

PILES OF INKJET PRINTERS

What to do, what to do, what to do...

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(Ed. Note: While this doesn't apply directly to modeling, the vast majority of us who have computers are using inkjet printers. As you can see below, things have changed, and you may be wasting money needlessly.)

While I was looking for some Christmas Ornaments in my Utility iMac and I bought a Brother HL-2170W (wireless) for myself. At the other day, I kept moving around my three (3) almost-under \$100 on sale! We get around 3,000 copies or more on each new empty Epson and Canon Inkjet Printers. In the house we have toner cartridge using the Draft mode (and almost a case of paper three (3) more InkJet printers that I rarely use anymore. I have in regular mode), Ed.) I use the wireless printer for my Mac one on my rarely-used PC, one on my Mac Tower and one on Tower, my PC and the iMac, and Arlene can still print to both Arlene's iMac. Then there's the Canon Selphy, my 4x6 color printers, since her printer is hard-wired and she has wireless on Inkjet printer, along with the two dozen packs of 'Premium her iMac. (Just received a Best Buy flyer in the mail with a Glossy Photo Paper' under the desk, gathering dust. All of this Brother HL-2270 Wireless Laser Printer for \$99.99 and a HL-2230 Non-wireless for \$69.99 on Dec. 22, 2010).

It appears that the three Inkjet printers in the shed ran out of ink, For the average consumer, that toner cartridge can last you and the cost of a set of Inkjet cartridges for the Epson printer somewhere between a year or two, and the cost of another toner about \$56.00 for a set of six cartridges at Best Buy and Staples. cartridge online is around \$21 from Amazon and \$60 retail at Fortunately for me, I replaced the whole Epson printer, with a Staples. Guess where I get mine?

full set of cartridges for only \$49 at Wal-Mart. The next time, I replaced that printer for only \$39 on sale, again with a full set of Inkjet cartridges. It happened again with my Canon printer, same scenario. As it happens, I put the older printers in the shed, taking out the empty cartridges to Staples for two dollars each. That's a twelve dollars return I used when I bought the new printer. That's meant only Twenty-Seven dollars after my ink cartridge rebate. Whoa! All of this and I get a one-year warranty besides? Today's peek at Wal-Mart shows me a Canon Pixma MP250 for just \$32.00, with cartridges! So short-term, it's cheaper to just deep-six your old/new printer when it runs out of ink? It appears so; and there's something wrong with that!

Second, the cost of my Glossy Inkjet paper is prohibitive, priced from ten dollars to \$19.95 for 20 sheets, depending on sales and where you shop. So, figuring on the varying cost of paper and the non-varying cost of ink, my 8x10 color photos costs me around seventy cents to a dollar apiece. And, I have around 20 packs of paper just sitting there, looking up at me.

For a professional, who works in the field and gets paid for their work, this is the cost of doing business. But for the home consumer, this can get to be an expensive hobby.

What really brought this to a head was a recent 14-day Cruise trip we made to Portugal, London, etc; where I took in the neighborhood of 3,600 pictures, all in Hi-Resolution of course. After I threw away around 1,500 of them (duplicates, etc) That's still around 2,000 pictures. You want how many printed copies of the trip? I don't think so! Sending that many prints out, I'd have to take out a second mortgage.

The answer for me of course, was to use SAM's or Costco for printing out my photos. My 200 final 5x7's for the Scrapbook costs were pretty cheap, as low as twelve cents apiece, with a two day wait time. Being an average Mac User, and not a professional, this is what I do now, so my color printers just mostly gather dust, except for that really special photo or my friends request.

I can hear your next question coming... 'But what do you do for all your black and white printing?' Actually, it's all my black printing, but who's quibbling over semantics? After running the numbers through my feeble brain time and again, I finally bought myself a Brother HL-2040 Laser Printer on sale for \$79.00 (retailed around \$119.00.) Later that year on Black Friday I bought another for a neighbor for \$49 (with toner cartridge) at Best Buy. The next year I gave my HL-2040 to my wife for her Brother HL-2170W (wireless) for myself. At the other day, I kept moving around my three (3) almost-under \$100 on sale! We get around 3,000 copies or more on each new empty Epson and Canon Inkjet Printers. In the house we have toner cartridge using the Draft mode (and almost a case of paper three (3) more InkJet printers that I rarely use anymore. I have in regular mode), Ed.) I use the wireless printer for my Mac one on my rarely-used PC, one on my Mac Tower and one on Tower, my PC and the iMac, and Arlene can still print to both Arlene's iMac. Then there's the Canon Selphy, my 4x6 color printers, since her printer is hard-wired and she has wireless on Inkjet printer, along with the two dozen packs of 'Premium her iMac. (Just received a Best Buy flyer in the mail with a Glossy Photo Paper' under the desk, gathering dust. All of this Brother HL-2270 Wireless Laser Printer for \$99.99 and a HL-2230 Non-wireless for \$69.99 on Dec. 22, 2010).

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Financially, my switch from Inkjet Printer to Laserwriter was the best decision I could make for my printing needs. My color printing is now fewer and far between since I use SAMs or Costco for color printing. All my color 'Photoshop'd' photos are 'burned' to CD's or DVD's for friends and family and shipped out that way. They print what they want. I have relatively few Hard copies now. If I have a special request or need for that extra special touch, I'd go to a Professional Printer for that.

Lastly, I mean no offense to all you good professionals out there, but for the average home consumer in this tight economy, inkjet printers are an unwelcome and financial burden. I'd rather save my money for an iPad (or for a good kit or some balsa). For me, today's economical monochrome Laserwriters are real money-savers!