

## PostScript Laser Printers

The PostScript laser printers that met the requirements were small-footprint printers that occupy 350 square inches. All of the printers were configured with at least 1 MB of RAM. Rated engine speeds ranged from 4 to 10 pages per minute.

### Product

#### NEC Silentwriter Model 95

NEC Technologies

1414 Massachusetts Ave.

Boxborough, MA 01719

(800) 388-8888

(508) 264-8000

Price: \$1,749

#### QMS-PS 410

QMS

One Magnum Pass

Mobile, AL 36618

(800) 523-2696

(205) 633-4300

Price: \$1,995

#### MicroLaser Plus PS35

Texas Instruments

P.O. Box 202230

Austin, TX 78720-2230

(800) 527-3500

Price: \$1,749

#### Everex LaserScript LX

Everex Systems

48431 Milmont Dr.

Fremont, CA 94538

(800) 628-3837

(510) 498-1111

Price: \$1,995

LaserPrinter 4 StarScript  
Star Micronics America  
420 Lexington Ave., Suite 2702  
New York, NY 10170  
(800) 447-4700  
(212) 986-6770  
Price: \$1,995

Okidata OL830  
Okidata  
532 Fellowship Rd.  
Mount Laurel, NJ 08054  
(609) 235-2600  
Price: \$1,999

LaserPrinter 6PS  
Lexmark International  
740 New Circle Rd.  
Lexington, KY 40511  
(800) 258-8575  
(606) 232-2000  
Price: \$2,593

requirements for the PC/Computing 200 are:  
• 10 inches or less (measured in width by depth).  
• At least 2MB of RAM and at least 35 typefaces.  
• 30 pages per minute.

## Evaluation

The NEC Silentwriter Model 95 is loaded with every feature you could want in a PostScript printer, including Adobe Level 2 PostScript; Hewlett-Packard PCL 5 and support for HP's HPGL; automatic emulation switching; and serial, parallel, and AppleTalk interfaces that can be simultaneously active. You also get 57 typefaces and 2 font cartridge slots, as well as professional-looking text with NEC's Sharp Edge Technology. What's more, this luxury printer has a bargain-basement list price of \$1,749.

For a truly personal PostScript laser, check out the QMS-PS 410. Priced to move at \$1,995, the QMS printer comes loaded with 45 typefaces, PostScript, and PCL 4 and it automatically switches emulations. It also comes standard with serial, parallel, and AppleTalk ports and accepts print jobs from all three simultaneously. An excellent printer in its own right, the QMS-PS 410 is outdone only by the NEC's faster print speed and slightly lower price.

At \$1,749, TI's MicroLaser Plus PS35 ties with NEC for lowest retail price. The MicroLaser Plus has a 9-ppm engine which is a boon for PostScript printing. The easily upgradable printer also has 42 typefaces and quality output with clear grayscale differentiation. The one drawback is that a parallel interface is the only standard interface. But the combination of low price and fast engine speed is hard to beat. TI offers this printer in a PostScript Level 2 configuration the MicroLaser Turbo for \$2,249.

With its crisp text, low price, and 6-ppm engine, the Everex LaserScript LX is the model PostScript laser printer. It ships with 2.5MB of RAM and 35 typefaces. That's enough for most people, but if you're doing graphics-intensive desktop publishing, be sure to plan ahead and buy the upgrades with the printer because memory is factory-installable only and typeface upgrades require a proprietary font controller card option.

The LaserPrinter 4 StarScript is a low-priced, 4-ppm PostScript solution that prints attractive text. It ships with serial, parallel, and AppleTalk interfaces and 49 typefaces<sup>35</sup> PostScript and 14 bit-mapped. Adobe-compatible PostScript and PCL 4 are standard, but you have to switch the emulation setting manually.

Okidata hits the mark by offering the 8-ppm OL830 for the same price as many 4-ppm printers. The OL830 includes Adobe PostScript and PCL 4 and prints acceptably, though its grayscale definition is somewhat muddy. The speedy Okidata OL830 is a bargain that's hard to pass up.

The LaserPrinter 6PS's value lies in its upgradability. At \$2,593, it's an expensive 6-ppm printer whose controller can be upgraded to 10 ppm. It prints sharp, clear text, and by adding memory (to a total of 5MB) you get a resolution of 600 by 600 dots per inch.

Score

86.5

80.5

79

78.5

74

73

68