LabelMakerV3 User Guide

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LabelMakerV3 User Guide

1. Introduction

Welcome to the LabelMakerV3 User Guide! This comprehensive guide will help you learn how to use the LabelMakerV3 application to create, manage, and print labels for your products. Whether you're a small business owner, an inventory manager, or someone who needs to organize products, this guide will walk you through every aspect of the application.

Purpose of this Guide

This guide is designed to provide step-by-step instructions for using all features of the LabelMakerV3 application. By following this guide, you'll learn how to:

- Create and print professional product labels
- Manage your product inventory
- Integrate with Google Sheets for data tracking
- Handle product returns
- Configure application settings
- Troubleshoot common issues

Overview of LabelMakerV3

LabelMakerV3 is a powerful yet user-friendly application that helps you create and manage product labels. The application allows you to:

- Generate barcodes automatically
- Create labels with product names, variants, and UPC codes
- Preview labels before printing
- Track your inventory through Google Sheets integration
- Manage product returns and shipping records
- Customize application settings for your specific needs

The application is designed with simplicity in mind, featuring an intuitive interface that makes label creation quick and easy, even for users with limited computer experience.

Who This Guide Is For

This guide is written specifically for users with little to no computer knowledge. We've broken down complex processes into simple, easy-to-follow steps with clear explanations and visual aids. Whether you're using LabelMakerV3 for the first time or need a refresher on specific features, this guide will provide the information you need.

What You'll Learn

By the end of this guide, you'll be able to:

- 1. Navigate the LabelMakerV3 interface confidently
- 2. Create and print professional labels for your products
- 3. Set up Google Sheets integration for inventory tracking
- 4. Manage product returns and shipping records
- 5. Configure application settings to suit your needs
- 6. Troubleshoot common issues that may arise

Let's get started with learning how to use LabelMakerV3! ## 2. Getting Started

System Requirements

Before installing LabelMakerV3, ensure your computer meets the following requirements:

- Windows operating system (Windows 10 or later recommended)
- At least 4GB of RAM
- 500MB of available disk space
- Internet connection (for Google Sheets integration)
- Python 3.10 or later (included in the installation package)

Installation Process

To install LabelMakerV3 on your computer:

- 1. Double-click on the LabelMakerV3 installer file you received
- 2. Follow the on-screen instructions in the installation wizard
- 3. When prompted, choose the installation location (the default location is recommended)
- 4. Wait for the installation to complete
- 5. Click "Finish" to complete the installation

First Launch

After installation, you can launch LabelMakerV3 by:

- 1. Finding the LabelMakerV3 icon on your desktop and double-clicking it, or
- 2. Going to the Start menu, finding LabelMakerV3 in the programs list, and clicking on it

The first time you launch the application, it may take a few moments to initialize and set up necessary files.

Understanding the Welcome Screen

When you first open LabelMakerV3, you'll see the Welcome screen:

The Welcome screen is your starting point for using LabelMakerV3. Let's look at the key elements:

- 1. **Title Bar**: At the top of the window, showing "Welcome" and window controls (minimize, maximize, close)
- 2. Labels Counter: Shows how many labels you've created (displays "0 Labels" when you first start)
- 3. Application Name: Displays "Label Maker V3"
- 4. Main Navigation Buttons:
 - User (green button): Access user-specific functions
 - Management (blue button): Access management features
 - Labels (orange button): Access label creation and management
 - **Settings** (gray button): Access application settings
- 5. **Connection Status**: At the bottom left, shows "Not Connected" if Google Sheets integration is not set up



Figure 1: Welcome Screen

6. **Version Number**: At the bottom right, shows the current version of the application (e.g., "Ver. 1.0.1.1")

This Welcome screen serves as your dashboard for navigating to different parts of the application. In the following sections, we'll explore each of these areas in detail. ## 3. Main Navigation

The LabelMakerV3 application is organized into four main sections, accessible from the Welcome screen. This section will help you understand how to navigate through these areas and what each one offers.

User Section

The User section (green button on the Welcome screen) is designed for day-to-day label creation and printing tasks. This is where you'll spend most of your time if you're primarily creating labels for products.

