

Printers range greatly in size and shape, from ultra lightweight portable units designed to be used with laptops to great hulking beasts like this one. Although this printer is large, it is not because it has been designed to work with large size paper – it is limited to A4 only. The idea behind this printer is that it enables a number of people to print a large amount of mono or colour pages in a short space of time. Technically a workgroup printer, the C7200 encompasses enough functions to make it a viable solution to a variety of printing needs.

As mentioned, this is no small printer. Weighing in at 48KG even before you start loading the paper tray, you will need help to move this one around. The C7200 comes with a range of optional extras to back this up, such as duplex printing for double sided prints, and a bay for a hard drive, to store macros and forms. A 400MHz, 64-bit PowerPC 750 processor has been integrated to help prevent delays in the print process. As standard, our model arrived with 64MB of RAM, with the option to upgrade to 128MB, if you operate in a very print-intensive environment. In terms of connection ports, you are spoiled for choice here, with the option of local connection via either parallel or USB, or network connection via 10/100 Base-TX network card. Software included by OKI also allows for both HP colour LaserJet 5 emulation (PCL5c), and the use of Adobe Postscript 3.

Speed demon

One of the main selling points of this printer is its speed, enabled by its LED printing technique. This works in a similar way to a laser printer, except that instead of shining a laser on to the paper, an array of LEDs is used instead. These are attached to the image drums, three for CMY and one for black (K), which are arranged in line under the hood of the printer. This arrangement allows for the print to be performed in a single pass, which contributes to the speed of this unit, especially when you consider that older printing systems would require a pass for each image drum. Equally impressive is the paper capacity of this unit: the main paper tray can hold 530 sheets of A4 paper, with a 100 sheet multi-purpose tray included to handle the printing of envelopes or other different sized papers. If you are up for splashing out on extras, the inclusion of a second and third paper tray will bring your maximum total capacity up to 1,690 sheets, which should make those "Oh no, we're out of paper – again!" moments few and far between.

OKI claims print speeds of 12ppm colour, 20ppm monochrome, at a resolution of 600 x 1,200 dpi. The PC Plus print tests indicate that this claim is fairly accurate. To print five pages of text in mono took a total time of 25.09 seconds, while to print the same page five times took 27.28 seconds. A colour bitmap at 200 per cent scaling through PSP 7 clocked in at 25.14 seconds, yet a single



→ According to OKI, using colour in a print increases memory retention by up to 65 per cent. So, you are more likely to remember this beautiful photograph than this witty caption. Bah!

PRINTER

OKI C7200

PRICE £2,029 **EX VAT** £1,726.80 **SUPPLIER** OKI
PHONE 01753 819 819 **WWW** www.oki.co.uk

If you're in the line for a workgroup printer, have a look at the latest LED offering from OKI



↑ There's a set of buttons on the front so you can make some of your choices manually.

colour page from PowerPoint took 24.65 seconds. All of these printouts were done via a USB connection, which may explain the similarity of some of the times. Finally, we printed a 1,024 x 1,536 photo print, stretched out to fit a page, which took slightly longer at 40.43 seconds. While some of these times may not be in line with OKI's specification, it should be mentioned that almost all the way through the test printing process, the print quality was superb, especially the Cyan areas.

Picture perfect

Over a number of high resolution images, the results were highly satisfactory, even without the use of specialist papers. The only time that we encountered problems was when we ran some test prints from Display Mate Multimedia Edition. The colour and vector graphics tests produced satisfactory results, but in the greyscaled

images there were traces of colour. This is because we used the PCL5c driver. Using the postscript driver can force the printer into producing true greyscale. This was the only area of suspicious performance, however, and aside from this the C7200 was able to produce the desired result.

Overall, this is an impressive unit, and seems to be well suited to the small workgroup environment, being designed for a duty cycle of 5,000 prints a month. While the mono printing is satisfactory, its real strength lies in its high-speed, high quality colour output, which is one of the factors behind the pricing of this unit. The choice of drivers means that it should adapt well to a variety of different tasks, and although we've complained about its weight, it is not the largest workgroup printer on the market. If your group needs a fast and reliable printer, this one should be on your list of units to examine.

Joe Lees

PCPlus Verdict

OKI C7200

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FOR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGAINST
→ High speed	→ May have to change drivers for greyscaling
→ Impressive image quality	

Specification	8
Quality	7
Performance	8
Value for money	7

OVERALL **8/10**



Requirements
64MB RAM, USB, network connection to Ethernet
Specifications
20ppm (mono), 12ppm (colour), Prints A4, A5, A6 and B5 Approximately 30,000 pages continuous print