

# Selecting the ideal Brother Fax Machine.

Shopping for a fax machine can be a daunting experience, given the number of machines on the market. Brother's wide variety of standalone fax machines each offers unique features designed to meet different customer needs. This guide is designed to help you identify the features that will be most useful to you, in order to determine which fax model best suits your application requirements.

## How to choose the right **Fax Machine** for your needs



### **Fax Machines can be valuable assets to your business.**

- Fax communication is a critical and reliable application for everyday business communication
- They will support the faxing needs of multiple users or departments, all with familiar ease of use
- They provide a faster, affordable alternative to overnight delivery
- They provide good quality fax print-outs of documents

### **Choosing the ideal Brother fax machine for you.**

Brother makes fax machines based on three different print technologies: ribbon transfer, color inkjet and laser.

#### **Why you might want...**

##### **Ribbon transfer technology**

- Lowest acquisition cost
- Convenience and ease of use
- Easy to change ribbon cartridges
- Ideal for light volume faxing or copying
- Space saving designs



##### **Inkjet technology**

- Mid-range acquisition cost, high value
- Superior output quality
- Full color capability for faxing, copying and even printing
- Ideal for home and small office use
- Economical 4-cartridge ink system



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### **Choose color inkjet if:**

- You'd like to use the machine for convenient color copying in addition to faxing
- You might also like to use the machine as a color printer<sup>†</sup>
- You have a limited budget but still need strong performance and good fax printing quality
- You plan to use the machine for both personal and business applications



### **Laser technology**

- Excellent quality text and photos (black & white)
- Best combination of fast modem and printing speeds for incoming faxes
- Suitable for mid-high volume use
- Lower cost per page than other technologies, particularly when using high-yield toner and drum combos



### **Choose monochrome laser if:**

- Sharp, laser quality output is important
- The lowest cost per page is required
- You are looking for the best overall value considering both hardware and consumable costs
- High speed and performance are needed
- Large paper capacity and high volume use is needed



## **Additional considerations.**

### **✓ Modem speed**

Fax modems are available supporting communication speeds of:

**9600 bps** (approx. 15 sec/page)\*

**14.4K bps** (approx. 6-9 sec/page)\*

**33.6K bps** (approx. 2-3 sec/page)\*



Modem speed is an important consideration if your fax volume is high and it is important to you to free up the phone line as quickly as possible. However, a key point to remember about fax communication is that it can only take place at the highest speed supported by both the sending and receiving machines. If one is faster than the other, transmission will slow down to the highest speed available on the slower unit. Speed may also slow down when line conditions are poor. Therefore, you can't always be sure that buying a faster machine will increase throughput consistently.

Buying a machine with a faster modem may also reduce phone costs if you typically transmit lengthy fax documents, particularly overseas. Since most phone companies charge by the minute, and not the second, it costs about the same to transmit documents that are only a few pages long.

### **✓ Answer modes**

All Brother fax machines have a telephone handset. They also have the ability to distinguish between incoming fax and voice calls. You can choose the answer mode best suited to handle your incoming calls.

### **✓ Built-in Message Center®**

 Brother offers a variety of models with built-in answering machines.

These *Message Center*<sup>®</sup> models store both fax and voice messages, provide space saving convenience, and eliminate the need for a separate answering machine.

In addition, every Brother fax has an interface for connecting an external answering machine.

### **✓ Auto document feeder (ADF) capacity**

Consider the number of pages in your "typical" fax transmittal when selecting a machine. All Brother fax machines include an ADF, with capacity varying between 10 and 50 letter-size sheets.

### **✓ Paper capacity**

 If you need a fax machine for personal use only, and don't expect to do daily faxing or copying, you don't need a large paper capacity. However, if your fax volume increases, you will have to reload paper more often.

If you are in a commercial work environment that receives thousands of pages each month, or prints and copies at an equally high volume, consider our commercial fax models with built-in second paper tray (or the option to add one later). Dual tray models are also ideal when you need to print incoming faxes true to size on both letter and legal size paper.

### **What should I consider regarding paper capacity?**

- A small office with low incoming fax volume doesn't require a large paper capacity.
- If the fax volume increases, you can expect to refill the paper more frequently.
- If the fax is left unattended for an extended period of time, a larger paper capacity is the right choice.



### **✓ Paper size**

The paper trays on all Brother models adjust to hold either letter or legal size paper. Dual tray models are recommended for high volume environments or when both paper sizes need to be loaded simultaneously.

## ✓ **Fax memory**

Memory enables a fax machine to store incoming or outgoing fax pages. The amount of memory required to hold a page depends on the density of the image. Consider a model with a large memory capacity and dual access capability for departmental or multi-user environments.

### **Memory applications include:**

**Out-of-paper reception:** This is one of the most useful memory features because it saves incoming faxes in available memory if the machine runs out of paper or a supply item.

**Quick Scan:** With this feature you can quickly scan a lengthy fax into available memory before beginning a transmission. You don't have to wait at the machine until it finishes sending the original.

