











TOP 10 PERSONAL PRINTERS

		Colour inkjet printers	Max paper size	Max resolution	Quoted print speed	Actual print speed	Dimensions (wxhxd)	Supported interface types	Ink costs	Print life (pages)	
1		Canon Bubble Jet i850 0870 514 3723 www.canon.co.uk LAST MONTH 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• £164 inc VAT• 1-year warranty• First review Apr 03	A4	4,800x1,200dpi	B=22ppm C=14ppm	B=9ppm C=7ppm	418x274x159mm	USB 2.0, parallel	B=£10 C=£8	B=330 C=460
				Canon delivers on all fronts – speed, quality and ink nozzle technology. The Bubble Jet i850 is loaded with a generous software bundle, supports USB as well as parallel and is quiet across all print jobs. The Best Buy's forte, though, is high-res photo printing where it produces detailed and natural-coloured images.							
2		Canon Bubble Jet i470D 0870 514 3723 www.canon.co.uk NEW	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• £179 inc VAT• 1-year warranty• First review Oct 03	A4	4,800x1,200dpi	B=18ppm C=12ppm	B=10.5ppm C=3ppm	393x298x218mm	USB 2.0, parallel	B=£4 C=£9	B=130 C=160
				There's little here that you won't find in the cheaper Best Buy i850. But for the photo enthusiast wishing to bring their camera and printer together, the i470D is ideal. Another fine feature is that the printer's memory card slot allows you to print directly from all major flash types, though we'd like to have seen an LCD panel.							
3		Epson Stylus C62 0800 220 546 www.epson.co.uk LAST MONTH 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• £66 inc VAT• 1-year warranty• First review Nov 02	A4	5,760x720dpi	B=14ppm C=13.9ppm	B=7ppm C=5ppm	480x260x181mm	USB, parallel	B=£28 C=£23	B=600 C=300
				The low-maintenance Epson offers a top combination of low price, good-quality output and cheap running costs. All our printing tests above draft mode yielded great results and in speedy times, although if you'll be using the C62 for photo printing it's best to invest in some high-quality paper. Ideal for first-time buyers.							
4		Canon Bubble Jet i70 0870 514 3723 www.canon.co.uk LAST MONTH 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• £222 inc VAT• 1-year warranty• First review Jun 03	A4	4,800x1,200dpi	B=13ppm C=9ppm	B=5ppm C=3ppm	310x174x52mm	USB	B=£13 C=£20	B=390 C=100
				The Bubble Jet i70 may be the most expensive model in our chart but it offers something other inkjet printers don't: portability. The beautifully designed Canon weighs only 1.8kg, making it the perfect travelling companion. Text and photo quality is great, although we don't recommend this model for heavy-duty use.							
5		Epson Stylus C82 0800 220 546 www.epson.co.uk LAST MONTH 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• £89 inc VAT• 1-year warranty• First review Jun 03	A4	5,760x1,440dpi	B=22ppm C=11ppm	B=9ppm C=5ppm	470x301x237mm	USB 2.0 parallel	B=£28 C=£12	B=1,240 C=420
				The compact Stylus C82 sports an optimised resolution of 5,760x1,440dpi but end users don't have any control over settings – you choose the paper type, select the print mode and the C82 decides on a resolution for you. We would have liked speedier print times and photo prints could have been more vibrant.							

Mono laser printers			Memory installed maximum	Resolution hardware software	Quoted A4 print speed	Actual print speed	Dimensions (wxdxh) Weight	Supported interface types	Cost of toner	Print life (pages)	
1		Brother HL-5050 0870 830 4000 www.brother.co.uk LAST MONTH 1	• £242 inc VAT • 1-year warranty • First review Jun 03	16MB 144MB	600x600dpi 2,400x600dpi	16ppm	14ppm	382x383x252mm 11.5kg	USB 2.0, parallel	£52	6,500
Though designed for heavy-duty use, Brother's HL-5050 has a price tag that puts smaller home-based printers to shame and has generous running costs to boot. It might not offer the best print quality, but when it comes to performance and value for money the HL-5050 wins our Best Buy award hands down.											
2		Oki B4300N 01753 819 819 www.oki.co.uk LAST MONTH 2	• £445 inc VAT • 1-year warranty • First review Jul 03	16MB 48MB	600x1,200dpi n/a	18ppm	18ppm	355x395x215mm 9kg	USB 2.0, parallel	£42	6,000
The B4300N looks like a personal printer but has the performance levels of a mid-range workgroup mono laser. It might be a bit more expensive than some of the other printers in its class, but you get superb running costs and ease of use combined with decent functionality and quality performance.											
3		HP LaserJet 1150 0870 547 4747 www.hp.com LAST MONTH 3	• £222 inc VAT • 1-year warranty • First review Jun 03	8MB 8MB	600x600dpi 1,200x1,200dpi	17ppm	16ppm	415x486x241mm 8.5kg	USB 2.0, parallel	£65	2,500
HP's low-end mono laser is in direct competition with Canon's LaserShot LBP-1210. The LaserJet 1150, however, managed to beat its rival on price and running costs while having slightly faster print speeds. We were sceptical about HP's claimed print speed of 17ppm but our test results speak for themselves.											
4		Canon LaserShot LBP-1210 08705 143 723 www.canon.co.uk LAST MONTH 4	• £219 inc VAT • 1-year warranty • First review Jun 03	2MB 2MB	600x600dpi 2,400x600dpi	14ppm	13ppm	388x254x259mm 7.8kg	USB 2.0, parallel	£66	2,500
The LBP-1210 produces sharp black text and everything from installation to selecting printing options is easily done. Its maximum resolution helps produce clear text and graphics output. While we couldn't reach the LaserShot's claimed print speed of 14ppm, it remains fast when printing at higher resolutions.											
5		Lexmark T420dn 0870 444 0044 www.lexmark.co.uk LAST MONTH 5	• £631 inc VAT • 1-year warranty • First review Jun 03	32MB 288MB	600x600dpi 1,200x1,200dpi	22ppm	20ppm	406x425x258mm 13.75kg	USB 2.0, parallel	£69	5,000
Lexmark's mid-range mono laser solution isn't cheap but it crams in pretty much every feature you could possibly need, making the T420dn a good, if expensive, buy. This network-ready model is built to print black text documents quickly and it does the job well – ideal for small offices with high demands.											

Buying advice: colour inkjet printers

For a good mid-range printer we'd suggest paying around £100; there's no point in spending over this amount if you only want to print text documents. However, if you are after photo-quality output then you'll need to spend more.

When choosing a printer, make sure it is compatible with your PC. A lot of units

still come with a parallel connection but that's being phased out in favour of USB as it's easier to install and quicker in use.

If you're only printing text or graphics there's not much point in going beyond 600x600dpi for the best results. Photo printing will require a minimum resolution of 1,200x1,200dpi (dots per inch).

Speed depends on the resolution at which you're printing. On average, 6ppm

(pages per minute) or higher in mono and 3.5ppm or higher in colour are good. But remember that many manufacturers quote print speeds far in excess of the hardware's capabilities.

Always check the page coverage and expected print life of ink cartridges. If you have a mid-range inkjet you shouldn't pay more than 4p per page for black printing or 7p per page for colour.