



# Barcode Reader F.A.Q.



### Why should I use a barcode reader?

Barcodes can speed up member check-in and reduce errors when entering data. Employee time previously occupied by checking-in members can be used for training members, signing up new members or maintaining your facility. Automation (unattended check-in) projects a more professional image for your club.

### How do barcodes work in Gym Assistant?

Each member record contains two numbers. The **membership number** is a permanent number to identify that member in Gym Assistant. The **barcode number** is an optional number that can be used to locate a member's record. When Gym Assistant receives a number as input, it checks to see if that number is either a membership number or barcode number for any member. If so, then it checks in the member and updates the screen display.

### Does Bio-Logic provide all the pieces I need to use a barcode reader with Gym Assistant?

Yes. The Barcode Reader Bundle includes a slot barcode reader and GateKeeper software (see below for a description of GateKeeper). You can also purchase barcode key tags direct from Bio-Logic.

### Barcode reader interface: Serial vs. Keyboard

Many computer applications, such as retail point-of-sale, use barcodes as a way to speed up data entry. Any information on the barcode is simply entered into the computer as if it had been typed at the keyboard. This is called a **keyboard interface** barcode reader. One disadvantage of a keyboard interface barcode reader is that the computer must always be able to accept input from the barcode. If another program is being used, or the keyboard input is currently in another field, then the keyboard data will be ignored.

Gym Assistant works best with a **serial interface** barcode reader, which also requires our GateKeeper software. (GateKeeper software is usually bundled with the barcode reader that you purchase from Gym Assistant.) The serial interface barcode reader sends the barcode information into the computer's serial port. GateKeeper constantly monitors the serial port and handles each barcode swipes automatically. If the member is up-to-date, then the computer will make a pleasant "ping" sound. If the member is delinquent or inactive, then Gym Assistant will make a "buzz" sound. In either case, GateKeeper will signal Gym Assistant to display the member's information.

### What is GateKeeper? And why do I need GateKeeper?

GateKeeper allows member check-in when Gym Assistant may be otherwise occupied. With a barcode reader, GateKeeper monitors input from the reader and automatically passes the information to Gym Assistant.

### Can I use the barcode scanner that I already have?

In general, yes you can use a pre-existing barcode reader. However, most barcode readers interface through your computer's keyboard port and so will not permit truly unattended check-in. (See *Barcode reader interface: Serial vs. Keyboard*, above).

### Can members swipe their own cards?

Yes. When using the barcode slot reader and bundled GateKeeper software from Bio-Logic, members can swipe their own cards to gain entry to your club without any assistance from the front-desk worker.

### Can Gym Assistant control a turnstile or electronic door?

Yes. Please call Bio-Logic for more information about interfacing with electronic turnstiles.

### Where do I get the barcodes?

You have a couple of options:

- You can purchase pre-printed barcode labels from Bio-Logic. Many clubs like this option because the labels can be affixed to a member's drivers license. Club managers like this option because it is very inexpensive and because a member is much less likely to loan out a drivers license than a membership card. Members like this option because they don't have to carry an extra card.
- You can your own print membership cards from within Gym Assistant. This option, however, requires that you purchase special paper stock, and we recommend also purchasing a small laminating machine.
- You can purchase pre-printed plastic key tags. Many companies charge a premium for orders under 2500 cards, but Bio-Logic can provide generic keytags in lots as small as 100.

### Generic Keytags (with Gym Assistant logo)

Qty	Price/Tag	Total
100	0.50	\$50
500	0.40	\$200
1000	0.35	\$350

### Custom Keytags (with your company logo)

- Allow 3-4 weeks for delivery
- Front side has your company logo (single-color or multiple-colors on white background)
- Back side has up to 3 lines of text (black on white background)
- Tags are 2-5/8" x 1-1/8".

### Single Color

Qty	Price/Tag	Total
500	0.70	\$350
1000	0.50	\$500
2500	0.36	\$900

### Multiple Color

Qty	Price/Tag	Total
500	0.90	\$450
1000	0.70	\$700
2500	0.56	\$1400

