

# P-touch

## 1250

# USER'S GUIDE



**TZ**  
TAPE

At your side.

# brother

®

LA3333001  
Printed in China

**Declaration of Conformity**

We Brother International Europe Ltd. Brother House 1, Tame Street Audenshaw Manchester M34 5JF U.K. declare that the Labelling System PT-1250 conforms with the following normative documents:

EMC: EN 55022 1998 Class B EN 55024 1998 EN 61000-3-2 1995 EN 61000-3-3 1995

and follows the provisions of the Electromagnetic Compatibility Directive 89/336/EEC (as amended by 91/263/EEC and 92/31/EEC). The optional AC adapter, as supplied for this system, conforms with EN 60950 and follows the provisions of the Low Voltage Directive 73/23/EEC.

Issued by: BIE Ltd. European Development and Technical Services Division

With your new P-Touch 1250, you can create labels for any application. Select from the many frames, character sizes and styles to design beautiful custom labels. In addition, the variety of tape cartridges available allows you to print labels with different widths and exciting colours. You no longer have to worry about urgent tasks that require professional printing. In the office, the factory, the lab or the home, the quality and performance of the P-Touch 1250 make it an extremely practical machine. Although this machine is easy to use, we suggest that you read this manual carefully before starting and keep the manual in a handy place for future reference.

## GENERAL PRECAUTIONS

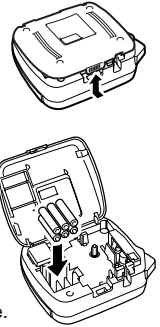
- Use only Brother TZ tapes with this machine. Do not use tapes that do not have the **TZ** mark.
- Tapes are available in three different widths: 6 mm, 9 mm and 12 mm.
- Do not pull the tape since this may damage the tape cassettes.
- Do not attempt to cut the tape while printing or feeding since this will damage the tape.
- Do not clean the machine with alcohol or other organic solvents. Use only a soft, dry cloth.
- Remove the batteries and disconnect the AC adapter if you do not intend to use the machine for an extended period of time.
- **Note:** If power is disconnected for more than three minutes, all text shown in the display and any text files stored in the memory will be lost.
- Do not put any foreign objects into or anything on the machine.
- Do not expose the machine to high temperatures or high humidity. Never leave it on the dashboard or in the back of your car.
- Do not use the machine in dusty places, and keep it out of both direct sunlight and rain.
- Do not leave any rubber or vinyl on the machine for an extended period of time. Doing so may cause staining.
- After inserting a new tape cassette, advance the tape by holding down **Code** and pressing **Print** once.
- Do not touch the print head mechanism. If the head is touched, clean it immediately with a soft wipe (e.g., a cotton swab) to avoid permanent damage.
- To avoid injuries, do not touch the cutter's edge.
- **Use only the AC adapter designed exclusively for this machine. Use of any other adapter will void the warranty. Please contact your Brother dealer for details.**

## POWER SUPPLY

### Batteries

Since this machine is compact and portable, it can be used anywhere by installing six AAA alkaline batteries (LR03). When changing the batteries, always replace all six at the same time.

- 1 Press in on the rough area at the top end of the machine and fold open the back cover.
  - 2 If batteries are already installed, remove the tape cassette (if one is installed) by pulling it straight out, and then remove the batteries.
  - 3 Insert the batteries into the battery compartment with the positive end of the bottom three batteries pointing toward the top end of the machine, and the positive end of the top three batteries pointing in the opposite direction.
- Note:** When replacing the batteries, insert the new ones within three minutes of removing the old ones, otherwise all text shown in the display and any text files stored in the memory will be lost (unless the machine is plugged into an outlet with the AC adapter).

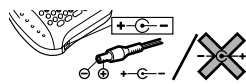


- 4 Securely close the back cover, making sure that it snaps into place.

