Plotter

- Plotters are used to print graphical output on paper.

- It interprets computer commands and makes line drawings on paper using multicolored automated pens. It is capable of producing graphs, drawings, charts, maps etc.

- Computer Aided Engineering (CAE) applications like CAD (Computer Aided Design) and CAM (Computer Aided Manufacturing) are typical usage areas for plotters.

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Printers

- Printers are used to produce paper (commonly known as hardcopy) output.

- Based on the technology used, they can be classified as Impact or Non-impact printers.

- **Impact printers** use the typewriting printing mechanism wherein a hammer strikes the paper through a ribbon in order to produce output. Dot-matrix and Character printers fall under this category.

- **Non-impact** printers do not touch the paper while printing. They use chemical, heat or electrical signals to etch the symbols on paper. Inkjet, Laser, Thermal printers fall under this category of printers.

Non-impact printer
(Dot-matrix)

Impact printer
(Laser)

Audio Output: Sound Cards and Speakers

- The Audio output is the ability of the computer to output sound.

- Two components are needed: **Sound card** – Plays contents of digitized recordings, **Speakers** – Attached to sound card.

Exercise:

1. Write short notes on printers and plotter.