

HP Reinvents the Inkjet Printer

HP has just introduced a new line of business class Inkjet Printers and after reading a review, I went ahead and ordered one. Up to recently, most companies purchased laser printers over inkjets for two main reasons. Laser was faster and less expensive per page to operate. Those two drawbacks have now been erased by this new line of printers.

Printing, copying and scanning at 55 pages per minute in both black & white and colour, these printers are faster than almost any laser printer on the market. This speed is due to a full page print head that does not move like conventional inkjet printers. It uses 40,000 inkjets to disburse the new ink across the page. The new ink is colour safe, which is to say it will not fade over time. It is also relatively waterproof as was demonstrated by an HP employee who poured a glass of water over a page immediately after printing it.

Economy is achieved in two ways. The new inkjet cartridges are quite large with 9200 pages per black cartridge and 6600 pages per colour cartridge. The price (\$120 per cartridge) is very comparable to a large format laser printer on a per page basis. The cartridges can be ordered and replaced separately by colour. The other way in which the printer saves you money is that it requires far less energy to print a page as compared to a laser printer which requires considerable heat to print.

As a bonus, the All in One units feature Multi-page Scanning to your computer, network folder or email. You can also fax from your computer with the Fax Printer Driver installed. All units feature built in networking and built in automatic duplexing to further save paper.

In my own case I replaced my existing All in One Printer and Laser printer with this one unit and so far I am quite pleased with the result. Even Libra prints quite happily on it.

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The unit comes in 4 different configurations:

The X451dn (Printer Only) @ \$450.00

The X551dn (Printer Only) @ \$600.00

The X476dn (All in One) @ \$650.00

The X576dn (All in One) @ \$800.00

Prices are approximate as of my last inquiry.

The larger numbered models have a higher duty cycle and can print up to 70 pages per minute. I went with the X476dn as that seemed to match my needs more than adequately.

Even if you primarily print in black and white these units are worthy of consideration when you consider both the cost per page and energy savings that they represent.

As well as a more than competent touch panel display on the unit there is also an excellent web based interface that technical types can use to check the status and configuration of the unit from anywhere on the network.

I was somewhat surprised to learn that up until now, HP has paid Canon a royalty for the use of the Laserjet technology. I always assumed that this was their invention since they were so prevalent in the industry. This gives them the extra incentive to build on this technology and eventually license it to other printer manufacturers down the road as well.

The cost of the new models is fairly modest when you consider that printing, energy and even paper savings could be substantial.

We would strongly suggest looking at this line for future printer purchases. You can order one direct from Printers Plus, Staples or Canada Computers to name a few suppliers.