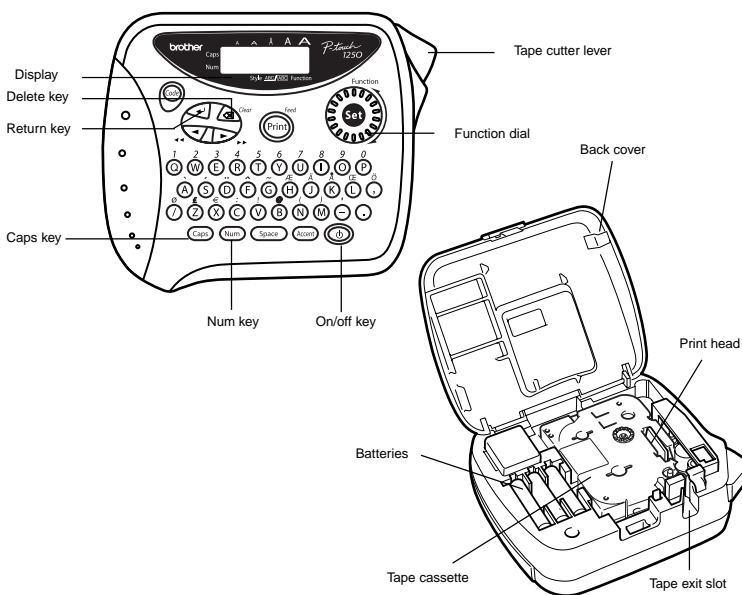
### Optional AC adapter

The AC adapter allows you to use this machine wherever an electrical outlet is available.

- 1 Insert the plug on the adapter cord into the adapter jack on the bottom end of the machine.
- 2 Insert the plug into the nearest standard electrical outlet.



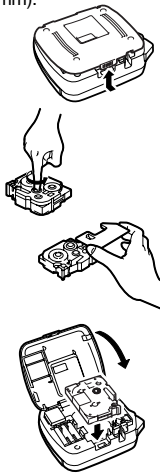
## OVERVIEW



## TAPE CASSETTES

A TZ tape cassette is supplied with this unit. The Brother TZ tapes used with this machine are available in a variety of colours and three tape widths (6 mm, 9 mm and 12 mm).

- 1 Press in on the rough area at the top end of the machine and fold open the back cover.
- 2 If a tape cassette is already installed, remove it by pulling it straight up.
- 3 If the ink ribbon in the other tape cassette is loose, use your finger to wind the toothed wheel in the direction of the arrow on the cassette until there is no slack in the ribbon. Also, make sure that the end of the tape feeds under the tape guides.
- 4 Insert the tape cassette firmly into the compartment, making sure that the entire back of the cassette contacts the bottom of the compartment.
- 5 Securely close the back cover, making sure that it snaps into place.
- 6 Feed the tape by holding down **Code** and pressing **Print** once, and then push in the tape cutter lever to cut the tape.



## STARTING

Press **On/Off**. If batteries have been installed or the machine has been plugged in using the optional AC adapter, the previous session's information is displayed when the machine is turned on. This feature allows you to stop work on a label and turn off the machine, then return to it later without having to re-enter the text.

The machine automatically turns off if no key is pressed within five minutes. The current session's information is stored in the machine's internal memory and displayed when the machine is later turned on again.

## CODE KEY

By holding down **Code** and pressing a key with a function, character or accent written in yellow above it, you can use the corresponding function or add the corresponding character to your text.

## CAPS KEY

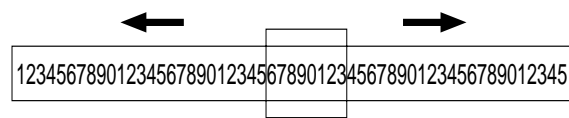
By pressing **Caps** to enter **Caps** mode, you can add upper-case letters to your text by simply pressing the character keys. When this mode is on, the **Caps** indicator in the top-left corner of the display comes on. To exit **Caps** mode, press **Caps** until the **Caps** indicator goes off.

