Canon Pixma MP780

PC PRO A LIST

PRICE £188 (£221 inc VAT)   **SUPPLIER** www.inmac.co.uk (code: CNMPI780)

VERDICT The all-in-one that has it all. Superlative quality, quick print times and a swathe of features make the MP780 a great choice for business users.

Canon's mid-range Pixma iP3000 inkjet made it onto our A List five months ago (*see issue 124, p137*) and the MP780 uses the same excellent ink system. A mono cost per page of just 2.2p and 13.2p per 6 x 4in photo make the MP780 the second cheapest in the Labs for running costs.

The print engine is also superb quality. Our A4 mono text document was approaching laser quality – there was no feathering or banding whatsoever. A small quibble is the speed with which the MP780 churned out the pages; 4.2ppm isn't particularly impressive.

This rose to 10.9ppm in Draft mode, but quality inevitably took a hit and the speed is still some way off Canon's quoted 25ppm for mono text. Our PDF test was handled better. Taking just 93 seconds to print the four pages made the Canon the fastest in the group and quality was excellent. Different colours and sizes of fonts printed precisely, while white text on a black background – a demanding test for an inkjet – printed crisply without bleeding.

Colour photos were breathtaking. The MP780 reproduced faithful skin tones and contrast was excellent. Our five 6 x 4in photos took three minutes, two seconds each to print. Just beware that fade resistance for photos is the weakest on test at only 25 years.

If print speed was only average, the MP780 makes up the shortcoming with its scanning speed. Our 6 x 4in print was scanned in just eight seconds, while our tough 1,200ppi test completed in two minutes, 11 seconds. Again, the quality of the results was impressive, with the MP780 producing vibrant high-contrast images.

Copied documents were remarkably close in quality to originals. Managing 4.3ppm in Normal mode and 9.7ppm in Draft mode for the 5 per cent document, the MP780 is a practical choice for businesses needing high-quality output quickly.

With no media card readers and no colour LCD, home users should look elsewhere. Business users, however, will appreciate the automatic document feeder and automatic duplex functions. Also, the MP780 boasts an integrated fax, and it can even print onto CDs. A full-colour, high-quality disc emerged in one minute, 15 seconds.

It might not be the cheapest, but the MP780 has everything a small business could wish for: fast scanning, the best print quality on test and low running costs, all of which make the Canon a deserving winner.

PC PRO RATINGS	
QUALITY	★★★★★☆
SPEED	★★★★★★
FEATURES & DESIGN	★★★★★★
RUNNING COSTS	★★★★★★
VALUE FOR MONEY	★★★☆☆☆
OVERALL	★★★★★☆