OFFICIAL HANDBOOK

# The Complete Photo Booth *Starter Guide*

Your definitive manual to running photobooth4u across laptops, tablets, professional photo printers, and vintage thermal receipt booths — online or 100% offline.

## 01

### Laptop: Online & Offline

Windows & Mac Desktop App running 100% offline with local hotspot QR downloads, plus the Online Chrome booth with live cloud sync.

## 02

### Tablet Kiosk Apps

Android APK with native USB OTG Epson drivers, and iPad running fullscreen kiosk mode with direct Apple AirPrint.

## 03

### Photo Printing Masterclass

High-speed commercial dye-sub 2×6 strip auto-cutting, ultra-low-cost EcoTanks, and wireless Laptop Print Station setup.

## 04

### Vintage Receipt Booth

Instant retro black-and-white strips on continuous thermal rolls with Vozy, Epson, Bluetooth, and automated razor cuts.

### ☆ The 3 Golden Rules for Flawless Events

**1. Always Run a Test Session**

Take 1 full photo session on-site before guests arrive. Verify camera focus, flash exposure, guest QR download, and physical print cut.

**2. Lock Power & Cables**

Keep laptop and tablet plugged into mains power. Use a camera dummy battery (AC adapter) so DSLR cameras never power off mid-event.

**3. Trust Your Offline Setup**

Never rely solely on venue Wi-Fi. The Offline Desktop App and Android APK work 100% without internet. Guests download photos locally!

# Running on a Laptop: Online & Offline

The laptop is the powerhouse of professional event booths: supporting DSLR tethering, dual-screen HDMI mirror displays, and direct USB connection to commercial high-speed printers.

## Laptop Desktop App (Offline)

100% NO INTERNET

Available for Windows 10/11 (.exe) and macOS 11+ (.dmg). Built specifically for remote venues, outdoor weddings, basements, and venues with zero Wi-Fi.

1. **Local Booth Wi-Fi Hotspot**
   The laptop turns on a mobile hotspot (or connects to an offline portable router). Guests join that Wi-Fi network.
2. **Instant Local QR Downloads**
   At session end, the guest scans the on-screen QR. Their phone downloads the high-res photo straight from the laptop — zero internet or data required!
3. **Built-in Background Printing**
   Talks directly to Windows and Mac print spoolers. Prints silently in the background with no pop-ups, no helper tools, and no internet.
4. **DSLR Tethering & Dual Screen**
   Connect Canon, Nikon, or Sony via USB. Press `Win + P` → **Extend** to display a live countdown mirror on a TV facing the guests.

## Chrome Web Booth (Online)

CLOUD GALLERIES

Open **photobooth4u.netlify.app** in Google Chrome on any computer. Perfect for venues with reliable Wi-Fi where instant cloud galleries are desired.

1. **Live Online Cloud Gallery**
   Photos upload instantly to your secured cloud event album. Guests scan the QR to open their private online link.
2. **The Print Helper Utility**
   Open **photobooth4u-print-helper.exe** in the background. It intercepts print commands, eliminating Chrome's print dialog for true 1-click silent auto-printing.
3. **Smart Offline Protection**
   If venue Wi-Fi stumbles during the event, the web app automatically queues photos in browser memory and syncs them to the cloud the moment internet returns.
4. **Remote Monitor & Share Station**
   Any secondary device can open your event's live gallery URL to act as an iPad sharing station or slideshow kiosk.

## Feature Comparison Matrix

| FEATURE | LAPTOP DESKTOP APP (OFFLINE) | CHROME WEB BOOTH (ONLINE) |
|---|---|---|
| **Venue Internet** | **Zero required.** Operates 100% offline in isolated locations. | Requires Wi-Fi (with built-in offline queue safety net). |
| **Guest QR Delivery** | **Direct Local Wi-Fi:** Served instantly from laptop over local IP. | **Cloud URL:** Served via public internet link to event album. |
| **Silent Auto-Print** | **Built-in natively.** No extra applications needed. | Requires running the lightweight **Print Helper** in background. |
| **Camera Support** | Webcams, DSLR tethering (Canon/Nikon/Sony), and HDMI capture cards. | Webcams, USB capture cards, and virtual DSLR camera drivers. |
| **Best Use Case** | Weddings in mountains/beaches, convention halls, ticketed kiosks. | Corporate launches, venues with solid Wi-Fi, live cloud albums. |

# Using with Tablets: Android APK & iPad

Tablets provide an ultra-sleek, portable kiosk enclosure. Run fully autonomous guest sessions with front-facing cameras or connect external cameras and printers.

