

KEYENCE

NEW 3-Axis UV Laser Marker
MD-U Series



**High-Contrast
×
Damage-Free**

**WORLD'S FIRST
3-Axis Control UV Laser Marker**

Cold Marking
3-Axis UV Laser Marker

MD-U Series

UV Marking, Distinguished from the Rest

Introducing the world's first 3-Axis Control UV laser marker

Clearer, more detailed High Contrast Marking

The MD-U Series is capable of generating greater contrast for more appealing aesthetics and improved readability on 2D codes.



AC adapter
[Material: Red polycarbonate]

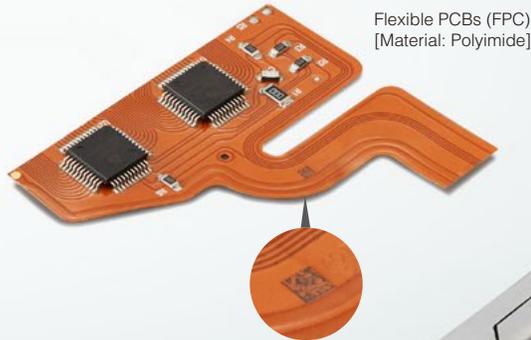
Earbuds
[Material: Blue PVC]



USB cable
[Material: White ABS]

Reduced heat Damage-Free Marking

Through suppressed heat effects, burrs and yellow tinting are eliminated, allowing for a nearly perfect finish.



Flexible PCBs (FPC)
[Material: Polyimide]



Medical scissors
[Material: Stainless steel]

NEW

3-Axis UV Laser Marker MD-U Series



Distortion-free 3D Marking

Uniform marking quality is possible not only on three-dimensional shapes but also at the centers and edges of flat surfaces. This makes it possible to reduce time spent on changeovers.

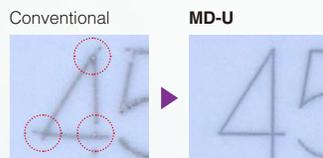


Complex-shaped metals
[Material: Black alumite]



Increased production capacity High-Speed Marking

KEYENCE's proprietary digital scanners and optimized control enable more accurate, faster marking.



* Scan speed: 5000 mm/s 196.85°/s



PE bottles

Add Value Through KEYENCE UV Laser Markers

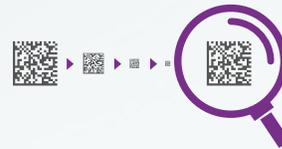
Improved Traceability Options

Demand for marking on a wide variety of components rather than simply the final product has continued to become more prevalent. With the MD-U Series, your options are almost endless.



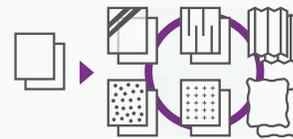
Limited Space, No Problem

With rising demand to reduce component size while increasing functionality, the MD-U Series provides greater flexibility through damage-free marking in limited space.



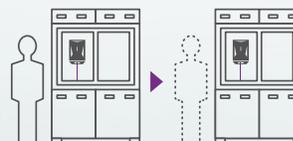
Conquer Difficult Materials

High-strength, high-heat resins are historically challenging for standard wavelength lasers. The MD-U Series offers the best-in-class versatility across a wide array of material types.



Less Changeover for More Up-Time

Multiple materials can be marked with similar parameters, reducing the need for operator intervention thus improving line up-time and efficiency.



Now is the Best Time to Select UV

With the right product, laser marking can be simple. Today, demand focuses more on high quality and stable results than ever. As the need for more sophisticated products and diverse materials increases, it becomes ever more important to select the most versatile marking solution to stay ahead of the competition. With a UV laser, early adopters can not only tackle today's struggles, but can also prepare for whatever challenges tomorrow brings.



What Is Cold Marking with a UV Laser Marker?



Cold marking refers to marking and processing that is performed with minimal heat stress. UV lasers can be used to achieve this result thanks to their incredibly high absorption rate on a variety of materials. A UV laser is simply the Third Harmonic Generation (THG) of a standard wavelength (1064 nm) laser. By passing a standard wavelength laser through a non-linear crystal, and then again through another crystal, the wavelength is effectively reduced to 355 nm, creating the ideal UV laser.

Improved Quality on Traditionally Difficult-to-Mark Materials

Marking on polypropylene cases



High-contrast code marking for improved readability

Standard Wavelength



MD-U



Marking on ceramic PCBs



High-contrast code marking regardless of size

Standard Wavelength

Cell size: 0.09 mm 0.0035"
1.08 mm 0.04" × 2.34 mm 0.09"

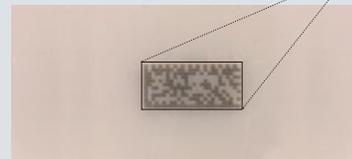
Actual size



MD-U

Cell size: 0.03 mm 0.0012"
0.36 mm 0.01" × 0.78 mm 0.03"

Actual size

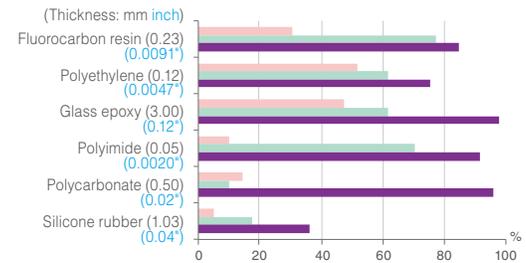


Darker Marks Generated Through Higher Absorption Rates

Compared with standard wavelength lasers (IR) or green lasers (SHG), UV lasers generally have a significantly higher material absorption rate, so the irradiated light is more efficiently absorbed by the marking surface. This means the power does not need to be increased in order to obtain a highly visible mark.

■ IR absorption rate
■ SHG absorption rate
■ UV absorption rate

Absorption rates for various resin materials



* The values are for reference only and do not account for surface reflectivity.

Maintain Quality Despite Inconsistencies

Due to the higher absorption rate of the MD-U Series, material inconsistencies do not affect marking quality. This allows the laser to use similar parameters on multiple materials or a wider range of parameters to produce acceptable results.

Material: White ABS



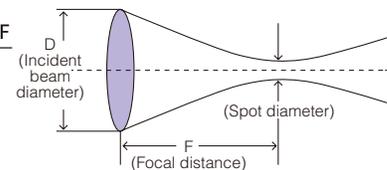
Clear Marking When Space is Limited

The spot diameter of a laser is greatly affected by its wavelength. With UV wavelengths being 1/3 the size of standard wavelengths (355 nm rather than 1064 nm), the spot size can be narrowed accordingly, opening the possibility for marking when space is limited.

