


TOP 10 MONOCHROME LASER AND COLOUR INKJET PRINTERS

Monochrome laser												
Details	Last month's position	First reviewed	Price (ex VAT)	Warranty	Installed/maximum memory	Standard 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 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
 3 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
 4 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
 5 HP LaserJet 1200 0870 547 4747 www.hp.com	5	Jun 01	£349	1-year	8MB/ 72MB	1,200x 1,200dpi	1,200x 1,200dpi	11.5ppm	415x252x 487mm	USB, parallel	£59	2,500

Colour inkjet												
Details	Last month's position	First reviewed	Price (ex VAT)	Warranty	Installed/maximum memory	Standard 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 0870 608 8833 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=420 C=340
 2 Epson Stylus Color 680 0800 220 546 www.epson.co.uk	2	Jan 01	£59	1-year	32KB/ 32KB	2,800x 720dpi	B=8ppm C=8ppm	B=5ppm C=2ppm	450x182x 246mm	USB, parallel	B=£19 C=£16	B=600 C=300
 3 HP PhotoSmart P1215 0870 547 4747 www.hp.com/uk	3	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
 4 HP DeskJet 920C 0870 547 4747 www.hp.com/uk	4	Dec 01	£76	1-year	N/A	2,400x 1,200dpi	B=9ppm C=8ppm	B=7ppm C=2ppm	440x196x 400mm	USB, parallel	B=£20 C=£25	B=495 C=450
 5 Epson Stylus Photo 895 0800 220 546 www.epson.co.uk	5	Sept 01	£169	1-year	32KB/ 32KB	2,800x 720dpi	B=8ppm C=8ppm	B=5ppm C=3ppm	467x212x 256mm	USB	B=£14 C=£11	B=540 C=220


TOP 10 MONOCHROME LASER PRINTERS
1 Brother HL-1650

 The HL-1650 is a large device and weighs a hefty 14.5kg. However, it's a well-built, sturdy model so it should be up to coping with a heavy workload. It comes complete with a built-in duplex unit, which is a real bonus if you need to do 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 its price, the maximum resolution of 600x600dpi (dots per inch) is not that high, but text is crisp and the 1650 can churn out up to 13ppm (pages per minute). Toner spread is uniform with no streaking, even on tricky graphics and images. The 1650 is a cheap printer to run, costing just under a penny a page.



TOP 10 COLOUR INKJET PRINTERS
1 Canon Bubble Jet S630

 The S630 combines high print speed with a quality of output that's second to none. It's in the performance category, though, that this printer truly distinguishes itself from the crowd. 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 it remains as clean as any inkjet's. If there is a slight niggle, it's that with the Bubble Jet's high price tag you might expect lower running costs. Having said that, the rates of 2.1p and 6.2p for a page of mono and colour respectively are still far from excessive.



TOP 10 MONOCHROME LASER PRINTERS
2 Kyocera Mita FS-1000+

 The FS-1000+ is not the cheapest printer in the chart, but its performance is comparable to that of a more expensive model. It boasts a consistently good combination of speed and quality, and beats 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 third-placed Brother.

**3** Brother HL-1030

The HL-1030 strikes a pleasing balance between speed and quality. It's rarely the fastest or best-quality printer, but it 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 printer produced a good contrast between light and dark. As a result, the print jobs on graphics and photographic images were of a comparable quality to more expensive models.

**4** Canon LPB 810

The LPB 810 has been stripped of all superfluous features; there's no LCD display, buttons or status lights – so all printing adjustments are made via the software package. 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 this printer is its space-saving footprint. The U-shaped paper feed keeps it compact and, at 6.2kg, it is the lightest printer in our chart.

**5** HP LaserJet 1200

The 1200 is expensive, but it does come with 8MB of onboard memory and offers true 1,200x1,200dpi (dots per inch) resolution. These high-end features produce a print speed of 11.5ppm (pages per minute), with crystal-clear quality. Running costs are high – 2.36p per page, which makes the HP almost twice as expensive to run as any of the other printers in the chart. If you have the money then this is a good printer, but steer clear if your budget is tight.



TOP 10 COLOUR INKJET PRINTERS
2 Epson Stylus Color 680

 The Epson Stylus Color 680 has retained a position among the elite for over a year. It's no real surprise considering that the 680 is almost a third of the price of the highly-rated Canon S630 and HP PhotoSmart P1215. The biggest problem you'll find with the Epson Stylus is its speed. Even the quoted print speeds – 8ppm (pages per minute) for mono and 7.7ppm for colour – look modest; the actual speeds are a sluggish five and 2ppm respectively.

**3** HP PhotoSmart P1215

The HP PhotoSmart P1215 sets a high standard for all-round excellence. Like the Epson Stylus Photo 895, 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 P1215 offers outstanding performance, with vibrant graphics and clean character definition.

**4** 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, it is going to cost you almost twice as much to generate a print from this model as from say, the Canon S630.

The 920C, however, produces plenty of speed for its price – printing off 6.5ppm (pages per minute) of text and 2.2ppm in colour at the lowest resolution. The 920C isn't a good buy for high text quality and, even after its year in the charts, the Epson 680 is probably the better all rounder.

**5** Epson Stylus Photo 895

Now that the Epson's selling point – its innovative memory card slot that lets you take photos from any CompactFlash-compatible camera and print them off without touching a PC – has been emulated by the HP PhotoSmart P1215, the 895 struggles to hold down a position near the top of the chart.

This isn't the fastest of printers and, even at the paltry quality of economy mode, the printer struggles to print 4.9ppm (pages per minute) of text. The £169 Epson Stylus Photo 895 isn't the cheapest option and there are faster printers available for general office and home use.

