


TOP 10 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	600x 600dpi	1,200x 1,200dpi	13ppm	406x424x 275mm	USB, parallel	£51	6,500
 2 Epson EPL-5900 0800 220 546 www.epson.co.uk	NEW	Apr 02	£269	1-year	8MB/ 136MB	1,200x 1,200dpi	1,200x 1,200dpi	11ppm	399x435x 265mm	USB, parallel	£70	6,000
3 Kyocera Mita FS-1000+ 01189 230 789 www.kyocera.co.uk	2	Sept 01	£299	2-year	4MB/ 132MB	600x 600dpi	1,200x 1,200dpi	11ppm	378x375x 222mm	parallel	£54	6,000
 4 Brother HL-1030 0161 931 2354 www.brother.co.uk	3	Jun 00	£209	1-year	2MB/ 2MB	600x 600dpi	600x 600dpi	8ppm	360x370x 235mm	parallel	£51	6,000
 5 Canon LPB 810 0800 252 223 www.canon.co.uk	4	Sept 01	£178	1-year	512KB/ 512KB	600x 600dpi	600x 2,400dpi	7ppm	367x305x 266mm	USB, parallel	£47	2,500

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 252 223 www.canon.co.uk	1	Dec 01	£160	1-year	N/A	2,400x 1,200dpi	B=17ppm C=12ppm	B=9ppm C=4ppm	430x177x 294mm	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	2,400x 1,200dpi	B=15ppm C=12ppm	B=9ppm C=3ppm	440x204x 375mm	USB, parallel	B=£23 C=£28	B=830 C=450
 3 Epson Stylus C80 0800 220 546 www.epson.co.uk	3	Feb 02	£148	1-year	N/A	2,800x 720dpi	B=20ppm C=11ppm	B=5ppm C=1.5ppm	452x320x 201mm	USB, parallel	B=£21 C=£9	B=1,240 C=420
 4 HP DeskJet 995c 0870 547 4747 www.hp.com/uk	4	Feb 02	£217	1-year	8MB	2,400x 1,200dpi	B=17ppm C=12ppm	B=9ppm C=3ppm	431x381x 203mm	USB, Bluetooth	B=£23 C=£26	B=830 C=450
 5 HP DeskJet 920c 0870 547 4747 www.hp.com/uk	5	Dec 01	£76	1-year	N/A	2,400x 1,200dpi	B=9ppm C=8ppm	B=7ppm C=2ppm	431x381x 203mm	USB, Bluetooth	B=£23 C=£26	B=830 C=450


TOP 10 MONOCHROME LASER PRINTERS
1 Brother HL-1650

The 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. It 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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Top 10 Monochrome laser printers chart



TOP 10 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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Top 10 Colour inkjet printers chart



TOP 10 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 Brother HL-1650. 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 the second-cheapest running costs after the fourth-placed Brother.

**4** Brother HL-1030

The HL-1030 strikes a pleasing balance between fast output and decent results. It's not the quickest or best-quality printer, but the Brother provides good results for both. The HL-1030 has a claimed print speed of 10ppm (pages per minute) and our tests showed this estimate wasn't too far from the truth. Toner spread is even and the Brother produced a good contrast between light and dark. As a result, the print jobs on graphics and photographic images were of a respectable quality.

**5** Canon LPB 810

The LPB 810 has been stripped of all superfluous features – there's no LCD (liquid crystal display), buttons or status lights. This lack of options means that the machine is simple to set up and the no-frills software, while limited, is effective. But the real selling point for the Canon LPB 810 is its space-saving footprint. The U-shaped paper feed keeps the printer compact and, at 6.2kg, it is the lightest model in our chart.



TOP 10 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 card slots, allowing you to print out your digital camera snaps without the need to connect to a PC. It also provides facilities for 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 C80 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** 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 fairly 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.

**5** HP DeskJet 920c

The 920c's price tag may be a trim £76, but frequent users will pay in the long run. At 4p for a page of text and 5.5p for colour, the HP has among the highest running costs of any of the inkjets in our chart. The DeskJet 920c, however, produces plenty of speed for its price – printing off 7ppm (pages per minute) of text and 2ppm in colour at the lowest resolution. The HP DeskJet 920c isn't a good buy for high text quality or for cheap running costs, but it is suited to high-speed printing.