Laser marker spot diameter

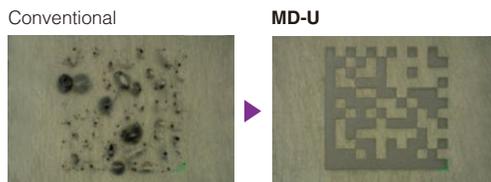
$$\text{Spot diameter} = \frac{4 \times \lambda \times M^2 \times F}{\pi \times D}$$

λ : Wavelength
 M²: Beam quality
 F: Focal distance
 D: Incident beam diameter

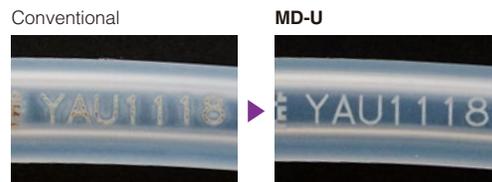


Marking comparison

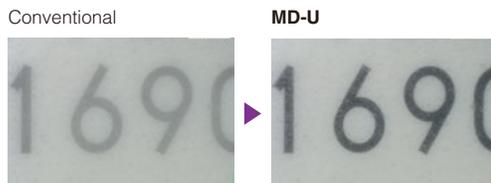
In-vehicle plastic part [Material: Natural Polyamide]



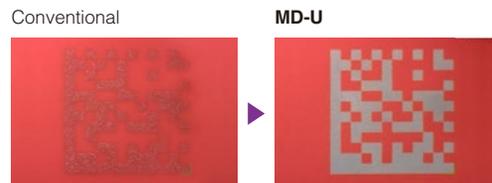
Plastic Tube [Material: Silicon]



Power switch cover [Material: Urea formaldehyde white]

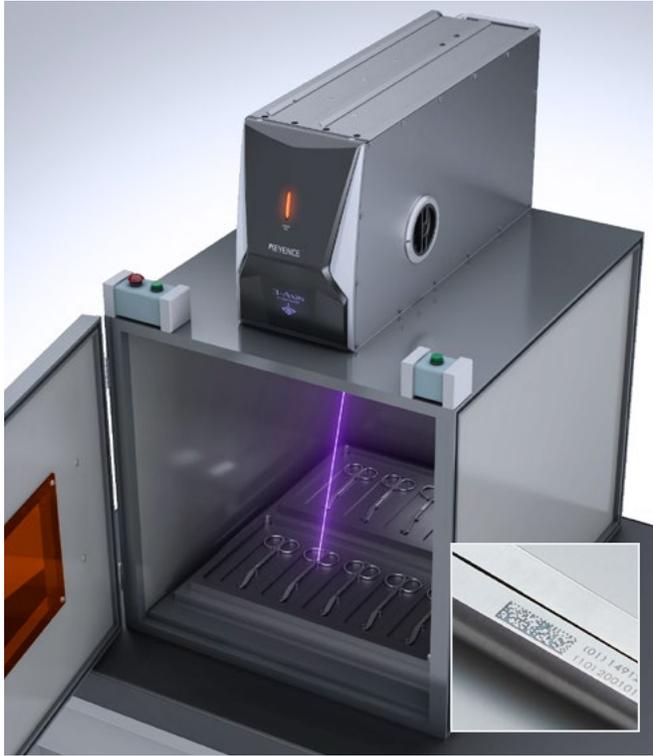


Gas meter casing [Material: Red plastic]



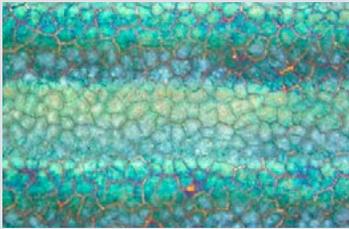
Eliminate Heat Affected Zone Through Cold Marking Process

Marking on steel medical instruments
Material: Stainless steel

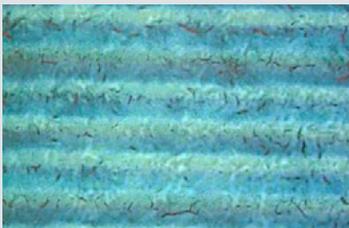


Reduced surface damage allows for corrosion-resistant marking

Standard Wavelength



MD-U



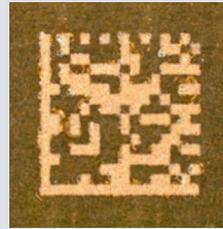
Detailed analysis of black-annealed marking

Marking/cutting of flexible PCBs
Material: Polyimide

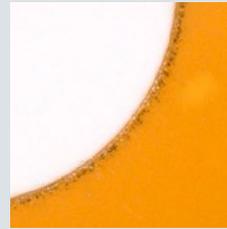


Perform both marking and processing without thermal damage

Standard Wavelength

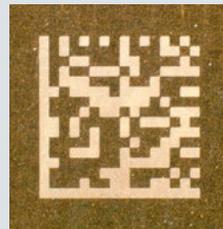


Marking

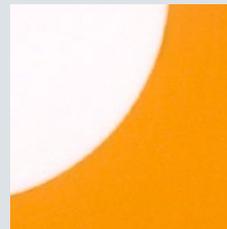


Cutting

MD-U



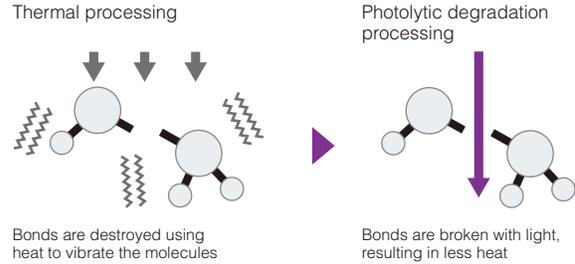
Marking



Cutting

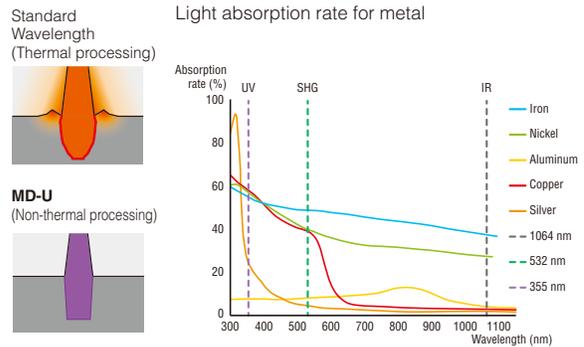
Photolytic Degradation Processing with 355 nm Wavelength

The high-energy photons in UV lasers allow for photolytic degradation processing that breaks the bonds between molecules directly. This allows for marking and processing without heat being applied to surfaces, thus minimizing damage.



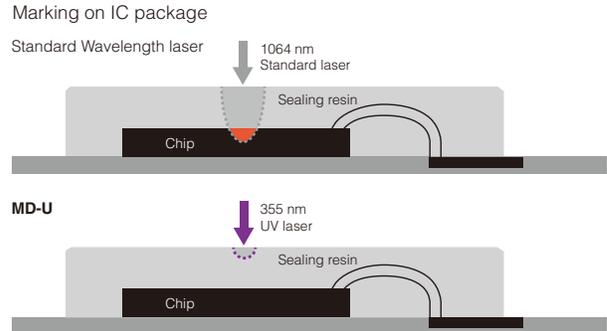
Reduced Surface Damage

The MD-U Series utilizes a high absorption rate even with gold, silver, copper, and other materials with high reflectance. This minimizes soot and burrs while not damaging the surface, so corrosion resistant marking and processing is possible.

