TOP 10 PERSONAL PRINTERS

Colour inkjet printers		Max paper size	Max resolution	Quoted print speed	Actual print speed	Dimensions (wxdxh)	Supported interface types	Ink costs	Print life (pages)
1 Canon Bubble Jet i850 0870 514 3723 www.canon.co.uk LAST MONTH 1	• £140 ex 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 – but it doesn't come cheap. The 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 Epson Stylus C62 0800 220 546 www.epson.co.uk LAST MONTH 2	• £67 ex VAT • 1-year warranty • First review Nov 02	A4	5,760x720dpi	B=14ppm C=13.9ppm	B=7ppm C=5ppm	480x260x181mm	USB, parallel	B=£24 C=£20	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.								
3 Canon Bubble Jet i70 0870 514 3723 www.canon.co.uk LAST MONTH 3	• £189 ex 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.								
4 Epson Stylus C82 0800 220 546 www.epson.co.uk LAST MONTH 4	• £84 ex 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=£24 C=£10	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.								
5 HP DeskJet 6122 0870 547 4747 www.hp.com LAST MONTH 5	• £123 ex VAT • 1-year warranty • First review Jun 03	A4	1,200x1,200dpi	B=20ppm C=13ppm	B=9ppm C=6ppm	454x378x184mm	USB 2.0 parallel	B=£28 C=£31	B=833 C=450
	The 6122 is a business inkjet with plenty of features designed to cope with heavy-duty output. Given the DeskJet's target market, there's no photo-configuration controls and it copes badly with photo-quality output. Print jobs are okay across the board as long as you stay away from draft mode.								

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	• £206 ex 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	• £379 ex 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	• £189 ex 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	• £186 ex 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	• £537 ex 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: mono laser printers

• **Price** Mono laser prices vary more than those of inkjets so you need to know exactly what type you're after. Pay around £200 for an entry-level model and £500 for mid-range networkable device.

• **Interface** Parallel connections are being phased out in favour of USB cables which are easier and quicker to install.

• **Resolution** If you're only printing text or graphics then 600x600dpi (dots per inch) will suffice for most print jobs. If you decide on a high-end mono laser model then look for a device that offers 1,200x1,200 resolution.

• **Speed** Print speed depends on the resolution. Remember that manufacturers quote rates far in excess of the hardware's capabilities. If you're

purchasing a £500-plus mono laser then expect a 17-22ppm print speed.

• **Running costs** Always check the page coverage and predicted print life before you buy because a low-cost replacement cartridge isn't necessarily a bargain. Mono lasers are much cheaper to run – costs should be about 2p per page on an entry-level model and half that on expensive devices.