

What You Should Know Hands-On Test Report

Eastman Kodak ESP 5250 All-in-One Printer



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WHAT IT IS – Kodak’s ESP 5250 is a third-generation color ink-jet All-in-One. Kodak itself is a relative newcomer to the consumer and small-/home-office digital-imaging market, which it entered in February 2007 with three models.

The ESP 5250, which Kodak introduced in September 2009, provides color copy, color scan, and WiFi-enabled wireless color printing.

Users may also print from iPhones and iPods; they must first download Kodak’s Pic Flick application from Kodak’s Web site.

The ESP 5250 can print on media up to 8.5”x14” (A4), produce borderless prints up to 8.5”x11”, and can print on photo and heavier-weight media (up to 110 lb. index stock). Copying and scanning however is limited to media up to 8.5”x11.7” (no legal-size copying), and there is no document feeder, so that copying and scanning is via the flatbed platen only. A 100-sheet paper drawer is standard; there is no document feeder (platen-scanning only).

The ESP 5250 utilizes a two-cartridge ink-supply system: a black ink cartridge and a multi-chamber color ink cartridge, the latter of which contains the usual cyan, magenta and yellow, as well as a photo black ink, and a clear protective coating.

IMAGE QUALITY - The ESP 5250 is a thermal ink-jet printer that prints and copies in both monochrome black and color.

TESTED IMAGE QUALITY

In order to evaluate image quality, Wirth Consulting uses:

1. The highest image-quality settings
2. ImageXpert™ Printer 600 dpi Target, Version 5.1.
3. ImageXpert Test Target EP-PS
4. Northlight Images UK Grayscale Linearization Test Chart.
5. Synthetic (photographic) test images derived from ISO Internal Standard 12640 Graphic Technology (Prepress Digital-Data Exchange – CYMK Standard Color Image Data [CYMK/SCID]).
6. Hammermill 100/112+ Euro Bright, 28 lb. Color Copy Paper.

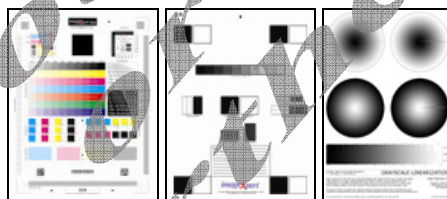


Image-quality originals used by Wirth Consulting when evaluating a device’s image quality.

Not Worth Consideration
Based on its
Performance in Hands-On Testing

Eastman Kodak ESP 5250 All-in-One Printer



Imaging Technology: Thermal Color Ink-Jet

Functions: Color Print/Copy/Scan

Print Speed: 30 (black)/29 (color) ppm (draft)

Maximum Monthly Volume: Information not available

Recommended Monthly Volume: Information not available

Suggested Retail Price: \$149.99

Availability: Retail, www.Kodak.com

Introduction Date: September 2009

Imaging Technology: Thermal ink-jet; pigment-based inks.

Maximum Print Resolution: Information not provided

STRENGTHS

- Overall, the ESP 5250 produced above-average image quality in copy mode—in general, copy image quality was better than image quality in print mode.
- In copy mode, the ESP 5250 was able to reproduce all colors in the copier image-quality test chart, which some competitive units have not been able to do. It was also able to produce text clearly down to 4 pt. font size in copier mode, which will be more than sufficient for office-imaging applications.
- In the Water-Resistance Test, the ESP 5250 performed well. While one color area showed some fading, no running of colors was observed, and text remained unaffected.

LIMITATIONS

- In print mode, color photos printed on 24 lb. bond Hammermill bright white plain paper displayed a grayish caste. Photos printed on Kodak Ultra Premium Photo Paper displayed more vibrant color, but there was still a slight caste.
- In print mode, text documents displayed broken text. Black-and-white graphics also displayed poorly defined edges and banding. In response, Kodak personnel noted, “The slanted line reference appears to be some kind of ink-drop issue. Kodak has not seen this in testing except in rare cases where the black ink cartridge was not properly seated within the print head.” In response, Wirth Consulting sought to re-install the black ink cartridge. However, once we removed the black ink cartridge, which