## NUM KEY

By pressing **Num** to enter **Num** mode, you can add numbers to your text by simply pressing the corresponding keys. When this mode is on, the **Num** indicator in the bottom-left corner of the display comes on. To exit **Num** mode, press **Num** until the **Num** indicator goes off.

## DISPLAY

This machine's LCD shows one row of 8 characters; however, the text that you enter can be up to 55 characters in length. The 8-character display is like a window which moves across the text.



## CURSOR MOVEMENT

You can view and edit different parts of the text by moving the cursor backward and forward.

- To move the cursor one character at a time, press **Left Arrow** or **Right Arrow**.
- To move the cursor to the beginning of the text, hold down **Code** and press **Left Arrow**.
- To move the cursor to the end of the text, hold down **Code** and press **Right Arrow**.

## DELETE KEY

This key can be used to remove characters from your text, clear all of the text or cancel functions.

- To delete the character to the left of the cursor or to cancel a function (instead of pressing **Left Arrow**), press **Clear**.
- To clear all of the text that is currently entered, hold down **Code** and press **Clear**.

## SPACE KEY

As on a word processor, press **Space** to add a blank space to your text.

## RETURN KEY

Press **Return** when you wish to select a setting, or end the first line of text and start the second.

- To add a second line, press **Return** once. The return mark (↵) appears in the text to indicate the end of the first line and the beginning of the second.
- **Note:** Two lines of text can only be entered if 9- or 12-mm-wide tape is installed.
- To select an item from a list, press **Return** once.

## COMPOSITE CHARACTERS

You can add composite characters, which consist of a letter and a diacritical mark (´, `; ¨, ^, and ~).

Diacritical mark	Letters which can be combined
´	A E I O U a e i o u
`	A E I O U a e i o u
¨	A E I O U a e i o u y
^	A E I O U a e i o u
~	A N O a n o

- 1 Hold down **Code** and press the key of the diacritical mark that you want to enter.
- 2 Press **Caps** if you want the accented character to be an uppercase letter.
- 3 Press the key of the letter that you wish to combine with the diacritical mark. The letter and diacritical mark are added to the text.

## ACCENTED CHARACTERS

You can also choose from a list of other accented characters that can be added to your text.

Letter	Accented character	Letter	Accented character
A	Á Â Ã Ä Å Æ	a	á â ã ä å æ
C	Ç	c	ç
E	É Ê Ë	e	é ê ë
I	Í Î Ï	i	í î ï
N	Ñ	n	ñ
O	Ó Ô Õ Ö Ø Æ	o	ó ô õ ö ø æ
U	Ú Û Ü	u	ú û ü
		y	ÿ

- 1 Press **Caps** if you want the accented character to be an uppercase letter.
  - **Note:** To quit the following procedure at any time without making any changes, press **Clear**.
  - 2 Press **Accent**. The message "A-Y?" appears in the display.
  - 3 Turn the **Function** dial until the cursor is positioned under the desired accented character.
- OR**
- Press the key for the letter in the accented character that you wish to add, and then press **Left Arrow** and **Right Arrow** until the cursor is positioned under the desired accented character.
- 4 Press the **Function** dial (or **Left Arrow**) to add the selected character to your text.

## SYMBOLS

In addition to the letters, symbols, and numerals on and above the keys, there are 75 symbols available with the **Symbol** function. These symbols are divided into 10 groups, corresponding to the letters A through J.

