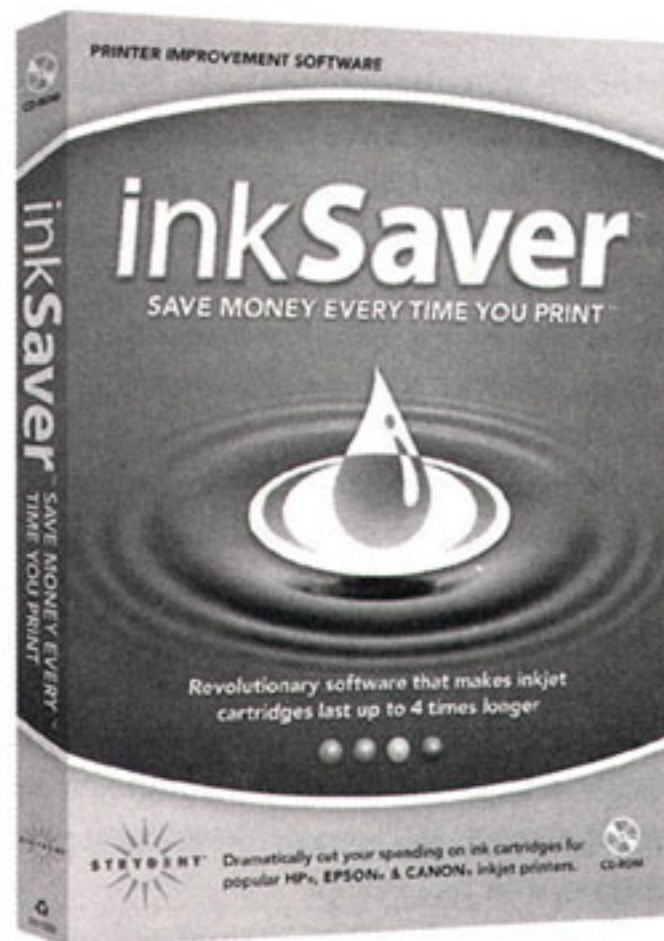


InkSaver Software Said to Reduce Cost of Ink up to 75 Percent

On April 30, Strydent Software (Vancouver, BC) announced InkSaver, a software package that it claims can reduce the amount of ink that ink jet printers use while minimizing the impact on print quality. Strydent says that InkSaver, which uses patent-pending software algorithms, optimizes printer data so that an ink jet printer uses less ink, even when printing at the highest resolution and quality setting.

Strydent is a wholly owned subsidiary of Software 2000 (Oxford, U.K.), a developer of printer drivers and other printer-related software. According to Tony Harris, technical director of Software 2000, many OEM printer drivers actually use more ink when printing in draft mode than they do in higher-quality modes. "In draft mode, many printers use color ink mixed with black to make black look richer," asserts Harris, who also notes that many printers use bigger dots at a lower resolution when printing in draft mode. "With InkSaver, you can print at your printer's highest resolution," claims Harris.

Harris explains that InkSaver is flexible. "You set the level of ink savings that best suits your needs," says Harris, pointing out that the user can print sample pages to show what effect each level of ink saving has on print quality. Harris showed us print samples in 10 percent increments of savings from 5 percent to 75 percent. The samples were printed on printers from Canon, Epson, and Hewlett-Packard. In most of the samples, which were printed on plain paper, it was difficult to see much



InkSaver software works with most HP, Epson, and Canon printers, but not with Lexmark's

difference in print quality at savings of 25 percent and below. Even at savings of 55 percent, black text was quite readable and color photos were good. "That's because InkSaver intelligently reduces the amount of ink laid down on the page," says Harris, explaining that the edges of lines and fonts remain sharp and clear at all savings levels.

InkSaver is compatible with most popular models of Canon, Epson, and Hewlett-Packard printers. In response to our question about support for Lexmark printers, Harris notes that Lexmark has a very complicated data stream. "It's a time-to-market issue," he

says, adding that the firm will continually update its software.

The software includes a savings estimator that allows the user to type in the cost of black and color cartridges and see the savings in dollars per cartridge as the user sets the savings level. Two graphical sliders enable black and color ink savings to be specified exactly, and, once the savings level is set, the software works in the background—the user never sees it again unless there is a need to change the savings level. The software, which works in Windows 98, Me, 2000, and XP, puts an icon in the System Tray, where it can be quickly and easily accessed if the savings level needs to be changed.

InkSaver software carries a list price of \$34.99 and will be sold in the retail channel at CompUSA, DataVision, J&R, and MicroCenter and at such online stores as Buy.Com, CDW, PC Mall, and the Zones. ☞



The software automatically calculates your savings for black and color ink at each setting

OCP Develops Ink for Hewlett-Packard Photosmart 100

On April 3, German ink manufacturer OCP GmbH (Hattingen, Germany) announced the availability of an ink set for use by refillers of the #57 cartridge used in the Hewlett-Packard Photosmart 100. According to OCP General Manager Horst-Gerhard Edelmeier, the inks used in HP's #57 are quite different from the CMY inks used in other HP color cartridges.

Edelmeier told us that OCP found that the color gamut and the chemical and physical properties of the HP #57 inks were quite different from other HP color inks. "If you would take the ink out of #78 and would fill this ink into the #57 (what we did and always do for cross references), you would see a very significant difference between the printouts," said Edelmeier in an e-mail to us. According

to Edelmeier, the delta E, or difference in color between the #78 and #57 ink is quite high. Edelmeier told us that OCP's new ink set for the #57 cartridge has come close to a 100 percent match with the HP ink.

OCP sells its ink to refillers in 25-kilogram containers. Pricing ranges from €14 to €20 (\$12.66 to \$18.09) per kilogram, depending on quantity ordered. ☞