

INFORMATION

PRICE £25 (£21 ex VAT)
SUPPLIER www.computrolley.com
0870 870 8085
INFO www.inksaver.com

REQUIREMENTS

CPU 233MHz or faster
RAM 128MB RAM
OS Windows 2000 or later

IN A NUTSHELL

InkSaver 2 has one purpose in life: to save you valuable ink when printing. It does this well and will save its own cost within a year. Printed output quality, at reasonable saving levels, is hard to differentiate from normal print.

PC Plus ratings

INKSAVER 2

Value ●●●●●●●●●●

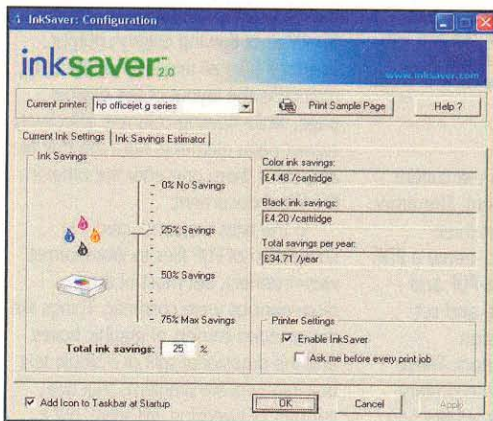
Features ●●●●●●●●●●

Performance ●●●●●●●●●●

OVERALL 8

PRINTING UTILITY

InkSaver 2



There are two ways of paying less for the ink you use in your inkjet printer: buy third-party ink cartridges, or use InkSaver. Third-party cartridges cost around half the price of manufacturers' originals, but still act as a running cost, while InkSaver requires a one-off outlay of around £25. It's best thought of as a sophisticated draft print mode for your printer.

By using specially developed mathematical algorithms, InkSaver places dots in such a way that it uses

Set the controls and InkSaver 2 quietly gets on with its job in the background.

less ink, while maintaining similar results to a printer's normal print mode. You can vary the amount of ink saved from 0 per cent, (effectively switching InkSaver off), to 70 per cent (an image is still easily visible but looks washed-out).

However, this level of saving may still be usable for your own reference purposes.

The software itself is easy to install and use. Everything is controlled from a tab within the InkSaver 2 dialog. A simple slide control governs the amount of ink saved and the quality of the printed output. A checkbox determines whether the software applies the saving to all your prints or pops up for each print job, enabling you to vary the saving depending on the purpose of the print.

A second tab enables you to enter

the price of your cartridges and the number you buy in a year. It then calculates the amount of money you can save using the various levels of ink available in the software. Even with modest use – perhaps two sets of black and colour cartridges per year, with InkSaver 2 set to 30 per cent saving – it will pay back its asking price inside a year.

The print results are generally good. With savings of between 10 and 30 per cent, it's hard to see any differences in print output. With settings boosted to a 50 per cent saving, printed materials are still readable, and print quality is considerably better than using a printer's built-in draft mode. The software works with virtually all inkjet printers but is only intended for standard-width A4 devices.

As is so often stressed by printer makers that produce their own inks, the chemistry of modern printer ink is complex. Using InkSaver 2 can offer similar savings to third-party cartridges while you continue to use the ink designed for your printer. A clever idea well executed.

Simon Williams