

# Best Buy monitor

The cheapest places to shop for our Best Buy printers

## INKJET PRINTERS

Our Best Buys take account of print quality, speed, print costs, versatility, ease of use and noise. With cheap inkjets, you have to change all the ink cartridges even if just one colour runs out. Images look better on plastic-coated photo paper (up to about £1 a sheet). Last test: July 2005



**CANON**  
Pixma iP8500  
£327 from Jessops  
Our best all-rounder prints high-quality photos and is also good if you print a lot of text documents.  
**SCORE 78%**



**CANON**  
iP3000  
£79 from Jessops  
If you're not a keen photographer and can live without fine level of detail, the iP3000 performs well on all counts and is the cheapest inkjet to run.  
**SCORE 77%**



**CANON**  
iP4000R  
£190 from Jessops  
This wireless Canon is just pipped by the iP3000 for text speed. Other than that, it performs well in all key areas. You'll need a WiFi computer.  
**SCORE 77%**



**CANON**  
iP4000  
£100 from Comet, Dixons, Currys, Jessops, PC World  
A wired iP4000R (see above) – and just as good.  
**SCORE 76%**



**EPSON**  
Stylus Photo R800  
£240 from Jessops  
Great for printing photos but let down by text speed, versatility and print costs of £282 over three years.  
**SCORE 74%**

## PORTABLE

Portables let you produce prints when you're away from your computer – photos are usually 6x4in, though you can get other sizes (you need special paper). They're easy to carry but still have to be plugged in. Our Best Buys print well from both cameras and PCs. Last test: July 2005



**CANON**  
Selphy CP600  
£200 from Jessops  
Photos are great from a camera and outstanding from a computer. Doesn't accept memory cards (for linking to a camera).  
**SCORE 65%**



**EPSON**  
PictureMate Personal Photo Lab  
£149 from John Lewis  
Impressive results from PC and, though slow, from camera. Can connect to Bluetooth mobile phones.  
**SCORE 61%**

## LASER PRINTERS

These are good for printing a lot of pages cheaply and quickly. As they use powder rather than ink, definition is better than with inkjets (powder doesn't run the way ink does), and type of paper isn't an issue. But they're heavier and harder to set up and can't reproduce colours as accurately. Last test: July 2005



**EPSON**  
Aculaser C1100  
£225 from Miller Brothers  
Prints lots of colour pages quickly and cheaply, and photo quality is great. It's also easier to use than most lasers.  
**SCORE 69%**

## WIN

We've got five Canon Pixma iP8500 inkjets to give away.  
See p56 for details

## next report

● February 2006

## WHICH? EXTRA

Our Which? Extra website is exclusive to Which? readers. It has 40 easy-to-use buying guides on key areas, with prices updated monthly. On it you'll find full test results for:

- around 36 inkjet printers
- around 11 laser printers
- around six portable printers.

See [www.which.co.uk/printers](http://www.which.co.uk/printers) for full details.

Which? Extra also has an archive of Which? articles published since 2001 (that's 700 reports).

[www.which.co.uk/whicheextra](http://www.which.co.uk/whicheextra)