## Android Tablet App (APK)

NATIVE USB & BT

Download the APK directly from **photobooth4u.netlify.app/downloads/**. Works on Android tablets running Android 7.0 or newer.

1. **Activate Once with Lifetime Code**
   Connect to Wi-Fi once to activate your code. The app is then permanently authorized and runs 100% offline.
2. **Direct Wi-Fi Mopria & AirPrint**
   Go to **Print settings → Wi-Fi printer → Find Wi-Fi printers**. The tablet discovers network printers and prints without popup dialogs.
3. **Native USB OTG Ink-Tank Printing**
   Plug an OTG cable directly from the tablet into Epson L8050, L3210, etc. Built-in ESC/P2 drivers print borderless photos with no extra apps!
4. **Direct Bluetooth Thermal Printing**
   Pair thermal printers (Vozy, MPT, XP-80) via Bluetooth. The app prints retro receipt strips instantly with zero print dialogs.

## iPad Kiosk (iOS Web App)

AIRPRINT READY

Runs cleanly on iPad Air, Pro, or standard 10.2" iPad using Safari's native standalone Progressive Web App (PWA) container.

1. **Create Fullscreen Web App**
   Open Safari, visit **photobooth4u.netlify.app**, tap the Share icon → **Add to Home Screen**. Launches with no browser bars!
2. **Native Apple AirPrint**
   In Print settings, choose AirPrint. Wirelessly prints directly to Canon SELPHY CP1300/1500, Epson, Brother, and HP on the same Wi-Fi.
3. **Enable Guided Access Mode**
   In iOS Settings → Accessibility → **Guided Access**. Triple-click the top power button to lock guests out of exiting the photo booth!
4. **High-End iPad Camera Sensor**
   Take advantage of Apple's Center Stage front cameras or rear 12MP Ultra-Wide lens for crisp, sharp photo strip captures.

## The Bridge: Printing from Tablets to Commercial Dye-Sub Printers

LAPTOP PRINT STATION

**The Challenge:** Android tablets ( `v1.1.10+` ) support direct USB OTG printing to **DNP (DS-RX1, DS620, DS40)** and Epson EcoTanks, while **HiTi, Citizen, Mitsubishi, and iPad** commercial dye-sub setups use a laptop driver.

**The Solution — Laptop Print Station:**

**1. Connect Printer to Laptop**
Plug your DNP or HiTi into a laptop with USB. Open **photobooth4u.netlify.app/print-station/** in Google Chrome.

**2. Connect Both to Same Wi-Fi**
Ensure your iPad/Android tablet and laptop are on the same Wi-Fi network (or portable router).

**3. Auto-Print Wirelessly!**
On the tablet, select *Send prints to → Laptop Print Station*. Every photo taken on the tablet prints instantly on the laptop's dye-sub!

# The Complete Printing Process

How photo printing works: choosing between high-speed commercial dye-subs and ultra-low-cost continuous ink tanks, configuring 2×6 strip razor cuts, and setting up hands-free auto-print.

## Commercial Dye-Sub Printers

12S · AUTO-CUT

**Models:** DNP (DS620, RX1HS), HiTi (P525L), Citizen (CX-02), Mitsubishi, Fuji ASK-300, Kodak 305.

- **High-Speed Event Duty:** 8 to 14 seconds per print. Prints drop out 100% dry and smudge-proof with a protective clear coat.
- **Roll Capacity:** 400 to 700 prints per roll — run entire weddings without reloading paper or ink!
- **Internal Strip Slicing:** Built-in razor blades automatically slice two 2×6 strips down the middle with zero manual trimming.