When you click on the User button, you'll be taken to the Label Maker interface:

The Label Maker interface includes:

- 1. Control Buttons:
 - Always on Top: Keeps the window visible above other windows
 - **Settings**: Access label-specific settings
 - Labels: Shows how many labels you've created
- 2. Product Information Fields:
 - Product Name Line 1: Enter the main product name
 - Line 2 (optional): Enter additional product information
 - Variant: Enter the product variant or model
 - UPC Code (12 digits): Enter the Universal Product Code
- 3. Action Buttons:
 - Preview: Shows how the label will look
 - View Files: Browse label files you've created

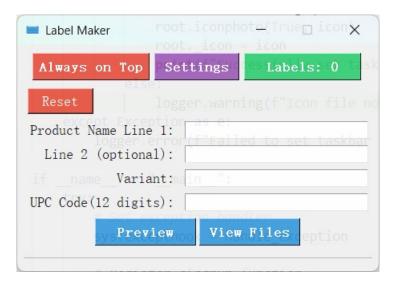


Figure 2: Label Maker

Management Section

The Management section (blue button on the Welcome screen) provides access to administrative functions for managing your label database and integrations.

This section includes: - Database management - User permissions (if applicable) - System status information - Integration management

Labels Section

The Labels section (orange button on the Welcome screen) allows you to access and manage all the labels you've created.

When you click on the Labels button, you'll see a list of all your labels with options to: - Search for specific labels - Filter labels by various criteria - Edit existing labels - Delete labels - Export label data

Settings Section

The Settings section (gray button on the Welcome screen) allows you to configure the application according to your preferences.

When you click on the Settings button, you'll see the Settings screen:

The Settings screen includes:

- 1. Labels Directory: Set where label files are saved on your computer
- 2. Transparency Settings:
 - Enable/disable window transparency when inactive
 - Adjust transparency level (1-10)
- 3. Google Sheets Integration:
 - View connection status
 - Configure Google Sheets connection
- 4. Log Management:
 - \bullet Manage shipping logs
 - Migrate from legacy systems

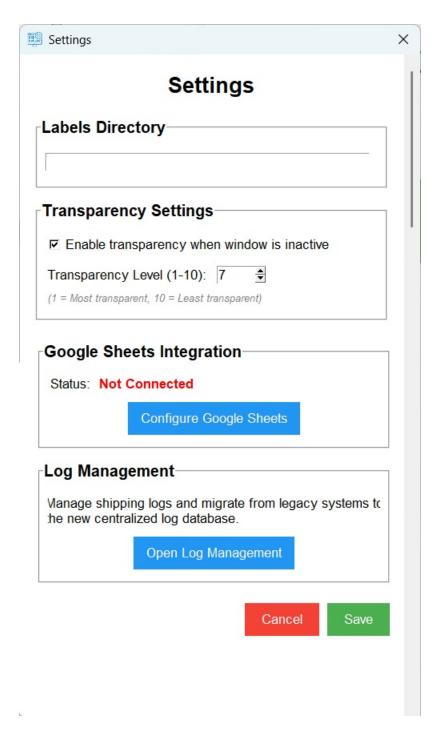


Figure 3: Settings

5. Action Buttons:

Cancel: Exit without saving changesSave: Save your settings changes

Status Indicators

At the bottom of the Welcome screen, you'll find important status information:

- 1. Connection Status (bottom left): Shows whether you're connected to Google Sheets
 - "Not Connected" means Google Sheets integration is not set up
 - "Connected" means Google Sheets integration is active
- 2. Version Number (bottom right): Shows which version of LabelMakerV3 you're using

These status indicators help you quickly understand the current state of your application. ## 4. Creating Labels

Creating labels is the core functionality of LabelMakerV3. This section will guide you through the process of creating, previewing, and saving labels for your products.

Basic Label Creation

To create a new label:

- 1. From the Welcome screen, click the green User button to access the Label Maker interface
- 2. You'll see the Label Maker screen:

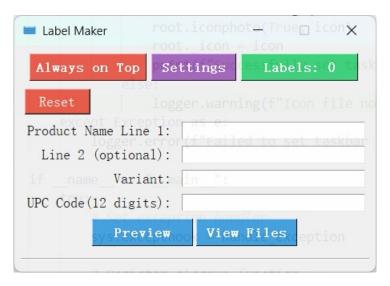


Figure 4: Label Maker

- 3. Fill in the product information fields:
 - Product Name Line 1: Enter the main product name (e.g., "Stainless Steel Water Bottle")
 - Line 2 (optional): Enter additional product information if needed (e.g., "BPA Free")
 - Variant: Enter the product variant, model, or SKU (e.g., "200234STNWBV1Standard")
 - UPC Code (12 digits): Enter the Universal Product Code (e.g., "010101010101")
- 4. Here's an example of a filled-out form:

