

THE PRINTER MULTIFUNCTIONAL GUIDE



Xerox WorkCentre C2424 DX

- **Multifunctional office printers that print, copy, scan and fax**
- **Black-and-white and color models, ink jet and laser with speeds up to 50ppm**
- **Updated for 2005**
- **Editor's Choice Awards**

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EDITOR'S
CHOICE

2005

XEROX

**Xerox WorkCentre
C2424 DN**

**Xerox WorkCentre
C2424 DP**

Xerox WorkCentre C2424 DX

*Up to 24ppm color/up to 24ppm black
& white*



Sum-up: Based on Xerox's strong solid ink technology, these multi-functionals offer excellent color at a very moderate price.

The WorkCentre C2424 family is unique, the only MFPs based on a solid ink engine. That engine is the basis for the excellent color printers in the Xerox Phaser 8400 family. Solid ink machines have little to do with the more common, inexpensive thermal ink jet MFPs for the small- or home-office. Instead, solid ink is a printing technology that competes more with laser and LED machines.

Xerox's solid ink technology offers what we consider excellent image quality. Even the default lower-res setting seems to produce pretty accurate color renderings, more than good enough for office use.

These machines offer very respectable speeds. The engines are rated for up to 24ppm, both in color and in black-and-white, in printing and in copying.

Numbers don't tell the complete story here — 24ppm is achieved in the "fast" mode, whose resolution (at 300dpi) isn't as high as what we've described above. The standard mode of 18ppm (at 300 x 450dpi) offers acceptable quality, however, and that's still reasonably fast for a color printer. You can opt for even finer detail in the

enhanced resolution of 400 x 563dpi (12ppm) or photo mode at 525 x 600dpi (7ppm). These speeds are selected in the print dialog box for print jobs and on the front panel for copies.

These models come with a powerful 500MHz processor, ensuring that they will handle printed pages and copies with ease.

The WorkCentre C2424 multifunctionals are tightly integrated and easy to use. For example, when you have to change consumables, you need only open the top cover of the machine and slide in blocks of ink that look and feel like disk-shaped crayons. Set-up is simple, too, since the scanner unit is tightly integrated, requiring no assembly.



Xerox WorkCentre C2424 DX – This machine comes with extra software for file management.

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Per-page prices have not been announced yet, but if they are anything like the supplies for the Phaser 8400, they will be moderate.

Versions: There are three WorkCentre C2424 models, and all of them come with both USB and built-in Ethernet. They are:

- The WorkCentre C2424 DN (street price \$2,999), which comes with 256MB of memory, a standard 625 sheets of paper supply, and 300dpi scanning.
- The WorkCentre C2424 DP (street price \$3,799), which has 512MB of memory, adds an additional 525-sheet paper input drawer, and scans at up to 600dpi.
- The WorkCentre C2424 DX (street price at \$4,399), which is identical to the C2424 DP, but adds extra software for OCR and file management. These include a five-user license for ScanSoft's OmniPage Pro, PaperPort Pro, and Image Retriever, all of which have been customized for the Xerox environment.

Note that none of these models offer a fax option. All can be upgraded to 1GB of memory.

Each model starts with a 100-sheet bypass and a 525-sheet standard paper tray. The two higher-end models start with an added 525-sheet drawer. All the units can have up to a total of 1,675 sheets. In addition, these models handle heavy-duty paper, up to 80lb. card stock. Output capacity is based on a simple 250-sheet tray.

PostScript and PCL are standard features. The C2424 models come with both a platen and a 50-sheet two-sided document feeder. All three models offer automatic two-sided printing. More interesting, they offer two-sided copying as the document feeder can read both sides of each page simultaneously. They also offer two-sided scanning. A dual-scan head is pretty standard in regular copiers, but only a few printer multifunctionals have this feature.

Note that these machines do not have direct-to-

email scanning. However, they do allow you to scan directly to computers on the network or to mailboxes. These are based on Xerox's high-end CentreWare workflow, and they allow remote users to access scanned page files across the Internet. As Xerox explains, this allows any number of users to access scans whenever they want them. We think that most users simply want to send the scanned file to their computers, check that it was scanned correctly, then rename it and attach it to an email.

When it comes to pricing, the WorkCentre C2424 series is very reasonable, considerably lower than most laser-based color MFPs. True, they are more expensive than the interesting sub-\$1,000 Canon Color imageCLASS 8170c, but that machine is a true starter model, not suitable for a robust workgroup environment. The Xerox models have faster speeds and full features, including an excellent workgroup color printer at their core.

These machines were not yet released as we went to press, so we haven't yet seen them in action. They are based on a solid ink printer engine that has an impressive track record. Given their impressive features and design, we are sure they are winners and breakthrough products. They get our Editor's Choice Award.



Xerox WorkCentre C2424 DN – This multifunctional offers rare two-sided copying.

Contact Better Buys for Business at 800 247 2185, www.betterbuys.com or 370 Technology Drive, Malvern, PA 19355.

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Vendor Profile

Xerox was a leader in the laser multifunctional printer area until a few years ago. But it dropped its products and exited the market as the company tried to focus on more profitable areas. That effort was a success, and Xerox has gone from near-bankruptcy to profitability and stability.

Xerox has started re-introducing printer-based multifunctionals to complement its large line of copier-based multifunctionals. These newer machines, under the WorkCentre brand, are based on Samsung originals. These devices and a few small copier-based machines are used to offer a full range of solutions for Xerox's biggest customers. The models come with different software from that of the Samsung originals.

Xerox multifunctionals are sold both through direct sales and through copier dealers.

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