal space to scan reliably. It is the only option if your scanner does not support 2D codes. |
| MicroQR    | Very compact; useful when the payload is short and space is extremely limited.                                                      | Smallest and least forgiving in practice; not the best choice for damaged or dirty tags.                                                                                   |

**Bottom line:** for damaged physical tags, DataMatrix is the best first choice, QR and Aztec are strong alternatives, PDF417 is a good rectangular option, and Code 128 is the fallback when you only have 1D scanning.