

Printers

An update on our Best Buys

BEST BUYS

Canon continues to provide the best all-round deal on inkjet printers. For the past two years it has married quality, speed and versatility with low running costs, and the new Pixma range is no different. The **Canon (1)**, £300 from Jessops, is the flagship replacement for the **Canon (5)**, hard to find but still available online, from £230. Its only drawback is slow text output.

The **Epson (4)**, £240 from Jessops, produces the best photo prints. However, a set of eight Epson ink-cartridges costs about £90 and this model costs twice as much to run as the top-scoring Canon – so we think the Epson is best left to the hardcore digital photographer.

The **Canon (3)**, £99 from Jessops, is a good mid-range choice and it has a wireless equivalent, the **Canon (2)**, £199 from Jessops. If your computer is compatible with Wi-Fi (802.11 g/b), you can print without using a USB cable – handy if several machines share a printer, or if you use a laptop.

The **Canon (6)**, £69 from Jessops, is a great entry-level choice that outshines printers at over three times its price. Lightning-fast on black-and-white text, but a little ponderous for photos, it reflects recent big improvements at the cheaper end of the market.

To read more about printers, including details of our Best Buy laser printers, go to www.which.co.uk/printers.

BEST BUY COMPETITION

WIN one of five Canon Pixma iP8500 printers



Visit www.which.co.uk/whichextra or see p56

TABLE NOTES

Specification

Price Lowest widely available high-street price.
Mac Compatible with Apple Macintosh computers.

Using

Versatility Whether the printer can print on CDs and T-shirts, make borderless prints, read memory cards, and so on.

Print costs

These are based on typical A4 prints. The three-year cost assumes you print three pages of black-and-white text, two pages of colour graphics and one photo every week for three years.



KEY



SCORE

This ignores price and is based on:
Print quality/speed 55%
Use 20%
Versatility 15%
Construction & recyclability 10%

Printers

MODEL	Specification		Printing				Using		Print costs				Score
	Price (£)	Mac	Text quality	Text speed	Photo quality	Photo speed	Ease	Versatility	Black text (p)	Graphics (p)	Photo (£)	3-year (£)	
1 Canon Pixma iP8500	300	✓	☆	○	★	★	☆	★	2	6	0.71	138	78
2 Canon iP4000R	199	✓	☆	☆	☆	☆	★	☆	2	4	0.66	124	77
3 Canon Pixma iP4000	99	✓	☆	☆	☆	☆	☆	★	2	4	0.66	124	77
4 Epson Stylus Photo R800	240	✓	☆	●	★	☆	☆	☆	3	12	1.81	333	75
5 Canon i990	230	✓	○	○	★	★	☆	★	2	7	0.63	129	75
6 Canon Pixma iP2000	69	✓	☆	★	☆	○	☆	☆	4	10	0.70	157	66
7 HP Deskjet 6840	167	✓	☆	☆	☆	○	☆	○	4	12	0.97	206	62
8 HP Photosmart 8450	270	✓	☆	☆	☆	●	☆	○	2	12	1.05	213	62
9 HP Deskjet 6540	96	✓	☆	☆	☆	○	☆	●	3	12	0.85	185	61
10 Canon Pixma iP1500	42	✓	☆	☆	☆	○	☆	○	4	10	0.64	149	60
11 Epson Stylus C86	78	✓	○	☆	○	○	☆	☆	6	16	0.60	171	56
12 Epson Stylus C66	60	✓	○	○	○	●	☆	☆	6	16	0.65	178	52
13 Lexmark P915	87	✓	○	☆	○	○	○	○	4	18	1.92	377	50
14 HP Deskjet 3845	46	✓	☆	☆	☆	●	☆	●	5	17	0.92	220	50