

FuturaPro

The Next Generation

Q. What are the major differences between the Futura PRO and the original Futura?**A. The Futura PRO includes the following improvements/upgrades to the original Futura:**

- 1. An upgraded tablet, together with upgraded electronics, delivers quicker start-up, faster response times and an all-around improvement in machine performance.*
- 2. Faster cutting cycles with a motor that delivers up to three times more power and torque with cutters that reach speeds of 1,585 rpm (vs. 1,050 on Futura) for edge cut keys and 12,100 rpm (vs. 7,100 in Futura) for laser and dimple keys. Edge Cut keys - 50% faster cutting cycle compared to the current Futura. 100% of edge-cut vehicle keys are cut in one step and 90% of edge cut residential and commercial keys are cut in one step with the remaining 10% cut in a maximum of two passes. Laser keys - 30% faster cutting cycle compared to the current Futura.*
- 3. A new AlCrN coated carbide cutter for the laser side (01LW) and a TiCN coated HSS cutter for edge cut keys provides longer cutter life.*
- 4. A new Tip Stop tool for use when clamping edge cut keys in position 4 that makes the clamping process much easier.*
- 5. Two USB ports; one for tethering the tablet and a second port used for charging the tablet and to connect the USB flash drive supplied with Futura PRO to import code tables or machine software updates. A Silca marked USB pen is also provided.*
- 6. Improved hardware. Polished steel motor cover on laser/dimple side, new handle on edge cut key clamp and stainless steel screws.*
- 7. Improved software features including a shortcut function for vehicle key cutting code searches, a key cut preview for laser keys and guided updating procedure that leads the user step-by-step through all of the operations required for updating the machine (via tablet, Silca Remote Service/USB pen or via Ethernet connection).*
- 8. Intelligent Lighting - White (machine is ready to proceed) / Yellow (machine is cutting a key) / Green (key cutting is complete) / Red (means there is a fault e.g. protective guard accidentally left open). Lights turn off when key is removed and shield is closed.*
- 9. Cut using any side of the clamp on edge cut keys. When cutting by code or indirect code the machine default setting allows the user to determine which jaw position to use to clamp the key. When decoding you must use the jaw position determined by the Futura PRO software.*
- 10. Distinctive style - "total black" with stainless steel accessories pad.*

Q. Is there a kit available for upgrading Futura to Futura PRO?

A. No, the cost of the components and labor to upgrade a current Futura would be greater than the purchase price of the Futura PRO machine.

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

A. Yes, all accessories and optional clamps will work with the original Futura and the Futura PRO.

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

A. Like the original Futura, the Futura PRO is equipped with a four position jaw (clamp) on the edge cut side that is used for most cylinder and edge cut automotive keys used in the North American market. On the laser/dimple side we provide three quick-change jaws that in combination will hold 90-95% of the laser/sidewinder keys used in North America. The combination of jaws 01J (on the left) and jaw 02J (on the right) are used to cut the four track laser/sidewinder keys. The combination of jaws 19J (on the left) and 02J (on the right) is used to clamp the two track HUF® keys used on Ford®, VW® / Audi®, Volvo® and Porsche® applications. The optional jaw 04J (on the right) is used in combination with jaw 01J (on the left) to clamp two track HUF keys used on BMW® and Mercedes® applications.

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

02V Clamp used for ASSA® type keys (long keys, D-12, DP, CLIQ)

02R Clamp used for Tubular keys

03R Clamp used for Tibbe® FO21 keys

Q. When changing clamps and jaws will the Futura PRO require re-calibrating?

A. The two standard clamps (01V on the edge cut side and 01R-01J-02J on the laser side) are calibrated at the factory and should not need to be calibrated prior to use. The 19J Jaws that come with the machine will need to be calibrated to the machine 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. On the laser/dimple side the machine automatically calibrates the Z axis every time a key is cut, so there are no special procedures the operator needs to perform when the jaw combinations are changed on the 01R clamp.