Previewing Labels

Before saving or printing a label, you can preview how it will look:

1. After filling in the product information, click the **Preview** button

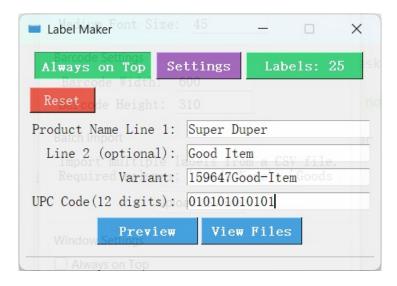


Figure 5: Label Maker Label Creation

- 2. A new window will open showing exactly how your label will appear:
- 3. The preview shows:
 - Product name and additional information
 - Variant/SKU information
 - Barcode generated from the UPC code
 - UPC number displayed below the barcode
- 4. If you're satisfied with the label, click Save Label to save it
- 5. If you need to make changes, close the preview window and modify the information in the Label Maker screen

Creating a New Label

If you want to create a completely new label (clearing all fields):

- 1. From the Label Maker screen, click the **Reset** button to clear all fields
- 2. Alternatively, you can click **Create New Label** if that option is available:
- 3. Fill in the information for your new label
- 4. Preview and save as described above

Viewing Label Files

To view the labels you've created:

- 1. From the Label Maker screen, click the View Files button
- 2. A file browser will open showing your saved label files:
- 3. You can:
 - Double-click a label file to open it
 - Right-click for additional options
 - Sort files by name, date, or type
 - Search for specific label files

Label Settings

You can customize how labels are created and displayed:

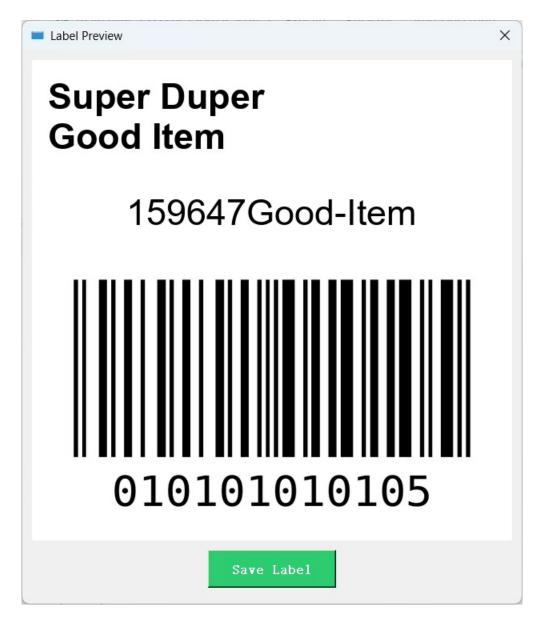


Figure 6: Label Maker Label Creation Preview

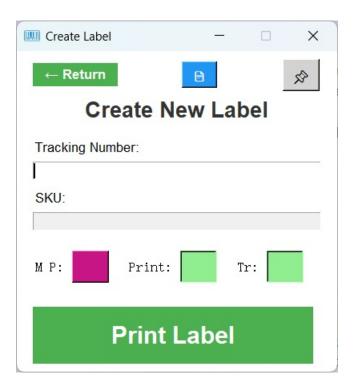


Figure 7: Create New Label

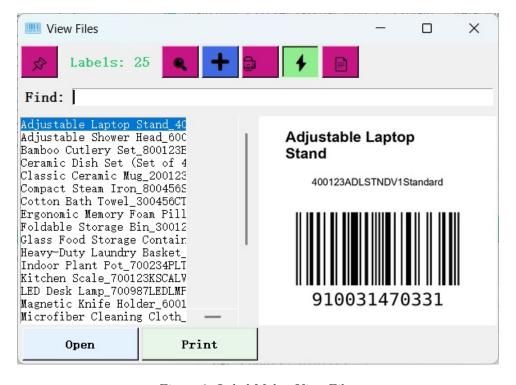


Figure 8: Label Maker View Files

- 1. From the Label Maker screen, click the **Settings** button
- 2. The Label Maker Settings window will appear:

