



A Buyers Laboratory Document Imaging Device Assessment

Toshiba e-STUDIO205
 20 PPM Segment 1 Monochrome Device
 Copy • Print • Fax • Scan



Overall Rating	★★★★
Value	★★★★
Ease of Use.....	★★★★
Copy Productivity	★★
Print Productivity	★★★★
Image Quality.....	★★★★
Multitasking	Lab Test Report Only
Utilities.....	Lab Test Report Only
Reliability	Lab Test Report Only
Feedback to Workstations	Lab Test Report Only
Toner Yield/Cost per Page	Lab Test Report Only

* Based upon a five-star rating system, with five being the best.

Suggested retail price: \$3,095 base unit. (Complete specifications information for this unit, including pricing for accessories and options, is available through bliQ, at www.buyerslab.com/bliq.)

Testing method: The unit's copy/print capabilities were tested using a Windows XP workstation with a crossover cable, the e-BRIDGE print controller and the PCL 6 print driver (version 2.8.26.10). The crossover cable eliminates network traffic, allowing for optimal productivity of the unit.

Comparative Analysis

For a copy of
 BLI's upcoming
 Toshiba e-STUDIO205
 Lab Test Report,
 contact BLI at
 (201) 488-0404,
info@buyerslab.com,
 or www.buyerslab.com.

Targeted at users in small businesses, executive offices and small workgroups, the Toshiba e-STUDIO205 is intended not only for users making the transition from analog copying to digital copying, but also for users looking to upgrade to a true MFP. Featuring standard copying, GDI printing and TWAIN scanning, as well as optional network print, scan and fax capabilities, the unit demonstrated very good print efficiency and print image quality along with good overall ease of use on its way to an overall rating of Four Stars.

FIELD TEST



The e-STUDIO205 offers 48 MB of standard memory that is upgradeable to 112 MB. Network printing is supported by a 333-MHz processor and 128 MB of standalone memory when added. According to Toshiba, the unit is designed on a foundation of the company's e-BRIDGE technology, offering a number of the multifunctional advantages found on models in higher Segments. For example, the PCL 6 and PostScript 3 print drivers are identical in appearance and layout, and most of the features required for a typical print job are available on the first tab. The unit also offers very good overall ease of use from its control panel, utilizing a good combination of hard keys to select features, along with clustered arrow hard keys and large navigation hard keys when navigating through the features selectable via the LCD display. Advanced copying features available include Magazine Sort, Annotation (page number or page, date and time), Job Build, and ID Card. Toner replacement is also simple and clean. The e-STUDIO205 also provides ledger-size copy and print capability.

Advantages

- Very good overall print efficiency, as its efficiency in simplex mode is among the highest for the group.
- Very good overall ease of use from its control panel, utilizing a good combination of hard keys to select features, along with arrow hard keys and large navigation hard keys when navigating through the features selectable via the LCD display.
- The PCL 6 and PostScript 3 print drivers are identical in appearance and layout, and most of the features required for a typical print job are available on the first tab.
- Above-average toner yield. Further, the unit's toner recycling system minimizes environmental impact and reduces downtime.
- Software solutions such as TopAccess, Toshiba Viewer and eBRIDGE Viewer increase ease of use and productivity.
- Compact dimensions allow the unit to fit into environments where space is limited.
- A Coin Controller feature allows businesses to deploy the unit for public copying.

Shortcomings

- Below-average overall copy productivity. For example, the unit's first-copy times and copy efficiency are the lowest or among the lowest for the group.
- The unit's efficiency when printing BLI's job stream, which simulates the type of traffic a typical device might experience in a real-world, multi-user environment, is below average for the group.
- No point-and-click interface or consumables feedback via the print drivers.
- Procedures for adjusting paper drawers and paper sizes, as well as for clearing misfeeds are more cumbersome than some competitive models available.
- Below-average standard (250 sheets) and maximum (1,700 sheets) paper capacities.
- No finishing options are available.



Also of note is the e-STUDIO205's toner yield, which, at 24,000 impressions, is above average for the group. The unit's preventive maintenance schedule, at 90,000 impressions, is competitive for the group. According to Toshiba, the unit's preventive maintenance schedule is identical to its models in Segments 2 and 3, making it an almost maintenance-free product. The unit also uses separate toner, drum and developer cartridges, thereby eliminating the premature disposal of the drum, which commonly occurs with units that use an all-in-one print cartridge. In addition, the e-STUDIO205 also features 100 percent toner recycling, thus there is no waster toner to dispose of. A starter toner kit that comes with the unit produces up to 5,900 impressions.

The e-STUDIO205 is also equipped with software solutions designed for increased ease of use and productivity, according to Toshiba. For instance, the TopAccess Web-based utility allows users and administrators to access information about the unit over the Internet. Toshiba Viewer enables both standard GDI printing and TWAIN compatible scanning, and also can be combined with the optional ImageVision software to offer extended capabilities such as direct PC fax. Further, eBRIDGE Viewer enables broad searching among all selected data stored on the PC and allows users to narrow search criteria by application, folder, data and more. In addition, opening the file, printing and sending the file via e-mail is supported in one single action.

▲ Value Analysis ★★★★

The e-STUDIO205, configured as a copier/printer with PostScript 3/PCL 6 printing, an RADF, network scanning and faxing (including Internet, walk-up and PC/LAN), has a suggested retail price (SRP) that is competitive with similarly equipped models available. Further, its toner yield (24,000 impressions) and document feeder capacity (100 sheets) are among the highest for the group. In addition, its preventive maintenance schedule (90,000 impressions), drum life (90,000 impressions) and bypass capacity (100 sheets) are competitive for the group. BLI rates value by evaluating a unit's SRP in relation to its overall performance, paper handling, and user and service intervention (see Advantages/Shortcomings).

▲ Summary

Because of the unit's very good print efficiency (especially in simplex mode) and image quality (especially in print mode), along with its good overall ease of use and value, BLI gives the e-STUDIO205 an overall Field Tested Rating** of **Four Stars**.

*** Note: The data presented in this Field Test Report was obtained from testing performed by BLI outside of our 10,000 sq. ft. test lab. BLI's Lab Test Reports contain the results of BLI's extensive in-house testing for reliability, multitasking, toner yield/cost per page and performance of additional functions and on additional platforms. Please contact BLI (phone 201-488-0404, or e-mail info@buyerslab.com) for information regarding when the Lab Test Report for this product will be available.*