

## ***Everything your Wide Format Inkjet Printer can Do***

### ***Source of Profit***

***(If you intend to use your inkjet printer commercially)***

### ***Source of Enjoyment***

***(If you intend to use your printer for home, hobby or a second part-time business)***



Students at our university who won a prize for best print (from the HP 1055cm at the FLAAR evaluation center.)




If you need additional information, please feel free to send us all your questions at [info@flaar.org](mailto:info@flaar.org)

You can earn considerable profit with your large format printer. As one person told me, "I made lots of money with my ColorSpan." I have met other people who have earned a handsome living with their Encads, HP, Roland, Mutoh, Mimaki, Iris and all the grand format printers as well. We just got an email from another ColorSpan owner; he said he had earned over a million dollars Canadian in a single year due to the productivity of his printer.

FLAAR is non-profit, so we find different ways to get satisfaction in producing the best quality at the most reasonable cost. About half the people that read our reports are looking for a printer as a hobby to print art or photographs, or as a second business to run from home (garage, basement, or attic) to pick up some extra income. The nice thing about a wide format printer is that you can do both, have fun and also earn some money.

The other 50% of our readers run sign shops, quick-print or reprographic shops, do pre-press proofing, CAD or GIS printing; others have a photo lab or fine art studio. They need to earn a living with their wide format printers.

Here are some of the many kinds of prints you can do. Each is a potential source of income.

<p><b>Legal Graphics</b>                  Courtroom graphics, charts, statistics                  Crime scene reconstructions                  Traffic accident reconstructions  <i>Which printers should you consider?</i></p>	 <p><i>FLAAR Report on Signs and Posters</i></p>
<p><b>Vehicle Graphics</b> (solvent inks are best but you can do with pigmented water-based inks as well)                   Bus wrap, truck wrap                  Any and all signs and decorations on vehicles  <i>Which printers should you consider?</i></p>	<p><i>FLAAR Report on Vehicle Wrap</i></p>
<p><b>Building Graphics</b>                  Billboards                  Building wrap, covering unsightly construction and scaffolding                  Banners  <i>Which printers should you consider?</i></p>	 <p><i>FLAAR Report on Solvent Ink Printers</i></p>
<p><b>Theater Graphics</b>                  Stage backdrops                  Stage curtains  <i>Which printers should you consider?</i></p>	 <p><i>FLAAR Report on Signs, Posters and Banners</i></p>

**Hotels, Restaurants, Casinos**

All the traditional signs, backlit, floor graphics, promotions etc but also Surfacing of the gaming tables (now you can place ads everywhere)

Menus

Directories

Awnings

Swimming pool bottoms

Plus all the same items you can print for home use, namely wallpaper, murals, curtains, table cloths, even upholstery.

*Which printers should you consider?*



***FLAAR Report on Signs, Posters, Banners; and/or FLAAR Report on Dye Sublimation Printers***

**Home and Office Use**

Custom wallpaper or murals

Curtains, drapes (you can print directly onto textiles or also via dye sublimation)

Sheets, pillow cases, blankets

Floor covering (yes, you can even print on floor tiles of various material even rugs)

Kitchen tiles (ceramic tiles via dye sublimation)

Bathroom tiles.

Table cloths

Towels (via dye sublimation)

Photos of all sizes

Clothing, T-shirts, caps, and more, via dye sublimation or direct printing

Coffee mugs

*Which printers should you consider?*



***FLAAR Report Direct Printing on Textiles; FLAAR Report on Dye Sublimation Printers***

**Commercial Signs**

Billboards

Window displays and backdrops

Banners, including for airplanes to tow (you can get two-sided banner material from Rexam)

Pole signs

Directional signs

Backlit (illuminated bus stop signs, etc.)

Point of purchase (POP) which is also known as POS, point of sale

Floor graphics (be sure to have anti-slip lamination, and insurance...)