Group	Symbols
A	+ ± × = \ [ ]
B	< > << >> · ? ¿ ¡
C	: ; " & # \$ * %
D	← → ↻ ↺ ↻ ↻ ↻ ↻ ↻ ↻ ↻
E	* → ↑ ↓ \$ £ DM Fr
F	ij ° % ★ † ‡ † † † † † †
G	☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎
H	☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎
I	↓ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎
J	☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

- Note:**
- The use of certain symbols may be governed by local, national or European regulation. Therefore, check that any symbol printed conforms to these regulations before it is used.
  - To quit the following procedure at any time without making any changes, press **Clear**.
- 1 Turn the **Function** dial until **SYMBOL** is displayed, and then press the **Function** dial (or **Left Arrow**). The message "A-J?" appears in the display.
  - 2 Turn the **Function** dial until the cursor is positioned under the desired symbol.
- OR**
- Press the key for the letter of the group containing the symbol that you wish to add, and then press **Left Arrow** and **Right Arrow** until the cursor is positioned under the desired symbol.
- 3 Press the **Function** dial (or **Left Arrow**) to add the symbol to the text.

# INTRODUCTION






## SIZE

The characters in the text can be set to one of five different sizes in addition to **AUTO**, which automatically adjusts the characters to the largest possible size according to the width of the installed tape. The currently selected size setting is shown by the indicators at the top of the display. In addition, all of the indicators light up when the **AUTO** setting is selected.

<b>SIZE1</b> (A: standard size)	<b>SIZE2</b> (A: double width)	<b>SIZE3</b> (A: double height)
J.SMITH	J.SMITH	J.SMITH

<b>SIZE4</b> (A: double width & double height)	<b>SIZE5</b> (A: 4x width & double height)
J.SMITH	J.SMITH

**Note:**






- If there are two lines of text, they are printed with the **SIZE1** setting applied, regardless of the selected size setting.
  - To quit the following procedure at any time without making any changes, press .
- Turn the **Function** dial until **SIZE** is displayed, and then press the **Function** dial (or ). The current size setting appears in the display.
  - Turn the **Function** dial (or press  and ) until the desired size setting is displayed.
  - Press the **Function** dial (or ) to apply the selected size setting to the text.

## STYLE


You can also use one of nine different print styles for the characters in your label. If a setting other than **NORMAL** is selected, the **Style** indicator at the bottom of the display lights up.

<b>NORMAL</b>	<b>OUTLINE</b>	<b>BOLD</b>
J.SMITH	J.SMITH	J.SMITH
<b>SHADOW</b>	<b>ITALIC</b>	<b>I+OUTL</b> (italic + outline)
J.SMITH	J.SMITH	J.SMITH
<b>I+BOLD</b> (italic + bold)	<b>I+SHADOW</b> (italic + shadow)	<b>VERTICAL</b>
J.SMITH	J.SMITH	ㄋ · 0 Σ − 1 E

**Note:**






- If there are two lines of text, they are printed in the **NORMAL** style, regardless of the selected style setting.
  - To quit the following procedure at any time without making any changes, press .
- Turn the **Function** dial until **STYLE** is displayed, and then press the **Function** dial (or ). The current style setting appears in the display.
  - Turn the **Function** dial (or press  and ) until the desired style setting is displayed.
  - Press the **Function** dial (or ) to apply the selected style setting to the text.

## UNDERLINE/FRAME

This option allows you to emphasize or decorate your entire text by framing or underlining it. If any setting other than **OFF** is selected, the  indicator at the bottom of the display lights up.

<b>OFF</b> (no underline or frame)	<b>ROUND</b>	<b>BANNER</b>
ABC	ABC	ABC
<b>WOODEN</b>	<b>VINE</b>	<b>UNDL</b> (underline)
ABC	ABC	ABC






**Note:**

- The underline or frame is not printed if the **VERTICAL** style setting is used.
  - To quit the following procedure at any time without making any changes, press .
- Turn the **Function** dial until **UNDL/FRM** is displayed, and then press the **Function** dial (or ). The current underline/frame setting appears in the display.
  - Turn the **Function** dial (or press  and ) until the desired underline/frame setting is displayed.
  - Press the **Function** dial (or ) to apply the selected underline/frame setting to the text.

## MIRROR PRINTING

This function prints your label so that the text can be read from the adhesive side of the tape. If mirror-printed labels are attached to glass or some other transparent material, they can be read correctly from the opposite side.







