



COLOR RELIABILITY



KONICA MINOLTA GOLD AWARD WINNER

While Konica Minolta is a relative newcomer to the color market, the manufacturer has already established a strong reputation among users for reliability.

“With over two dozen art directors, obviously we do a lot of color printing in my company. We installed our first Konica Minolta 50cpm color copier because its price point was unbeatable, plus it was a lot smaller than others we looked at. I can’t tell you how impressed we’ve been with the quality and consistency of its color, and we never had a moment’s trouble with it. It runs so well we plan on replacing our (name removed) machines with Konica Minolta ones when our current lease arrangements are up.”

— Office Manager for a large marketing and promotions department

In the last few years, color output has gone from being a high-ticket luxury item to a capability that many companies simply cannot do without.

It used to be that color output devices required constant fine-tuning and maintenance in order to create consistent, good-quality color. As technology has improved, manufacturers have designed color machines that self-calibrate their colors at pre-set intervals, as well as machines that require less calibration overall.

There are several types of color technology competing for buyers’ attention (and dollars): four-pass color printing, tandem printing and wax-based systems.

Four-pass color is the oldest of the three technologies and is still in use in a number of printers and copiers being sold throughout the world. With this technology, four image drums add one layer of color each, with final output put through the fuser.

Tandem technology employs a transfer belt which is passed underneath a series of four imaging units, with the image built up as it moves along the belt. Then it is transferred from the belt to paper and fed through the fuser unit.

One manufacturer has moved from using fuser oil to a wax-impregnated toner particle. The wax provides lubrication needed for the imaging process, replacing messy fuser oil which can build up on rollers throughout the life of the device, resulting in image degradation and smearing. The archival quality of wax-based output may not be as reliable as that offered on other systems.

ABOUT THE WINNER:

Konica Minolta Business Solutions U.S.A., Inc. (KMBS) merges the strengths of its two founding companies, former rivals Konica and Minolta. With headquarters in Ramsey, New Jersey, KMBS has become a leader in document imaging technology, with a customer base ranging from small office and home users to workgroups, departments and large production operations.

The company offers a complete line of high speed, high volume document systems with speeds up to 170ppm.

ABOUT THE AWARDS:

The Readers’ Choice Awards are the cumulative findings culled from thousands of BERTL surveys. Unlike other industry awards which are chosen by a small group of industry pundits, BERTL Readers’ Choice Awards are decided by our readers – the most experienced, technically savvy and discerning digital imaging equipment buyers and users in the world.