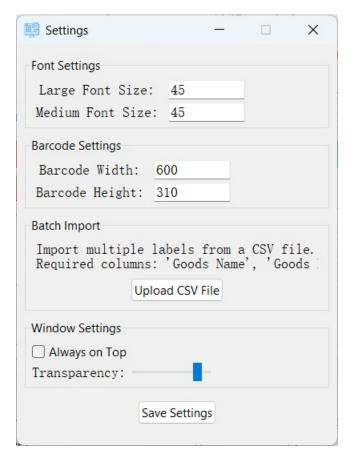


Figure 9: Label Maker Settings

- 3. Here you can adjust:
 - Label size and dimensions
 - Font settings
 - Barcode type and size
 - Print settings
 - Default values
- 4. After making changes, click Save to apply them or Cancel to discard changes

Understanding Label Output

When you save a label, LabelMakerV3 creates a PNG image file that looks like this:

The label includes: - Product name at the top - Variant/SKU information in the middle - Barcode generated from the UPC code - UPC number displayed below the barcode

These label files can be printed directly or used in other applications as needed. ## 5. No Record Labels

Sometimes you may need to print a label quickly without recording it in your database. LabelMakerV3 provides a special "No Record Label" feature for these situations.

Stainless Steel Water Bottle

200234STNWBV1Standard



Figure 10: Sample Label

When to Use No Record Labels

No Record Labels are useful when: - You need a temporary label - You're testing label printing - You need a one-time label that doesn't need to be stored - You're creating a label for an item that isn't in your regular inventory

Creating a No Record Label

To create a No Record Label:

- 1. From the Welcome screen, navigate to the No Record Label section (this may be accessible through the User section or directly from the Welcome screen)
- 2. You'll see the No Record Label screen:

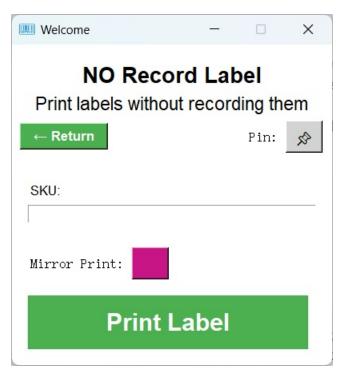


Figure 11: No Record Label

- 3. The No Record Label screen includes:
 - A title explaining this is for printing labels without recording them
 - A Return button to go back to the previous screen
 - A **Pin** option to keep the window on top
 - An SKU field to enter the product SKU or identifier
 - A Mirror Print option with color selection
 - A **Print Label** button to print the label
- 4. Enter the SKU or product identifier in the SKU field
- 5. If needed, enable Mirror Print by clicking the colored square (this is useful for certain types of printers or special label applications)
- 6. Click the **Print Label** button to print your label

Mirror Printing Option

The Mirror Print option reverses the label image horizontally, which is useful for: - Heat transfer applications - Certain types of transparent labels - Special printing materials that require reversed images

To use Mirror Print: 1. Click the colored square next to "Mirror Print" to enable it 2. The square will change color to indicate it's active 3. When you print the label, the image will be reversed horizontally

Printing Without Recording

When you use the No Record Label feature, the label will be printed but no record of it will be saved in your database. This means: - The label won't appear in your label count on the Welcome screen - The label won't be included in any reports or exports - The label won't be visible in the Returns Data section

This feature is designed for convenience and flexibility when you need a quick label without the overhead of recording it in your system. ## 6. Google Sheets Integration

LabelMakerV3 offers powerful integration with Google Sheets, allowing you to track your shipments and inventory in the cloud. This section explains how to set up and use this integration.

Benefits of Google Sheets Integration

Integrating LabelMakerV3 with Google Sheets provides several advantages: - Access your inventory data from anywhere with internet access - Share inventory information with team members - Create automatic backups of your label data - Generate reports and analytics using Google Sheets features - Synchronize data across multiple devices

Setting Up the Connection

To set up Google Sheets integration:

- 1. From the Welcome screen, click the gray **Settings** button
- 2. In the Settings screen, find the "Google Sheets Integration" section
- 3. Click the Configure Google Sheets button
- 4. The Google Sheets Configuration window will appear:
- 5. The configuration window includes:
 - A brief explanation of the integration purpose
 - A field for the Google Sheet URL
 - A dropdown for selecting the Sheet Name
 - Fields for specifying column mappings
 - Save and Cancel buttons
- 6. Enter the URL of your Google Sheet in the "Google Sheet URL" field
 - This should be the full URL of a Google Sheet you've already created
 - Make sure the sheet is accessible (shared with the appropriate permissions)
- 7. Select the specific sheet name from the dropdown
 - If your Google Sheets document has multiple sheets/tabs, select the one you want to use
- 8. Configure the column mappings:
 - Tracking Number Column: Specify which column will store tracking numbers (e.g., "D")
 - SKU Column: Specify which column will store SKU information (e.g., "E")
 - Steps Value Column: Specify which column will store steps values (e.g., "F")
- 9. For each column, specify the starting row (usually "3" if your sheet has headers)
- 10. Click **Save** to establish the connection

