PRINTERS



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Printing

■ Printing is the final stage in creating a document. For printing you need a printer – an output device, which converts data into printed form. Before the first printing you need a printer driver – a program installed to control a printer. There are different types of printers. They vary in cost, speed, print quality, noise or printing method.

TYPES OF PRINTERS

Dot-matrix printers

These printers use pins to print the dots required to shape a character. They can print text and graphics, but they produce relatively low resolution output – 72 to 180 dots per inch (dpi). They are slower than laser

printers but much cheaper.



Inkjet printers

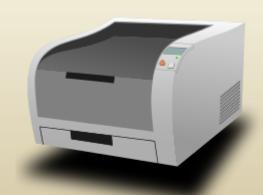
■ These printers project small ink droplets onto paper to form required image. Colour and hues are created by mixing different types of inks. Inkjets are fast, quiet and not as expensive as laser printers and produce high quality results. However, if you print a lot, you'll spend a lot of money on cartridges. Their resolution output (up to 2,400 dpi) is good for printing documents, webpages and occasional photographs at home.

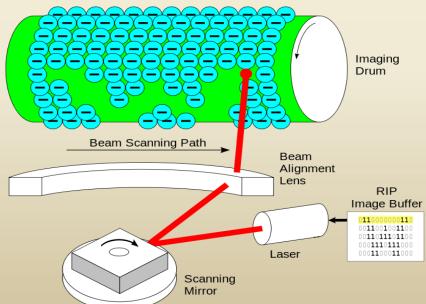


Laser printers

■ Laser printers produce are fast with a very high resolution of 1,200-2,400 dpi. They scan the image with a laser beam and transfer it to paper with a special ink powder called toner. They are fast and produce output at a high image quality. However, they are still expensive for home users. Laser printers are suitable for businesses that need high-quality, low-cost-per-page

output at a large quantities.





Thermal transfer printers

Thermal transfer printers are used to produce colour images by transferring a wax-based ink onto the paper. They are popular for printing bar codes, labels and medium-resolution graphics.

Imagesetters

These printers produce very high-resolution output (up to 3,540 dpi) on paper or on the actual film for making the printing plates and they are extremely fast. Imagesetters are most often used in desktop publishing to produce catalogues, brochures and other publications. Although they produce the highest quality output, they have one important disadvantage. They are too expensive for homes or small offices.

Plotters

Plotters use ink and fine pens held in a carriage to draw very detailed designs on paper. They are used for construction plans, engineering drawings, CAD (software used by architects and engineers to design everything from cars and planes to buildings and furniture) and other technical illustrations.





Multi-function printer

- It is an "all-in-one" device that can work as a scanner, a fax and a photocopier, as well as a printer. However, if it breaks down, you may lose all of its functions at the same time. It can only do one thing at a time. For example, you can't print a document and receive a fax all at once. Multi-function printers print sheets of paper, envelopes, labels and transparencies.
- Multi-function printers are more versatile than standalone products. The printing and scanning components are wellintegrated and they come with an LCD screen, slots for memory cards, and PictBridge connections.
- PictBridge is a technology developed by Canon that lets you send images from a memory card in a digital camera or a camera phone directly to a printer. No computer is necessary. All you have to do is take pictures with your camera and connect it to a printer via a USB cable.

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