Product Review
Hardware

Multi-functions get more colour:
Epson RX510 Photo Centre

Six ink tanks, a memory card reader and a TPA transform this MFP into a home photo centre.

○ The RX510 has smooth curves and gentle colours to make it an unobtrusive part of any working environment.

○ The memory card reader is easy to access from the front.

If you have one spare desk but you need to operate a scanner, photo printer, memory card reader and copying machine, you should naturally fill it with a single device.

An all-in-one device is typically designed for general-purpose use, not having specialist skills in any particular area. Epson changes that image with its RX510, an MFP designed for domestic digital imaging enthusiasts. It can scan transparencies at up to 2400 x 4800dpi, and it prints in six colours.

Bundled with the hardware, the Epson Scan software utility is an integrated PC-based control centre for launching specific tasks and configuring the device. For direct use, the RX510 has an LCD menu display that lets you configure job parameters or run diagnostics. The tidy look of the RX510 includes good cable management with an internal USB port.

Being all in one, the RX510 can operate under its own steam without connecting to a PC.

Go PC-Free
The RX510 operates as a colour copier without the assistance of a PC. But for photo enthusiasts there is additional functionality through a multi-format memory card reader. It sits conveniently at the front and has a cover panel that closes in a smooth motion.

With a memory card reader, you can print directly from digital camera cards, and you can also scan directly to memory card. This is a useful option for transporting images.

If you have a memory card with a lot of images, getting the selection you want is easy. You print an index page, mark off your choice with a pen, scan the completed form and the RX510 will produce the prints. Your options include borderless A4 or 10 x 15cm prints on glossy or matte paper.

Text Printer
The RX510 is a multi functional printer that can produce crisp looking text in bright colours. Ten pages of text printed in five minutes, with a one-page document printing in draft mode in 23 seconds (although around 20 of those seconds were processing time). Quality options let you print fast drafts or crisp text with smooth colour embedded graphics at slower settings. We had no smudging problems with the text printouts.

4800DPI Scanner
Photo enthusiasts going digital will find use for the integrated transparency adapter, which means they can scan film (positive or negative) as well as reflective prints. Scanning can be fully automatic (the RX510 will remember preferred settings), or you can scan manually from home or professional-oriented menus. Configurable options include unsharp mask, descreening, dust removal, colour correction and scaling, depending on which menu you use.

The recognition and straightening of crooked documents is seamless, and multi scanning makes quick work of strips of film. An A4-sized photo is scanned in around 30 seconds; at 1200dpi, a colour negative took just over one minute in manual mode. We didn't encounter any screening or moire problems with printed materials.
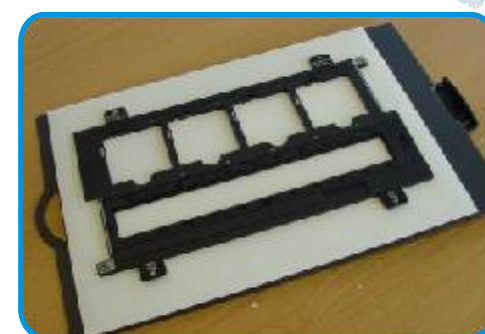
Overall, times and quality are very good. The RX510 made a neat job of our negatives, which prove problematic for many scanners.

Front panel buttons let you launch colour or black and white copying processes directly.

Glossy Photo Printer
The RX510 supports borderless printing on A4 and 15 x 10cm cards, with Epson's Premium Glossy photo paper available for glossy output. An A4 page prints in around five minutes, with a photo-sized card taking a bit over three in photo mode. You can select best photo for finer quality.
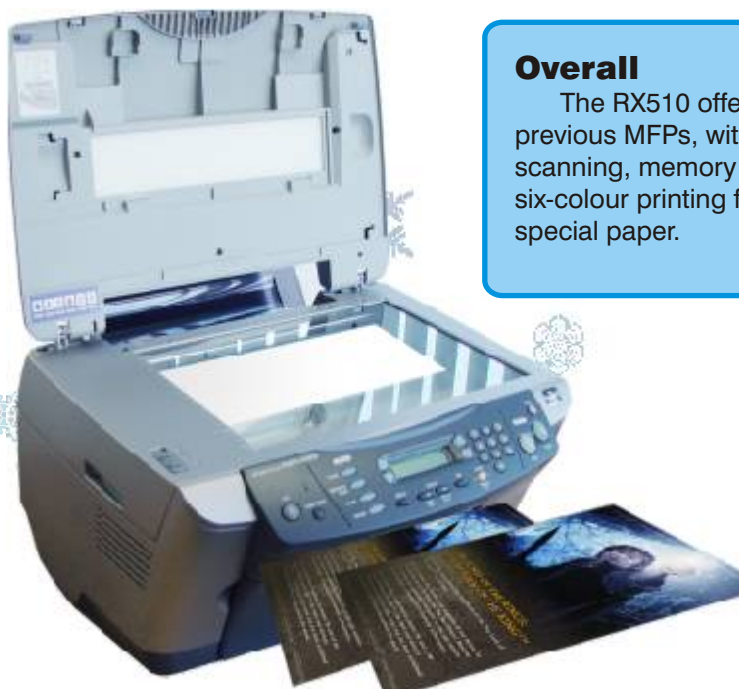
Output quality is on a par with our expectations from a six-colour photo printer, and above that for a multifunction device. Black-only output of a greyscale image had a slight greenish tinge, and in colour mode there seemed to be some colour variance across the image.

○ The transparency holder has a useful two-part locking mechanism that makes it easy to load filmstrips.

The control panel is clearly arranged.

Overall
The RX510 offers the multi-format flexibility of Epson's previous MFPs, with the addition of transparency scanning, memory card reading, and the enhancement of six-colour printing for high quality photo printing on special paper.

Epson Stylus RX510
Score: 👍👍👍👍👍
Summary: A versatile, multi-functional device for the home imaging enthusiast who wants an integrated solution.
Distributor: Epson
Phone: 09-366 6855
Price: $649 incl GST