

Kyocera TASKalfa 305

Outstanding 21- to 30-ppm
A3 Monochrome MFP



Kyocera Mita America
225 Sand Road
Fairfield, NJ 07004
www.kyoceramita.com

The Kyocera TASKalfa 305 is BLI's Summer 2011 "Pick" winner for "Outstanding 21- to 30-ppm A3 Monochrome MFP."

"The Kyocera TASKalfa 305 delivers an impressive value proposition and the easiest preventive maintenance procedure I have seen," said David Sweetnam, head of Research and Lab Services for BLI's UK laboratory.

The TASKalfa 305 is a true hybrid between the worlds of copier- and printer-based MFPs, with a very aggressive price that's even more impressive considering that it includes an automatic document feeder, network printing and color scanning out of the box. The device performed very well in BLI's battery of tests and was praised for its easy to use touchscreen panel, which was very responsive and easy to navigate.

"Another major plus for the device is the design of the replacement parts which are all user-replaceable," said Sweetnam. "A member of BLI's staff who was not trained by Kyocera service was able to switch out all the maintenance kit components, including feed rollers, drum, developer and fuser rollers in under three minutes without mess or any tools required. This simplicity of service-replacement parts means that the device can be bought with or without a service contract, allowing some users to replace parts themselves, while others who opt for a service agreement will still benefit from fast service visits."

The device also proved to be highly reliable during its 100,000-impression durability test. Providing standard copy, print, scan and optional fax functionality, the device comes equipped with a USB port that allows for direct printing of files from a flash drive. Exhibiting above average ease of use, the unit is easy to manage using KMnet Viewer, which can assign specific alerts to different recipients, while the Kyocera Command Center provides users with a very good level of detail about device status, paper size, approximate percentage of paper remaining and toner supplies.

As with its sister models, some aspects of its feature set are unique to Kyocera. For example, with Kyocera's PRESCRIBE page design and control language, complex graphics, logos and multipart forms can be created independently on a PC and stored in the device. They can be recalled from

the unit's memory as needed, helping to reduce network congestion. Kyocera's RAM Disk feature allows a portion of the device's RAM to be treated like a hard disk to facilitate secure job storage without incurring the extra expense of a hard drive; as RAM is volatile memory it can only retain data while connected to a power supply or a device, so users need not be concerned about data security.

"Kyocera should be congratulated on developing printers and MFPs that deliver on reliability, energy efficiency and a low cost of ownership," said Sweetnam. "What more could its customers ask for?"

"Kyocera's TASKalfa 305 is designed to meet and exceed the strict business requirements that today's companies demand," said Peter Hendrick, vice president of marketing for Kyocera Mita America. "By instilling Kyocera's unique advantages of ultra-reliability, exceptional productivity and low total cost of ownership into each of our products, businesses benefit from robust and reliable devices that can handle the complex imaging needs of any workgroup or high-performance office environment. Each of us at Kyocera is honored to have won BLI's Summer 'Pick' award for the TASKalfa 305."

With a base price of \$5,879, the Kyocera TASKalfa 305 is highly recommended by BLI for an optimum monthly volume of up to 9,000 impressions.

About BLI Pick Awards

Twice a year with its "Pick" awards, BLI gives special recognition in each category to those products that provided the most outstanding performances in BLI's exhaustive lab tests.

BLI's awards stand alone in that they are based on a rigorous battery of lab tests that takes approximately two months to complete. The evaluation includes an extensive durability test, during a portion of which each unit is run at the manufacturer's maximum duty cycle. BLI's durability test is unique among office product evaluations and uniquely qualifies BLI to assess reliability, a critical factor for buyers and IT directors.

Other performance attributes evaluated include ease of use, media handling, productivity and value, among others. Each product that successfully passes BLI's lab test earns BLI's "Recommended" or "Highly Recommended" seal and a BLI "Certificate of Reliability" and qualifies as a "Pick" award contender. Consequently, a BLI "Pick" is a hard-earned award that buyers and IT directors can trust to better guide them in their acquisition decisions.

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COO

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Managing Director

Daria M. Hoffman
Managing Editor

John Donnelly
Managing Director—International

Pete Emory
Manager of Laboratory Testing

David Sweetnam
Head of Research and Lab Services,
BLI's UK Lab

Buyers Laboratory Inc.
info@buyerslab.com

BLI International (UK) Ltd.
bliEurope@buyerslab.com

BLI International Ltd.
bliAsia@buyerslab.com