Trade show displays

Vending machines, gas pump wraps

Inflatable graphics (which go across streets like an arch)

Balloons, sails on sailboats

*Which printers should you consider?*



***FLAAR Report on Signs, Posters, Banners***

### Signs can be employed in the following situations

Classroom Teaching, charts, flip charts  
 Exhibits, displays  
 Event signage, everything from advertising to directional help  
 Safety notices  
 Identification  
 Recognition of achievement, such as “employee of the month”  
 Display of mottoes, logos for brand identification  
 In stores signs can help sales, specials, bargains, prices, promotions, aisle markers  
 Concepts, seasonal and holiday themes (Christmas, Easter rabbits, etc.).  
 Sponsor signs at sports events  
 Sails for sailboats or banners towed by airplanes.

Which printers should you consider?



***FLAAR Report on Signs, Posters, Banners***

### In-house graphics department (for corporation or institution).

Instead of paying high prices outside you can save money by putting your own wide format printer inside your own building and print things yourself.

Visitor welcome notices, sign-in procedures  
 Directional signs  
 Floor plans, location maps of the building, campus or complex  
 Fire safety notices, evacuation maps and notices  
 In-house training: charts, flip-charts  
 Business meetings, presentations to the Board (pie charts, bar charts)  
 General announcements  
 Motivational posters,  
     quality awareness,  
     achieving production goals  
     customer appreciation (tips on how to accomplish)  
 Decoration, fine art giclee or photo-realistic images  
 Floor graphics  
 Murals, especially entrance area and board room (make the boss happy)  
 Sales statistics, sales motivation, “employee of the month” with photo  
 Cafeteria menus, health notices  
 Parking lot signs, notices “we are not responsible....”  
 Promos, notices, in the elevators.

Which printers should you consider?



***FLAAR Report on Signs, Posters, Banners***

**Printing on textiles**

All of the textile printing in categories above in clothing, home use and signs, as well as Flags.



**FLAAR Report Direct Printing on Textiles; FLAAR Report on Dye Sublimation Printers**

**Photography, fine art**

Murals  
 Displays, exhibits  
 Reproductions of fine art  
 Photographic enlargements of all kinds especially portraits, landscapes.

Also you can ask for **FLAAR Report on 24" and Entry Level or FLAAR Report on 36" and Wider for Fine Art Giclee: for home as well as for professional uses.**



**FLAAR Report on 36" and Above for Photographers, Photo Studio, and other Professional uses.**

**CAD, GIS, planning departments, city, county, state, federal**

Drawings of all kinds, architectural, engineering maps,  
 Aerial photographs  
 computer generated images  
 artist's renderings (includes comments on photo-realistic printers as well). We are considering adding lists of electrostatic and other reprographic technologies for CAD as well, but the current report is predominantly inkjet.



**FLAAR Report on Inkjet Printers for CAD, GIS, and Computer Aided Design**

**Proofing**

DuPont and other companies make special proofing media, but for merely proofing for position, layout and basics, you can proof on anything, including raw newsprint (if you have an HP 1050 or 1055 and SeeColor or ColorBus RIP).  
 For normal materials the standard proofing RIP is BEST color management RIP.



**FLAAR Report on Inkjet Printers for Proofing.**

**Stiff and/or rigid material**

Every year new printers come out which allow you to print directly onto thick watercolor paper, onto foamcore (gatorboard), even onto solid metal, glass, leather.



**FLAAR Report about printers for stiff and/or Rigid Material.**



### Specialty Printing

Magnets, yes, you can get magnetic material in 24" rolls for inkjet printing and/or dye sublimation heat transfer.

Silk, yes, you can print on silk with many large format printers.

Metal foil

Solid metal

### Wrapping Material

Most inkjet media is too thick to be folded hence is not suitable for wrapping material. There are exceptions, however. The HP DesignJet 1050 and 1055 can print on wrapping paper (it can print on Kraft paper and on newsprint so I presume it can print on wrapping paper also). To get the best color matching, however, you must generate your own ICC profiles (you need the report on "Color Management") and ideally you need coated media. You only get full colors if the paper you print on has an inkjet ink receptor coating (of powder affixed to the paper).

