







Top 10 Colour inkjet & Mono laser printers

			Colour inkjet printers	Max paper size	Max resolution	Quoted print speed	Actual print speed	Supported interface types	Dimensions (wxdxh)	Ink costs	Print life (pages)	
PC ADVISOR BEST BUY	1		Canon Bubble Jet i865 0870 514 3723 www.canon.co.uk Last month 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• £169 inc VAT• 1-year warranty• First review Dec 03	A4	4,800x1,200dpi	B=23ppm C=16ppm	B=11ppm C=8ppm	USB 1.1, parallel	420x311x185mm	B1=£8 B2=£11 C=£8x3	B1=440 B2=330 C=440
	The i865 offers an unbeatable combination of value for money and quality. Photo printing is brilliant with sharp detail and absolutely stunning colours – even when printing in draft mode. There's a good software bundle, a generous supply of paper and this model even allows printing directly on to CD-R or DVD media.											
PC ADVISOR RECOMMENDED	2		Lexmark Z705 0870 444 0044 www.lexmark.co.uk Last month 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• £53 inc VAT• 1-year warranty• First review Dec 03	A4	4,800x1,200dpi	B=17ppm C=10ppm	B=5.5ppm C=3ppm	USB 1.1	439x236x152mm	B=£22 C=£28	B=225 C=260
	The compact and light Z705 could almost be a portable model – if it had a battery. In spite of its 2.1kg frame the Lexmark isn't flimsy, but its size does mean that you only get a 100-page input tray. Print speeds are slow, image quality is moderate and replacement ink cartridges are pricey compared to the cost of the device.											
3		Epson Stylus Photo 900 0800 220 546 www.epson.co.uk Last month 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• £199 inc VAT• 1-year warranty• First review Dec 03	A4	5,760x7,200dpi	B=9ppm C=8.8ppm	B=5ppm C=3ppm	USB 1.1, parallel	493x306x183mm	B=£19 C=£21	B=540 C=330	
				Bulkier than the other printers, the 900 comes armed with a slew of accessories and special features. It can print directly to recordable CD and DVD media, for instance. Print quality is excellent, but considering the high price tag we expected far more in terms of speed. This model is also fairly expensive to run.								
4		Canon Bubble Jet i70 0870 514 3723 www.canon.co.uk Last month 5	<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	USB 1.1	310x174x51.8mm	B=£12.99 C=£19.99	B=390 C=100	
				The Bubble Jet i70 may be the second most expensive model in our chart but it offers something other inkjet printers don't: portability. The beautifully designed Canon weighs only 1.8kg. Text and photo quality is good, although we don't recommend this model for heavy-duty use.								
5		HP DeskJet 9300 0870 547 4747 www.hp.com/uk New	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• £278 inc VAT• 1-year warranty• First review Dec 03	A3	4,800x1,200dpi	B=14ppm C=11ppm	B=8.1ppm C=2.4ppm	USB 1.1 parallel	592x672x233mm	B=£23.99 C=£26.99	B=830 C=450	
				The DeskJet 9300 towers over its rivals – almost literally. The hefty 10kg frame may alert you to its selling point, and it's the printer's ability to work with A3 size paper that may help you decide whether or not you want to pay the relatively high price tag. If you need to print to larger media the 9300 is the one to go for.								

PC ADVISOR
BEST BUY

1



Lexmark E323
0870 444 0044
www.lexmark.co.uk
Last month 1

- £252 inc VAT
- 1-year warranty
- First review Dec 03

Installed memory
Maximum memory

Hardware resolution
Software resolution

Quoted A4 print speed

Actual print speed

Supported interface types

Dimensions (wxdxh)
Weight

Cost of toner

Print life (pages)

16MB
144MB

600x600dpi
1,200x1,200dpi

19ppm

15ppm

USB 1.1,
parallel

391x361x221mm
9kg


£88

3,000

Excellent print quality at all resolutions and a respectable output rate count among the Lexmark's strengths. But high running costs (including expensive consumables) make the E323 far from economical. Memory of 16MB is about the norm for printers at this price, but it can be expanded to a massive 144MB.

PC ADVISOR
RECOMMENDED

2



Oki B4300N
01753 819 819
www.oki.co.uk
Last month 2

- £349 inc VAT
- 1-year warranty
- First review Jul 03

16MB
48MB

600x1,200dpi
n/a

18ppm

18ppm

USB 2.0,
parallel


355x395x200mm
9kg

£49

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



Xerox Phaser 3130
0870 241 3245
www.xerox.com/office/pr
Last month 3

- £285 inc VAT
- 2-year onsite swap warranty
- First review Dec 03

32MB
32MB

600x600dpi
1,200x600dpi

16ppm

13ppm

USB 2.0,
parallel


348x355x193mm
7kg

£65

3,000

The Phaser 3130 only weighs 7kg making it ideal for home use. Put it in an office situation, however, and it will struggle to keep up with the demands of all but the smallest businesses due to its slow print speeds and high consumable costs. The installed memory is generous but there's no room to upgrade.

4



HP LaserJet 1150
0870 547 4747
www.hp.com/uk
Last month 4

- £229 inc VAT
- 1-year warranty
- First review Jun 03

8MB
8MB

600x600dpi
1,200x1,200dpi

17ppm

16ppm

USB 1.1,
parallel


415x486x241mm
8.5kg

£65

2,500

This month the 1150 makes another splash in the Mono laser chart. With its straightforward design, low price tag, simple installation procedure and impressive print quality, it's no wonder we took a second look. Print speeds are excellent and, at 2.5 pence per page, printing costs will not break the bank.

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

USB 1.1,
parallel

406x425x258mm
13.75kg

£69

5,000

Lexmark's T420dn isn't cheap but it crams in pretty much everything making it a good, if somewhat expensive, buy. It has built-in duplex capabilities, cheap running costs, a fairly longlife toner cartridge and a monthly duty cycle of 50,000 pages so it should cope with anything you throw at it.

Buying advice

Colour inkjets & mono lasers

• **Price** There's no point in paying through the nose if all you're going to print is text. Don't spend more than £150 for an inkjet unless you want photo-quality. Mono lasers cost more, so know what your needs are before you buy. If it's going to be heavily used then look at mid-range networkable devices.

• **Interface** Most printers give the option of parallel and USB ports. USB 2.0 offers faster data-transfer rates than the standard USB interface.

• **Resolution** Focus on the hardware resolution – 600x600dpi is fine for a mono laser but for high-quality prints 1,200x1,200dpi is better. Most colour inkjets can handle 4,800x1,200dpi.

• **Speed** Take quoted figures with a pinch of salt. For an inkjet printer 9ppm in mono and 5ppm in colour

is good. For low-end laser printers 14ppm is adequate, but for a heavy-duty £400+ model expect 20ppm.

• **Running costs** Check the cost of replacement cartridges and find out how many pages of coverage the cartridge gives. From this you can work out the cost per page. With inkjets 4ppp (pence per page) for mono prints and 7ppp for colour is the maximum, although costs rise for a photo printer. Mono laser costs are much lower.