

XEROX

Xerox Phaser 8560MFP/N
Xerox Phaser 8560MFP/D
Xerox Phaser 8560MFP/T
Xerox Phaser 8560MFP/X

Solid ink — Print 24ppm black, 24ppm color



Sum-up: Based on Xerox's strong solid ink technology, these multifunctionals offer excellent color at a very moderate price.

The Phaser 8560MFP family replaces Xerox's WorkCentre C2424 family. These are the only MFPs on the market based on a solid ink technology. That engine is the basis for the excellent color printers in the Xerox Phaser 8560 family. Solid ink machines have little to do with the more common, inexpensive thermal ink jet MFPs for the small- or home-office. Instead, solid ink is a printing technology that competes more with laser and LED machines.

Xerox's solid ink technology offers what we consider excellent image quality. Even the default lower-res setting seems to produce pretty accurate color renderings, more than good enough for office use. However, at the lower resolution, text may not be of sufficient quality for business communication.

These machines offer very respectable speeds. The engines are rated for up to 30ppm, both in color and in black-and-white, in printing and in copying.

Numbers don't tell the complete story here — and that's why we've listed the speed for these models at 24ppm in "standard" mode. Higher speeds can be achieved in a "fast" mode, whose resolution may decrease to 300dpi. The maximum these machines can produce is 30ppm, but you're very unlikely to be printing at that speed. You can produce perfectly acceptable quality at 600dpi, but you'll be printing in the default "enhanced" speed of 16ppm. And that's still reasonably fast for a color printer. You can opt for even finer detail in the enhanced "FinePoint" resolution or photo mode of 2,400dpi (10ppm). These speeds are selected in the print dialog box for print jobs; copies are always printed at 600dpi.

These models come with a powerful 600MHz processor, along with 512MB of memory (upgradeable to 1GB), ensuring that they will handle complex print and copy jobs with ease. All the models come with a 40GB hard disk that comes standard with Xerox's "Productivity kit," which allows for secure printing and faxing in addition to designated public and private mailboxes for storing scans.

The Phaser 8560MFP multifunctionals are tightly integrated and easy to use. For example, when you have to change consumables, you need only open the top cover of the machine and slide in blocks of ink that look and feel like disk-shaped crayons. Set-up is simple, too, since the scanner unit is tightly integrated, requiring no assembly.

Per-page prices are a respectable 1.9 in black-and-white, 10.1 cents in color.

Versions: There are four Phaser 8560MFP models, and all of them come with both USB and built-in Ethernet. They are:



*Xerox Phaser 8560 — Reliable performance
delivers excellent image quality based on solid ink
technology.*

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- The Phaser 8560MFP/N (street price \$1,499), which comes with a standard 525-sheet input tray and a 100-sheet bypass. It has a platen but no document feeder. Memory starts at 256MB and is expandable to 1GB.
- The Phaser 8560MFP/D (street price \$1,999), which adds an automatic 50-sheet duplexing document feeder, two-sided output standard and bumps up the base memory to 512MB. (A Xerox dealer can upgrade your 8560/N by adding the document feeder and replacing a configuration card to enable two-sided output, but this upgrade will cost you \$699).
- The Phaser 8560MFP/T (street price \$2,699), which adds a second 525-sheet paper tray.
- The Phaser 8560MFP/X (street price \$3,599), which adds a third 525-sheet paper tray and brings installed memory up to a full 1GB.

A full range of scan features is supported, including scan-to-email and scanning to private or public folders. Xerox includes Scan to PC Desktop software collection as a standard component on the 8560MFP/X and offers it as an option for the other models in this series. This software collection is designed to make the three dominant document formats — paper, PDF, and Microsoft Office — easier to edit and manage for electronic searches and publishing needs by converting them to an accurate page layout and format supported by Microsoft Office.

These machines can make use of Xerox's high-end CentreWare workflow, and they allow remote users to access scanned page files across the Internet. As Xerox explains, this allows any number of users to access scans whenever they want them.

All of these models offer standard fax, including color fax.

Each model starts with a 100-sheet bypass and a 525-sheet standard paper tray. You can configure up to two more 525-sheet paper drawers, with a maximum input of 1,675. On the output side, things aren't so good. You are limited to a simple 300-sheet output tray.

PostScript and PCL are standard features. Wi-Fi is optional in addition to the standard USB and regular Ethernet.

A duplex document feeder is pretty standard in regular copiers, but only a few printer multifunctionals have this feature. This is standard on all four models.

When it comes to pricing, the 8560MFP series is reasonable. They are also easy to maintain, and they come with a wide variety of solid features. We wish the output setup had more capacity. Nevertheless, these machines are based on Xerox's impressive track record in the solid ink area. Given their impressive features and design, they get our Editor's Choice Award.

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