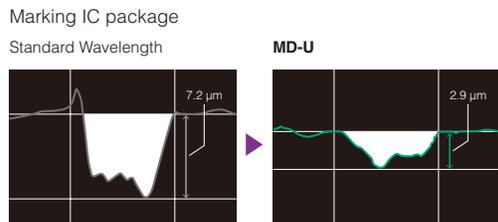
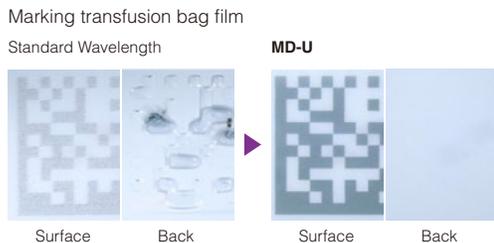
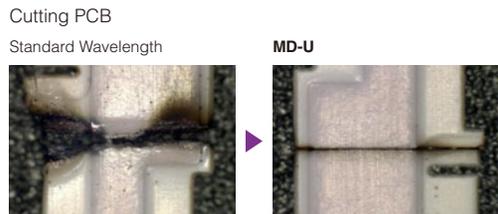
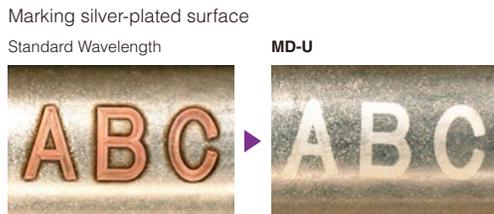


Lower Risk of Internal Damage

With the steadily decreasing size of electronic components and their sealing resins, standard wavelength lasers incur a greater risk of damaging the internal components through the transmitted energy. The high material absorption rate offered by UV lasers reduces the chance of that energy being transmitted to internal components.



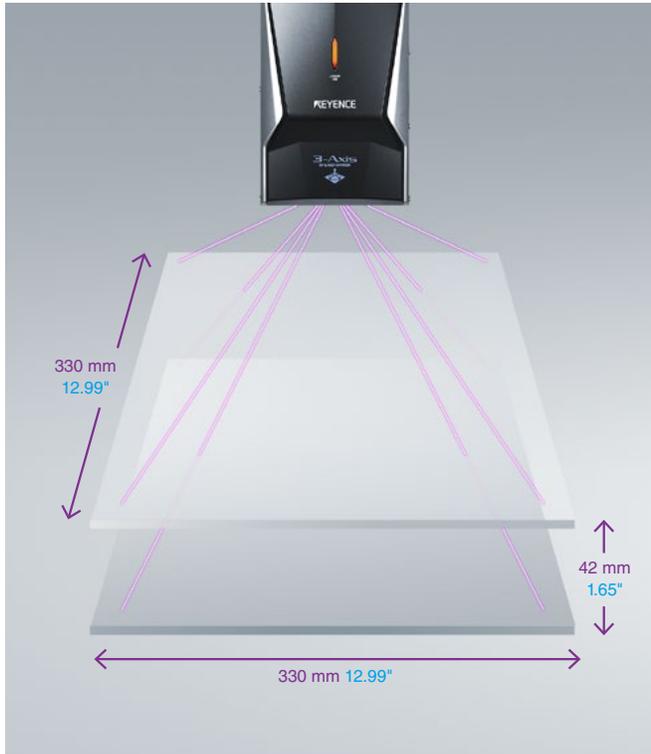
Thermal damage comparisons from different wavelengths



3D Marking

3-Axis Control Provides Superior Marking Quality with Optimal Flexibility

Uniform marking throughout entire area

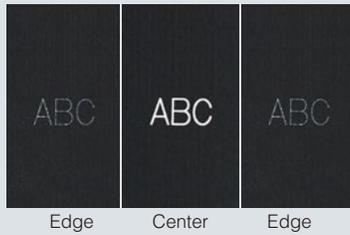


Marking on 3D shapes

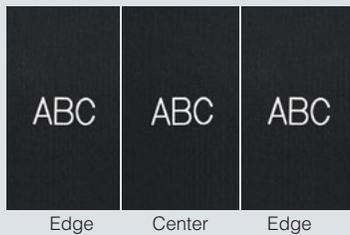


Marking quality remains the same even if the target is at the edge of the marking area

Conventional

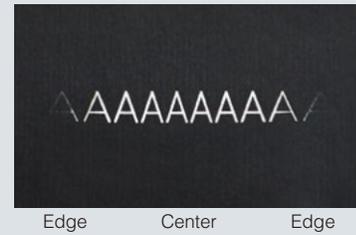


MD-U

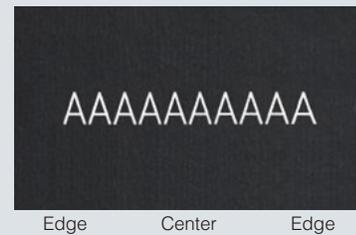


Eliminate distortion by programming any desired shape

Conventional (Cylindrical target)

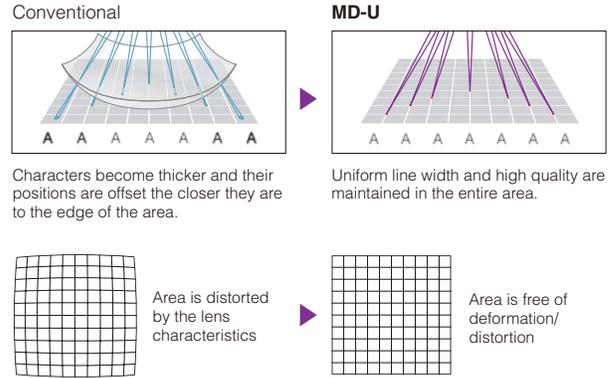


MD-U



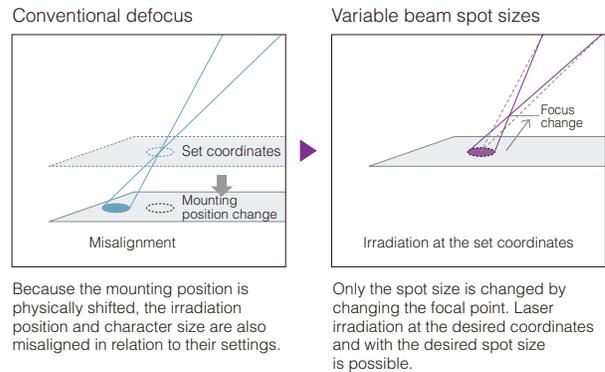
Uniform Marking Edge to Edge

High-precision marking can be performed over a wide area of 330 mm × 330 mm 12.99" × 12.99". This not only reduces costs by simplifying the handling process but also helps improve productivity by reducing indexing time. The distortion, changes in shape, and beam spot size variations that occur when using conventional lasers with an F θ lens can be eliminated. The 3-Axis Controls adjust the focal point to maintain high-accuracy marking and processing throughout the entire marking area.



