

# LEXMARK

**Lexmark T644**  
50ppm



***Sum-up: Great performance at a reasonable price, but features are minimal.***

The \$899 Lexmark T644 is the top letter/legal-size printer in the company's lineup. It prints at 1,200dpi and starts with 128MB of memory, and that can be upgraded to a solid 640MB. That expansion may be needed if you use the printer for complex jobs involving PostScript and digital collation. You might also consider the 40GB hard disk for such jobs, though at \$535, it's not cheap. Connectivity is through the machine's USB or parallel interfaces and Ethernet, all of which come standard.

This model starts with one 500-sheet paper tray, as well as a 100-sheet bypass tray. A variety of paper-supply options are available for this machine, including four 250-sheet paper trays, four 500-sheet paper trays, and a 2,000-sheet large-capacity tray. The maximum configuration is 4,100 sheets. Duplexing is optional for this model.

On the output side, there are four options beyond the default 500-sheet tray. You can install a 650-sheet output expander. Alternately, you can get a 1,850-sheet stacker. A third option is a mailbox with five 1,000-sheet bins. You can install one or two of these mailboxes at a time. The final option is the StapleSmart finisher, which can single-position staple up to 40 sets of 25 sheets or hold 750 sheets unstapled.

These are pretty good options, but one of the few weak points of this excellent machine is the lack of a more sophisticated finisher, one that can staple at multiple positions and perhaps deliver hole punching. Given the speed and 250,000-page duty cycle, the lack of a more sophisticated finisher makes it a little less useful for some offices.

Lexmark doesn't publish consumables costs for this model, but you can expect to pay about 1.1 cents per page by getting the most economical option, the 32,000-sheet high-capacity toner cartridge.

The Lexmark T644 stands alone. At present, no other manufacturer offers a 50ppm printer for under \$1,000. Granted, competing 50ppm models are ledger-size (see the Lexmark W840 below), so price comparisons aren't particularly fair. But if size doesn't matter, and you need a fast, efficient, no-frills letter/legal printer that won't break the bank, the Lexmark T644 is an excellent choice. We're so impressed with it, we're giving it our Editor's Choice Award.

**Lexmark W840**  
50ppm



***Sum-up: A fully featured ledger-size printer.***

Lexmark's \$2,299 W840 is a ledger-size 50ppm printer that prints at 1,200dpi. The company has made this a serious departmental printer by adding sophisticated finishing fea-



*The Lexmark T644 offers 50ppm printing for under \$900.*

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tures. But other characteristics are top-notch as well.

The W840 has some very good features, including:

- A powerful 625MHz processor
- 256MB of memory, expandable to 768MB
- An optional 20GB hard disk
- 2,400 resolution with interpolation
- USB connectivity and Ethernet standard
- An out-of-the-box input capacity of 1,100 sheets, which can be expanded to 5,100 sheets with the addition of a high-capacity feeder and two 500-sheet drawers.

The W840 comes with 500 sheets of standard output capacity. The optional finisher provides offsetting, hole punching, and multiposition stapling.

The printer boasts an impressive duty cycle of 300,000 pages per month, along with an excellent cost per-page of 0.9 cents.

This printer stacks up well against comparable 50ppm ledger-size printers from Lexmark's competitors. It's over \$400 less than Hewlett-Packard's \$2,779 50ppm LaserJet 9050, and \$250 cheaper than the \$2,499 50ppm Xerox Phaser 5500B. Granted, those models have more finishing options, but the Lexmark W840's overall efficiency is a very strong selling point. It'll be an excellent addition to offices seeking fast ledger printing. This model has been chosen to receive our Editor's Choice Award.

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