

Kyocera TASKalfa 6550ci

Outstanding 61- to 70-ppm A3 Colour MFP



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The Kyocera TASKalfa 6550ci has earned BLI's Winter 2012 "Pick" as "Outstanding 61- to 70-ppm A3 Colour MFP."

"The TASKalfa 6550ci earned high marks across the board and offers a very good feature set," said George Mikolay, BLI senior product editor for A3/Copier MFPs. "It is a clear stand-out in its speed range."

Based on a highly reliable engine that logged more than a half million impressions in its BLI evaluation without any service required, the TASKalfa 6550ci will provide maximum uptime in the office and in handling the requirements of longer runs. Rated colour and black drum yields are the highest for the group by far, and the device's preventive maintenance interval also coincides with that of the drum and developer, which further reduces the number of service calls required, compared with devices whose components' yields are of varying intervals and don't coincide.

The TASKalfa 6550ci was also cited for its image quality. Pete Emory, BLI's manager of laboratory testing, said, "This unit produces business graphics output with bright, saturated colour, yet the skin tones it produces are natural-looking. I was also impressed with its excellent halftones in both print and copy modes, which did not exhibit the graininess we often see from business colour models." In addition, an optional EFI Fiery controller is available for even more exacting colour needs.

Ease of use is another strength of the TASKalfa 6550ci thanks to its well-designed control panel, and IT professionals will appreciate the highly automated network installation and very good administrative utilities. Other nice touches are convenient access to the USB port for scanning to or printing from USB drives and that users can select which tray to output to on the fly, a capability typically reserved only for administrators.

Further contributing to the TASKalfa 6550ci's value is its above average maximum paper capacity and its standard single-pass duplexing document feeder that has an above average 270-sheet capacity and helps the unit to achieve the fastest simplex and duplex scan speeds of tested models in its speed range. In addition, 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.

"It is a great honour for us to be recognized for delivering higher colour quality levels for A3 MFPs with our new TASKalfa series", said Oliver Kreth, general manager of European Marketing for Kyocera Mita. "These products have been developed to achieve the highest levels of colour output, efficiency and reliability at high speed, and these BLI 'Pick' awards validate our engineering achievements of which we are very proud. The opportunity to integrate an EFI fiery controller gives our customers even greater colour management for professional colour output."

The Kyocera TASKalfa 6550ci 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. 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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