



INDITION COMMERCE

Your bar code labels should fit your labels

There is a particular kind of small operational failure that never makes it onto anyone's roadmap. It is not a bug anyone files. It is a member of staff at a back counter, holding a sheet of Avery labels and a printout that does not line up with it, deciding to write the price on with a pen instead.

Bar Code Label Designer · September 3, 2026



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That is the problem the new Bar Code Label Designer in Indition Inventory sets out to end.

The gap between a screen and a sticker

Printing a bar code sounds like it ought to be simple. You have a product, it has a number, the number becomes a pattern of bars. Print it.

What makes it hard is that a label is a physical object. It is 50.8 millimetres wide and 25.4 millimetres tall, there are thirty of them on a sheet in three columns and ten rows, the first one starts 12.7mm down and 4.76mm in from the edge, and the gap between columns is 3.17mm. Get any of those numbers wrong and every label on the sheet is wrong.

A web page knows none of this. It knows about pixels, and it will happily stretch a bar code to fill whatever space it has been given — which is exactly what makes a bar code stop scanning, because the width of the bars *is* the data.

What we built

Inventory > Bar Code Labels is a designer with your controls on the left and a live preview on the right, drawn at the real size of the label. Not a mock-up: the preview is produced by the same code that drives the printer, so what you see is what comes out.

Choose the box, not the dimensions. Thirty-nine label stocks are built in, grouped by vendor and named with the part number printed on your box — Avery 5160, Dymo 30334, Brother DK-1201, a 2 x 1 inch thermal roll. Pick yours and the measurements are handled. If your stock is unusual, enter it once and the designer checks the numbers actually describe a layout that fits.

Drag the label together. Product name, bar code, SKU, price, vendor, location, a QR code, your own text. Drop them into rows. Put two in a row and space them to the ends for a SKU on the left and a price on the right.

See the problems before the printer does. The designer warns you when the bars would come out finer than a thermal printer can physically place, when your content is taller than the label and would be cut off, and when a product has nothing to encode. It shows you the layout against your shortest *and* your longest product name, because that is where labels break — a design that looks right against "Wool Cap" can overflow against the fifty-character name three rows down your catalogue.

Print it properly. Straight from the browser at true page size, or as a PDF that is already exactly the size of your sticker, so no printer driver gets to make a decision about scale. If your printer is consistently a millimetre out, nudge it.

The fix hiding inside the feature

While building this we found something worth saying plainly, because it had been quietly costing people.

Every bar code the system printed was being stretched. Not visibly enough to look broken — just enough that some scanners read them slowly and others did not read them at all. And every value was being encoded as Code 128 regardless of what it was, so a genuine 12-digit UPC went out as a generic code rather than as a UPC-A. Retail systems that expect to see a UPC did not recognise it as one.

Both are fixed. Bar codes are drawn to their correct proportions with the quiet white margins the specification requires, and the symbology is chosen from the value: a 12-digit number is now a real UPC-A, a 13-digit number an EAN-13, and a SKU with letters in it a Code 128.

If your labels have ever scanned unreliably and nobody could say why, this is a good candidate.

Small things that matter at a counter

Variants are on the label. A label identifies one specific item, so the product name carries the variant with it. A Large and a Small no longer print identical tags.

The bar code stays where it is. Product names vary in length, and a name that wraps to a second line used to push the bar code down. Now you can hold that space open, so the code sits in the same spot on every label and staff scanning by feel find it where they expect.

A bad record does not ruin a batch. A product with no UPC prints a placeholder naming the product and the reason, and the other four hundred and ninety-nine labels print normally. You get a list of what to fix instead of a mystery gap.

Nothing to learn

The buttons your staff already use — Generate Bar Codes on the inventory grid, the bar code icon on a row, the buttons on a product screen — now print through whichever design you have marked as the default. Same workflow, correct labels.

A working 2 x 1 inch template is installed and ready. If that is your stock, you can print today. If it is not, changing it takes about a minute.

The Bar Code Label Designer is part of the Inventory module in Indition Commerce. To get started, open Inventory > Bar Code Labels.