

# BIG AND BEAUTIFUL

Wayne Lorimer takes Epson's new A3 photo printer for a test drive and is astounded by the results.

## QUICK VIEW

- Manufacturer: Epson
- RRP: \$799
- Dimensions (stored): 615 x 223 x 314mm (W/H/D)
- Weight: 11.5kgs
- Printing method: on-demand piezoelectric inkjet
- Paper size: maximum A3+
- Print resolution: 5760 x 1440 optimised dpi
- Nozzle configuration: 540 nozzles (90 per colour)
- Ink cartridges: cyan, magenta, yellow, black, light magenta, light cyan
- Operating systems: Mac OS X Tiger, Microsoft Windows 2000/XP/XP-64bit/Vista

## PROFILE



## CONTACT

- [www.epson.co.nz](http://www.epson.co.nz)

If you are anything like me (and if you're reading this magazine then odds on you are), it's nothing to go out in a weekend and blast off a few hundred photos on the digicam.

Yeah, I know all those files take up room. But I've got memory cards to burn (thank goodness they are now so cheap), tonnes of space on my computer, plus an external hard drive if I really get stuck. Not to mention my ever-increasing pile of back-up DVDs.

Eventually, though, I'm going to want to transform some of those bits and bytes into 'actual' photos. This is where home printing comes into its own and why the market for desktop (and not so desktop) printers has exploded alongside digital photography.

Increased user demand over the last few years has seen increased product technology, to the point where today's home-based printers offer

amazing features and outstanding quality for digital photographers on even modest budgets.

Epson is a world leader in inkjet printer technology. It consistently produces printers ahead of the pack, catering specifically to digital photography enthusiasts with many of its models. This is where Epson has firmly placed the Photo 1410 Printer – an A3+ photo printer that offers high quality and high performance at a very attractive price.

## PLUG AND PLAY

As an A3+ printer, the first thing that needs to be said about the Epson 1410 is that it isn't small. But it isn't all that big, either. At 11.5kgs it still manages to be a reasonably portable unit. Still, you'll probably want to set it up on a table next to the computer and leave it there. It's definitely an attractive addition

The Epson Stylus Photo 1410 is incredibly easy to set up and even easier to use.



SPECS

- Model: Epson Stylus Photo 1410
- Printing method: on-demand piezoelectric inkjet
- Nozzle configuration: 540 nozzles (90 per colour)
- Minimum droplet size: 1.5pl
- Price: \$799
- Print speed:
  - Black text (memo) A4: Approx 15PPM
  - Colour text (memo) A4: 15PPM
  - 8 x 10-inch photo: 1min 51sec
- Resolution: 5760 x 1440 optimised dpi
- Paper feed Method: friction feed with paper feeder
- Paper holder capacity: Up to 120 sheets at 90gsm
- Paper size: maximum A3+
- Operating systems: Mac OS X Tiger, Microsoft Windows 2000/XP/XP-64bit/Vista
- Printer software:
  - Epson web-to-page
  - Epson creativity suite
  - Epson easy photo print
  - Epson file manager
  - Epson attach to email
  - Epson print CD
  - Epson PIF installer
  - Camera RAW plug-in for Creativity Suite
- Interface: USB 2.0 (high speed) for PC/Mac
- Pictbridge
- Dimensions: (Stored) 615 x 223 x 314mm (W/H/D)
- Weight: 11.5kgs
- Ink cartridges: cyan, magenta, yellow, black, light magenta, light cyan

RATING

**PROS** Huge colour range from six ink cartridges, great big A3+ printing, longer-lasting dye-based inks, quiet and quick printing

**CONS** Not the best choice for black and white, takes up a lot of bench space in the home office, no inbuilt card readers, full ink set plus A3 paper can be expensive

Design	18
Performance	17
Features	18
Print Quality	18
Value for Money	19
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>90/100</b>

I fell in love straight away with the clarity, vividness and crispness of the images that appeared from the Epson 1410



Epson 1410 uses six Claria photo inks (black, cyan, magenta, yellow, light cyan and light magenta) to create a more vivid colour image.

to any home or office workspace with a two-tone charcoal and silver finish and, like most other Epson printers, it's built to last.

The unit comes with clearly laid out installation instructions for both Mac and PC, along with a whole host of dedicated printing software you can install (or not) as you see fit. I didn't really want all of the software on my iMac (there are more than eight programmes in all) but I decided to install them all anyway – for the sake of research. I'm pleased to say they all installed without a hitch. So without much hardship or gnashing of teeth, I was ready to take this baby for a spin.

**BIGGER IS BETTER**

I like to print big. I've done a few metre-long panoramas in my time and always get a buzz when I see my images as large prints. The Epson 1410 is an A3+ printer after all, so it wouldn't be right to not judge it on its full potential. For my first print from this machine I reached for Epson's premium glossy A3 photo paper and loaded it in the top paper feed.

Printing directly from 'print with preview' within PhotoShop, Epson's PhotoPrint software was easily accessible and it was just a matter of choosing the relevant options. Epson's user interface then promptly told me that the light magenta cartridge needed replacing before I wasted a whole sheet of A3 photo paper.

It even stepped me through the installation process on the screen, which was very user-friendly so kudos to Epson. After about five minutes (set on high speed) a stunningly sharp and brilliantly clear photo slipped onto the front tray, and I was hooked.

The Epson 1410 uses six Claria photo inks (black, cyan, magenta, yellow, light cyan and light magenta) to create a more vivid colour image, and boy does it work a treat. Not only are the colours incredibly vibrant and rich, but the dye-based inks have extended fade-resistant qualities compared with previous inks. Apparently strengthened at a molecular level against harmful UV rays (sounds a bit technical), Epson claims each print has an album storage life of up to 200 years, and up to 98 years for prints framed behind glass and placed away from direct sunlight. These are pretty impressive numbers for dye-based inks.

The only downside to the 1410's inkset is its lack of a photo black. As a result, black and white prints were not as neutral as they could have been, as some shades of grey are made by creating composites of the five other colours. But if colour is your thing, and you don't do a lot of black and white printing, the Epson 1410 will knock your socks off.

Once you start printing your digital photos as large A3+ prints, there really is no going back. I fell in love straight away with the clarity, vividness and crispness of the images that appeared from the Epson 1410. So will you.