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POINT OF SALE SUPERSTORE

## Symbol LS9208 Review

**Product:** LS9208

**Manufacturer:** Symbol

**Type:** Multiline Omnidirectional Raster and Single Line Mode

**Support:** 30 month warranty from Symbol, lifetime support from POSGuys.com

The [LS9208](#) is the premier omnidirectional barcode scanner from Symbol.

### Typical uses and environments:

The Symbol LS9208 finds itself most at home in high-volume retail and grocery environments. The omnidirectional scan pattern's robustness is increased with the use of a rasterizing scan pattern, enhancing the reliability when scanning damaged or difficult to read barcodes.

### Unique Features & Advantages:

The standard rasterizing scan pattern provides the LS9208 with the ability to read even damaged, worn, or dirty barcodes, providing a great unique feature for retail locations that may receive barcodes in less than stellar condition. A button on the side allows the LS9208 to toggle to a secondary, non-autosense single line mode, creating ease of scanning when reading barcodes in a tightly packed area.

The interface cable release is located on the bottom of the LS9208 and only requires thumb pressure to free the cable. This allows for much easier replacement of scanners or cabling, minimizing downtime as a result of equipment malfunction during work hours.

### Standard Features:

The LS9208 comes with an interface cable and adjustable base out of the box. Once plugged in, the unit is ready to scan barcodes, making for an easy plug-and-play experience. A green LED on the top of the unit illuminates when powered up and flashes upon successful scans.

If the device needs to be used in hand-held mode, the LS9208 features slightly indented sides that have a texture for ease of handling. Though the device is wider than a traditional hand-held scanner, it can still easily be held for the occasional scan of products too big to scan in hands-free mode. Once in hands-free mode, the adjustable base allows for tilting of the LS9208, putting the scan pattern in the most appropriate location for your needs.

### Performance Testing:

In determining the scanning prowess of the Symbol LS9208, we ran it through a series of tests designed to show the optimal scan range, ability to scan dense, wide, and damaged barcodes, as well as determine its resistance to light. Our testing showed that, while the scanner does have some limitations, it covers the standard range of retail-based barcodes. We also determined the scanner to exceed the class in some features, creating a unique solution for many point of sale locations.

The optimal scan range for the LS9208 is from contact to 12" away, providing a standard distance for scanning items in a grocery or retail environment. The rasterizing scan pattern allowed the unit to scan all but one of our worn barcodes properly, making it ideal for locations that may receive damage barcodes, such as nurseries or hardware stores.

Laser barcode scanners tend to have problems with bright light; however the LS9208 really outperforms the competition in these situations. The scan engine in the LS9208 is



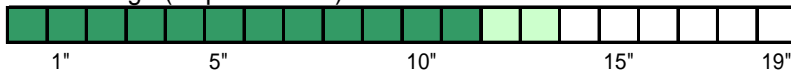
fully immune to the effects of light, allowing it to perform in full daylight or even with our portable light source nearly touching the barcode. This allows the scanner to work properly in locations that may get a lot of evening or morning light streaming directly into the scanning path.

Wide barcodes gave our LS9208 the most trouble, causing it to fall short of the average scanner in its class. This occurs because in order to cover the width of the barcode with the beam, the scanner will be outside of the optimal scan range. Our LS9208 had problems with barcodes over 5 inches wide, either by density (27mil) or by raw data encoded (about 45 characters encoded). Fortunately, these barcodes tend to be far wider than those encountered in a standard retail or grocery environment.

A breakdown of the Symbol LS9208 capabilities is listed in table and graph form below.

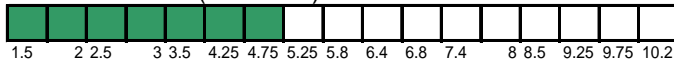
## Scanner Performance Testing

### Scan Range (Depth of Field)



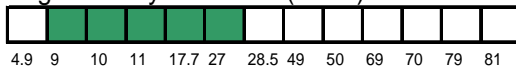
Standard Scan Range  
for retail environments

### Wide Barcodes (In Inches)



Average range for retail  
environments

### High Density Barcodes (In Mil)



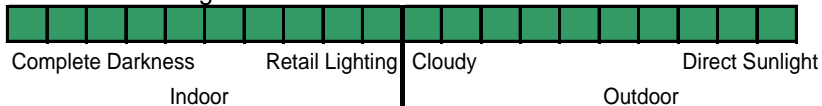
Below average range compared  
to class; standard retail densities within range

### Poor Quality Barcodes\*



Could read almost every damaged  
barcode. Excellent for retail/grocery use

### Resistance to Light



Fully Immune to Light

## 1D Results

Highest Density Barcode Scanned	9 mil	Average
Widest Barcode Scanned	133.35mm	Average
Shortest Barcode Scanned	38 mm	Good
Range Ideal Conditions (Standard 100% UPC-A)	Contact – 12 inches	Good
Scratched Barcode	3 of 3	Good
Worn Barcode	2 of 3	Good
Warped Barcode	2 of 2	Good
Curved Barcode	2 of 2	Good
Multiple Barcodes in close proximity	Relatively accurate, but dependent on distribution of barcodes relative to thickness of beam	Average

Scan through plastic layers	2 Layers	Good
Multicolored Barcodes Successfully Scanned	Blue, Grey	Good
Multicolored Barcodes Not Scanned	Red, Yellow, Black on Dark Grey	Average
Simulated Sunlight Test	Full light immunity	Excellent




**Conclusion:**

The Symbol LS9208 omnidirectional scanner provides a tremendous amount of features for high-volume retail or grocery environments. Though it has difficulties with wide barcodes, it should be able to scan nearly every barcode one would encounter in a standard retail environment.

To Purchase this product, go to the [Symbol LS9208](#) page.

To see our complete line of barcode scanners, visit our [Barcode Scanners](#) section.

For Additional Reviews, visit our [Product Reviews](#) page.

Other Symbol Products	Ideal Setting	Description
 <a href="#">LS9203</a>	Grocery, high volume retail	Lower-cost counterpart to LS9208, also light immune. Only features one scan mode and lacks adjustable-tilt base
 <a href="#">LS9208</a>	Grocery, high volume retail	Two scan modes, adjustable-tilt base, light immune.
 <a href="#">LS7708</a>	Grocery, high volume retail	Stationary scanner, designed for high first-pass read rate

[POSGuys.com - your single source for barcode scanners, pos software and pos equipment.](#)

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