

## Kyocera TASKalfa 4550ci

Outstanding 41- to 50-ppm A3 Colour MFP



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Strong reliability, fast scan speeds, and very good image quality and ease of use have helped the Kyocera TASKalfa 4550ci earn BLI's Winter 2012 "Pick" for "Outstanding 41- to 50-ppm A3 Colour MFP."

The TASKalfa 4550ci will also provide maximum uptime in the office and in handling the requirements of longer runs. Based on a highly reliable engine, with no downtime for service over the course of 225,000 impressions, rated colour and black drum yields are also the highest for the group by far, more than tripling the average of competitive models. 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. Add it all up, and the device is built to withstand the rigors of the daily office environment with ease and maximum uptime.

"The TASKalfa 4550ci offers very good overall ease of use thanks to its well-designed control panel and drivers, and IT professionals will appreciate the highly automated and intuitive network installation and very good administrative utilities," said George Mikolay, BLI senior product editor for A3/Copier MFPs. Other nice touches include convenient USB access and the ability for users to select which tray to output to on the fly, a capability typically reserved only for administrators. Output trays are also clearly labelled on the device itself, allowing users to easily know which tray their jobs will be output to once selected.

"The device offers the highest maximum paper capacity of the group, as well as an above average bypass capacity at no extra cost," said Mikolay. "A single-pass duplexing document feeder with a 175-sheet capacity that is the highest of models in its speed range can also be added, and support for business applications powered by HyPAS, Kyocera's platform for the integration of third-party software solutions with the device, can help ease burdens associated with document capture, routing and management. Add it all up, and the TASKalfa 4550ci is a high-quality system for a wide range of business documents."

Image quality is another key strength of the TASKalfa 4550ci. "This unit produces business graphics output with bright, saturated colour, yet the skin tones it produces are natural-looking," said BLI Manager of Laboratory testing Pete Emory. "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." An optional EFI Fiery controller is available for even more exacting colour needs.

Equipped with the single-pass duplexing document feeder in testing (a reversing automatic document feeder is also available depending on a user's scanning needs), the TASKalfa 4550ci offers scan speeds that are among the fastest in all modes, and smaller than average colour file sizes when compressed. "Moreover, the device's efficiency in BLI's job stream test, which simulates real-world usage, means the device will run close to its rated speed when put in office environments where multiple users will send multiple types of jobs to the device at one time," said Mikolay.

"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 4550ci is highly recommended by BLI for an optimum monthly volume of 28,000 impressions.

## About **BLI Pick Awards**

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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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