

## Canon imagePROGRAF iPF8400S

Outstanding 44" 8-Color  
Wide Format Graphic Arts Printer



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For delivering very good image quality, exceptional color management tools, incomparable color consistency and superb ease of use, the Canon imagePROGRAF iPF8400S is BLI's Pick for Outstanding 44" 8-Color Graphic Arts Wide Format Printer. Earning excellent ratings for productivity and reliability, the Canon imagePROGRAF iPF8400S never missed a beat, successfully producing 10,000 square feet of prints on numerous media types with no errors logged. "With more than 60 media types to choose from and the ability to easily add third-party papers via the Media Configuration Tool, the iPF8400S is an ideal choice for small and medium size print shops that have a broad range of printing needs," said Joe Tischner, BLI wide format printer analyst. "In fact, the iPF S-series of printers will likely bring new printing opportunities for shops that are accustomed to producing prints for only limited markets and applications." Indeed, the unit's media selection includes vinyl, banner and backlit media for signage applications; fine art paper and canvas for specialty printing applications; satin, semi-gloss and glossy photographic papers in numerous weights for high-quality photographic prints, as well as textiles and plain paper. Canon's 8-color LUCIA EX ink set produced above average image quality on a wide variety of media tested, which included Canon and non-Canon media. Indeed, using the Standard print driver setting, color photographs and heavy-coverage signs and posters exhibited bright, saturated color with no evidence of banding or graininess, while black-and-white photos were produced with fine detail, neutral gray tones and smooth gradations.

A major enhancement for the unit over its predecessor, as well as the competition, is the ability for users and administrators to easily monitor and perform color calibrations for an entire fleet of networked iPF X400S-series devices. Canon's new Color Calibration Management Console utility provides the calibration status for all S-series printers, and enables the user to perform calibrations when necessary. Conveniently, monitoring can take place remotely, as long as the printers are on the same network. Furthermore, if precise color control is required between multiple S-series devices, such as for color-critical proofing applications, a 24" Canon iPF6400S configured with the optional SU-21 spectrophotometer can be employed within the fleet. (This second Canon device provided exceptional color matching results, and gave an overall superb performance in its concurrent evaluation in BLI's lab, also earning a Pick award.) "After printing high-quality files on the two machines under test in the lab, BLI technicians were unable to discern quality or color differences on output from both devices. Color consistency this good will certainly benefit imagePROGRAF users for proof printing applications," remarked Tischner.

Canon's well-designed cloud-based utility, Direct Print & Share, which is available for the first time for the Canon iPFX400S models, afforded technicians the ability to bypass print drivers and application software when submitting files to the iPF8400S, an impressive time-saving feature, while the utility's straightforward file sharing capabilities contributed to the unit's excellent rating for ease of use. Notably, the iPF8400S is among the fastest printers in its class, producing 18 large-size (A-1) high-quality prints in Standard mode on Premium Glossy paper in one hour. Other highlights include the device's well-designed control panel, which offers a great deal more information than most competitive models, including an accurate projected time for print completion. The multi-faceted Status Monitor enables easy ink level, media and job status monitoring, as well as the ability to cancel and promote jobs in the queue. An included accounting tool, another highlight of the Status Monitor, enables tracking of ink and paper usage, as well as associated costs, and is one of the most comprehensive accounting tools available for wide format devices. Ink tanks come in both 330- and 700-ml capacities and either size can be used in the printer simultaneously. Conveniently, the unit's sub-ink tank system, a unique feature among many Canon imagePROGRAF devices, allows for on-the-fly tank replacement.

Competitively priced among 42" to 44" 8-ink printers at \$4,995, the imagePROGRAF iPF8400S is highly recommended by BLI for graphic arts, production and proof printing applications in small- and medium-size businesses.

"We are honored that our iPF6400S and iPF8400S printers are being recognized by the BLI Pick Awards. Both part of our award-winning imagePROGRAF series, they provide graphic artists with the ability to produce work efficiently, accurately and with consistent quality," said Sam Yoshida, vice president and general manager of marketing for Canon U.S.A.'s Business Imaging Solutions Group. "With enhanced print management and color control capabilities, these models provide a distinct advantage in today's highly competitive production printing market."

## About **BLI Pick Awards**

With its Pick awards, BLI gives special recognition in each category to those products that provided the most outstanding performances in BLI's exhaustive lab tests. BLI's awards stand alone in that they are based on a rigorous battery of lab tests that takes approximately two months to complete. The evaluation includes an extensive durability test, during a portion of which each unit is run at manufacturers' recommended volume. BLI's durability test is unique among imaging product evaluations and uniquely qualifies BLI to assess reliability, a critical factor for buyers and IT directors.

Other performance attributes evaluated include ease of use, media handling, productivity, color management and value, among others. Each product that successfully passes BLI's lab test earns BLI's Recommended or Highly Recommended seal and a BLI Certificate of Reliability and qualifies as a Pick award contender. Consequently, BLI Pick awards are hard-earned awards that buyers and IT directors can trust to better guide them in their acquisition decisions.

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