

Printing Images

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Printing Images

- Choice of paper type
- Is it worth doing your own photo printing
- Making better use of your prints

Choice of Paper

Standard Photo Paper

- Resin coated, cellulose based relatively thin and flexible
- Usually has a Glossy, Oyster / Pearl / Lustre reflective surface
- Will do a good job on any colour or B&W print
- Produces darker blacks, whiter whites and highest contrast
- Paper of choice for a B&W image that has a full tonal range
- Consider Oyster / Pearl surfaces - confer all the benefits without directional reflectiveness of Glossy

Art Paper

- Fibre or cotton based, thicker, not resin coated
- Usually has a very flat, matt surface with varying degrees of texture
- Gives a 'painterly' feel to an image that has more perceived depth – seems to take on the texture of the subject material
- Very good for most colour images, especially those with natural, muted and pastel tones
- Paper of choice for images with large areas of block colour or B&W images with large light / white (blown!) areas – adds texture to otherwise bland or plain areas in an image
- Bad choice for tonally diverse B&W images that need contrast and punch

Is it worth DIY
printing?

DIY Printing Costs

- A3 (16.5" x 11.5") / A3+ (19" x 13") printers cost around £350 (£1 week over 7 years)
- Have multiple ink cartridges (8 or more) that cost around £10 each
- A3+ paper is only marginally more expensive than A3 with many benefits
 - A3+ paper Glossy / Oyster is about £1 / sheet
 - A3+ art paper is around £2.50 / sheet
- Average cost of each glossy / oyster print & ink - £2.50
- Average cost of each art paper print & ink - £4.00
- A3 / A3+ printers can be used for everyday printing (will only use black ink) and will also print blank CD / DVDs

DS Colour Labs Prices

- For a club competition you would probably print up to 14" x 9" image on 15" x 10" paper
- Standard Glossy / Lustre prints cost about £1 each with £4-5 p&p
- An order for 5 prints would cost around £10 or £2 each (cf £2.50 for DIY)
- The base of their standard Glossy paper is not very white
- Art paper prints cost around £9-10 each
- An order for 5 Art Paper prints would cost around £50 or £10 each (cf £4 for DIY)

Making Better Use
of Your Prints?

Displaying / Gifting your Work

- After a competition do you put your mounted prints behind the sofa or in a box cluttering up the house?
- Have you considered using your competition, holiday or family prints as wall decoration or gifts?
- Ready made picture frames are around £9-15 each from amazon regardless of size or frame material (contemporary or traditional)
- A club competition mounted print will go straight into a 40 x 50cm frame
- An A3 unmounted print will go straight into an A3 frame
- An A3+ print, once mounted, will go straight into an A2 frame, 3 or more of which can decorate a whole wall

Benefits of DIY Printing - Summary

- Get results straight away – no more panic over delivery
- Are able to make adjustments / corrections immediately
- Once decided on favourite papers, can buy in bulk to make greater savings
- Satisfaction that you are self-sufficient in your hobby
- Roughly comparable costs for Glossy / Lustre prints
- At least half the commercial cost for Art Paper prints
- Are able to print up to A3+ (19" x 13") for serious framing / wall display

Conclusions

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- If you are happy with Glossy, general purpose prints that you only need for competitions and don't want to display / gift your work – stick with DS Colour Labs
- If you want to use Art Paper regularly and / or want to print up to 19" x 13" for framing and wall display / gifting – consider investing in DIY printing