### Pro-Tip: Add Printer Twice in Windows

Install the driver twice: name one *"DNP - 4x6 Postcard"* (standard cut) and the other *"DNP - 2x6 Strips"* (2-inch cut enabled). Assign each in booth settings!

## Continuous Ink-Tank Printers

<₱0.50 PER PRINT

**Models:** Epson EcoTank Photo (6-color L8050, L18050), EcoTank (L3210, L3250), Canon MegaTank G620.

- **Unbeatable Profit Margins:** Less than ₱0.50 ($0.01) ink cost per photo. Thousands of prints from single refill bottles.
- **6-Color Photo Quality:** Models like the L8050 deliver laboratory-grade color reproduction and skin tones.
- **Android USB OTG Direct:** Plug USB straight into your Android tablet for automated driverless photo printing!

### Glossy Photo Paper Settings

Always load premium inkjet glossy photo paper (180–260 gsm) and set driver paper type to *Epson Premium Glossy* for rich, non-smudging prints.

## How 2×6 Photo Strip Auto-Cutting Works

**1. Layout Generation**
The booth automatically places two duplicate 2×6 strips side-by-side onto a single 4×6 (4R) digital canvas.

**2. 2-Inch Cut Signal**
In Windows/Mac Printing Preferences, enable **2-inch cut**. The driver signals the printer's internal cutter.

**3. Sliced Down the Middle**
During the final lamination pass, the razor cuts precisely at the 2-inch mark, dropping two finished strips!

## Configuring 100% Hands-Free Auto-Print

1. **Open Print Settings**
   In the booth, tap **Photo Session → Print settings** (or **Setup → 4 Camera & printer**).
2. **Assign Printer per Paper Size**
   Tap your event's paper size (e.g. **4×6 in (4R)** or **2×6 in strip**) and pick your printer from the list. The app saves this choice.
3. **Run a Test Print & Verify**
   Tap **Test print**. Confirm that the print size is correct, colors are vibrant, and edges are borderless with no white trim.
4. **Enable Auto-Print Every Session**
   Check **Auto-print every session**. As soon as guests finish their photos, the physical print starts automatically — no operator clicks needed!

# Vintage Receipt Photobooth (Thermal)

The surging retro photo booth trend: instant 1–2 second black-and-white dithered strips printed on continuous thermal paper rolls. Zero ink cartridges, zero ribbons, and pennies per roll.

### 80 mm Desktop POS (Auto-Cut) AUTOMATIC CUTTER

**Featured Models:** Vozy G80, Epson TM-T20III / TM-T88, Star Micronics TSP143, Munbyn ITPP047, Xprinter XP-N160II.

- **Paper Width:** 80 mm roll (~3.15 inches wide). Wide canvas for large, clear 3-photo vertical layouts.
- **Automated Razor Cut:** The printer's motorized guillotine cutter slices the receipt right below the QR code!
- **Connectivity:** USB to laptop, or Bluetooth / Network to Android tablet app.

### 58 mm Mobile Bluetooth (Battery) BATTERY POWERED

**Featured Models:** Vozy MP210 (battery), Vozy 50, MPT-II, PT-210, Goojprt, PeriPage, Phomemo.

- **Pocket Size:** Handheld mini printer with rechargeable lithium battery — perfect for mobile roaming booths (Rove).
- **Paper Width:** 58 mm roll (~2.28 inches wide) with serrated manual tear bar.
- **Bluetooth SPP:** Pairs wirelessly with Android tablet or phone with zero extra equipment.

## Step-by-Step Android Bluetooth Setup (Zero Dialogs)

**1 Pair Printer in Android Bluetooth Settings**

Turn on the thermal printer. On the tablet, open **Settings → Connected devices → Bluetooth → Pair new device**. Tap your printer (named like `Vozy`, `G80`, `MP210`, `POS-80`, or `Printer001`). Enter PIN `0000` or `1234`.

