

Kyocera TASKalfa 5550ci

Outstanding 51- to 60-ppm
A3 Color MFP



Kyocera Mita America
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The Kyocera TASKalfa 5550ci is BLI's Summer 2011 "Pick" as "Outstanding 51- to 60-ppm A3 Color MFP."

"The TASKalfa 5550ci earned high marks across the board, producing better output quality than most competitors, and proving to be one of the most productive models in its speed range," said George Mikolay, BLI senior product editor for A3/Copier MFPs. "These qualities, along with a well-designed control panel, excellent ease of network setup and robust finishing options, all for a lower than average price, make the TASKalfa 5550ci a cost-effective, yet high-quality system for a wide range of business documents."

Equipped with a single-pass duplexing document feeder in testing (a reversing automatic document feeder is also available depending on a user's scanning needs), the TASKalfa 5550ci offers scan speeds that are among the fastest in all modes, and smaller than average color file sizes when compressed. "Moreover, the device's outstanding performance in BLI's job stream test, which simulates real-world usage, means the device is tailor-made for office environments where multiple users will send multiple types of jobs to the device at one time," said Mikolay. Efficiency when printing and copying sets are also among the highest tested to date, as was tested first-copy times, and productivity results when printing and copying booklets are outstanding. "Whether users are making a single copy, printing sets or booklets, or scanning documents, the TASKalfa 5550ci will get them back to their real work quickly," said Mikolay.

The TASKalfa 5550ci will also provide maximum uptime in the office and in handling the requirements of longer runs. Proving to be highly reliable, with no service calls over the course of 225,000 impressions, rated color and black drum yields, at 600,000 impressions each, are also by far the highest for the group, and more than triple the average of competitive models. Add it all up, and the device is built to withstand the rigors of the daily office environment with ease and maximum uptime.

The device exhibited very good to excellent output quality in both color and black print and copy modes, which is a feat not accomplished by most competitors. Business graphics output exhibited bright, saturated color, and flesh tones appeared natural. Text was dark and characters were fully formed, line thickness was consistent, and halftone output was excellent, with very smooth fill and grayscale visible over a wide range.

Ease of use is another strength thanks to its well-designed control panel, and IT professionals will appreciate the highly automated and intuitive network installation and very good administrative utilities. USB access is convenient, LDAP lookup procedures are intuitive, and destinations accessed via LDAP can be added to the device-resident address book by end-users. Encrypted PDF is also supported. An excellent value, the unit offers a good feature set that includes the highest maximum paper capacity in its class, as well as an above average 150-sheet bypass capacity, all at a low price point. Support for business applications powered by HyPAS, Kyocera's platform for the integration of third-party software solutions with the device, can help to control costs, heighten security and ease burdens associated with document capture, routing and management. An optional EFI Fiery controller is available.

"Kyocera's TASKalfa 5550ci 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' awards for the TASKalfa 5550ci."

With a base price of \$20,325, the Kyocera TASKalfa 5550ci is highly recommended by BLI for an optimum monthly volume of 36,500 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 and includes an extensive durability test, during which each unit is run at the manufacturer's maximum recommended volume. BLI's durability test is unique among office product evaluations and uniquely qualifies BLI to assess reliability, which is a critical factor for buyers and IT directors, given that virtually all of the products are designed for use on networks.

In addition to assessing reliability, in terms of the number of service calls and PM (preventive maintenance) calls required, as well as misfeed frequency, BLI's comprehensive evaluation includes an assessment of copy and print quality, productivity, ease of use and economy, as well as connectivity issues such as feedback to workstations, administrative utilities, print drivers, multitasking and scanning solutions. 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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