

Futura Auto FAQ's

FAQ's:

Q. What is the difference between the Futura Auto and the Futura PRO?

A. *The Futura Auto is built on the same platform as the Futura PRO and operates in a similar manner. The Futura AUTO has one cutting station with two clamps. One for edge cut and one for Laser keys. The database only includes automotive cards and codes (including motorcycles and trucks). With optional accessories, the Futura AUTO also has the capability to cut Tibbe® type keys for Ford® applications, Tubular keys for Harley Davidson® applications.*

Q. Will the accessories I purchased for the original Futura or Futura PRO work with the Futura Auto?

A. *The optional 02R clamp for Tubular keys and the optional 03R clamp for Tibbe keys can be used on the Futura Auto. The laser and dimple cutters for the Futura Auto are the same as those for the other Futura models. The 12L cutter for edge-cut keys is new and is only used for the Futura Auto.*

Q. Will I need to change jaws/clamps in order to cut different types of keys?

A. *The Futura Auto has one cutting station and two standard clamps. The 01RA clamp, equipped with 106 and 107 jaws, is dedicated for clamping most laser keys currently on the market. The 01VA clamp, for cutting flat vehicle keys, has four jaw positions (easy-rotation system) to ensure stability and lack of vibration when cutting flat vehicle keys.*

Optional clamps that are available to further expand the Futura Auto's capabilities:

02R Clamp used for Tubular keys on Harley Davidson® motorcycles

03R Clamp used for Ford® Tibbe FO21 keys

Q. When changing clamps will the Futura Auto require re-calibrating?

A. *Both clamps are calibrated at the factory and should not need to be calibrated prior to use. Any other optional clamps (mentioned above) would need to be calibrated to the machine prior to being used. Once they have been calibrated the machine's memory will store calibrations for future use.*

Q. Will I need to change cutters in order to cut different keys?

A. *The cutters included with the Futura Auto are shown below. Some internal track laser keys will require a cutter with a smaller diameter. The software indicates the proper cutter to use based on the key being cut.*

01LW is used to cut most laser cut keys in the North American market

02LW is used for Chrysler®/Fiat® applications

06LW is used for Toyota®/Lexus® 80000 code series

12L is used for all edge-cut applications

Q. Will I need to calibrate the cutters every time they are changed?

A. *Like all of the Futura family of machines, the cutters are automatically calibrated every time you cut a key. There is no need to manually calibrate each cutter.*

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Q. How often does the machine need to be calibrated?

A. Like any machine, it is recommended to calibrate the machine on a regular basis. How often you calibrate the machine will depend on where the machine is located (i.e. mobile van or shop bench) and how many keys are cut in a typical week/month. The calibration is software guided and very easy to perform. It is recommended that you do a complete machine calibration at least once per month to ensure that the machine is functioning at peak performance.

Q. Will the Futura Auto operate without a Wi-Fi connection?

A. The Futura line of machines create their own Wi-Fi signal so the machine is not reliant on an external Wi-Fi signal to operate. The Wi-Fi signal from the machine is only for communication between the tablet and the machine and does not provide access to the World Wide Web.

The Futura Auto can be set up in one of four operating modes.

1.ACCESS POINT through the machines Wi-Fi (factory configuration)

2.Ethernet with connection to LAN and router (to connect the machine to the internet)

3.Tethering USB (for connecting tablet and machine via cable) Local Network (LAN) (to connect the machine to the internet)

Q. Should I register my machine as soon as I receive it?

A. To update the software on any of the Futura machines you must first register the machine with the SILCA WEB FUTURA server. It is recommended that you register the machine and update the software before operating it to ensure that you have the latest firmware and software available for the machine. If you do not register the machine when you receive it, you will be required to register the machine after cutting at least 50 keys. If you do not register the machine you will receive a message every time the machine is started. If the machine is not registered it will not be possible to download firmware or software updates.

Q. How do I register my machine?

A. There are four ways to register:

1.Through the machine with access to the internet (Local Network or LAN mode)

2.Futura PRO ONE tablet with access to the internet

3.Using the Silca Remote Service (SRS) program

4.Using a browser on a PC/Tablet connected to the internet.

Q. How often will software updates be required?

A. Updates would be required if a new key or code series is introduced to the market that is not currently on the database loaded in the program or if a change is made in the operating software. Silca normally provides updates on a quarterly basis to add any new lock systems or code series to the database.

Q. How much will the updates cost?

A. Firmware updates are always free. Software updates are free for the first six months. After six months you must purchase a Software Subscription to access any new code series or cards that are added to the database. Software subscriptions are available for 1, 3, 5, and 10-year terms. Software subscriptions expire on December 31st each year regardless of when purchased. For example, if you purchase a 1-year subscription on June 30, it will expire on December 31 of the year purchased. It is best to purchase your subscriptions early in the calendar year.

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When it comes to quality key cutting machines & programmers, Ilco is the brand you can depend on.