

Canon Imageclass MF3240

The Canon Imageclass MF3240 is an all in one laser printer, color scanner, and fax. It is designed as a basic solution for small businesses and home offices. It is able to scan and print with resolutions up to 1200 dpi and fax at 33.6kbps. This is a report of testing done with the machine on May 30, 2006 and May 31, 2006.

Setup is relatively easy with the only necessary assembly being the print tray cassette. The software install (Easy Install option) takes about 15 minutes on a Dell Optiplex GX260 (SysEval computer) but requires user input for each application. The software suite contains drivers, scan software, OCR software, and a Canon Utility. Microsoft Windows will recognize two printers and install a driver for each: one is for the printer and the other allows for the faxing of documents directly through windows.

The printer warms up very quickly- 5 seconds or less- and can print a 600 dpi full page image in black and white in seconds. The print quality is good with subtle shades and smooth curves. Copying occurs in under a minute. Faxes are fast and of good quality. 1200 dpi scans take up to 5 minutes but this may crash the software. The TWAIN utility does not seem to support 1200dpi scanning and this feature seems to only be possible in Presto! PageManager. Image scans are very dithered and aliased at every resolution. Text scans look very nice and the OCR tool is very powerful, correctly recognizing different arrangements and faces and sizes of text. The canon utility, MF Toolbox, requires that an application be set to receive scans. This is preset for some types of scans but must be set for others.

The printer has no off switch; it will enter a sleep mode if it is not being used. It will not enter sleep mode if there is an error. There is no volume control for the fax which

is very loud. The menus and front panel interface are generally intuitive and the error codes are helpful.

The Mf3240 is well suited for document scanning and printing and sending faxes. The OCR utility can allow for the quick digitizing of documents. It is not, however, a good solution for images.