

# LEXMARK

**Lexmark X7350 Office  
All-in-One**  
**Lexmark X8350 Office  
All-in-One**



*Ink jet — Print at up to 25ppm black, up to 19ppm color*

***Sum-up: Outstanding, easy-to-use software makes these top choices.***

The \$149 X7350 Office All-in-One and \$200 X8350 Office All-in-One are remarkable new multifunctionals. It's not the hardware features, which, while fine, are in no way extraordinary. These machines have a striking design, but there's no need to buy them as decorations for your desk. Rather, it is their software that introduces superior workflow into a desktop multifunctional. This software compares well with that found on far more expensive laser MFPs.

The hardware specs are quite good, too. Both print at up to 25ppm in black-and-white and 19ppm in color. They copy at essentially the same speeds, 24ppm in color and 16ppm in black-and-white. Both print at 1,200dpi resolution on plain paper, and can achieve 4,800 x 1,200dpi resolution with interpolation on photo paper. Copying is at 4,800 x 1,200dpi resolution for black-and-white and color on both units.

USB connectivity is standard, while both 100BaseT Ethernet and Wi-Fi are optional. Paper input is an adequate 100 sheets, with a 50-sheet output tray. Lexmark claims both machines can handle up to 130lb. index card stock.

A 50-sheet document feeder and a platen support copying,

scanning, and faxing. Scanning in color is supported. These features are well implemented, just like in most other Lexmark multifunctionals.

The major difference between the two units seems to be the X8350 photo printing capabilities. It comes with a built-in memory card reader and color LCD to support direct printing of photos without computer support.

Cost per page is a bit of a problem. We calculate 5.3 cents per black page (rather high), and 12 cents for color (not bad).

But it is the human interface that makes all the difference with these models. It is quite unlike anything else on the market, especially when it comes to ink jets. There is an LCD display and a variety of buttons, so you can run a number of operations on the machines themselves. But that's common enough. What's far more impressive is the comprehensive and clear software-based user interface that can be run from your PC.

Under the name Lexmark Productivity Suite, Lexmark has assembled a wide set of functions running in one program that are easy to understand and even easier to



*Lexmark X8350 — An excellent ink jet multifunctional featuring software with an outstanding interface.*

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use. Aside from the standard scan, copy, and fax functions, there are icons for scan-to-email, scan-to-PDF, and scan-to-text (OCR). You can create mail lists to automate email broadcasts, an uncommon feature on ink jet multifunctionals.

These interfaces are very straightforward, with a few easy-to-understand options for all of them. The built-in OCR works especially well and takes the complexity out of OCR scanning.

This means there is no need to switch applications to get work done, and no need to figure out the interfaces of the other applications. This is especially useful when you are doing several different things with the same document (copying it, say, and then sending it as an email and then storing the text using OCR). Most of the software that does the actual work comes from other vendors, but Lexmark has made it feel like it's all part of the same application.

Even more interesting are two other menu choices: Manage Documents and Manage Photos. Manage Documents uses NewSoft's Presto PageManager. It allows you to preview almost any kind of file or open it in its native application for editing. You can then move or rename the files, or choose to fax, email, or print them. This is great for locating files quickly, making sure that the content is what you think it is, and then doing something with it. It is a lot easier than opening the files individually and then opening up another application to send them off. The Manage Photos command works similarly.

We think this software adds significant value to these machines. The software itself is worth the purchase price. We'd love to see Lexmark extend this software to its other models, both ink jet and laser.

For its first-rate software and impressive performance, we give the X8350 Office All-in-One our Editor's Choice Award, and we believe the X7350 is almost as good a deal.

**Pros:** Excellent software and user interface, fast printing and copying at high resolutions, document

feeder.

**Cons:** High consumables costs, especially for black-and-white.

# Lexmark

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## Vendor Profile

Lexmark is known primarily as a vendor of printers. In fact, it runs second to Hewlett-Packard in market share and is the only American printer vendor that manufactures its own laser engines. Its ink jet engines come from various sources, but Lexmark is pretty close-mouthed about its suppliers. The company does add considerable value to these ink jets, however.

The company is now deeply involved in both the ink jet and laser multifunctional markets. The laser models are built on its existing base in the office laser printer market, where its current printer models are enhanced with scanners and fax modems. These models tend to be serious workgroup printers with lots of input and output options. Lexmark has several color laser printer multifunctionals.

The ink jet multifunctionals are generally inexpensive models with small footprints.

Lexmark models are available online and through catalogs and retailers. Some Lexmark products are also sold through other vendors, including Dell, IBM, and RISO.

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