

How Do Cash Drawers Work?

A cash drawer allows storage of checks, cash, coins, stamps, and other valuable items, providing crucial security and organization for your point of sale, POS, system. In a typical point of sale system setup, the receipt printer sends a signal to the cash drawer, triggering it to open only when needed.

What Kind of Cash Drawer Should I Buy?

There are a few important factors to take into considerations when deciding which cash drawer model will work best for your point of sale needs. These factors include cash drawer construction, interface design, locking functionality, media slots, and cash tray design.

Construction

At POSGuys.com, we label our cash drawers as either heavy duty or medium duty, depending on the thickness of the steel used in the unit's construction. Heavy duty cash drawers hold up better to dings, dents, and tampering due to their heavier drawer construction and are higher priced. Medium duty cash drawers offer all the functionality of heavier cash drawers at a lower price, but do not stand up to damage and tampering as well.

Interface Design

The next step is deciding what type of interface design you want your cash drawer to operate with. Simply put, how do you want your cash drawer's opening to be triggered? There are three connectivity options for cash drawers: printer driven, serial driven, or manually driven.

- ▶ Printer driven cash drawers are our most popular and recommended type of cash drawer. The drawer plugs directly into the receipt printer via hard-wire or interchangeable cable. The receipt printer signals the cash drawer to open when needed.
- ▶ Serial driven cash drawers plug into the serial port on the back of your point of sale computer. A serial cable connects the cash drawer to the computer.
- ▶ A manually driven cash drawer does not connect to the point of sale system and must be opened manually by the cashier.

Locking Functionality

All cash drawers include locking mechanisms classified by their position capabilities. Generally, the more available positions a lock has, the more expensive the cash drawer will be. See the chart below for lock position functionality.

| Lock Type | Electronic Lock | Electronic Unlock | Manual Control | Locked Open |
|----------------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------|
| Two Position | X | X | | |
| Three Position | X | X | X | |
| Four Position | X | X | X | X |

Media Slots

Media slots are the small openings on the front of the cash drawer that allow deposit of checks, coupons, or credit card slips into the space below the cash tray without actually opening the drawer. The number of media slots can vary from one to three.

Cash Tray

The cash tray, commonly referred to as the "till", is a plastic tray that fits into the cash drawer. The tray is used to sort currency, including bills and coins. Most cash trays are quite similar, with some variation in the number of dividers, the weight of the plastic, and the tray's situation in the drawer.

Cash Drawer Types

| Model Name | Construction | Interface Type | Locking Functions | Media Slot | Bills; Coins |
|-----------------------|--------------|----------------------|-------------------|------------|------------------|
| POS-X XC19HD | Heavy Duty | Printer | 3 Positions | 1 | 5 Bills; 8 Coins |
| POS-X XC16HD | Medium Duty | Printer | 3 Positions | 2 | 5 Bills; 8 Coins |
| MMF Advantage | Heavy Duty | Printer, Serial, USB | 3 Positions | 1-2 | 5 Bills; 5 Coins |
| MMF Media Plus | Heavy Duty | Printer | 4 Positions | 3 | 5 Bills; 5 Coins |
| MMF Val-U-Line | Medium Duty | Printer | 3 Positions | 2 | 5 Bills; 8 Coins |
| APG Vasario | Medium Duty | Printer, Serial, USB | 4 Positions | 2 | 4 Bills; 5 Coins |
| MMF Val-U-Line Manual | Medium Duty | Manual | Manual | 1 | 4 Bills; 5 Coins |

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