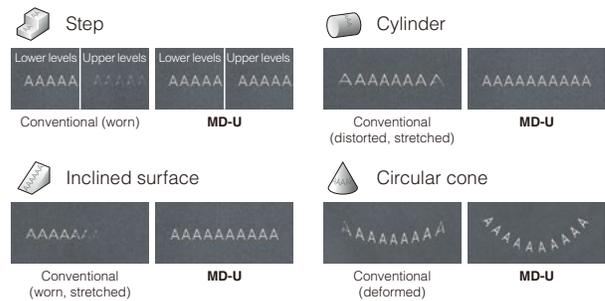
Variable Beam Spot and De-Focusing

When creating fine marks that do not damage the surface of the target, de-focusing the laser intentionally is one technique that works very well on plastics, resins and metals. With conventional laser systems, the target is placed physically out of focus with no internal adjustments to the laser. This causes incorrect character placement and also marking distortion. Our 3-Axis systems can internally make these adjustments with a simple software setting therefore eliminating the need to make physical adjustments and internally processing the correct X/Y/Z offset to eliminate mis-marking and distortion.



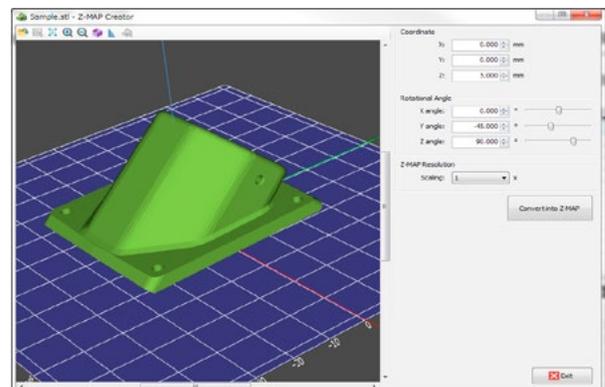
Marking on 3D Shapes

The MD-U Series is equipped with 3-Axis Control, a function for controlling the beam spot to match the target shape, including stepped, inclined, cylindrical, and cone targets. Character distortion and flaws are kept to a minimum, resulting in beautiful marking that perfectly fits the 3D shape.



Z-MAP Creator

Using 3D CAD data (STL format), the actual profile of the target can be imported into Marking Builder 3 and used as the base of the layout. This enables users to configure settings and perform marking on targets that have complicated profiles and cannot be expressed with basic shapes, such as cylinders and step height changes.



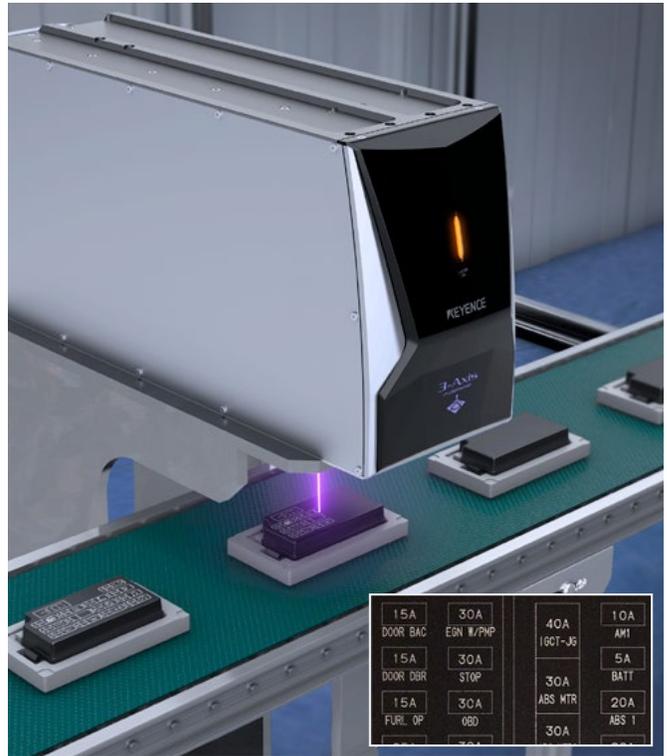
High-Speed Marking

Increased Marking Speed and Improved Production Capacity

Marking on high-speed lines



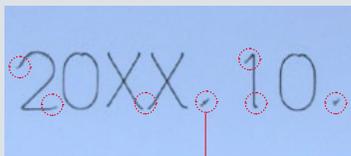
Complex logo marking (Fuse boxes)



Higher quality marking than conventional models in the same length of time

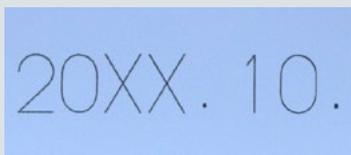
Quality comparison on high-speed line marking at 35 ms

Conventional



Areas with poor quality

MD-U



High-speed marking on HDPE bottles

Faster marking than conventional models at the same quality

Time required for marking at the same quality

Conventional

10.8 s

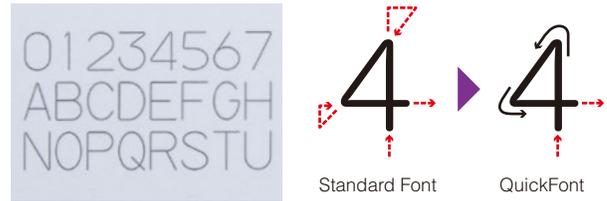
MD-U

6.9 s

Built-in Proprietary Digital Scanner

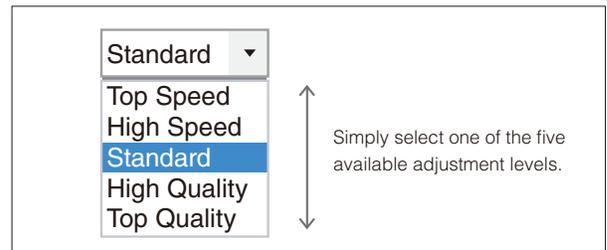
Instead of using an analog scanner as is common with laser markers, the MD-U Series uses a digital scanner developed by KEYENCE enabling a new approach to control. To take advantage of this added performance, the MD-U Series also utilizes QuickFont, a new font to provide even faster marking times without sacrificing quality.