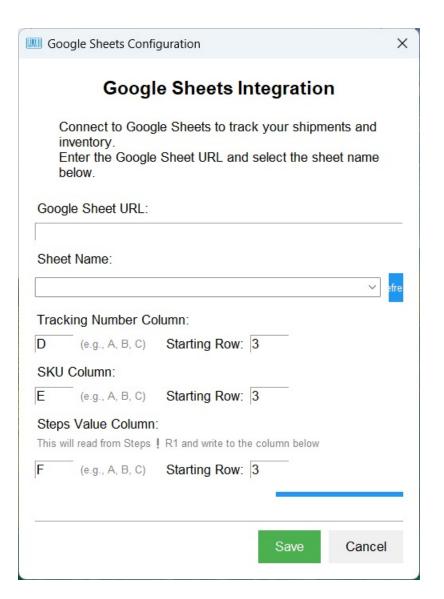


Figure 12: Google Sheet Integration

Connected Status

Once successfully connected, the Google Sheets Configuration window will show the connected status:

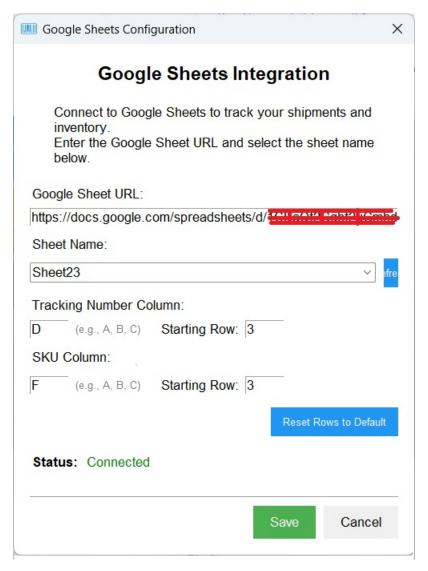


Figure 13: Google Sheet Integration Connected

The connection status will also be updated on the Welcome screen, changing from "Not Connected" to "Connected".

Tracking Shipments and Inventory

After setting up the integration, LabelMakerV3 will: - Automatically update your Google Sheet when new labels are created - Read data from the specified columns when needed - Write tracking information to the specified columns - Synchronize data between the application and Google Sheets

You can view and edit the data directly in Google Sheets, and the changes will be reflected in LabelMakerV3 the next time you use the application.

Troubleshooting Connection Issues

If you encounter problems with the Google Sheets integration:

- 1. Verify that the Google Sheet URL is correct and the sheet exists
- 2. Check that you have the necessary permissions to access the sheet
- 3. Ensure your internet connection is working properly
- 4. Verify that the column mappings are correct
- 5. Try disconnecting and reconnecting the integration
- 6. Check if your Google account requires re-authentication ## 7. Returns Data Management

LabelMakerV3 includes a powerful Returns Data feature that helps you track and manage your shipping records. This section explains how to use this feature effectively.

Accessing Returns Data

To access the Returns Data feature:

- 1. From the Welcome screen, navigate to the Returns Data section (this may be accessible through the Management section or directly from the Welcome screen)
- 2. The Returns Data screen will appear:

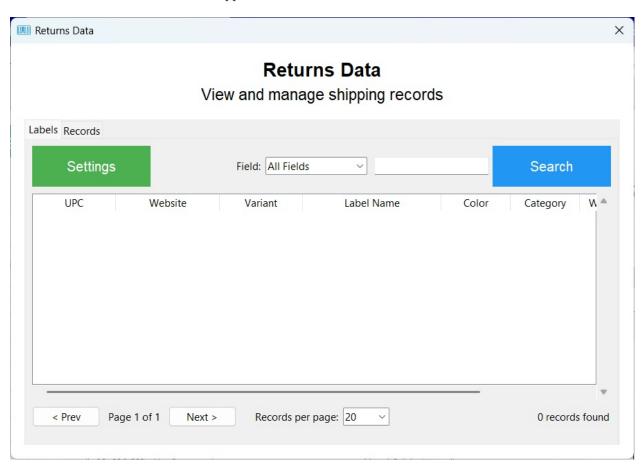


Figure 14: Returns Data

- 3. The Returns Data screen includes:
 - A title bar showing "Returns Data"
 - A subtitle explaining the purpose: "View and manage shipping records"
 - A tab for "Labels Records"
 - A Settings button
 - A search field with dropdown for selecting search criteria

