

## TONE TESTS



**ABOVE** The RX630 has its own built-in 2.4-inch LCD monitor



# Function Junction

## EPSON Stylus Photo RX630 Multi Functional Printer \$649

I'm an EPSON believer, so let's get that one out of the way. I own one of their older Stylus Photo printers and I love the thing, but hey, I was fully prepared to be disappointed here. What is EPSON doing messing around with jack-of-all-trades, master-of-none multi-function devices when they do incredibly focused, single function devices so very well?

I'll tell you what they're doing: building damned fine multi-function devices, that's what they're doing.

EPSON calls the RX630 a multi-functional printer. I call it

**"I call it a compact 10kg photo lab in a cardboard box"**

a compact 10kg photo lab in a cardboard box. It's a 2400 x 4800 dpi scanner for documents, photos, slides and negatives. It's a colour copier, just like the office copier. It's a stand-alone photo printer - shove your memory card in, proof sheet all your images and then choose the ones you want to print individually - no PC required!

To do this, it has its own built-in 2.4-inch LCD monitor. That's how the lentil-eating, kaftan-wearing, PC-free brigade can still negotiate its menus and get all the good stuff out of it. These folk can also make scans and write these to any of

the memory cards supported by the RX630.

The copies are terrific and the scans are pretty good - and that's coming from someone who never liked a scanner he could possibly afford without a third mortgage.

It's also PictBridge-equipped, so it can be USB cable connected for direct printing straight out of a range of compatible digital cameras. And it's a superb quality, six-colour, long-life photo printer you can drive from your Mac or PC.

It comes with a pile of bundled software to make all this possible and it ate up everything I could throw at it. I loaded it up with EPSON Premium Glossy Photo Paper and sent it graphics, then big files with oodles of detail, then deep blacks, then subtle pastels, then punchy stuff that could easily block up with colour... and every print was perfect 'chuck-it-in-a-frame-and-call-it-art' stuff.

Finally, my acid test: an image with a sky that blends from palest to darkest blue and knocks the wannabe photo printer pretenders down like skittles when they can't deliver what we call 'seamless gradation' across the sky. Perfect as well - seamless gradation. Bugger.

I can't find the coffee grinder attachment, but when I do, I bet the RX630 makes perfect half-strength decaf lattes and a mean cappuccino too.

*By Tim Steele*



**+** Stand alone or link to PC, perfect prints, good scans

**-** No A3 version

**=** 10kgs of absolute brilliance

### Key features

- 5760 x 1440dpi output
- Maximum A4 paper handling
- 6 Colour (5 plus black)
- 2.4-inch colour LCD
- USB 2.0 connection
- Extra front panel USB slot for camera connection
- Multiple memory card reader slots
- Negative and transparency film holder
- 2400 x 4800 dpi scanning

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