QuickFont



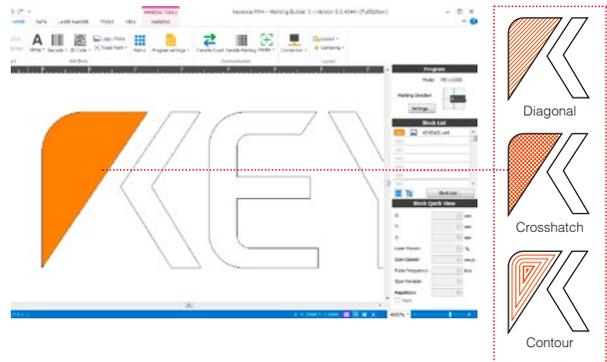
Quality Adjustment Level

The software automatically calculates the adjustments needed to either emphasize higher speed or higher quality by simply selecting the quality level desired.



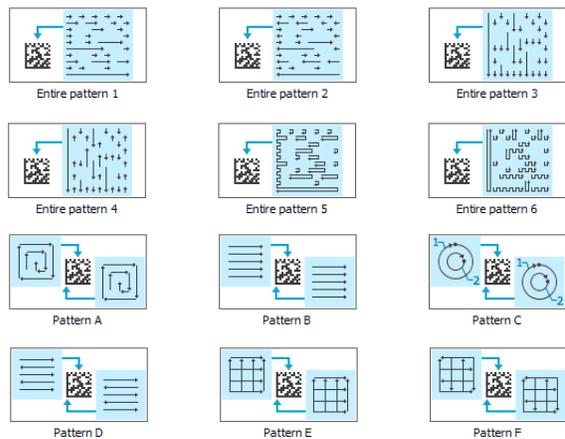
Logo Fill Pattern Selection

With the MD-U, logo fill patterns can be selected. Using dedicated software also makes it possible to perform custom edits such as adjusting fill line intervals for external data, adding/deleting lines, and other settings to ensure the desired quality and marking time.



2D Code Pattern Selection

Marking patterns can effect the way a barcode looks and how well it is identified by the code reader. The Marking Builder 3 software allows for ultimate flexibility in pattern selection with more than 10 patterns to choose from and many more combinations possible.



Stability and Reliability

Eliminating the Need for Peripheral Equipment—Built-In Multi-Function Camera Enables Positioning, Inspection, and More

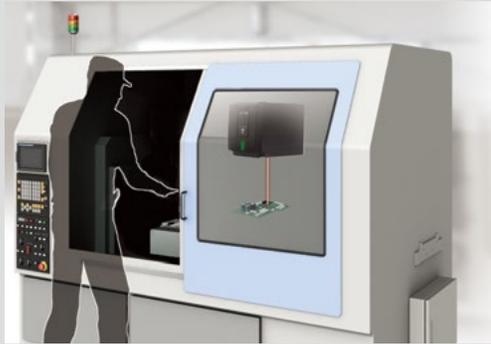
Positioning

Height (Focus) Adjustment

Conventional Method

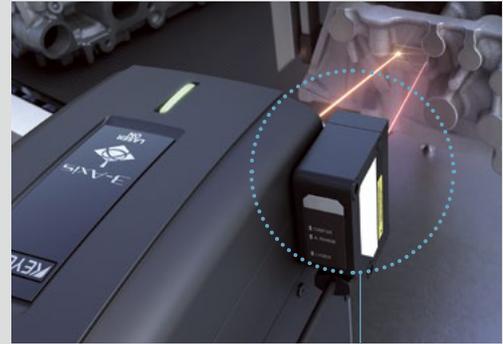
Use of Complicated Equipment

Adjusting the marking position in conventional methods required physically seeing the target. The process was troublesome and time-consuming, requiring workers to override the safety functions before performing work. This being a manual process often resulted in generating several scrap parts.



Measurement by Separate Displacement Sensor

Failing to apply the correct focal distance resulted in flaws or blurring in the marking. To prevent such marking defects, a separate displacement sensor was required, and the measured values were then sent to the marker to achieve the correct focal distance.



Distance measurement sensor

MD-U

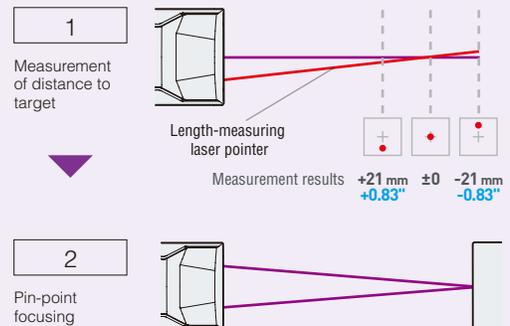
Viewfinder Function

Alignment is possible using the built-in camera to capture a live image of the part. Now, an operator can spend less time and produce less scrap while maintaining a safe work environment.



Auto-Focus Function

The Auto-Focus function makes it possible to focus without the use of external equipment. The position of the measurement laser pointer is monitored using the built-in camera, allowing for automatic adjustment of the focal point to within ± 21 mm ± 0.83 ".



Multi-function built-in camera

- Viewfinder
- Auto-Focus
- 2D code reading
- Marking Confirmation



Post-Mark Code Reading

Separate Marking and Reading Processes

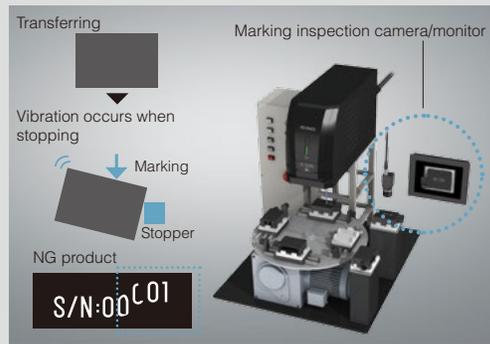
With conventional models, the marking and reading processes are separate, resulting in the need to operate different devices when making adjustments. This takes time and effort. Not to mention, if the manufacturers of each device are different, investigating the cause of trouble can be time-consuming.



Post-Marking Confirmation

Separate Post-Processing Inspection Camera

To prevent marking defects from being accepted, conventional lasers required installation of a separate marking inspection camera.



2D Code Reading

With the MD-U Series, 2D codes can be read using the built-in code reader. This ability to perform marking and reading in the same process reduces equipment space and costs. Grade judgment is also available.



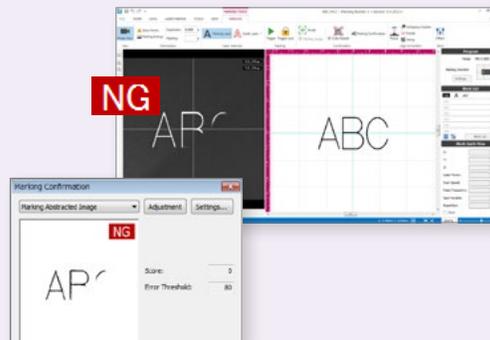
Read result
AZ-T00025:A
Total grade judgment



Supported standards:
ISO/IEC TR 29158 (AIM DPM-1-2006)

Marking Confirmation Function

Using images captured both before and after marking, the MD-U Series detects flaws by comparing the shape of characters programmed in the software with the shape of the marked characters.