### Printing on two sides

Most inkjet media can be printed solely on one side. Double-sided media is available, but rare. It is not easy to fold inkjet media, since it tends to be thick.

### Use your Imagination

You can probably come up with all kinds of other potential and profitable uses for inkjet printing. Museums and art galleries, stores of every kind, car dealerships, travel agencies, airports, hotels, restaurants, real estate companies, sports arenas and even government offices such as the Post Office are ideal places for you to sell your signs. Temporary events and promotions are especially good venues for temporary signage. You can earn a profit practically everywhere.

One person wrote us asking for what printer was useful for doing "erotic lifesize cutouts." Hey, why not, after all, this is America.

### Printing Images from Power Point

If you need to print images from Power Point presentation, your first need:

- A book on scanning from Peachpit Press
- A book on digital photography from Peachpit Press



Or (since they are free) ask for the *FLAAR report on scanning (left)* and the *FLAAR report on digital cameras (right)*.

Every week we get e-mails from people who want to take an illustration from a Power point presentation and enlarge it to poster size. They want to know what printer can do this!



Nicholas Hellmuth at a sign shop in Canada checking out a Roland printer. FLAAR inspects print shops to find out how printers actually function in real life. So when we write about pros and cons of a printer, ink, media, or RIP, it's based on first-hand experience.

This Roland print was beautiful but the surface scraped off just from rolling and unrolling, so we had to throw it away. Imagine if you had sold this print to your client for \$250, which is about what a print this size goes for.

First you need the FLAAR reports and then a basic understanding of dpi vs print size.

## Considerations

Your large format printer can do all kinds of things (presuming you opted for the appropriate kind of printer). Professional sign shops and large commercial companies may have rows of different printers each cranking out a particular kind of sign or other job. Naturally most people start off with just one easy to use printer and after the first year of gathering experience they acquire additional and/or other kinds of printer technology so they can handle a wider range of jobs.

The biggest mistake is to presume that one single printer can do all jobs. Of course this is what the printer ads try to lure you with, namely false promises.

The second error is to swallow the hype and misleading advertising claims of what a printer can accomplish. So when the printer ad shows a giant mural, or a naturalistic cactus plant life-size (15 feet tall) but does not warn you that it can take three to five hours to do a single print of those dimensions at the top dpi claimed in the specs, this is the definition of misleading advertising.

## How to get the free FLAAR Reports?



FLAAR staff answering mails from all over around the world.

Just be sure that the printer you select is actually appropriate for the variable tasks that you need the printer to accomplish. If you are a first-time buyer and new to large format printing, you definitely need the FLAAR report on *“what to watch out for when the sales rep is moving in to close the sale... how to avoid misleading advertising and hype.”* This pithy report cuts to the heart of the matter and exposes some of the basic bait and switch tactics and other favored ploys of over-eager sales people.

One of the FLAAR reports is especially useful for everyone facing a decision of what to buy, namely *“Piezo vs thermal printhead technology: fact vs fiction: pros and cons of each kind of inkjet printer.”*

To get your free reports, just find the Inquiry Form towards the end of this report. Since you can't (yet) drag-and-drop from a PDF report, simply send an e-mail to [info@flaar.org](mailto:info@flaar.org). In your e-mail answer (in your own words) all the questions on the Inquiry Form.

We don't know what reports to send to you unless we know what your company needs to print, how often, how many, whether for indoor or outdoor? Is this for home or hobby?

Especially important is what other printers do you already know about? And what others do you need more information on?

Your e-mail can be as long as you wish? Don't worry about knowing how to spell the different printer names and models? We can figure out which ones you mean if you do it roughly phonetically.

The more you let us know about your needs and background, the easier it is for us to ascertain precisely what help you need.

