

KYOCERA MITA

**Kyocera Mita
FS-1800+**

**Kyocera Mita
FS-1800N+**

Kyocera Mita FS-3800

Kyocera Mita FS-3800N
19ppm & 25ppm



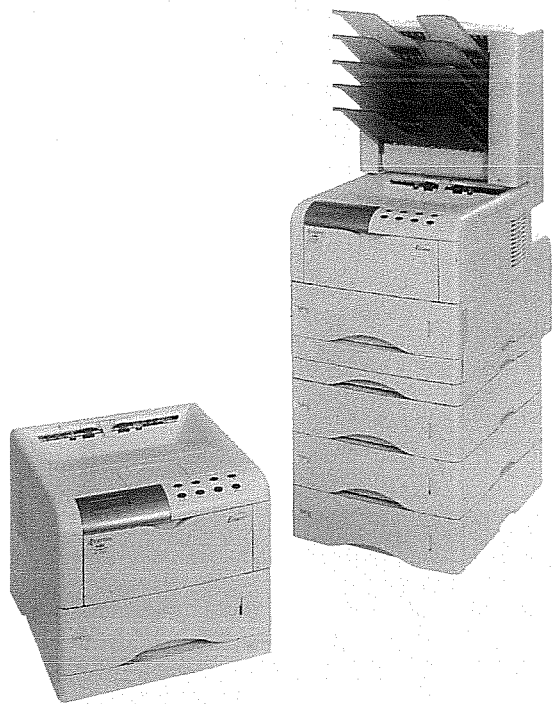
Sum-up: Low operating costs and strong paper handling coupled with reasonable purchase prices.

These machines represent Kyocera Mita's letter/legal-size entries in the

mid-volume printer market. The FS-1800 and FS-3800 families are based on the same engine; the only differences are the speeds and the amount of memory that come standard with each (8MB on the FS-1800+, 16MB on the FS-3800, 24MB on the FS-1800N+), and 32MB on the FS-3800N. The N versions come with an Ethernet card included.

Each machine stacks up well against the competition, with the edge going to the FS-1800N+, for reasons we'll enumerate later. The FS-1800 and FS-3800 families boast some of the lowest operating costs of any printers in this guide — less than 0.7 cents a page. That's a lot cheaper than the competition, and if you use these printers anywhere close to their duty cycles, it means a remarkable amount of savings.

The machines also come with a strong set of features. For example, they have adequate processing power, using a 200MHz PowerPC chip, and produce 1,200dpi and interpolated 2,400 x 600dpi resolution at or near rated speed. They also come with multiple original printing (mopying) standard and offer an optional hard drive. Both two-sided printing and envelope-feeding accessories are



Kyocera Mita FS-1800+ and FS-3800 — These sturdy models print at 19ppm and 25ppm, respectively, and feature strong paper handling.

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available as options. Along with 100BaseT Ethernet, Kyocera Mita offers a wireless Ethernet option for all its models.

Kyocera Mita has done something with these models that we wish other vendors would do as well. These units come with an optional 340MB IBM Microdrive. This is basically the same kind of small-format drive used in digital cameras. It functions much the same as a hard drive — a place you can store documents and templates. This gives you limitless storage capacity, because you can replace the disks, a capability that some users may find important. It's not quite plug-and-play, but it's a step in that direction.

Another area where the FS-1800 and FS-3800 families do quite well is paper handling. As far as paper input goes, they come with a 600-sheet standard paper capacity, and you can add up to three additional 500-sheet paper trays or a 2,000-sheet large-capacity tray as options. On the output side, they offer several output options, namely a five-bin, 1,000-sheet mailbox and a 2,000-sheet large-capacity stacker, up to a total of 2,600 sheets. That's outstanding output, especially for the 19ppm models.

These options give the FS-1800 family a big ad-

vantage over many competitors. The immediate competitors for the FS-1800 family (Hewlett-Packard's LaserJet 2200, Lexmark's T520, and Brother's HL-1850) are all unable to match these output capabilities. Note, however, that users at the 19–20ppm level of the market have a lesser need for sophisticated output options than those further up-market.

The Kyocera Mita FS-1800 family have a lot going for them. If you are looking for a machine with strong paper-handling capabilities and built-in networking, they are definitely worth checking out. The FS-3800, although also a good printer series, faces strong competition from Lexmark's T522 and Brother's HL-2460. Note that the FS-3800 is the most expensive of the three.

Perhaps the best argument for getting one of these Kyocera Mita machines is that you routinely produce higher-than-usual print volumes. It is under these circumstances that you can fully take advantage of their exceptional operating costs and their ability to handle output. The FS-1800 family receives our Editor's Choice Award.

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