

Technical Note – Graphtec FC7000/8000

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Patch900-Graphtec.calpatch brings few enhancements and fixes for Graphtec FC7000 & FC8000 cutters.

Changelog

- Added support for ethernet connection (FC8000 only). Select “RawIP” as connection type and set the IP address.
- When cutting smaller images featuring only 4 corner registration marks, all 4 marks are now scanned, not only 3 as previously.
- The driver now checks the cutter status before sending the data, so the cutting process does not start in case of registration mark scan error, or if no media is loaded.
- No need to restart the VisualCut GUI if the cutter has been restarted, or if any error appears.
- The driver will change some important cutter parameters, such as the command mode (GP-GL) and the step size (according to the value in VisualCut settings)

Recommendations and limitations

- Although the driver changes the Command Mode parameter to GP-GL, it is recommended to change this parameter manually. When set to HP-GL value, you might see some errors on the cutter panel (“HPGL Instruction not recognized”) the first time you will use the cutter with Caldera.
- We noticed that using USB connection on Mac computers could be slower than on Linux. There is up to 15 seconds delay when connecting to the cutter and you might observe some delays between the mark scan and the cutting process.
- RawIP (ethernet) connection could be somehow less stable than USB and serial connection (all platforms). Especially when starting a cut process with the cutter not ready (media not loaded, or cutter panel browsing in the menu), the cutter could stop responding to any command and it has to be restarted to recover the communication. Restarting the GUI does not help.
- When using RawIP connection, you should not connect more than one VisualCut to the same cutter. The cutter could stop responding to both GUIs and must be restarted.
- The patch was tested on a FC8000 featuring the 2.90 firmware.