

Good Buys on Printers for Photos

August 9, 2008

Print Only

Canon Pixma iP4500, \$100 at www.amazon.com

HP Photosmart D5360, \$95 at www.amazon.com

All-in-One

Canon Pixma MP520, \$120 at www.amazon.com

I only included ones that gave both good text and good photos.

If cost is no problem, the Canon Pixma MP970 is outstanding. I have it and the photos that it prints are outstanding. The text is also very good. It gives great sans. \$230 at www.amazon.com

Shipping costs: Printers are heavy. Shipping can add \$30 to \$40 to the cost of a printer. Check local costs. The tax that you pay will be much less than shipping.

WHAT DOES IT COST FOR INK TO USE IN AN INKJET RINTER?

PRINTER MANUFACTURERS SELL PRINTRES AT NEAR THEIR COST.

They make huge profits on selling ink. We will look at the costs and the results of using "third-party ink," including refills.

In general, third-party ink costs less and prints more. With very few exceptions, the results of using manufactures' inks gave better results in printing both text and photos. Several third-party inks gave "Good" results when printing color photos on glossy paper. None were rated "Very Good." The ratings were: "Poor," "Fair," "Good," and "Very Good."

Third-party inks gave 3% to 70% more pages of text when compared to manufacturers' inks, thus making the costs less.

Cost per page varied greatly based on which ink was used. Printing a page of B&W text varied from 1.3 cents to 18 cents. Printing a color photo varied from 11 to 59 cents. All of the printers

when using their own ink cost 28 cents or more except for one printer which cost 12 cents per photo. FADING can be a problem in areas where ozone and ultraviolet light levels are high. Inks made by the manufacturer scored better on Fading Tests.

CONCLUSIONS: (1) If you want the very best results possible, use the brand of ink recommended by the maker of your printer! (2) If, however, you would be satisfied with OK but less than the best, that is "Fair," use third-party inks. You may need to try two or three before you get the one that works for you. One important factor is that, in most cases, using third-party inks will void the warranty on your printer. We have a saying in our family, "If you can afford to play golf, you can afford to buy golf balls."

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