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Dot Matrix Printers

The dot matrix printers that met the requirements for the PC/Computing 200 are 24-pin, wide-carriage units. All the products reviewed use print media of various thicknesses, including labels, continuous-feed paper, and multipart forms. Tested print speed ranged from 35.1 to 89.9 characters per second. All the printers have a 9-pin parallel port.

Product

Panasonic KX-P2624
Panasonic Office Automation Group
2 Panasonic Way
Secaucus, NJ 07094
(800) 742-8086
(201) 348-7000
Price: \$649.95

Citizen GSX-145
Citizen America Corp.
2450 Broadway, Suite 600
Santa Monica, CA 90411-4003
(800) 477-4683
(310) 453-0614
Price: \$599

AEG Olympia NP 136-24
AEG Olympia
1330 Riverbend, Suite 600
Dallas, TX 75247
(800) 832-4727
(214) 631-1031
Price: \$518

Fujitsu DL3600
Fujitsu Computer Products of America
2904 Orchard Pkwy.
San Jose, CA 95134
(800) 626-4686
Price: \$799

Epson LQ-1170
Epson America
20770 Madrona Ave.
Torrance, CA 90503
(800) 922-8911
(310) 782-0770
Price: \$1,049

Star XB-2425 Multi-Font

Star Micronics America
420 Lexington Ave., Suite 2702
New York, NY 10170
(212) 986-6770
Price: \$949

Alps ALQ324gx
Alps America
3553 N. First St.
San Jose, CA 95134
(800) 825-2577
(408) 432-6000
Price: \$999

Seikosha SL-270
Seikosha America
10 Industrial Ave.
Mahwah, NJ 07430
(800) 338-2609
(201) 327-7227
Price: \$998

Unisys AP 1339
Unisys Corp.
P.O. Box 500
Blue Bell, PA 19424-0001
(800) 448-1424
Price: \$949

Brother M-1924L
Brother International Corp.
200 Cottontail Lane
Somerset, NJ 08875-6714
(800) 284-4357
(908) 356-8880
Price: \$949

NEC Pinwriter P6300
NEC Technologies
1414 Massachusetts Ave.
Boxborough, MA 01719
(800) 632-4636
(508) 264-8000
Price: \$759

IBM PPSII 2391
Lexmark International
740 New Circle Rd.
Lexington, KY 40511

(800) 258-8575
Price: \$699

Evaluation	Score
Panasonic's KX-P2624 surpasses the rest with its quiet printing and excellent text and grayscale output. Along with a redesigned printhead, the Panasonic offers plenty of fonts and easy paper handling, all at a very reasonable price.	85.50
For just \$599, the GSX-145 from Citizen America offers great paper-handling capabilities and sharp text. Support is first-rate and includes a two-year warranty. The printer comes standard with a color kit.	75.50
How low can you go? AEG Olympia answers the question with the \$518 NP 136-24. The lowest-priced printer we tested, this unit offers superb paper-handling features and three paper paths, and it accommodates paper that's 17 inches wide. A solid performer across the board, the Olympia's bargain price makes it difficult to pass up.	75
The DL3600 from Fujitsu is another low-priced printer that ranks among the leaders in speed. Its text output was acceptable, but it lagged behind the others in grayscale and graphics image quality. If you want a fast, quiet dot matrix printer with such accessories as a Windows driver and a simple word processing program, Fujitsu's DL3600 may be your answer.	70.50
At 76 cps, the Epson LQ-1170 produces average output at above-average speed. The LQ-1170 comes standard with scalable fonts that can be printed in sizes from 8 to 32 points. Given the manufacturer's leadership in the printer business and the two-year warranty, buying from Epson is a smart choice.	69.30
The Star XB-2425 Multi-Font offers fonts galore ¹⁵ , more than any	69.30

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other printer tested. Output was average across the board, but Star does offer a color option. The \$949 price is standard for this category, but with Star's wide distribution, you should be able to get a good discount.

Another solid performer, the Alps ALQ324gx provides six fonts, a 23K print buffer, serial and parallel ports, and a color ribbon at a reasonable price. It has good speed, crisp text, and convenient paper handling. This printer covers all the bases. 68

The Seikosha SL-270 may be average in price and quality of output, but you get nine resident fonts, versatile paper handling, and a two-year warranty. This printer has a unique front-loading function card that eliminates clunky handling of dip switches for changing default settings. Despite the lack of an LCD front-panel display, the SL-270 is easy to use. 67.80

Fast print speed and good-looking output set the \$949 Unisys AP 1339 apart. At 67 cps, this printer ranked among the best for speedy printing. 67.80

This \$949 printer stands out for its paper handling and the quality of its text and graphics output. It performed adequately in other areas. Though it prints slower than most, the Brother M-1924L offers good quality and functionality. 67.50

The NEC Pinwriter P6300 earned an above-average rating for output quality, but its default font may be too thin for most business applications. You have your choice, though, of six other fonts. The P6300 also prints on the slow side, but for \$759, the NEC is worth considering. 66

At \$699, the IBM PPSII 2391's price is close to rock-bottom. This printer won't win any prizes for its boxy design or squeaky moving parts, but you get great IBM support, including a two-year warranty. 65.80