Lexmark has introduced its new OfficeEdge Series Color MFPs in the growing class of business-inkjet devices, which are designed to bring greater productivity to small businesses and small workgroups within the enterprise. What is impressive to note is that these machines run at an ISO speed of 21ppm in black and 14ppm in color, which is faster than most inkjets we’ve reviewed. They also combine features typically found in laser printers (such as standard PostScript) into affordable inkjets.

The OfficeEdge Pro4000 and Pro4000c (both are $249 street) also print at a draft speed of up to 40ppm in black and 36ppm in color, also impressive. Both machines have standard printing, copying, scanning, and faxing features, as well as a 2.4” color LCD display. The Pro4000 has standard Wi-Fi connectivity, while the Pro4000c does not. Otherwise, both machines share identical features and functionality.

Processor speed is 330MHz and standard memory is 256MB, not expandable. PCL and PostScript are supported, as is direct PDF. Other connectivity supported is USB and Ethernet. First-page-out time (in ISO speed) is an impressive 7 seconds in black, and 9 seconds in color. Maximum resolution is up to 4,800 x 3,600dpi, using Lexmark’s new Vizix Pro print technology. Lexmark’s Mobile Printing App is available for those with Android and Apple smartphones and tablets to send print jobs to the OfficeEdge device, and they are also AirPrint certified.

Paper supply includes a 300-sheet input tray. You can add a 550-sheet tray for a total of 850 sheets. Output includes a 150-sheet bin. There is also a 50-sheet automatic document feeder. Automatic duplex printing is standard. The monthly duty cycle is 30,000 pages but Lexmark provides an average range of 500 to 1,500 pages per month.

The color scanning function supports scan to email, scan to PDF, and scan to network. These features can be utilized via Lexmark’s one-touch shortcut functionality. Faxing utilizes the 33.6kbps modem with standard fax memory of 900 pages.

The cost per page for these machines is also impressive. Using Lexmark’s Return Program and high-capacity cartridges (2,500 pages for black and 1,600 pages for each color), black printing costs 1.4 cents per page and color is 7.9 cents a page. Without the Return Program (and using the same high-capacity cartridge yield), you can expect to pay 1.8 cents in black and 9.5 cents in color, according to our calculations.

There are also very good environmental features, such as integrated duplexing and Lexmark’s Cartridge Collection Program, which allows you to recycle empty cartridges by returning them to Lexmark.

These impressive models offer affordability, very good cost per page, and excellent speed. They are good buys for the small office and small workgroup markets. We give the Lexmark OfficeEdge Pro4000 and Pro4000c our 2012 Editor’s Choice Award.
Vendor Profile

Lexmark is known primarily as a vendor of printers. In fact, it is the only American printer vendor that manufactures its own laser engines. Its inkjet engines come from various sources, but Lexmark is pretty closemouthed about its suppliers. The company does add considerable value to these inkjets, however.

The company is now deeply involved in both the inkjet and laser multifunctional markets. The laser models are built on its existing base in the office laser printer market, where its current printer models are enhanced with scanners and fax modems. These models tend to be serious workgroup printers with lots of input and output options. Lexmark has several color laser printer-multifunctionals.

One nice thing Lexmark has done with its inkjet all-in-one fleet is to bring some standardization to its ink cartridges. At least at the high-capacity cartridge level, all the inkjet MFPs in this guide can use the same two cartridges. As a result, the cost of printing in black is on the high side, but the cost of color printing is quite reasonable. Also, the task of shopping for different models is a little easier.

Lexmark OfficeEdge Pro4000 - New machine targeted to the growing business-class inkjet market.