Environmental Resistance to Improve Service Life

Dust Countermeasures Enable Stable Operation Even in Poor Environments



Protection against the harshest environments

The MD-U Series is designed to be environmentally resistant with an IP64 enclosure rating. This environmental resistance makes it possible to use the device even in harsh environments.

Environmentally Resistant Specifications [Marking Head Enclosure Rating: IP64]

The MD-U Series uses a proprietary sealing method to securely protect optical components. This ensures that these components are not affected by factors such as dirt, dust, and water droplets, and provides environmentally resistant performance and allows for stable operation in even the harshest environments. The MD-U Series has an enclosure rating equivalent to that of the fanless marking head of our MD-F Series fiber laser markers.

(*Attachment of protective lens OP-88240 possible.)

Long Service Life

Taking advantage of KEYENCE's long history of in-house laser development, the design of the MD-U Series offers a long service life. Protection of optical components and countermeasures against dust have eliminated the cause of decreased UV laser output. In addition, a single-emitter laser diode is used, and the Automatic Power Save function allows for more efficient use of the laser diode itself.

IP64

- Water splashed against the enclosure from any direction will have no harmful effect.
- No ingress of dust.

All IP tests are performed for the prescribed time and using the prescribed method. This only guarantees that operation is possible during the time limits required by the test and do not guarantee that the product can be used under the test conditions for extended periods of time.

Automatic Power Save Function

Conventional

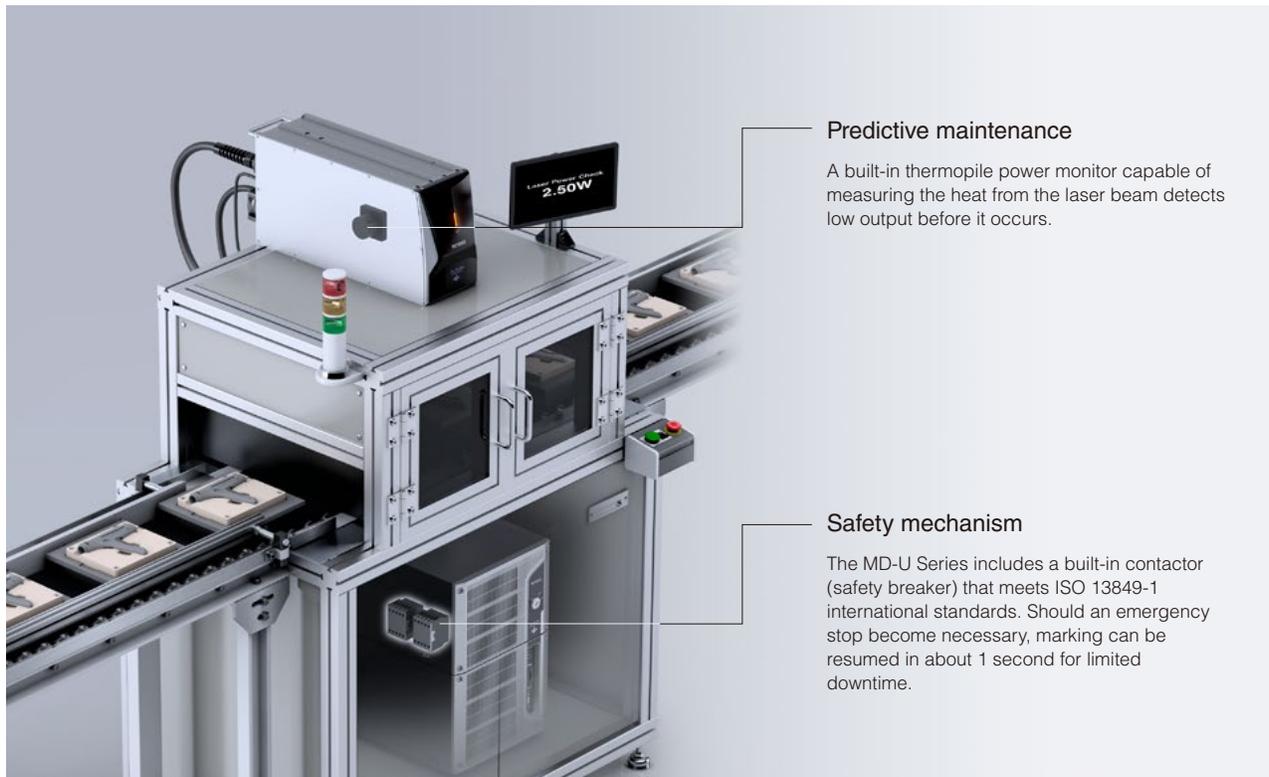


MD-U



Built-in Power Monitor for Validation

Ensuring Compliance with the Highest Standards



Predictive maintenance

A built-in thermopile power monitor capable of measuring the heat from the laser beam detects low output before it occurs.

Safety mechanism

The MD-U Series includes a built-in contactor (safety breaker) that meets ISO 13849-1 international standards. Should an emergency stop become necessary, marking can be resumed in about 1 second for limited downtime.

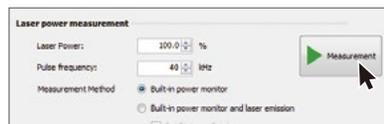
Thermopile Power Monitor and Calibration

A thermopile power monitor is standard-equipped inside the marking head. Power output management, the most important aspect of laser marker equipment maintenance, can be performed easily, accurately, and with minimal time.

ISO 13849-1 Compliance

Two contactors inside the controller cut power to the laser source. These contactors can be used as the means to stop the marking laser in compliance with ISO 13849-1. In addition, restoration requires only about 1 second, ensuring a limited downtime.

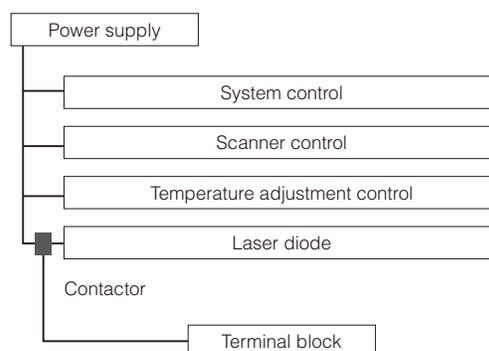
Enter the measurement conditions, and then click a single button.



The laser beam that is actually emitted is forked and measured within the marking head.



Controller interior



Laser Marker Setting Software

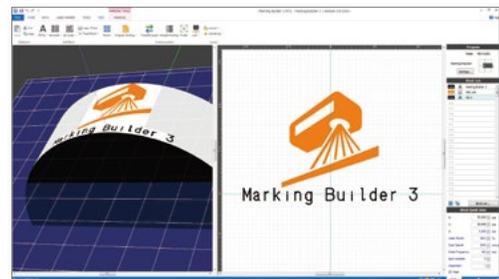
Marking Builder 3

The Marking Builder 3 software suite was developed to promote the high performance of the MD-U Series in an easy-to-use graphical interface. Even users without programming experience can easily set up the device.



