





MONOCHROME LASER AND COLOUR INKJET PRINTERS

Monochrome laser												
Details	Last month's position	First reviewed	Price (ex VAT)	Warranty	Installed/maximum memory	Maximum resolution	Software resolution	Actual print speed	Dimensions (width x depth x height)	Interface type(s)	Toner	Print life (pages)
 1 Brother HL-1650 0161 931 2354 www.brother.co.uk	1	Sept 01	£519	1-year	8MB/136MB	600x600dpi	1,200x1,200dpi	13ppm	406x424x275mm	USB, parallel	£51	6,500
 2 Epson EPL-5900 0800 220 546 www.epson.co.uk	2	Apr 02	£269	1-year	8MB/136MB	1,200x1,200dpi	1,200x1,200dpi	11ppm	399x435x265mm	USB, parallel	£70	6,000
3 Kyocera Mita FS-1000+ 01189 230 789 www.kyocera.co.uk	3	Sept 01	£299	2-year	4MB/132MB	600x600dpi	1,200x1,200dpi	11ppm	378x375x222mm	parallel	£54	6,000
4 Brother HL-1450 0161 931 2354 www.brother.co.uk	NEW	May 02	£279	1-year	8MB/36MB	1,200x600dpi	1,200x600dpi	9ppm	360x370x235mm	USB, parallel	£51	6,000
5 HP LaserJet 1220 0870 547 4747 www.hp.com	NEW	May 02	£385	1-year	8MB/72MB	1,200x1,200dpi	1,200x1,200dpi	14ppm	415x487x417mm	USB	£57	3,500

Colour inkjet												
Details	Last month's position	First reviewed	Price (ex VAT)	Warranty	Installed/maximum memory	Maximum resolution	Quoted print speed	Actual print speed	Dimensions (width x depth x height)	Interface type	Ink costs	Print life (pages)
 1 Canon Bubble Jet S630 0800 616 417 www.canon.co.uk	1	Dec 01	£160	1-year	N/A	2,400x1,200dpi	B=17ppm C=12ppm	B=9ppm C=4ppm	430x177x294mm	USB, parallel	B=£9 C=£21	B=310 C=390
 2 HP PhotoSmart P1215 0870 547 4747 www.hp.com/uk	2	Dec 01	£195	1-year	N/A	2,400x1,200dpi	B=15ppm C=12ppm	B=9ppm C=3ppm	440x204x375mm	USB, parallel	B=£23 C=£28	B=830 C=450
3 Epson Stylus Color C80 0800 220 546 www.epson.co.uk	3	Feb 02	£148	1-year	N/A	2,880x720dpi	B=20ppm C=11ppm	B=5ppm C=1.5ppm	452x320x201mm	USB, parallel	B=£21 C=£9	B=1,240 C=420
4 Canon Bubble Jet S200 0800 616 417 www.canon.co.uk	NEW	May 02	£54	1-year	N/A	2,880x720dpi	B=5ppm C=3ppm	B=2.5ppm C=0.8ppm	390x189x162mm	USB	B=£5 C=£10	B=130 C=120
5 HP DeskJet 995c 0870 547 4747 www.hp.com/uk	4	Feb 02	£217	1-year	8MB	2,400x1,200dpi	B=17ppm C=12ppm	B=9ppm C=3ppm	431x381x203mm	USB, Bluetooth	B=£23 C=£26	B=830 C=450

MONOCHROME LASER PRINTERS

1 Brother HL-1650

 The Best Buy HL-1650 is a large device that weighs a hefty 14.5kg. However, it's a well-built, sturdy model so it should be able to cope with a heavy workload. The Brother comes complete with a built-in duplex unit, which is a bonus if you need to carry out double-sided printing. There's a 250-sheet input tray on the front of the printer, which feeds through to a 150-sheet output tray on the top of the unit. Considering the HL-1650's price, the maximum resolution of 600x600dpi (dots per inch) is not that high, but text is crisp and it can churn out up to 13ppm (pages per minute). Toner spread is uniform with no streaking, even on graphics and images. This is also a cheap printer to run, costing just under a penny a page.

