



BUYERS LABORATORY INC.

Lab Test Report Summary

Excerpted From A Comprehensive BLI Laboratory Evaluation

Lexmark C920dn

32 PPM Color • 36 PPM Black LED Printer



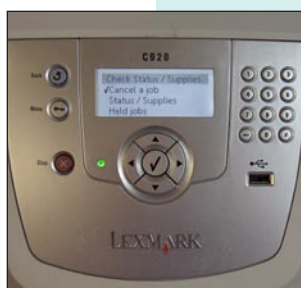
PERFORMANCE RATINGS

Overall Rating	Highly Recommended
Reliability	Excellent
Misfeeds.....	0
Service Calls.....	0
Print Quality	
Color Print Quality.....	Excellent
Black Print Quality.....	Excellent
Pricing Analysis	Very Good
Ease of Use	Excellent
Status Information.....	Very Good
Administrative Utilities	Excellent
Productivity	Very Good



BLI RECOMMENDATION

Providing superior color output at an excellent price point, the LED-based Lexmark C920dn demonstrated an exceptional overall performance in BLI's evaluation. Accommodating up to 12" x 48" paper, the C920dn produced exceptional color output, characterized by brilliant colors that were not overly saturated. Also noteworthy is that the density of the unit's black output is the highest for laser or LED printers to date, meaning it produces "blacker blacks" than those produced by most competitive laser/LED printers. Using a four-drum system to apply color to paper in a single pass at Lexmark's rated speed of 32 ppm in color and 36 ppm in black, the C920dn also provided excellent productivity in BLI testing, with above-average simplex efficiency rates for both color and black output from the PostScript driver and competitive to above-average simplex and duplex efficiency rates from the PCL driver. While the default mode is Color mode, in which all four toners and drums are engaged and in contact with the transfer belt, users should be aware that optimum black speed is achieved by putting the printer in black mode via the menu system; this mode should also be used if large volumes of black-only pages will be printed so that the color drums will be disengaged, thus avoiding excess wear on the color drums. If users are printing only a limited number of black pages, they can select "print black only" in the driver to disengage the color consumables. Based on its admirable performance in BLI's tests—including the unit's exceptional color output, flawless reliability, thorough network management utilities and excellent economy—BLI highly recommends the C920dn for color environments printing up to 40,000 impressions per month.



C920dn Control Panel

Reliability

- The Lexmark C920dn is certified highly reliable by BLI, completing a one-month, 125,000-impression durability test without experiencing a single mis-feed and with no service calls required.

Output Quality

- Photographic images were rated "Excellent"; BLI

technicians noted realistic colors and natural-looking skin tones. Business graphics were also excellent, with vibrant and eye-catching colors in graphs and charts.

- Black output produced by the Lexmark C920dn was also excellent; text was crisp and cleanly formed. Diagonal lines were clean and straight,

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with no stair-stepping evident. Thin lines on a dark background were clearly visible and black solids showed consistent toner coverage.

Economy

- The Lexmark C920dn is priced 22.75 percent less than the average for competitive tabloid network-ready single-pass color printers with similar standard features. Further, cost per page for black and color is competitive with tested printers in this class.

Ease of Use

- Setup and installation of the drivers was very easy thanks to the auto-install feature, which automatically creates the Lexmark bi-directional port and will have users up and running in minutes. In addition, specifying job requirements from the well-designed PCL 6 and PostScript 3 print drivers was easy.
- The drivers have a Job Summary feature that allows the user to view and confirm all of the driver selections before the job is spooled to the print queue or printer, which could save toner and paper wasted on incorrectly printed documents.
- The Lexmark C920dn offers clean and straightforward procedures for replacing consumables, including the toner cartridges, drums, transfer belt, fuser and oil coating roller. In addition, procedures for loading paper and removing misfeeds are very simple.
- Ease of use is further enhanced by Lexmark’s new design for the control panel, consisting of a four-line graphical display that shows text and graphics, intuitive navigation buttons and numeric keypad, which greatly simplifies entering PIN numbers for confidential printing and provides graphical help messages that instruct users how to change consumables and remove misfeeds. It also has a convenient USB port that allows the user to print PDF files directly from a flash drive and a job cancel button that allows the user to select a specific job to cancel while leaving others in the queue.

Productivity

- The C920dn demonstrated competitive to above average overall black and color print efficiency rates in sim-

plex and duplex modes from the PCL 6 driver. Overall black and color efficiency rates from the PostScript driver are also above average in simplex mode.

- First-print times for all file types used in testing from the PostScript driver are the fastest of color printers tested to date. Performance is also faster than average using PCL.

Network Management

- A key strength of the Lexmark C920dn is the MarkVision Professional utility, which enables administrators to manage groups of devices on the network. One of the most thorough and flexible such utilities BLI has evaluated to date, MarkVision makes setup on the network easy, identifying and enabling monitoring of all Lexmark printers, as well as non-Lexmark devices, on a network. MarkVision Professional provides extensive real-time device status and print job status monitoring capabilities when a client module is installed or limited real-time feedback when accessed via a Web browser. A status window is also accessible through the PCL or PostScript print drivers, which provides very good feedback via pop-up messages and icon alerts for a variety of warning and error conditions.

Color Control Features

- The C920dn also includes a Coverage Estimator tool, which, when enabled through the control panel, allows users to determine the approximate coverage of each toner color on a page by page basis; the technology, exclusive to Lexmark, measures the amount of toner applied to the page through pixel counting and patch sensing.
- Lexmark color printers incorporate a number of features to restrict unauthorized (and potentially costly) use of color. In addition to a black-only PCL 6 driver that ships along with the regular driver, which can be installed on selected workstations to ensure that the users of those workstations print only black pages, the C920dn employs Color Print Permissions, which allows an administrator to assign specific user IDs the ability to print color, thereby saving color toner usage by unauthorized color printing.

First-Print Times for PostScript 3 (in seconds)

Windows 2000	Word	PageMaker	Photoshop	Acrobat	Photoshop
File Type	Black Text	Black Text/Graphic	Color Graphic	Black Text/Graphic	Color Graphic
File Extension	DOC	PM6	TIF	PDF	JPG
First-Print Time	10.76	11.55	27.94	11.08	10.9
Average Time for Competitive Units	16.94	18.04	75.87	20.51	20.92

(The information above has been excerpted from Buyers Laboratory’s comprehensive lab test report on the C920dn and reprinted with written permission from BLI. The complete report is available through bliQ (www.buyerslab.com/bliQ).

