Purchasing a New Printer – Need a Fast One!

I'm moving into my first real office (I've been a virtual tenant for 2.5 years working out of a home office). I need to purchase a new printer for the office and keep my older one (which is finicky now) at home. I use an iMac. I have a scansnap and fax accessibility at the office so I don't need an all in one. I really just need a super great (and fast!) black and white laser printer that works well with an iMac and large PDF's. I would also like it to make photocopies.

Any suggestions? I have been using an HP all-in-one and it doesn't work great with my iMac (e.g., scanner quit working with iMac, slower with large PDF's even with upgraded Adobe pro).

My new office space unfortunately doesn't have a huge professional printer so I'm looking for an upgrade.

Any help would be very much appreciated,

I use the HP Laserjet p2035 series, which is great. It doesn't do color, it's not an all in one. It's just a black and white laser workhorse.

However, you said that you would like it to make photocopies. I think that's a problem. Because then you start getting into all-in-ones.

When I want to make photocopies, I scan the documents using my ScanSnap into my computer, and then print them on the printer.

David A. Shulman, Florida

Totally agree. I use the same set-up with an HP3015 and my SnapScan. It does double-sided printed cheaply and easily. An all-in-one is never going to be cost effective for copies and it isn't going to be reliable.

Emilie Fairbanks

I agree with David and Emilie. Get a good black & white laser printer. To make copies, scan with the ScanSnap, then print. Unless you make lots of copies every day, this route will get you the printing performance you're after.

I have the Brother HL-5370DWT. It's awesome. One of the best purchases I've made for my office.
http://www.amazon.com/Brother-HL-5370DWT-Printer-Wireless-Networking/dp/B0025KVK70

The DWT model has two trays, so it's always loaded with plain paper and letterhead. Duplexes nicely, although that does slow the speed down a bit. And it's wireless, so it can sit anywhere there's electricity.

I posted a while back about toner usage. I think I've only bought two toner cartridges (at about $75 each for the high volume version) in the 2 years I've owned this printer. Definitely not a resource hog in my opinion.

Andrew

PS: I also have an HP OfficeJet all-in-one. Piece of garbage, compared to the Brother. But it does our occasional color printing satisfactorily.

Andrew Flusche, Virginia

Brother makes an economical workhorse. Had my 5250DN for 7 years now with no complaints. Be forewarned that envelopes will crinkle if you try to run them through, so I just use a Brother SX-4000 typewriter, it's good for the envelopes and forms.

Michael A. Huerta, New York

I have the HP Laser Jet P2055dn. I think that model has been discontinued, but yes, it's my workhorse. I only use my three-in-one for reproducing color photographs for my personal injury cases. And for printing color copies of birds and George Washington's portrait for DD's book reports.

HP LaserJets work fine with my iMac.

And, congratulations on your new digs!

Jeena R. Belil, New York

Got an HP 4250n and it has been going strong since 2004. A very fast
black and white laser printer that comes out to 1 penny per page total
operating cost. Maybe less considering it's now 7 yrs old.

Cheers,

Eugene Lee, California

I agree. I have a 2035 and it's great, especially the duplex mode. The ScanSnap has an option
called "Scan to Printer" which is kinda like a copier, but I haven't been able to get the scanning
resolution to "transfer" to the printer.   The scan-to-printer copies are much lower resolution than
when I save the scan and then print it. I can't figure out why.

John Varde< Illinois

Is there a setting on your printer for "thick" paper? If so, adjust it so
that the printer thinks you're printing thick paper, and the envelopes
should go through without wrinkling. You should still be able to printer
"regular" paper without having to change the setting.

This solved the envelope wrinkling problem on my last two Brother printers.

YMMV.

Scott I. Barer, California

Brother HL-2270DW

Mitchell P. Goldstein, Virginia

I second the Brother HL 2270DW. I have had one for the last year or so, and
other Brother items as well.

Unless you have an iPhone and/or iPad, in which this printer does not
support AirPrint or the Brother software to print from iOS.

Dan X. Nguyen, California

Thanks for the tip. The thicker setting is definitely an improvement, I'm
still getting a tiny crease which is actually acceptable. I do like the
sharp lettering of the typewriter, but I can see myself being weened off if
I have to send out mass mailings.

Michael A. Huerta

I print both the envelope and the stamp directly on the envelope at the same time.

David Shulman

Agree, Brother HL 2270DW is work horse. In unlikely event its not fast
enough (lots of long docs) buy two. I routinely print "peal and stick"
envelopes--sometimes a slight wrinkle.

For appearance, use large black, sans serif face for envelope address. Its
the one place where you are free to choose type for function and style.

AND to deal with large docs, try #14 Envelope (5 x 11.5). I use manilla
and they will feed. Clerks, and others, prefer doc folded lengthwise.
IMHO full size, flat envelopes are PITA for everyone.

MEET ME IN THE REPRODUCTION DEPT.

John Page, Florida

Interesting; I have never received a document folded lengthwise. Not once in my 47 years, in any context. And it has never occurred to me to do so.

For middling documents that, if folded in three, become too bulky for a #9 or #10, I use 6 x 9" "catalog" envelopes. They feed just fine, and only one crease in the documents for scanning, etc.

I have no problem with large flat envelopes (typically 9 x 12", but sometimes larger for thicker docs, though with large documents, I typically use Priority Mail Flat Rate envelopes for their rigidity), and for those, I print my stamps.com postage on Avery 5168 (4/page) labels. I prefer white, but will use manila if they're a lot cheaper.

I'm (still) using an older HP Laserjet 2100TN for my postage and label printing. It only creases if I feed into the output bin; if I'm doing more than one envelope, I'll open the straight-through output tray, which gives flat path. (That's a good feature to have if you think you might have occasion to print on card stock or heavier label stock that's prone to peeling in tight curves.)

Our main printer in the office is a Ricoh Aficio MP2550, which is great for volume production printing, but I've never really mastered its manual feed tray, and it doesn't print the blackest blacks. When I want a really crisp print, I'll use my Laserjet (for shorter docs; at this age, it's not feeding well from the trays), or the Lanier LP116c, which is NOT fast, but produces great results in black or color, and does especially well on heavy paper and glossy stock. (I've printed some of my brochures on it, and they're as nice as, or nicer than, what I get printed in bulk at FedEx/Kinko's.)

-Rick

Richard J. Rutledge, Jr., North Carolina

RICK--
I have been accused of thinking outside the box. More likely, I was around before the box was built.

Prefer #14 to Catalog--either work. I just don't want to print labels.

STUCK ON 14.

John Page

My main advice is to look to the "supported paper weight" section--it's always available somewhere, though you may need to look at the online manual to find it. The higher weight the better, ideally from all trays. That's a good indicator of a good feed system.

As an example, Xerox used to make copiers which would feed 120 pound card stock from all trays. When folks reviewed them, they never ever jammed.

If you want cheap, just get one of these:
http://www.newegg.com/Product/Product.aspx?Item=N82E16828113429

Everyone likes them.

Label printing with a standard printer is a PITA. Supposedly the way to go is to use a Dymo, which will auto-capture the address and shoot out a label faster than you can pick up the envelope. I don't have one myself, but they sure seem nice. Some years past, I used to use a $30 Epson inket reserved for labels. An inkjet lets you run a sheet of labels through more than once, so you don't need to print the whole sheet if you don't want to.

Envelope printing has a lot to do with envelope design, including the angle of the seams, and where they are relative to the flap.

Erik Hammarlund, Massachusetts