**Note:**

- With this function, the text must be printed on transparent tape.
  - To quit the following procedure at any time without making any changes, press .
- Turn the **Function** dial until **MIRROR** is displayed, and then press the **Function** dial (or ). The current mirror printing setting appears in the display.
  - Turn the **Function** dial (or press  and ) until the desired mirror printing setting is displayed.
  - Press the **Function** dial (or ) to apply the selected mirror printing setting to the text.

## TAPE MARGIN




This function can be used to leave equal margins of 4 mm (**#**), 12 mm (**##**) or 24 mm (**###**) on both sides of the text. Using the – tape margin setting, multiple formats can be printed, one after the other without feeding the tape, onto a single label.

**Note:** To quit the following procedure at any time without making any changes, press .

- Turn the **Function** dial until **TAPE** is displayed, and then press the **Function** dial (or ). The current tape margin setting appears in the display.
  - Turn the **Function** dial (or press  and ) until the desired tape margin setting is displayed.
  - Press the **Function** dial (or ) to apply the selected tape margin setting to the text.
- Note:**
- After printing with the – tape margin setting, hold down  and press  once to feed the tape before pushing in the tape cutter lever to cut it, otherwise some of the printed characters may be cut off.
  - After printing with the **#** or **##** tape margin setting, push in the tape cutter lever to cut off the label, and then use scissors to cut along the printed dots (:) and centre the text within the label.


## PRINTING & CUTTING








After you have entered the text and chosen the desired format settings, you are ready to print the label.

- To print the label, press . The message “PRINT” is displayed while the label is being printed, and the label comes out of the tape exit slot at the top end of the machine.
  - To feed out 25 mm of tape (for example, after printing using the – tape margin setting), hold down  and press  once. The message “FEED” is displayed while the tape is fed out.
  - To cut off the label, push in the tape cutter lever in the top-right corner of the machine.
- Note:**
- In order to prevent damage to the tape, do not try to cut it while the messages “PRINT” or “FEED” are displayed.
  - After printing with the **#** or **##** tape margin setting, push in the tape cutter lever to cut off the label, and then use scissors to cut along the printed dots (:) and centre the text within the label.

## REPEAT PRINTING


This function allows you to print up to nine copies of the same label.




**Note:** To quit the following procedure at any time without making any changes, press .



- Turn the **Function** dial until **REPEAT** is displayed, and then press the **Function** dial (or ). The message “1-9?” appears in the display.
  - Turn the **Function** dial (or press  and ) until the number of labels that you want to print appears on the right side of the display.
- OR**
- Press the key (1-9) corresponding to the number of labels that you want to print.
- Press the **Function** dial (or  or ) to print the labels.
- Note:**
- After printing with the – tape margin setting, hold down  and press  once to feed the tape before pushing in the tape cutter lever to cut it.
  - After printing with the **#**, **##** or **###** tape margin setting, push in the tape cutter lever to cut off the tape, and then use scissors to cut along the printed dots (:) and separate the labels.

## NUMBERING



This function can be used to print many copies of the same text while increasing a selected number by 1 after each label is printed, for example, when printing labels containing a serial number (for example, 0123, 0124, and 0125).

**Note:** To quit the following procedure at any time without making any changes, press .



- Position the cursor below the number that you wish to increase.
  - Turn the **Function** dial until **NUMBER** is displayed, and then press the **Function** dial (or ). The message “1-9?” appears in the display.
  - Turn the **Function** dial (or press  and ) until the last number that you want to print appears on the right side of the display.
- OR**
- Press the key (1-9) corresponding to the last number that you want to print.
- Note:** The last number that will be printed must be larger than the number selected in the text, otherwise the message “ERROR” will appear when you try to print.

- Press the **Function** dial (or  or ) to print the labels.