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

A. The standard cutter on the edge cut side (01F) is used to cut all edge cut keys in the North American Market. The standard cutter on the laser side (01LW) is used to cut all laser cut keys in the North American market with the exception of the Toyota®/Lexus® 80000 code series, which requires an optional (06LW) cutter. The optional clamp for Tibbe® keys utilizes the standard (01LW) cutter. The optional clamp for tubular keys would require an optional (03L) cutter.

Q. Can the carbide cutters on the Futura PRO be used on the Futura machine?

A. The carbide cutters are more expensive than the current HSS cutters but they can be used on the original Futura and could improve cutter life.

Q. Are adapters needed for certain keys (narrow, etc.)?

A. Other than those mentioned above, you should be able to clamp the majority of keys used in the North American market without the use of special adapters, clamps or jaws. Cylinder keys with narrow blades may require the placement of a pin (included with the machine's tool kit) between the bottom of the clamp and the back of the key so that the key extends far enough out from the jaw surface to be properly read and cut. If the key has a narrow blade and is also very thin, it may require the use of two pins. Some edge cut keys may require you to use an adapter or pin to help the key lay edge cut in the jaws. Refer to the Operators manual for illustrations showing the placement of the pins. Refer to the Futura PRO Specialist's Guide for optional clamps, jaws, adapters and accessories that are available to expand the use of the Futura PRO.



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

A. *The Wi-Fi signal created by the Futura PRO machine is only for connecting the tablet with the machine and does not provide access to the internet.*

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

- 1. ACCESS POINT through 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)*
- 4. Local Network (LAN) (to connect the machine to the internet)*

Q. Can the Futura operational software be loaded onto an existing computer or tablet rather than the supplied tablet?

A. *The software is actually loaded on the electronic board of the Futura machine. The tablet simply provides the operating system to run the software. The tablet used to run the machine utilizes the Android® 6 operating system. At present it is not compatible with a computer or tablet utilizing a Windows® or MAC® operating system. You can, however, use a Windows® or MAC® tablet or computer as a monitor by connecting to the machine's Wi-Fi signal and inputting the IP address of the machine.*

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

A. *In order to update the software on the Futura PRO (and also the Futura) 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 Futura PRO 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 Futura PRO machine with access to the internet (Local Network or LAN mode)*
- 2. Futura PRO 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.*

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 in order to access any new code series or cards that are added to the system. Software subscriptions expire on December 31st each year and must be renewed each year. The cost of the update depends on the time of year you purchase it (remember it will expire on December 31st). Software Subscriptions purchased from January to June would cost around \$200. From July through the end of the calendar year the cost would be half (again it will expire on December 31st).*

Continued on Reverse



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Q. Why does the Futura PRO have two USB ports?

A. The USB port on the current Futura only provides a “trickle” charge to the tablet and the tablet must be plugged into an 110V outlet to be fully charged. One of the enhancements of the Futura PRO is that the top USB port can be used to tether the tablet to the machine. The lower USB port will provide enough power to charge the tablet and can also be used to download updates via the SRS program and for importing code tables.

Q. Can I use the “Copy by Original” function to copy a laser or track key if I don’t know the code?

A. The “Copy by Original” function is only used for standard edge cut keys. The optical laser, located in front of the cutter on the edge cut side, is used to read the pattern on the original key. The key cut will be an exact duplicate of the original key unless manual adjustments are made.

If you are trying to decode a “worn” standard edge cut key in order to cut the duplicate back to OEM specifications you should use the “Search” function to identify the code series or Card used to cut the original key. Once you open the card, select “Decoding” on the right hand menu and follow the instructions on the screen

Laser or track type keys must be decoded in order to make a duplicate key. Following the same instructions as above, use the “Search” function to identify the codes series or Card used to cut the original key and then select “Decoding”.

Q. On the current Futura there is an optional interface available that allows you to send jobs to the Job Queue for Futura from Kreate-A-Key or Instacode software. Will this option be available on the Futura PRO?

A. The KAK/Instacode Interface is included as standard with the Futura PRO so you will not need to purchase this option.

