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Kyocera FS-9520DN

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KYOCERA

Kyocera FS-9520DN
51ppm



Sum-up: An excellent model that straddles the line between departmental and high-volume markets.

This 51ppm model is the replacement for the very solid Kyocera FS-9500DN. Compared to that model it's got more memory, prints at higher resolution, and has more extensive output options. It costs around \$150 more, and (for what it's worth), it's rated at 1ppm faster than its predecessor.

Unlike the high-volume printer models from some of the company's copier competitors — such as Canon, Konica Minolta, and Xerox — Kyocera's machine is not derived from a digital copier at all. It was developed to serve as a printer from the beginning. It is, in fact, a close rival of the HP LaserJet 9000-series printers.

Kyocera has been making laser printers with strong features and value for years, and this 51ppm machine is simply an extension of its FS series. In fact, the 36ppm FS-9120DN is based on the same architecture.

The FS-9520DN's features, however, have a number of important differences. The FS-9520DN has a higher maximum paper capacity, at 4,200 sheets, and offers an optional finisher with hole punching, as well as a booklet maker with saddlestitcher. This model starts with standard Ethernet and duplexing. It features 64MB of memory standard, and that can be expanded to 576MB. A 20GB hard disk is available as well.

The FS-9520DN is a very durable, full-featured unit. Best of all, it's priced to compete with the Hewlett-Packard LaserJet 9000, its big rival. The comparable HP version is the LaserJet 9000dn, which offers duplexing and network connectivity, just like the Kyocera model. The FS-9520DN has a street price of \$3,500, while the LaserJet 9000dn has a street price of \$3,799. That's likely to translate into

a price advantage for Kyocera and a little surprising since HP's printers tend to be among the least expensive on the market.

In some areas, the two machines are very similar. They both have roughly equivalent standard paper supplies (1,200 sheets for Kyocera versus 1,100 sheets for HP), standard output capacities (500 versus 600 sheets), and optional hard disks 20GB versus 5GB). Kyocera offers more optional input capacity — you can add 3,000 more sheets, as opposed to HP's 2,000. Both models offer optional 3,000-sheet finishers, but only Kyocera offers a booklet maker with a hole punch as well as a mailbox unit. Kyocera offers PDF and TIFF printing standard; the HP doesn't offer either one, even as options. Both models are rated as having the same duty cycle, but we think, based on other Kyocera models (with their durable drum technology), that the cost per page advantage goes to Kyocera, by a significant margin. That, combined with the comparable purchase price, makes the Kyocera unit a better buy.

Of course, Hewlett-Packard has more add-on software and more easily available supplies. It also has the brand comfort factor in the general world, even though Kyocera has an excellent reputation among those who really know printers. We are impressed with the way the Kyocera FS-9520DN can stand toe-to-toe with the remarkable LaserJet 9000 series, and this nice upgrade makes it an even better buy than its predecessor. This is a very strong product, and we give it our Editor's Choice Award.

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