**Dual Access:** This capability allows you to scan a document into memory while the machine is busy sending or receiving another fax. For example, you can scan an outgoing fax into memory while a fax is being received. The stored fax is sent directly from memory when the phone line becomes free.

## ✓ **Auto Dialing and broadcasting**



All Brother fax machines include a number of "one-touch" dialing keys, plus additional "speed dialing" capacity to automate the dialing process further. Not only do these features enable you to dial more quickly, they also help eliminate misdialed numbers. When selecting a fax machine, consider how many people you fax to on a regular basis, and choose a model with an auto dial capacity that meets your needs.

All Brother models also support fax broadcasting, which enables you to scan a fax into memory just once, and then send it to multiple locations. The number of locations will vary by model, so consider the broadcasting capacity when selecting a model if this is an application you'll make use of.

## ✓ **Transmission verification reports**

All Brother fax machines can generate Transmission Verification Reports that confirm the details of fax transmissions. These reports provide a printed record of the date and time of transmission, fax number of the receiving machine, total number of pages transmitted, and confirmation that the transmission was made successfully.

In addition to this basic information, Brother inkjet and laser fax models can also include a partial image of the first page of the transmitted document on the report printout. This is an essential feature for businesses requiring accurate records of fax transmissions, and makes it easier to match up the report with the original fax on any high volume fax machine.

## ✓ **PC connectivity**

Several of our standalone fax machines also include a built-in PC interface (USB, parallel or Ethernet\*). This gives you flexibility should your needs change over time. With PC connectivity you gain the benefit of color inkjet or monochrome laser printer functionality without having to purchase another machine.



## ✓ **Fax security**

If you use your fax in an environment where you receive highly confidential faxes and don't want unauthorized people to view them, you should consider a model with Secure Fax functionality.



If you want to eliminate after-hours usage of the fax machine, you should investigate models with Transmission Lock. If you want to make sure that programming selections you've made to the machine aren't changed, look for the Setting Lock feature.

## ✓ **Cost of ownership**

*You can control total cost of ownership by selecting the right fax model up front:*

- Buying a low cost model designed for low volume usage can cause you delays and lost productivity if your fax volume increases.
- Buying a higher-end fax machine with the anticipation of high volume faxing and copying might be initially more expensive, but could result in significant savings over time.

## ✓ **Warranty and service**

Every fax machine in the Brother line, at every price or performance level, is backed by a one-year limited warranty. In the home, home/office and small business categories this represents a substantial competitive advantage.

In addition, Brother also offers warranty extensions and an on-site warranty for extra protection. For more information, please visit [www.brother.com](http://www.brother.com).

## ✓ **Which Brother model is best for you?**

The chart on the other side of this guide should give you a basic idea about the performance capability of select Brother fax machines.

\* Based on Brother #1 chart with highest available coding method and standard resolution



		Print Technology	Modem Speed	ADF Capacity	Paper Capacity Standard / Maximum*	Memory*/Page Capacity	Monthly Volume	Color/B&W Copy	Auto Dial Numbers	Special Features	Price
Home / Home Office / Small Office	Fax-575				50 Std. 50 Std.	512 K / 25				—	\$
	IntelliFax-775				100 Std. 100 Std.	512 K / 25				—	\$\$
	IntelliFax-885MC				100 Std. 100 Std.	512 K / 25				Message Center	\$\$
	IntelliFax-1270e				200 Std. 200 Std.	512 K / 25				—	\$\$
	IntelliFax-1575MC				200 Std. 200 Std.	1 MB / 50				Message Center	\$\$\$\$
Small to Medium Business	IntelliFax-1840C				100 Std. 100 Std.	8 MB / 300				PC Interface	\$\$
	IntelliFax-1940CN				100 Std. 100 Std.	16 MB / 480				Message Center, PC Interface, Network Interface	\$\$\$
	IntelliFax-2440C				100 Std. 100 Std.	8 MB / 300				Message Center, PC Interface	\$\$\$\$
	IntelliFax-2820				250 Std. 250 Std.	8 MB / 500				Setting Lock, Transmission Lock, PC Interface	\$\$\$\$\$
	IntelliFax-2920				250 Std. 250 Std.	16 MB / 600				Setting Lock, Secure Fax, PC Interface	\$\$\$\$\$
Workgroup & Commercial	IntelliFax-4100				250 Std. 250 Std.	8 MB / 500				PC Interface	\$\$\$\$\$
	IntelliFax-4750e				250 Std. 250 Std.	8 MB / 600				Secure Fax, PC Interface	\$\$\$\$\$
	IntelliFax-5750e				500 Std. 500 Std.	8 MB / 600				Secure Fax, PC Interface, Network Interface	\$\$\$\$\$

\* Based on Brother #1 Chart at standard resolution and error correction mode

<sup>†</sup>Cables not included

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**Brother International Corporation**  
 100 Somerset Corporate Blvd.  
 Bridgewater, NJ 08807

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