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COLOUR INKJET PRINTERS

1 Canon Bubble Jet S630


 The S630 combines high print speed with good quality output. It's in terms of performance, though, that the Canon Bubble Jet distinguishes itself from the crowd. Its full-colour prints are flawless and beautifully defined thanks to the effective MicroFine Droplet technology, which delivers microscopic ink droplets (measuring five billionths of a millimetre) on to the paper. The text output may not match that of a laser printer, but the S630 remains as clean as any inkjet's. A small niggle is that, with the Canon's slightly high price tag, you might expect lower running costs. Having said that, the rates of 2.9p and 5.4p for a page of mono and colour respectively are still far from excessive.

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MONOCHROME LASER PRINTERS

2 Epson EPL-5900

 Laser printers may be renowned for their clean output, but it's still rare to see a sub-£300 model that offers resolution support above 600x600dpi (dots per inch). Not afraid to break away from the crowd, Epson has produced a tremendous printer capable of exceeding 1,200dpi. The EPL-5900 achieves a print speed of 11ppm (pages per minute) at 600x600dpi, which is only bettered by the HP LaserJet 1220. At just £269, the EPL-5900 delivers a fine performance, winning our recommendation.



3 Kyocera Mita FS-1000+

The Mita FS-1000+ may not be the cheapest printer in the chart, but its top-notch performance is comparable to that of a more expensive model. The Kyocera boasts a consistently good combination of speed and quality, beating all the competition on time to print the first page of each job. A final bonus is that it's economical, offering very cheap running costs.



4 Brother HL-1450

Brother gets another chart entry with the low-cost HL-1450. It might not have the speed to match its rivals, but it's easy to use and has low running costs. Despite the decent maximum resolution of 1,200x600dpi (dots per inch) we got mixed results from our print tests. At 300dpi printing is good, but the default setting when printing at 1,200x600dpi is extremely dark. The HL-1450's print speed of 9ppm (pages per minute) proves that it's not a speed demon, but the Brother is still a great budget option.



5 HP LaserJet 1220

If you can get over the LaserJet's high price and running costs, this versatile printer could be a good choice. Though not labelled as a multifunction device, the HP does have an additional scanner and copier facility. The maximum resolution of 1,200x1,200dpi (dots per inch) is complemented by a quoted print speed of 14ppm (pages per minute). Unfortunately the 1220 is marred by expensive toner that only lasts for 3,500 pages, so running this printer is almost twice as costly as some of the competition.



COLOUR INKJET PRINTERS

2 HP PhotoSmart P1215

 HP's PhotoSmart P1215 keeps its Recommended award for another month due to its all-round excellence. It comes complete with memory card slots, allowing you to print out your digital camera snaps without the need to connect to a PC. It supports CompactFlash, SmartMedia and IBM Microdrive cards. The PhotoSmart offers outstanding performance, with vibrant graphics and clean character definition.



3 Epson Stylus Color C80

With print speeds of 5ppm (pages per minute) in mono and 1.5ppm in colour, the C80 isn't the fastest inkjet in our chart. However, Epson's inkjets have always been geared more towards producing high-quality images than high-speed printing and, in this regard, the Stylus Color certainly isn't a disappointment. If you're happy to settle for a printer that takes its time, you will be rewarded with excellent results.



4 Canon Bubble Jet S200

Costing a mere £54, the Canon Bubble Jet S200 is one of the most ridiculously cheap inkjets you can buy, but beware the hidden cost of consumables. Black and colour refills have low page yields of 130 and 120 pages respectively. That means you'll have to replace the toners frequently, which is both frustrating and expensive. This is unfortunate, because the S200 is capable of producing crisp colourful images.



5 HP DeskJet 995c

The DeskJet's Bluetooth option means that this HP printer can communicate with similarly equipped devices wirelessly. A standard resolution of 600x600dpi (dots per inch) can be bumped up to 2,400x1,200dpi for photo printing and, although the 995c doesn't live up to the manufacturer's quoted print speeds, it's nippy on high-resolution jobs. The HP is a niche model, but we're sure those who need its features won't be let down. The DeskJet may be expensive to buy and run, but then the 995c isn't about value for money.