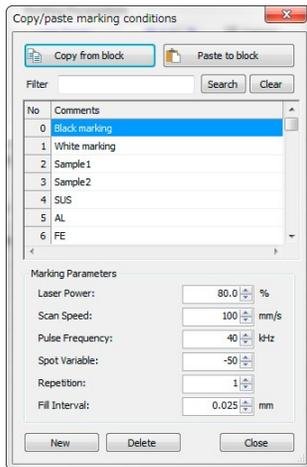
Basic Settings

Settings for three-dimensional shapes can be configured in three steps by following the on-screen guidance. The 3D preview can be used to check alignment and view finished programs in 3D.



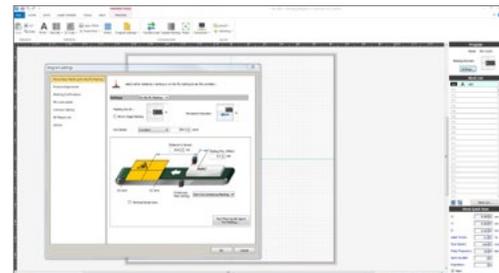
Marking Conditions Clipboard

Frequently used conditions are registered as favorites in the clipboard making new part marking easy.



Moving Marking

High quality marking is possible on flat and curved moving targets. Even first-time users are able to configure the settings with ease.



Customized Software to Meet a Variety of Needs

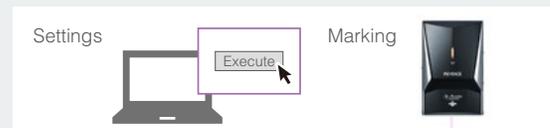
ActiveX

ActiveX technology allows for direct control of the MD-U into other software (such as VB, Excel, or C#). With KEYENCE, users can create custom software using ActiveX technology to automate time-consuming tasks.

Conventional: Required input of information into software

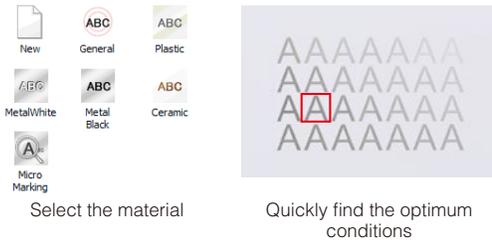


MD-U: One-click automation



Sample Marking Function

The software automatically extracts the optimum marking settings when the user selects the material type. The optimum conditions can be found quickly from the list of marking results. A wealth of experience was conventionally required to set the marking conditions, but this can now be done easily and in a short period of time.

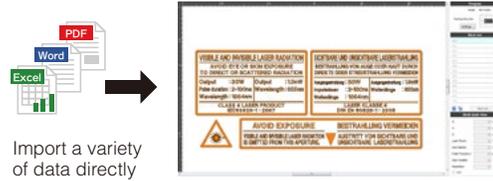


Select the material

Quickly find the optimum conditions

Printer Driver Function

A variety of data—such as Excel, Word, PDF, and bitmap files—can be imported directly into the laser marker software. There is no need to convert or edit the desired data, which makes it possible to easily perform laser marking the same way as printing a document from an office printer.

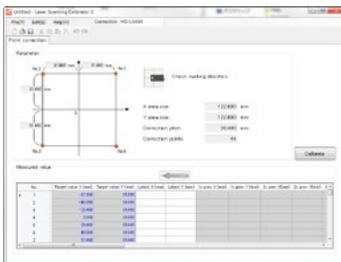


Import a variety of data directly

HD Marking Area Correction

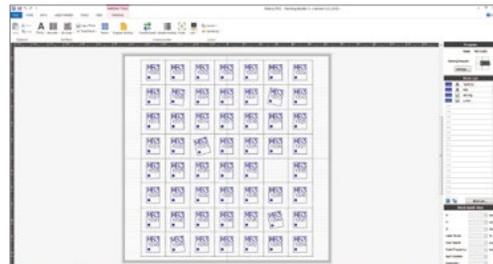
With the MD-U Series, correction within the marking area is possible at up to 2000 different marking points. This means anyone can easily correct marking area distortion—due to the installation environment of the laser head—throughout the entire marking area.

* Measurements of marking results must be performed by the customer.



Matrix Marking Settings

Thousands of items can be arranged in a batch marking layout for optimum marking of products in a palette. This software also links easily with a vision system in order to turn on and off individual target positions and adjust the X/Y/Theta position of individual targets.



Custom Software Example

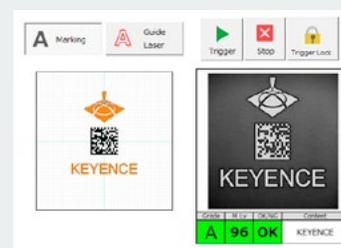
Traceability System

When marking is complete, a record that includes the date, marking content, OK/NG judgment, grade, and an image of the marking is automatically stored.

No	Date	Marking Content	Judgment	Image
1	20XX0401	ABC0001	OK	20XX0401001.bmp
2	20XX0401	ABC0002	OK	20XX0401002.bmp
3	20XX0401	ABC0003	NG	20XX0401003.bmp

⋮

1. Marking preview
2. Marking start/stop buttons
3. Marking image display



Marking Examples by Industry

Automotive Industry



Cation-painted parts
Cation painting



Multicolor automotive relays
PBT



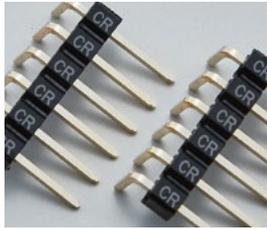
ECU PCBs
Glass epoxy



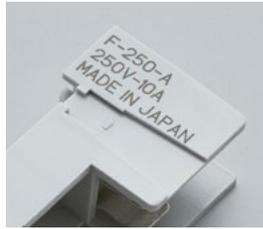
In-vehicle plastic parts
Polyamide (PA)



Switch covers
Polypropylene (PP)



Terminals
Liquid-crystal polymer (LCP)



Fuse holders
PBT



Windows
Glass

Electronics Industry



Earbuds
PVC



Terminal block
Polycarbonate (PC)



Wafers
Silicon



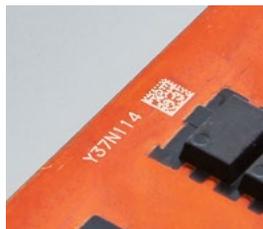
Crystal oscillators
Nickel plating



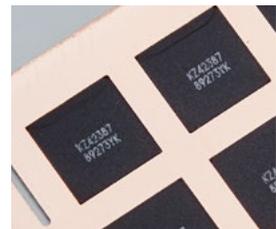
Transparent case
Polycarbonate (PC)



LED lights
ABS



Lead frames
Copper



IC packages
Epoxy

Medical/Pharmaceutical Industry



Magnifying glasses

ABS



Masks

Nonwoven fabric (PP/PE)



Electric toothbrushes

ABS



Tablets



Medical tubing

Silicone



Medicine bottles

HDPE



Steel instruments

Stainless steel



Protective eyewear

Polycarbonate (PC)

Foods, Cosmetics, Etc.



