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Shop around for right printer

By Andy King

Before I explore printer choices, I must state it is my experience that with practically all computer-related products you "get what you are willing to pay for". If you decide to purchase "bargain" hardware, you will probably experience "bargain" performance.

One of the first things that most new users will want to address is getting their work printed.

Today's computer compatible printers are offered in a variety of types from low cost dot matrix to very expensive laser printers.

"Dot Matrix" is the term used to describe the most common printers in use. These printers have a printing head that generally contains nine to 24 tiny pins. The pins strike a "typewriter style" ribbon and transfer ink to paper.

Dot matrix printers will usually have several ratings such as: cps - number of characters per second that it is capable of printing, dpi - the number of dots per inch, and NLQ - whether or not it is near letter quality (when compared to a typewriter).

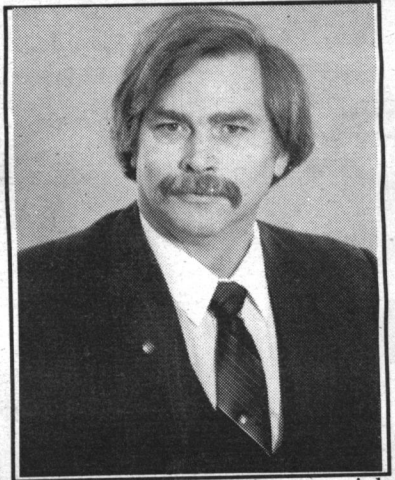
The dot matrix printer is probably the most popular choice, especially with new users, these days. This family of printers offers models usually ranging from a couple of hundred to \$500 or \$600.

At the lower end of the price range you will usually find the nine pin variety which will produce readable text, generally low quality graphics and have an acceptable level of operational noise.

The higher priced dot matrix machines will usually be equipped with 24 pin print heads. These printers can produce much better quality text and graphics than their less expensive relatives. Many of these printers offer options of type styles (fonts) and some offer color options. The dot matrix is currently the only choice for printing multi-part business forms such as invoices.

The "Ink Jet" printer is also gaining popularity with new and experienced users. Ink jet printers share some technology with the dot matrix but the printing is accomplished by the liquid ink being sprayed onto the paper through tiny jets.

One Byte at a time



Unlike the dot matrix, many ink jet printers are barely audible when operating. Ink jets offer model variations from small portable (battery operated) to large page format color capable devices with high resolutions for text and graphics.

I have a 24-pin dot matrix that I started with. The dot matrix produces very legible text and reasonable black and white graphics but the noise level when producing graphics is very irritating even though I have the printer housed in a good silencer case.

My color ink jet has been a "solid" performer. This machine is very quiet whether being used for graphics or text. The ink jet produces higher quality text and graphics than the dot matrix and the color output is very handy for producing "proofs" for my clients.

The color ink jet is more expensive to purchase and operate than the typical dot matrix. For color output I use special paper and the ink cartridges are more expensive than ribbons. Unlike the dot matrix, the ink jet can produce glossy print as well as transparencies. You can smear the print from the ink jet a little easier than the print from the dot matrix because it starts out as liquid ink and must dry.

In the next article I will introduce laser and high end color printers.

If there is a subject you would like me to cover or a question you would like answered, please feel free to call me at 873-1056.

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When there's smoke, stay low and go! This fire safety message may sound like child's play, but it's really one of the best ways to save your life in a fire.

Most fire fatalities are due to smoke. Smoke is full of poisonous gases and even a few breaths can kill. Since smoke rises, you should get low and crawl to the nearest exit.

Get out quickly. Don't take time to gather valuables. The Halton Hills Fire Department reminds you that the only valuable things in your home that can't be replaced are you and your family.

For more information on this and other fire safety issues, please contact the Halton Hills Fire Department, Fire Prevention Division at 873-1133.

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Tooth Chatter

by
ALEX TRENTON,
Denture Therapist

IMMEDIATE DENTURES

An "immediate denture" is a denture that is inserted immediately following the extraction of the natural teeth.

Using this method, the denture actually acts as a sort of bandage to help the tissues heal. The denture must be left in place during the first 24 hours. You must follow normal post-extraction recommendations, and then come in for an adjustment/check-up appointment the following day. Another advantage is that the patient gets their denture right away and doesn't have the inconvenience or embarrassment of having to go without teeth. Immediate dentures are very popular, however this route is not ideal for everyone. It often involves an extensive period of adjustment in which patient and Denture Therapist must work closely together for some time for best results.

If you have ever worn dentures, your new teeth will probably feel strange and bulky in your mouth. This is because the muscles of your face-lips, cheeks, and tongue are used to your former teeth, or to nothing at all. These muscles are being stretched and molded to new contours and dimensions. This muscle tension will subside in a short period of time. Also, learning to chew properly with new dentures may take two to six weeks.

It is also important to remember that the person who extracts your teeth does not have to be the person who makes your denture. Denture Therapists are denture specialists who work together with other dental professionals, to make sure you get the best denture care available. Don't hesitate to insist that your dentures be made by a Denture Therapist.

WE CARE ABOUT YOUR SMILE!

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