



MULTIFUNCTION PRINTER

Kyocera Mita KM-C830FDSPN

VERDICT A versatile modular system with surprisingly low running costs.

- ⊕ Low running costs; modular approach means only buying what's needed.
- No duplex upgrade for simplex copier.

FOLLOWING THE ACQUISITION OF copier specialist Mita in January 2000, the now renamed Kyocera Mita has added a number of multifunction printer/copiers to its product portfolio. The latest model is the KM-C830, which is based on the same laser engine as the FS-8000C, but can handle a mix of scanning and copying as well as printing requirements.

The basic KM-C830 module (£6,999 ex. VAT) is simply a colour copier that can copy documents up to A3 in size. Maximum speed is 30ppm for monochrome A4 (15ppm A3), falling to 8ppm for colour A4 (4ppm A3). If you want double-sided copies, the KM-C830D (£7,949 ex. VAT) has a built-in duplexer. An optional sheet-reversing feeder (£791.99 ex. VAT) can also be added to copy double-sided originals single-sided, although there's no duplex upgrade for the KM-C830D, so you'll need to think carefully before ordering.

All the usual copying functions are supported from the front control panel of the device. Among these are facilities for reduction and enlargement, image rotation, the addition of cover pages and inserts, page numbering and so on. Up to 999 copies can be taken and there are facilities to make colour adjustments and overlay images.

As with most large copiers, account codes can be used to record and charge for copier use, plus there's an optional 3.2GB hard disk drive (£329.99 ex. VAT) on which commonly used documents, such as forms, can be stored. These files can then be printed on demand from the front panel. In addition, there's an



▲ The barcode reader lets you print documents stored on the printer's hard disk without a PC.



◀ Kyocera's Mita KM-C830 offers a mix of colour copying, printing and scanning facilities. The KM-C830FDSPN, which we reviewed, has every module installed.

adding a further £199.99 (ex. VAT) to the overall price.

Finally, there's a scanning system add-on (£899.99 ex. VAT) that turns the KM-C830 into a shared network scanner. This comes with its own network interface, plus software for use with all 32-bit versions of Windows. When using this add-on, documents can be scanned direct to a remote PC with output in TIFF, JPEG or PDF format, or sent to a network TWAIN driver. There's also a useful scan-to-mail facility, which is the email equivalent of sending a fax.

Underlying all of this functionality is a 600dpi colour laser engine that features the

same long-life Ecosys drum as other Kyocera Mita printers. In this case, the drum is guaranteed for three years or 100,000 colour prints. This means that toner is normally the only consumable that needs to be changed, leading to a very low cost of ownership. In fact, it works out at just over 3.3p per full-colour page (claimed), which is a remarkable figure for a colour laser. In addition, separate toner is used for each colour, with a high-yield black cartridge doing away with the need for a separate monochrome printer/copier.

The Kyocera Mita KM-C830 is an impressive device that, when fully configured, can take care of the copying, printing and scanning needs of a medium-sized company or workgroup. Print quality is good, but the key selling point is its low cost of ownership—especially when compared to similar multifunction printer copiers from HP and Xerox.

ALAN STEVENS

And that's not all. To turn the KM-C830 into a printer, there's yet another optional module—the £1,599 (ex. VAT) printing system. This adds the same PowerPC-based controller as used on the FS-8000C colour laser to allow documents to be printed using a variety of emulations, including PCL5c and PostScript. Parallel and serial interfaces are provided for direct PC attachment, although most users will opt to add a network card to share the printer on the LAN. These are available in several formats, the most popular of these being the 10/100Mbit/s Ethernet adapter, which supports IPP (Internet Printing Protocol) as well as most LAN environments,

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Fact file
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Price	£13,487 (ex. VAT)
OS	Windows 9x, ME, 2000, XP
Engine technology	Colour laser
Print processor	400MHz PowerPC
Memory	64MB
Duty cycle	100,000 mono pages per month/ 25,000 colour pages per month
Contact	Kyocera Mita • (01 18) 931 1500 www.kyoceramita.co.uk