Cosmetic bottles

PET



Detergent caps

Polypropylene (PP)



Toothpaste tubes

Polyethylene (PE)



Desiccant

Nonwoven fabric (PET)



Mint cases

ABS



Cartons

Paper



Food packaging film

Polyethylene (PE)



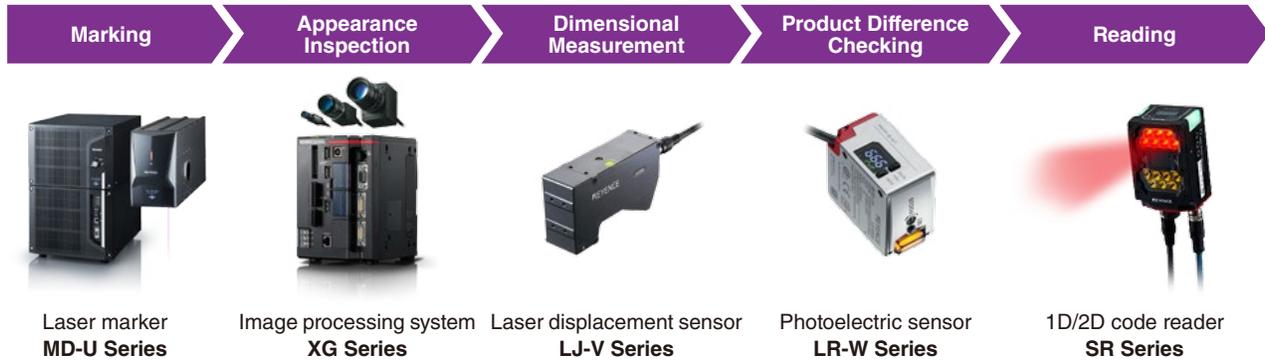
Bottle caps

Polypropylene (PP)

Full Traceability Solution Provider

Single-source company for marking, reading, and inspection

With a wide range of products—from laser markers to code readers, inspection devices, and sensors — KEYENCE is able to provide various equipment required for traceability solutions. Our systems have been adopted in locations throughout the world.



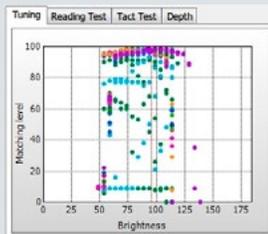
Code Reader

Dealing with Difficult-to-Read Targets

When working with targets that are difficult to read, readability can be improved through use of the SR Series.

Automatic Tuning Function

A variety of setting combinations—including image processing filters and brightness—are analyzed to automatically derive the optimum setting configuration.



Code Verification Function

The Code Verification function enables not only code readability but also grade judgment according to a variety of standards.

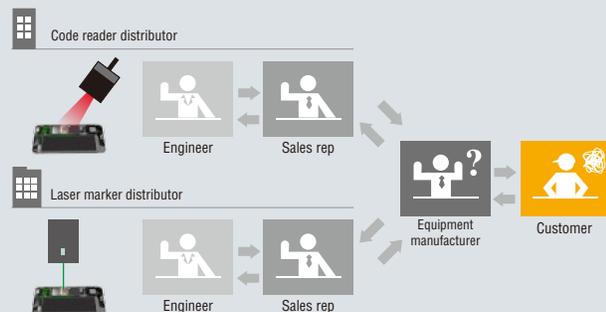


One Supplier

Single-Manufacturer Support

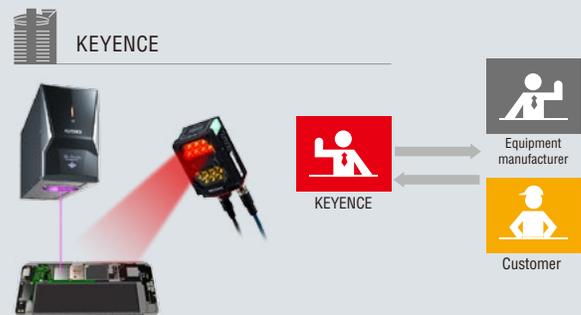
Using laser markers and readers made by the same manufacturer results in smoother adjustments before and after installation.

Support systems of other companies

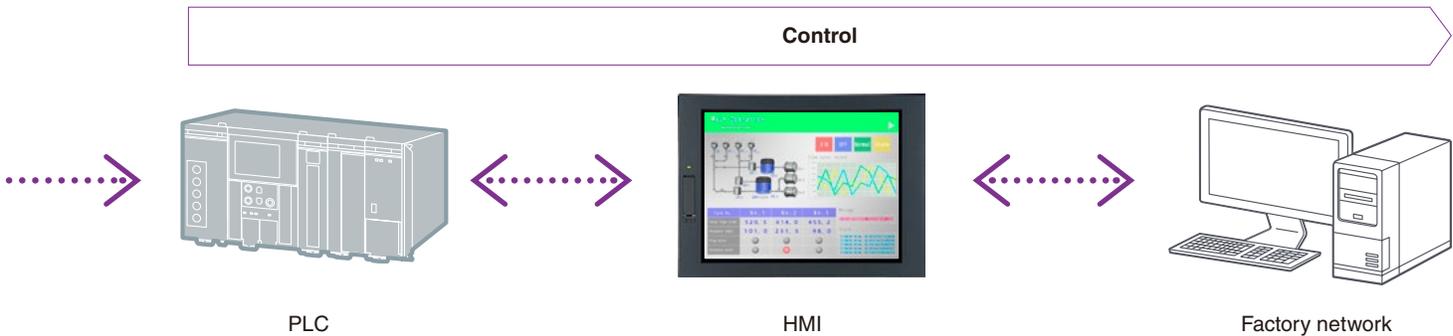


Communication and resolutions between manufacturers take time.

KEYENCE's support system



KEYENCE handles support for both laser markers and barcode readers.



Communication

Equipped with Industrial Protocols

The MD-U Series supports both EtherNet/IP™ and PROFINET communication protocols. These networks provide a variety of advantages including the need for only one LAN cable for connection and real-time equipment management.



Global Support

One-Click Language Switching

With the Marking Builder 3 laser marker configuration software, switching languages is as easy as selecting the language from a pull-down menu. With nine languages available, configuration is easy regardless of who is using the software.



Support on a Local and National Level

Since KEYENCE is a direct sales manufacturer, customers are able to receive responses to inquiries in a very short time.

