



Test Report

MONOCHROME LASER PRINTERS
Kyocera Mita FS-9100DN
36 PPM

GENERAL APPRAISAL



The laser-based Kyocera Mita FS-9100DN provided a solid overall performance in BLI's three-month evaluation, requiring no service and misfeeding only three times during the 270,000-impression test period, for an impressive misfeed rate of one per 90,000 impressions. Also notable are the FS-9100DN's efficiency rates. In fact, the 36-ppm test unit recorded the highest efficiency rate in duplex mode of any printer tested by BLI to date, and the third-best efficiency rate in simplex mode. The FS-9100DN also provides a generous maximum paper capacity of 4,200 sheets, which is the highest maximum paper capacity of any printer in this speed range (31 to 41 ppm) on the market today.

Particularly impressive is the FS-9100DN's economy. Its per-page supplies cost is one of the lowest for printers tested by BLI to date, and only one other tested printer can better its five-year total cost of ownership (excluding service costs). Indeed, the FS-9100DN's outstanding supplies cost per page, at .443¢, is more than four times lower than the average (1.79¢) for

monochrome printers tested by BLI to date. (In fact, it's bettered only by that of the 9100DN's higher-end counterpart, the FS-9500DN).

With a maximum true resolution of 600 x 600 dpi and an interpolated resolution of 1200 x 600 dpi, which Kyocera Mita refers to as Fast 1200, the FS-9100DN earned BLI's highest rating for all types of print jobs (text, line art, halftones and solids). BLI's test unit also offered easy and straightforward procedures for loading paper, adjusting paper drawers, clearing paper jams and replacing toner. Furthermore, the FS-9100DN offers good ease of use from the desktop. It should be noted that, unlike with most other monochrome workgroup printers in this speed range, the FS-9100DN employs a driver which includes emulations of PostScript 3 (KPDLL3), PCL XL (default) and PCL 5e. Because there is not a separate driver for each emulation, the user must change emulations by accessing the printer's properties and cannot change emulations from within the application or the driver. The FS-9100DN's print management utility, KM-Net Viewer (also referred to as PrintMonitor), provides good feedback to workstations regarding device and/or print job status through pop-up messages and/or icon alerts, including information on paper status. The Remote Operation Panel utility can be configured to appear on the taskbar,

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General Appraisal *continued*

generate pop-up messages or an audible tone, or appear always on top (i.e., never behind other windows) when an error occurs. Operating system support is available for all Windows platforms, Macintosh, and various flavors of both Unix and Linux, as well as Novell NetWare.

Additional noteworthy features of the Kyocera Mita FS-9100DN, which was connected to BLI's test network via its standard 10/100BaseT Ethernet interface, include a standard memory of 32 MB, which is expandable to 256 MB, and a number of other features, such as booklet printing, cover mode, N-up printing (two to 16 images per page) and reduction/enlargement from 20 percent to 500 percent. When configured with the optional hard disk, as BLI's test unit was, the FS-9100DN also provides secure print (private print) and proof print capabilities, as well as quick copy, job storage, virtual mailbox and job code features. The FS-9100DN also offers an energy-save mode, which can reduce power consumption from 1,400 watts to 18 watts after a specified period of time.

Kyocera Mita offers a number of options for the FS-9100DN, including a choice of two finishers: the 3,000-sheet stacker/stapler with two- and three-hole punch (configured with BLI's test unit), or the 1,000-sheet stapler/stacker that was configured with the FS-9500DN, which was also reviewed by BLI in recent testing (see the Kyocera Mita FS-9500DN test report). Also available as options are a 3,000-sheet large-capacity tray and a 3.2-GB hard disk (included on the tested configuration), dual 500-sheet drawers and a two-/three-hole punch kit (both included on

the configuration tested of the FS-9500DN), as well as a bar-code reader.

Shortcomings

The only shortcoming of the Kyocera Mita FS-9100DN is that the unit's "Documentation" received a "Fair" rating due to the fact that none of the manuals provided with the FS-9100DN contain an index, making some information difficult to locate.

Pricing Analysis And Summary

The Kyocera Mita FS-9100DN has a base suggested retail price that is competitive with that of other monochrome printers in this speed range offering the same standard features, such as duplexing and network connectivity. As mentioned earlier, the FS-9100DN's supplies cost per page is more than four times lower than the average for monochrome printers tested by BLI to date. It should be noted that this low supplies cost per page is due in large part to Kyocera Mita's ECOSYS design, wherein only the toner and waste toner receptacle are replaced by the user. The drum and other consumable components must be replaced by service. In contrast, with most other printers, users must periodically replace the drum (whether an individual cartridge or contained in an all-in-one imaging cartridge), as well as other consumable components. Therefore, when considering this low cost per page for supplies, buyers should also consider the service-related costs that are associated with this design. Kyocera Mita does, however, provide a one-year, on-site warranty covering parts and labor with the purchase of the unit.

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General Appraisal *continued*

Because of its exceptional economy and solid overall performance in testing, BLI concludes that the FS-9100DN represents an excellent value and recommends it for print volumes of up to 90,000 impressions per month.

Print Quality:

Text: **Good**

Line art: **Good**

Halftones: **Good**

Solids: **Good**

Ease of use: **Good**

Ease of maintenance: **Good**

Estimated waste: **Low**

Estimated downtime: **Low**

Misfeeds: **3**

Misfeed rate: **One per 90,000 impressions**

Total service calls: **0**

Mean Impressions Between Failures (MIBF): **Not applicable**

Mean Impressions Between Service (MIBS): **Not applicable**

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