- A Search button
- A table for displaying records
- Navigation controls at the bottom

Viewing Shipping Records

The main table in the Returns Data screen displays your shipping records with columns for: - UPC - Website - Variant - Label Name - Color - Category - Weight (and possibly other attributes)

When you first open the Returns Data screen, the table may be empty if you haven't created any labels yet or if no records match your current filter criteria.

Searching and Filtering Records

To search for specific records:

- 1. Select the field you want to search in from the dropdown next to "Field:" (e.g., "All Fields", "UPC", "Label Name", etc.)
- 2. Enter your search term in the text field
- 3. Click the **Search** button
- 4. The table will update to show only records that match your search criteria

Managing Records

When you have records in the system, the Returns Data screen will display them in the table:

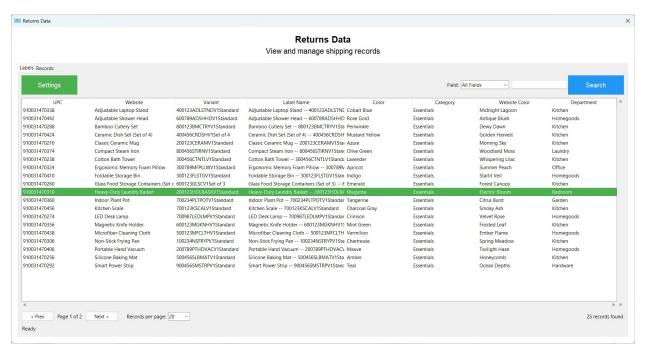


Figure 15: Returns Data Populated

From this screen, you can: - Click on a record to select it - Double-click a record to view or edit its details - Use the navigation controls at the bottom to move between pages of records - Adjust how many records are displayed per page using the "Records per page" dropdown

Label Settings for Returns

To access label settings specific to returns:

- 1. Click the **Settings** button in the Returns Data screen
- 2. The Returns Data Label Settings dialog will appear:

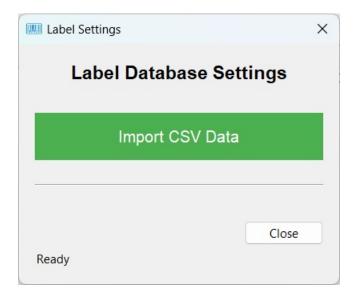


Figure 16: Returns Data Label Settings

- 3. Here you can configure:
 - Label format for returns
 - Printing preferences
 - Data fields to include on return labels
 - Other return-specific settings
- 4. After making changes, click **Save** to apply them or **Cancel** to discard changes

The Returns Data feature helps you maintain a complete history of your labels and shipping records, making it easier to track products, manage inventory, and handle customer returns efficiently. ## 8. Settings Configuration

LabelMakerV3 offers various settings that allow you to customize the application to suit your specific needs. This section explains how to configure these settings.

Accessing Settings

To access the Settings screen:

- 1. From the Welcome screen, click the gray **Settings** button
- 2. The Settings screen will appear:

Labels Directory Setup

The Labels Directory setting determines where your label files are saved on your computer:

- 1. In the Settings screen, locate the "Labels Directory" section
- 2. The text field shows the current directory path
- 3. To change the directory:
 - Click in the text field and type a new path, or
 - Click the browse button (if available) to select a directory using a file browser
- 4. Make sure the directory you choose:
 - Exists on your computer
 - Has enough free space for your label files