**Note:**











- After printing with the – tape margin setting, hold down  and press  once to feed the tape before pushing in the tape cutter lever to cut it.
- After printing with the **#**, **##** or **###** tape margin setting, push in the tape cutter lever to cut off the tape, and then use scissors to cut along the printed dots (:) and separate the labels.

## MEMORY


You can use the memory to store your most frequently used text. The text file remains in the memory, even after all characters are removed from the display by holding down  and pressing . Later, the text can easily be reused by recalling it from the memory. The machine’s memory can store up to 300 characters, which can be divided into as many as nine text files. The maximum capacity for a single text file is 55 characters.








## STORING TEXT

**Note:** To quit the following procedure at any time without making any changes, press .


- Turn the **Function** dial until **MEMORY** is displayed, and then press the **Function** dial (or press ).
  - Turn the **Function** dial (or press  and ) until **STORE** is displayed, and then press the **Function** dial (or ). The message “1-9?” appears in the display.
  - Turn the **Function** dial (or press  and ) until the file number where you want to store the text is displayed.
- OR**
- Press the key (1-9) corresponding to the file number where you want to store the text.
- Press the **Function** dial (or ) to store the text. The text previously shown in the display reappears.
- Note:**
- If the file number you selected already contains text, the message “ERROR” appears. Press the **Function** dial (or ), and then select a different file number.
  - If nine text files are already stored, the message “ERROR” appears. Press the **Function** dial (or ), and then delete one of the stored text files before trying to store the current text.
  - If 300 characters are already stored, the message “FULL” appears. Press the **Function** dial (or ), and then delete one of the stored text files before trying to store the current text.








## RECALLING TEXT

**Note:** To quit the following procedure at any time without making any changes, press .






- Turn the **Function** dial until **MEMORY** is displayed, and then press the **Function** dial (or press ).
  - Turn the **Function** dial (or press  and ) until **RECALL** is displayed, and then press the **Function** dial (or ). The message “1-9?” appears in the display.
  - Turn the **Function** dial (or press  and ) until the text file that you want to recall is displayed.
- OR**
- Press the key (1-9) corresponding to the file number of the text that you want to recall.
- Press the **Function** dial (or ) to clear the display and recall the selected text.

## DELETING A TEXT FILE

**Note:** To quit the following procedure at any time without making any changes, press .

- Turn the **Function** dial until **MEMORY** is displayed, and then press the **Function** dial (or press ).
  - Turn the **Function** dial (or press  and ) until **DELETE** is displayed, and then press the **Function** dial (or ). The message “1-9?” appears in the display.
  - Turn the **Function** dial (or press  and ) until the text file that you want to delete is displayed.
- OR**
- Press the key (1-9) corresponding to the file number of the text that you want to delete.
- Press the **Function** dial (or ) to delete the selected text file.

## TROUBLESHOOTING

Problem	Solution
1. The display stays blank after you have turned on the machine.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Check that the batteries are correctly inserted.</li><li>If the batteries are weak, replace them.</li><li>Check that the adapter is correctly connected.</li></ul>
2. The machine does not print, or the printed characters are blurred.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Check that the tape cassette has been inserted correctly.</li><li>If the tape cassette is empty, replace it.</li><li>Check that the character size is appropriate for the width of the tape that is used.</li></ul>
3. The printed characters are not formed properly.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>If the batteries are weak, replace them.</li></ul>
4. Striped tape appears.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The tape cassette is empty. Replace it.</li></ul>
5. The memory has cleared on its own.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The batteries may be weak. Replace them.</li></ul>
6. A blank horizontal line appears through the printed label.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>There may be some dust on the print head. Remove the tape cassette and use a dry cotton swab to gently wipe the print head with an up-and-down motion. Try printing again, and if dust still remains, dip the cotton swab in isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol and gently wipe the print head again.</li></ul>
7. The machine has “locked up” (i.e., nothing happens when a key is pressed, even though the machine is on).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Turn off the machine, and then while holding down  and , press  to turn the machine back on.</li></ul> <p>Finally, release  and .</p> <p><b>Note:</b> The text and formats in the display and all text files stored in the memory are erased.</p>

