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PostScript Laser Printers

The PostScript laser printers that met the requirements for the PC/Computing 200 are small-footprint printers that occupy 350 square inches or less (measured in width by depth). All of the printers were configured with at least 2MB of RAM and at least 35 typefaces. Rated engine speeds ranged from 4 to 10 pages per minute.

Product

NEC Silentwriter Model 95
NEC Technologies
1414 Massachusetts Ave.
Boxborough, MA 01719
(800) 388-8888
(508) 264-8000
Price: \$1,749

QMS-PS 410
QMS
One Magnum Pass
Mobile, AL 36618
(800) 523-2696
(205) 633-4300
Price: \$1,995

MicroLaser Plus PS35
Texas Instruments
P.O. Box 202230
Austin, TX 78720-2230
(800) 527-3500
Price: \$1,749

Everex LaserScript LX
Everex Systems
48431 Milmont Dr.
Fremont, CA 94538
(800) 628-3837
(510) 498-1111
Price: \$1,995

LaserPrinter 4 StarScript
Star Micronics America
420 Lexington Ave., Suite 2702
New York, NY 10170
(800) 447-4700
(212) 986-6770
Price: \$1,995

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Okidata OL830
Okidata
532 Fellowship Rd.
Mount Laurel, NJ 08054
(609) 235-2600
Price: \$1,999

LaserPrinter 6PS
Lexmark International
740 New Circle Rd.
Lexington, KY 40511
(800) 258-8575
(606) 232-2000
Price: \$2,593

Evaluation	Score
<p>The NEC Silentwriter Model 95 is loaded with every feature you could want in a PostScript printer, including Adobe Level 2 PostScript; Hewlett-Packard PCL 5 and support for HP's HPGL; automatic emulation switching; and serial, parallel, and AppleTalk interfaces that can be simultaneously active. You also get 57 typefaces and 2 font cartridge slots, as well as professional-looking text with NEC's Sharp Edge Technology. What's more, this luxury printer has a bargain-basement list price of \$1,749.</p>	86.50
<p>For a truly personal PostScript laser, check out the QMS-PS 410. Priced to move at \$1,995, the QMS printer comes loaded with 45 typefaces, PostScript, and PCL 4and it automatically switches emulations. It also comes standard with serial, parallel, and AppleTalk ports and accepts print jobs from all three simultaneously. An excellent printer in its own right, the QMS-PS 410 is outdone only by the NEC's faster print speed and slightly lower price.</p>	80.50
<p>At \$1,749, TI's MicroLaser Plus PS35 ties with NEC for lowest retail price. The MicroLaser Plus has a 9-ppm engine which is a boon for PostScript printing. The easily upgradable printer also has 42 typefaces and quality output with clear grayscale differentiation. The one drawback is that a parallel interface is the only standard interface. But the combination of low price and fast engine speed is hard to beat. TI offers this printer in a PostScript Level 2 configurationthe MicroLaser Turbofor \$2,249.</p>	79
<p>With its crisp text, low price, and 6-ppm engine, the Everex LaserScript LX is the model PostScript laser printer. It ships with 2.5MB of RAM and 35 typefaces. That's enough for most people, but if you're doing graphics-intensive desktop publishing, be sure to plan ahead and buy the upgrades with the printer because memory is factory-installable only and typeface upgrades require a proprietary font controller card option.</p>	78.50
<p>The LaserPrinter 4 StarScript is a low-priced, 4-ppm PostScript solution that prints attractive text. It ships with serial, parallel, and AppleTalk interfaces and 49 typefaces35 PostScript and 14 bit-mapped. Adobe-compatible PostScript and PCL 4 are standard, but you have to switch the emulation setting manually.</p>	74

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Okidata hits the mark by offering the 8-ppm OL830 for the same price as many 4-ppm printers. The OL830 includes Adobe PostScript and PCL 4 and prints acceptably, though its grayscale definition is somewhat muddy. The speedy Okidata OL830 is a bargain that's hard to pass up. 73

The LaserPrinter 6PS's value lies in its upgradability. At \$2,593, it's an expensive 6-ppm printer whose controller can be upgraded to 10 ppm. It prints sharp, clear text, and by adding memory (to a total of 5MB) you get a resolution of 600 by 600 dots per inch. 68