



InkSaver

Strydent Software
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(800) 663-6222
<http://www.inksaver.com>

At A Glance Rating: ****

Price: \$34.99

System Requirements: Any PC running Windows 98, Me, 2000, XP Home or XP Professional and at least 20 MB available of hard drive space.

Pro: Works to reduce ink usage in inkjet printers.

Con: Does not work with laser printers.

InkSaver is a software product, which controls the amount of ink used in an inkjet printer. Users can configure their desired ink savings to save ink on every print job or for all print jobs. According to Strydent Software, InkSaver is compatible with most HP, Epson, and Canon color inkjet printers. In addition, it works with any brand of ink cartridge and refill ink kit. Unlike printing in draft mode, InkSaver saves ink even when printing at the printer's highest resolution.

I could only conduct a subjective test in verifying the claim, because it was not possible to pinpoint a particular percentage where the change in quality is first noticeable and when it becomes poor. However, I found when printing a black text document using my HP printer and with InkSaver enabled, there was no noticeable change to print quality up to about 25% ink reduction in ink. When printing a graphic (i.e., photo) and text document (such as a web page) and InkSaver enabled, there was no noticeable change to print quality up to about 20% ink reduction in ink. Without a noticeable change, InkSaver can extend the life of the ink cartridge by more than 20%. If printing quality is allowed to degrade such that the ink reduction is noticeable, then InkSaver can extend the life of the ink cartridge by at least 50%.

I was quite impressed with this product. It performed as promised in reducing ink usage without much noticeable difference. The company offers a free trial of the software at their web site. Give it a try and save yourself some ink.