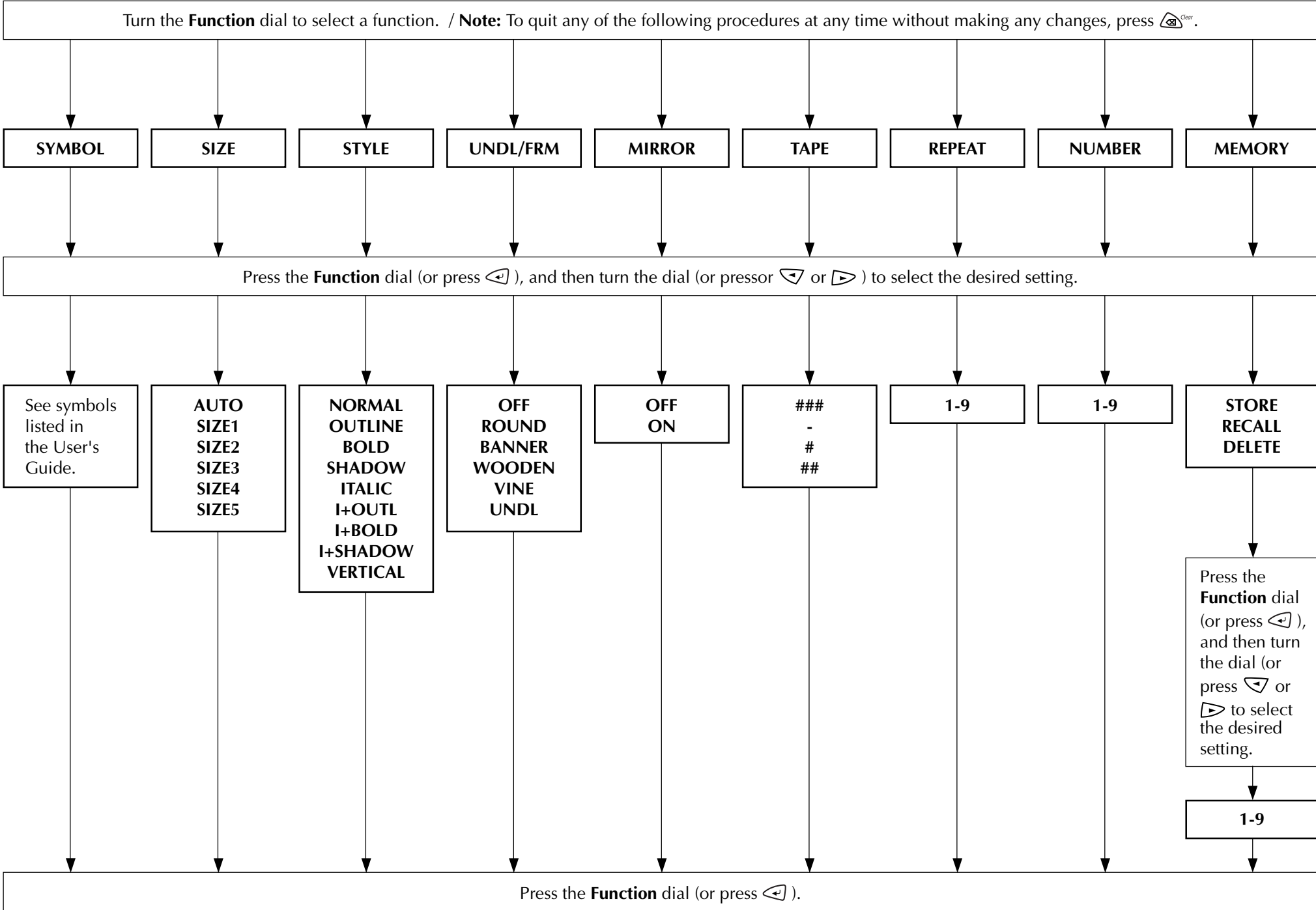
## ERROR MESSAGE LIST

<b>ERROR</b>	An error occurred.
<b>BATTERY</b>	The batteries are weak.
<b>BATTERY</b>	The batteries are empty.
<b>FULL</b>	The maximum number of characters (55 characters) have already been entered or the memory is full.

