



# THE SUNDAY TIMES

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## IT'LL BE A JOY TO CHECK THE FINE PRINT

TEST BENCH

The latest all-in-one printers achieve stunning results and some can even run off pages directly from a mobile. Simon Williams gets creative with five

Printer/scanners

### BEST FOR FEATURES

#### EPSON WORKFORCE PRO WP-4525 DNF £175

Scanner, printer, copier — what were once three bulky bits of hardware now come in a single unit. Like all here, except for the Xerox, the Epson is an inkjet; advances in this technology mean they print quicker and more accurately than ever, giving expensive laser printers a run for their money (see panel). The Epson is an exceptionally versatile alternative to a colour laser. High-capacity ink tanks print 3,400 pages between changes, giving low running costs of 1.1p per black page and 4.3p for colour. It printed quickly in our tests, at nearly 14 pages per minute (ppm) in black and 6ppm in colour. The quality is very good, with crisp black text and bright colours.

Its features add extra appeal. Duplex print, where pages are printed double-sided in a single operation, isn't that unusual, but the Epson's scanner is also a duplex, so you can make double-sided copies of up to 30 pages just by loading up the automatic document feeder (ADF). As with all models on test, the scans can be saved onto a USB stick or a computer connected over USB or a network (a wired one, in this case).

**Verdict** Fast, versatile and cheap to run.  
★★★★★  
epson.co.uk

### INKJETS V LASERS

Inkjet printers used to be cheap to buy but consumed expensive replacement ink cartridges. It seemed like a cynical ploy that led — fairly or not — to inkjet printers becoming a byword for sharp marketing practice. Now, though, refinements in inkjet technology mean that you can buy cheap hardware and enjoy pretty modest running costs, too. In fact, the latest inkjets reviewed here can print in black and white as cheaply as laser printers, which suffer the disadvantage of being much pricier per copy when it comes to printing in colour.

What has changed is the way the wet inkjet ink spreads on the paper as it dries (the less it spreads, the sharper both text and graphics will look). Of the machines on test, using the laser-like Xerox costs 3p to print a black page and a whopping 18.8p for a colour one. The other four are inkjets, and their prices range between 1.1p and 3.2p for black, and 4.3p and 7.9p for colour. Granted, the Xerox printer is unusually expensive when it comes to colour, but you're still likely to pay considerably more for colour laser pages than for inkjet ones.

