



August signals the end of summer. Signs are everywhere reminding us its back to school time.

As the new school year approaches, a lot of families contemplate about buying a new computer for the school year. With the many choices out there these days, how do you chose the right one? Take a look at the methodology we use when we purchase computers, it will help you make the right choices.

Over the summer vacation, you have taken lots of pictures with your digital camera. No doubt, there are some good memories you want to preserve with by printing the pictures on paper, and framing them. What is the relationship between the mega pixel of your camera and the DPI on your printer? Read this article and you will know how to do the math.

Summer time is easy living; we share one of our favorite and simplest desert, cookie sorbet sandwiches. You will love it!



What Computer Should I buy? 2007-08

As the summer comes to a close, a lot of us are thinking about a new computer for the school year for the kids. There is no one right answer to the "What computer should I buy?" question. It all depends on what you are going to use the computer for.

The first question to ask yourself is what are you going to use the computer for? Are you going to use it for email and web browsing? kids homework? work from home? entertainment, for video and photos?

You will then need to decide how to split your budget into three categories, Software, Hardware, and Accessories.

Your office may use commercial software such as Microsoft Word, Outlook, ...etc, but there are freely available software such as Thunderbird for email <http://www.mozilla.com/en-US/thunderbird/>, Google's Doc and Spread Sheet <https://www.google.com/accounts/ServiceLogin?service=writely&passive=true&continue=http%3A%2F%2Fdocs.google.com%2F&followup=http%3A%2F%2Fdocs.google.com%2F&itmpl=homepage&nui=1>. Using freely available software may take a little getting use to, but it will save lots of money! Keep in mind you will need to buy is an anti-virus software package, unless your online service provides them for free.

For the computer itself, follow this Questionnaire will walk you through the "what do I use the computer for" process. <http://compreviews.about.com/od/buyers/l/blcompqstart.htm> It will take you 10~15 min. If you are not familiar with computer terms, check out this article for explanations <http://compreviews.about.com/cs/desktops/bb/aabybdesktops.htm>.

The often overlooked accessories deserve your attention. Do you want a printer to print pictures? You will need the photo paper and quality ink to print sharp pictures. Keep in mind the replace cost of the ink when choosing a printer. Everyone should have a external hard drive (link to other articles) to backup their pictures, music, and other important stuff! Trust me, this will be money well spend. Think about what you are going to do with your computer and the accessories needed so you don't forget to budget money for them.

When you are ready to start shopping, look for bundled deals. Keep these two rules of thumb in mind,

1. Spend your money on RAM and Hard Drive capacity, not on CPU speed.
2. Use quality free software when you can

Besides the obvious of looking for a new PC, you can consider refurbished computer. You don't need the latest computer for anything, a 6month old model, will work well enough you won't notice the difference. For PCs, you can shop IBM. <http://www-132.ibm.com/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/HelpDisplay?storeId=1&catalogId=-840&langId=-1&subject=2576394>. In the past 10 years, I have purchased 3 Thinkpad Notebooks from them. I had one notebook came in with a bad display and it was replaced free of charge. You will save money with a refurbished computer. Apple also sell refurbished Macs <http://store.apple.com/1-800-MY-APPLE/WebObjects/AppleStore.woa/6454002/wo/Mn2HtfjhEW3n3ezbrsE2mBSLSdf/3.0.0.28.7.5.5.1.1.1.1> as well as iPods!

After you decided on the computer to buy, sales people may try to sell you extended warranty. That is a personal choice to extend it or not. I usually don't for two reasons.



1. I would rather spend the money for the extended warranty on a higher quality product that may cost more.
2. unless you are very organized, one more piece of paper to keep track of .

Happy computing and lets try to save the energy by not forwarding unwanted junk emails!



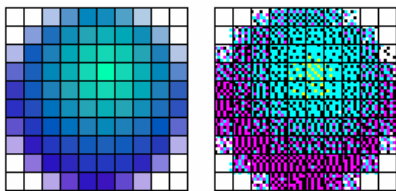
Printing Digital Pictures 2007-08

Of the hundreds of pictures you have taken, there may be a few you want to print. The camera's mega pixel setting, capabilities of the printer, and the photo paper, determines the quality of the print.

Referencing the chart below, a 5 Mega pixel Camera, common today, paired with a 240 Pixels Per Inch (PPI) printer, can produce up to a 8.1 by 10.8 inches photo, i.e. an 8 x 10.

These two components determine the maximum size of the picture, the sharpness and color truism, is determined by the number of dots per inch. This is referred to as DPI.

Look at the two pictures below. Each block represents a pixel. The printer on the left has a lower DPI than the printer on the right. The printer on the right, with the higher DPI, produces truer color reproduction.



produce high quality photos.

240-ppi printer resolution

Megapixel camera	Photo Pixel Count Maximum Setting	Printer Resolution	Print Size
1	960 x 1280	240 PPI	4 x 5.3
2	1200 x 1600	240 PPI	5 x 6.7
3	1536 x 2048	240 PPI	6.4 x 8.5
4	1704 x 2272	240 PPI	7.1 x 9.5
5	1944 x 2592	240 PPI	8.1 x 10.8
7	2304 x 3072	240 PPI	9.6 x 12.8
8	2448 x 3264	240 PPI	10.2 x 13.6

The following sample calculation used a photo taken with a 5-megapixel camera:

1944 ÷ 240 = 8.1

2592 ÷ 240 = 10.8

That last component is the Paper. Special photo papers are worth the money because printer manufactures have engineered their ink to work with specific types of paper, to

Printing quality pictures at home has become easier. Printer manufactures have simplified the setting selections to 1. Print size (4x6, 5x7, ..etc) and 2. Quality of print (DPI). All you have to is to select the combination you desire.

Because the mega pixel of your digital picture will affect the size/quality of your print, set your camera to the highest mega pixel setting available. You will produce picture files with large sizes, but, you won't be sorry if you want to turn a snap shot into an 8 x 10 portrait.

Printing at home can be convenient, but, convenience costs money. The cost of specialty paper and ink, prohibits printing large quantity of pictures at home. Use local stores that offers printing services. You can save all your files onto a CD, or use a USB fob. The quality will be great, and it will cost less than printing it at home.

<http://photos.walmart.com/store>. If you don't want to keep your pictures digital, you can use a digital picture frame to display your work.





Sobert Sandwiches

Source: internet

Serving Size: 2 ~ 6

Prep Time: 15 min

Cooking Time: 0



Instructions

- Soften mango, grapefruit or blood-orange sorbet slightly, then sandwich between crunchy store-bought sugar cookies;
- Freeze the sandwiches
- Let the sandwiches stand at room temp for ~ 5min before serving to soften.

Ingredient List

- Assortment of Sorbet, such as Blood-Orange, Grapefruit, Raspberry, Mango, ...etc
- Store bough cookies
- Mint Leave for garnishment
- Whip Cream for garnishment
- Fresh Fruit for garnishment