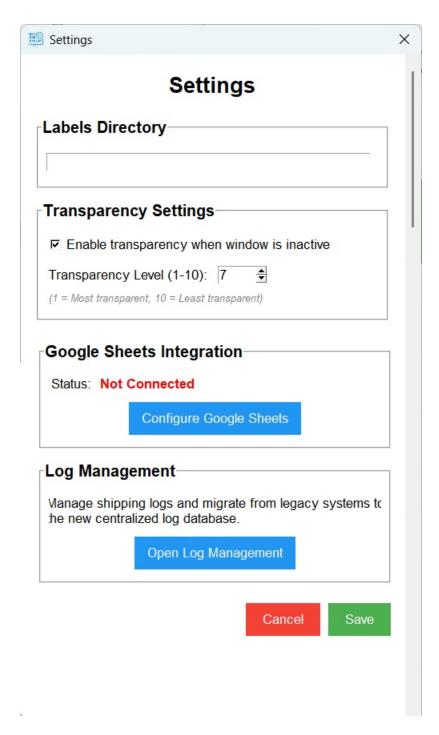


Figure 17: Settings

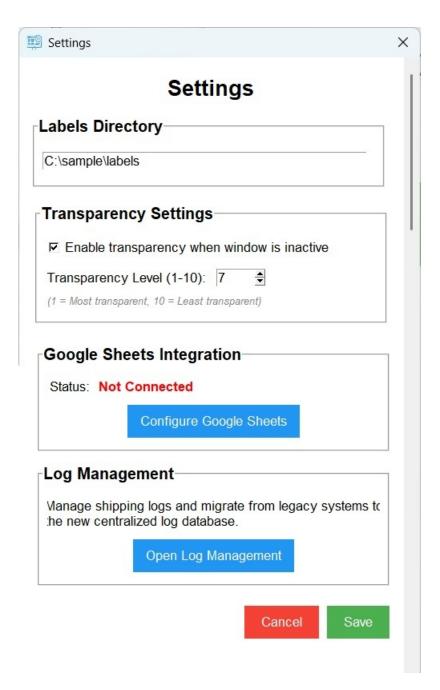


Figure 18: Settings Labels Directory

• Is accessible to the application (you have permission to write to it)

Transparency Settings

LabelMakerV3 allows you to make the application window transparent when it's not active, which can help you see other windows behind it:

- 1. In the Settings screen, locate the "Transparency Settings" section
- 2. Check or uncheck the "Enable transparency when window is inactive" box to turn this feature on or off
- 3. Use the dropdown to select the transparency level (1-10):
 - 1 = Most transparent (almost invisible)
 - 10 = Least transparent (slightly see-through)
- 4. The note below the dropdown explains this scale

Google Sheets Integration

The Settings screen also provides access to Google Sheets integration:

- 1. In the Settings screen, locate the "Google Sheets Integration" section
- 2. The status shows whether you're currently connected
- 3. Click the **Configure Google Sheets** button to set up or modify the connection (See Section 6: Google Sheets Integration for detailed instructions)

Log Management

LabelMakerV3 includes a log management feature for tracking shipping logs and migrating data:

- 1. In the Settings screen, locate the "Log Management" section
- 2. The description explains that this feature helps you manage shipping logs and migrate from legacy systems
- 3. Click the Open Log Management button to access this feature
- 4. From here, you can:
 - View shipping logs
 - Export logs to various formats
 - Import logs from other systems
 - Configure log settings

Saving Settings

After making changes to any settings:

- 1. Click the Save button at the bottom right of the Settings screen to apply your changes
- 2. Click the Cancel button if you want to discard your changes and keep the previous settings

Remember that some settings changes may require restarting the application to take full effect. ## 9. Working with CSV Files

Understanding CSV Data Structure

CSV files are simple text files that store tabular data (like a spreadsheet) in a plain text format. Each line in the file represents a row of data, and values within a row are separated by commas.

LabelMakerV3 uses CSV files for: - Importing product data in bulk - Exporting label records - Backing up your database - Sharing data with other systems

The CSV files provided with LabelMakerV3 contain structured data about your products, including: - Product names - SKUs/Variants - UPC codes - Categories - Pricing information - Other product attributes

Importing Data from CSV Files

To import data from a CSV file:

- 1. Prepare your CSV file with the required columns and data format
- 2. From the appropriate section of LabelMakerV3 (such as the Returns Data screen), look for an import option
- 3. Select the CSV file you want to import
- 4. Map the columns in your CSV file to the fields in LabelMakerV3
- 5. Confirm the import operation

The application will read the data from your CSV file and add it to the database.

Exporting Data to CSV Files

To export your label data to a CSV file:

- 1. Navigate to the section containing the data you want to export (such as Returns Data)
- 2. Look for an export or "Save as CSV" option
- 3. Select where you want to save the CSV file
- 4. Choose which fields to include in the export (if this option is available)
- 5. Confirm the export operation

The application will create a CSV file containing your selected data.