**2 Select Receipt Layout in the App**

In photobooth4u, go to **Setup → Layout** and choose **Receipt**. The booth converts live camera frames into retro halftone black-and-white dithered graphics engineered for thermal paper.

**3 Configure Thermal Printing**

In **Print settings**, choose **Receipt 80 mm** or **Receipt 58 mm**. Enable **Bluetooth thermal receipt printer**, tap **Connect**, and select your paired Vozy/POS printer from the list.

**4 Test Print & Auto-Print**

Tap **Test print** — the printer feeds and prints a test header in 1 second! Tick **Auto-print every session**. Each guest receives a retro receipt strip instantly.

### Customizing the Receipt Branding

**Header & Monogram**
Add the couple's names, event title, custom date, or venue name in bold retro monospace.

**Photo Halftones**
Booth renders 3 or 4 photos using Floyd-Steinberg dithering for sharp, distinct facial features.

**Digital QR Code**
A sharp QR code is printed at the footer so guests can scan to download the original full-color digital file!

# Event-Day Checklist & Troubleshooting

Follow this pre-flight checklist before opening your booth to guests, and use these field solutions to quickly handle unexpected issues.

## ✓ 10-Minute Pre-Flight Checklist

- **Hardware Power:** Laptop charger plugged into reliable outlet. Tablet connected to mains power (or high-capacity power bank).
- **Camera Power:** DSLR plugged into AC dummy battery adapter — disable camera's "Auto Power Off" in menu.
- **Camera Focus:** Autofocus (AF) on guests initially, then switch lens switch to **Manual Focus (MF)** so focus never hunts.
- **Paper & Ribbon:** Ensure media is freshly loaded with at least 1 spare box in your event kit. Empty scrap cut bin!
- **Lighting Check:** Position ring light or studio flash strobe slightly above eye level. Take test photo to verify exposure.
- **Test Print Run:** Run 1 full guest session. Test the QR code scan on your phone and verify physical print cutting.

## ☆ Top 6 Quick Field Fixes

**1. Guest phone says "Wi-Fi Has No Internet"**
Normal on offline booths! Tell guests to tap *"Keep connection"* or *"Connect anyway"*. The phone downloads photos directly from the booth over local Wi-Fi.

**2. Chrome Print Preview Dialog Appears**
Open **photobooth4u-print-helper.exe** in the background. It intercepts print commands so prints occur silently with zero dialogs.

**3. 2×6 Strips Not Slicing in Two**
Open Windows/Mac Printing Preferences for your dye-sub printer. Ensure the **2-inch cut** setting is enabled and saved as default.

**4. Receipt Print Appears Too Faint**
Increase contrast in booth layout settings. On thermal printers, slow down the speed setting in preferences for darker, richer heat transfer.

**5. Bluetooth Printer Disconnects**
Keep the tablet within 5 meters of the printer. In tablet settings, disable battery saver mode for Bluetooth services. Tap Reconnect in Print settings.

**6. DSLR Not Connecting via USB**
Use a data USB cable (not charge-only), close EOS Utility / Imaging Edge, and set Sony USB Connection to *PC Remote* (Canon: *Live View shoot: Enable*).

## Dedicated Technical Guides & Resources

Need deep-dive instructions for a specific printer brand or tablet configuration? Visit our dedicated guides online:

- **DNP Guide:** photobooth4u.netlify.app/how-to-print-dnp/
- **HiTi Guide:** photobooth4u.netlify.app/how-to-print-hiti/
- **Thermal Receipt Guide:** photobooth4u.netlify.app/how-to-print-thermal/
- **360 Video Booth Guide:** photobooth4u.netlify.app/how-to-360/
- **Roving DSLR Photoman Guide:** photobooth4u.netlify.app/photobooth4u-roving-dslr-guide.pdf
- **Keychain Printing Guide:** photobooth4u.netlify.app/keychain-guide/
- **All Printers Directory:** photobooth4u.netlify.app/printers/ · **Print Station:** /print-station/

## Need Fast Support During an Event?

Message us directly on Facebook Messenger at **m.me/roktetnachi** with your device model and error screen. Our technical team is ready to assist you!