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Which Printer to Choose

Recently, an increasing number of people are beginning to buy computers for their homes. With the entrance of a computer into the home, a printer will usually follow in its path, but this begins to present a problem. The problem is that most new computer users do not know which brand of printer is best to buy. Three of the most popular brands are Canon, Lexmark, and Hewlett Packard. These printers come in many different sizes, shapes, and qualities. Quality should be the first thing a buyer pays attention to when shopping for a new printer; however, a lot of times, the price is the item that the buyer really focuses on.

Canon brand printers have a great printing quality, which is their best feature. The pictures printed are brightly colored, and the blacks do not look gray. The main problem with the majority of Canon printers is that they are fairly noisy while printing, and the ink begins to smudge on the printed paper after long periods of use. The prices of these printers range from \$150 to a surprising \$600.

Lexmark printers look fairly nice, but the outside appearance of the printer seems to be the only detail the company paid any great amount of attention to. The print quality of these printers is below average but acceptable if low price is all that is desired. The pictures are of very low quality. The blacks look gray unless the settings are placed on the highest, and slowest, setting. This setting also uses the greatest amount of ink. After a month or two of average usage, the paper feed on these printers becomes "picky," and then the paper will have to be placed into the paper feed manually, one piece at a time. One good thing about this brand,

however, is that the noise level of printing is very low. Most likely due to the overall poor quality of the printers, prices are also very low. The prices range between eighty dollars and five hundred dollars.

Hewlett Packard produces an overall good-quality printer. The color quality might not be as wonderful as Canon printers, but the quality is still very good. The colors are not as bright as they should be, but the shades are apparent. The noise level of printing is low during the actual printing stage, but while the paper is initially being fed into the printer, there is a slightly quick, loud noise. For their quality, Hewlett Packard printers are reasonably priced. The printer prices range from ninety dollars to five hundred dollars.

If low price is the only thing desired and quality is not a factor, Lexmark printers are the right brand to buy. These printers are low priced, but someone who buys a Lexmark printer most likely will be buying another one after a few months. If great print quality is desired and price is of no concern, I highly recommend Canon printers. The quality of Canon printing is great, and I have not found a different brand that can surpass Canon printers in quality of color printing. Hewlett Packard printers are the compromise-brand printer for the people who want good quality for a low price. These printers are reasonably priced and are of good quality for the price range that they are in.