## SPECIFICATIONS

<b>Keyboard:</b>	41 keys and 1 dial
<b>Print speed:</b>	10 mm/sec.
<b>Character size:</b>	Standard size Double width Double height Double width & double height 4x width & double height
<b>Character font:</b>	HELSINKI
<b>Print tape:</b>	Pressure-sensitive adhesive-based (TZ tape only) 8 meters long Three widths available: 12 mm 9 mm 6 mm
<b>LCD:</b>	7 × 5 dots      1 line × 8 characters
<b>Power supply:</b>	Six AAA size alkaline batteries (LR03) or optional AC adapter (7V, 1.2A) Auto-power off
<b>Dimensions:</b>	154 mm (W) × 129 mm (D) × 64 mm (H)
<b>Weight:</b>	400 g (without batteries and tape cassette)
<b>Buffer size:</b>	55 characters
<b>Memory size:</b>	300 characters maximum, 9 text files

# Function Flow Chart





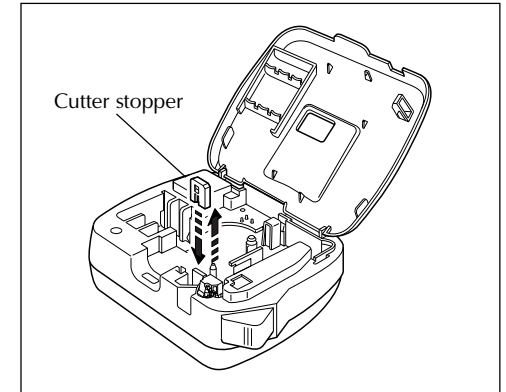
# TAPE CUTTER

With use, the cutter stopper may wear or the cutter blade may become blunt, making it impossible to cut the tape cleanly. If this occurs, the stopper or the cutter unit may need to be replaced. A new cutter stopper and cutter unit (stock no. TC-5) can be obtained from an authorized Brother dealer.

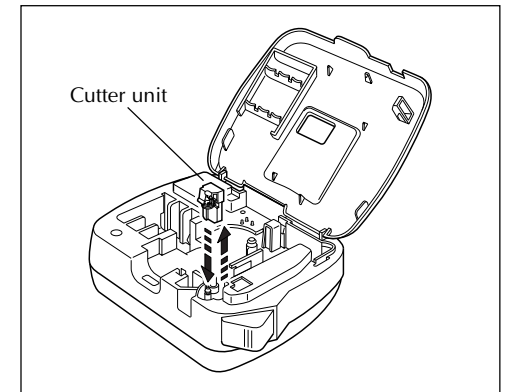
- 1 Fold open the back cover, and then remove the tape cassette.
- 2 Replace the cutter stopper by pulling it straight out, then sliding a new one over the metal bar as shown in figure 1.
- 3 Install the tape cassette, close the back cover, and then check if the tape can be cut cleanly.
- 4 If the tape still cannot be cut cleanly, fold open the back cover, and remove the tape cassette. Next, replace the cutter unit by grabbing it at the top and pulling it straight out, then grabbing the top of the new cutter unit and sliding it over the metal pin as shown in figure 2. Finally, install the tape cassette, close the back cover, and then check that the tape is cut cleanly.

## **⚠ CAUTION**

- When changing the cutter unit, be careful not to touch the cutter blade.
- Keep the cutter unit in a safe place that is out of the reach of small children.



**Figure 1**



**Figure 2**