

HP Designjet Z6200 60-in Photo Printer vs. Canon imagePROGRAF iPF9000S

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HP Designjet Z6200 60-in Photo Printer



Canon imagePROGRAF iPF9000S

	HP Designjet Z6200 60-in Photo Printer	Canon imagePROGRAF iPF9000S
Ink Consumption/Waste	✓	
Color Print Quality	✓	
Black Print Quality	✓	
Pantone Color Accuracy	✓	
Productivity (File processing and printing)	✓	
Accounting	✓	
Ease of Use	✓	
Image Permanence/Scratch Resistance		

Advantage denoted by ✓

TEST OBJECTIVE

Buyers Laboratory Inc. (BLI) was commissioned by Hewlett-Packard to conduct a comparative evaluation of the eight-color HP Designjet Z6200 60-in Photo Printer and the Canon imagePROGRAF iPF9000S eight-color, 60-inch wide-format inkjet printer and produce a report comparing the relative strengths and weaknesses in terms of ink consumption and waste, color and black-and-white print quality, Pantone color accuracy, productivity, accounting capability, ease of use and image permanence/scratch resistance. All testing was performed in BLI's US test facility in Hackensack, New Jersey.

Executive Summary

The HP Designjet Z6200 60-in Photo Printer's overall performance surpassed that of the Canon imagePROGRAF iPF9000S wide-format printer in seven of the eight categories evaluated by Buyers Lab, while the printers were on par in the category of image permanence/scratch resistance.

In the category of ink usage and waste, the HP Designjet Z6200 60-in Photo Printer outperformed the competitor by a significant margin. When printing on their respective Heavy Weight Coated papers, the HP Designjet Z6200 60-in Photo Printer utilized markedly less ink for each of the three 100-page print runs, and when printing on their respective Satin Photo papers, the HP Designjet Z6200 60-in Photo Printer utilized less ink for two of the three 100-page print runs. Cumulatively, after completing printing the 600 pages in this evaluation, the HP Designjet Z6200 60-in Photo Printer's ink usage measured 23.3 percent of the printer's total available inks, while the Canon imagePROGRAF iPF9000S utilized 29.6 percent of its total available inks. This translates to a 27.0 percent overall higher ink usage by the Canon printer. Another significant advantage is that across a set of eight ink cartridges, HP supplies approximately 9.4 percent more ink than Canon does in its set. Additionally, the amount of ink waste generated over the same 600 prints was measured for both printers, with the HP Designjet Z6200 60-in Photo Printer registering a paltry 0.6 percent ink waste versus a 3.1 percent ink waste for the Canon imagePROGRAF iPF9000S.

The HP Designjet Z6200 60-in Photo Printer also exhibited considerable productivity advantages compared with the Canon imagePROGRAF iPF9000S, producing both faster total print times and mechanical print times in each of the nine scenarios tested. The largest divergence in print speed was noted when printing on each company's respective Satin Photo papers, where the HP Designjet Z6200 60-in Photo Printer produced A1-size prints at speeds that were approximately 46 to 101 percent faster than the Canon imagePROGRAF iPF9000S, depending on the driver setting.

The features of the free accounting solutions available to HP Designjet Z6200 60-in Photo Printer users outweigh those offered by Canon for the imagePROGRAF iPF9000S. Whether using the embedded Web page's user-friendly Usage and Accounting tabs, or the downloadable HP Accounting tool, BLI technicians could easily keep track of consumable usage and job costs. HP's accounting functionality further surpasses Canon's in the user's ability to export accounting information to Excel and also in the ability to have accounting information automatically sent to specific users/administrators via e-mail, neither of which the Canon system is capable of. Similar accounting features, however, are offered for the imagePROGRAF iPF9000S by Canon or third-party vendors for a fee.

The HP Designjet Z6200 60-in Photo Printer also held an edge over the competitor in ease of use. This was especially evident with its expanded Web page functionality, providing direct file submission and file previewing, which the Canon imagePROGRAF iPF9000S did not. Additional features that BLI technicians preferred over the Canon model include the detailed information provided for each job on the HP Web page and the "Optimize print quality" control panel selection, providing comprehensive image quality maintenance with the press of a button.

For BLI's image quality assessment, the differences between the two printers were more subtle than for the other test parameters; however, the HP Designjet Z6200 60-in Photo Printer produced both better color and black image quality than did the Canon imagePROGRAF iPF9000S. The HP Designjet Z6200 60-in Photo Printer provided wider color gamuts on three different media tested, and had the ability to produce prints that more closely matched the color of a calibrated monitor than did the competitive model. The HP Designjet Z6200 60-in Photo Printer also registered better color image quality on Satin Photo, Matte Litho Realistic and Backlit media, three critical media used for wide-format display prints. Monochrome files were produced with black and gray inks only on the HP Designjet Z6200 60-in Photo Printer, which displayed the as-expected neutral gray appearance on all paper types. The Canon unit, however, produced the same files with a colored tint, even though the driver's monochrome setting was selected. Furthermore, under magnification it was observed that colored inks were being used to generate monochrome output. The HP Designjet Z6200 60-in Photo Printer also showed a significant advantage in its ability to produce a wider variety of Pantone colors more accurately than the Canon printer. This was noted not only visually against the colors in a Pantone swatchbook, but spectrophotometrically, as well.