Troubleshooting CSV Issues

If you encounter problems with CSV files:

- 1. Format Issues: Ensure your CSV file uses the correct format:
 - Values should be separated by commas
 - Text containing commas should be enclosed in quotes
 - Each record should be on a new line
- 2. Character Encoding: CSV files should use UTF-8 encoding to properly display special characters
- 3. Column Mapping: Make sure the columns in your CSV file match what LabelMakerV3 expects:
 - Check column headers
 - Verify data is in the correct columns
 - Ensure required fields are present
- 4. **Data Validation**: Check that your data meets any validation requirements:
 - UPC codes should be 12 digits
 - Required fields should not be empty
 - Data should be in the expected format (text, numbers, dates, etc.) ## 10. Troubleshooting

Even the best applications sometimes encounter issues. This section provides solutions to common problems you might experience when using LabelMakerV3.

Common Issues and Solutions

Application Won't Start If LabelMakerV3 doesn't start when you click the icon:

- 1. Check that your computer meets the system requirements
- 2. Verify that the installation completed successfully
- 3. Try restarting your computer
- 4. Check if any antivirus software is blocking the application
- 5. Try reinstalling the application

Labels Don't Print Correctly If your labels aren't printing as expected:

- 1. Verify your printer is connected and has paper
- 2. Check printer settings in Windows
- 3. Make sure you're using the correct label size
- 4. Verify that the UPC code is exactly 12 digits
- 5. Try the Mirror Print option if using special label materials
- 6. Check that the Labels Directory is set correctly in Settings

Google Sheets Connection Issues If you're having trouble connecting to Google Sheets:

- 1. Verify your internet connection
- 2. Check that the Google Sheet URL is correct
- 3. Make sure you have permission to access the sheet
- 4. Try disconnecting and reconnecting
- 5. Check if your Google account requires re-authentication

Data Not Saving If your label data isn't being saved:

- 1. Check that the Labels Directory exists and is accessible
- 2. Verify you have write permissions for the directory
- 3. Make sure your computer has enough disk space
- 4. Check if any other program is locking the files
- 5. Try setting a different Labels Directory in Settings

Error Messages

Here are explanations for common error messages you might see:

"Invalid UPC Code"

- Make sure the UPC code is exactly 12 digits
- Verify that only numbers are used (no letters or special characters)

"Cannot Connect to Google Sheets"

- Check your internet connection
- Verify the Google Sheet URL
- Make sure you have permission to access the sheet

"File Not Found"

- Verify the Labels Directory setting
- Check if the file was moved or deleted
- Try creating a new label

"Database Error"

- Restart the application
- Check for database corruption
- Consider restoring from a backup

Getting Additional Help

If you encounter an issue not covered in this guide:

- 1. Check the LabelMakerV3 website for updated documentation
- 2. Contact customer support with:

- A description of the problem
- Steps to reproduce the issue
- Any error messages you received
- Your system information (Windows version, etc.) ## 11. Glossary

This glossary provides definitions for key terms used in LabelMakerV3 and throughout this guide.

Key Terms and Definitions

Barcode: A machine-readable representation of data, typically displayed as parallel lines of varying widths (as seen on product labels).

CSV (Comma-Separated Values): A simple file format used to store tabular data, where each line represents a row and values are separated by commas.

Google Sheets: A web-based spreadsheet program offered by Google, which LabelMakerV3 can integrate with for data tracking.

Label: A printed identifier containing product information and a barcode, used for tracking and identifying products.

Labels Directory: The folder on your computer where LabelMakerV3 saves label files.

Log Management: The feature in LabelMakerV3 that helps you track shipping logs and migrate data from legacy systems.

Mirror Print: A printing option that reverses the label image horizontally, useful for certain types of label materials or printing methods.

No Record Label: A label that is printed but not recorded in the database, useful for temporary or one-time labels.

PNG (Portable Network Graphics): An image file format used by LabelMakerV3 to save label designs.

Returns Data: The feature in LabelMakerV3 that helps you track and manage shipping records and product returns.

SKU (Stock Keeping Unit): A unique identifier for a product, often used in the Variant field when creating labels.

Transparency Settings: Options in LabelMakerV3 that allow the application window to become partially transparent when inactive.

UPC (Universal Product Code): A 12-digit barcode used to track trade items in stores. In LabelMakerV3, this code is used to generate the barcode on labels.

Variant: A field in LabelMakerV3 used to specify different versions or models of the same product.

Welcome Screen: The main dashboard of LabelMakerV3, showing the label count and providing access to all main features.