FLAAR is a non-profit institute at a university so there is no cost for the reports. If we can't answer every single one of your questions, we will send you the reports and then we will search for a person we have met at a trade show in a company that makes the products which can solve your problem

or perhaps answer your question. We will forward your e-mail to them and ask if they can have the courtesy to follow up directly with you.

Sorry, we don't have a phone or fax (our offices are international). Besides, if we were on the phone all day long we wouldn't have time to be preparing the PDF format reports to send to you. Also, our editors are probably off somewhere attending a trade show or visiting a sign shop or photo studio to get more actual-factual end-user reports.

We don't believe the ads and PR hype either; we don't believe even what our sponsors say in their ad claims. The only yardstick is, "does this printer actually provide a solution for my needs, for my clients, and for my budget."

Our senior review editor serves as the "Ralph Nadar" or large format printers, inks, media, and RIPs. He is also the Johnny Appleseed, working to make it easier for first-time users to understand the advantages of entering the world of large format digital printing.

Nicholas Hellmuth is also the "Ann Landers" of digital imaging, answering your questions on scanners, digital cameras, digital storage devices, as well as everything to do with large format printers.

Please tell other people about the FLAAR services. Being non-profit we have zero advertising budget. We depend entirely upon word-of-mouth.

We hope you enjoy our no-cost, no-obligation services.

### TOPICS FLAAR IS UNABLE TO COVER

Please do yourself a favor, and be kind to all of us who work at answering your questions, namely read this list of topics we do NOT answer, if you are unsure whether FLAAR can help you.

As the number of requests rises we can only answer the questions that pertain to our sphere of influence. This means we are unable to answer countless other questions. So before you get your hopes up, please check this list and save both of us lost time and energy. There are about 10 areas of printing that we absolutely do not cover whatsoever. Nor are we able to suggest who can cover these topics.

Please take time to read this discussion of **Topics We Can't Answer**

We regret is not feasible to cover all topic(s).

**Software questions** (someone collected money for your software, they should help you out). Consider training in your local area: try the nearest community college or look in the sections on training or book reviews in various sites of the FLAAR network.

**Drivers (printer drivers**, especially for old printers). Again, this is the responsibility of the people who sold you the hardware and software. If you bought from a cheap source now you know why it was such a good deal. If your printer came with drivers only (in other words with no RIP) that is part of your problem. In most cases you need RIP software to run your printer. However if you have an old printer, we are unable to find a source for an old RIP to run that printer. Current RIPs tend to run only current printers. We have a warning about this in our report on "*buying a used printer...the downsides.*"



RIP: **settings, options, selections, etc.** Please understand we cannot diagnose a problem long distance. The company that sold you the RIP, the ink, the media, or the printer are responsible for seeing that everything works. We can suggest good RIPs before you make the mistake of buying an off-brand RIP, but kind of hard for us to bail you out after you got a RIP that we do not recommend. Now you know why we perhaps don't list that brand.

**Supplies** such as ribbons; or any supplies for older obsolete printers. For inkjet media, however, we can provide abundant lists. Just ask and you shall receive the reports.

**Color management headaches:** please consult the book review and training sections; check the trade magazines. Every FLAAR site has a manual index, the old-fashioned alphabetical kind. We have worked hard to develop these indices. They are there for you. The only way to survive color management is to buy your printer + your RIP + your color management program all from the same single source. If you buy different bits and pieces of your system from different vendors, no one will take the responsibility to put it together or help you get it all to work.

Again, if you paid someone for your printer and for your RIP then they are the ones who should assist you until your prints turn out flawlessly. If there is inadequate service after the sale, return the printer and buy a better system from a company who knows enough about digital imaging to get you up and running. Perhaps you bought the wrong brand of printer, or maybe you have an inadequate RIP? This is why we provide a service to assist people BEFORE they buy. So if you wish to return to the starting line, find the Inquiry Form on any of our web sites ([www.wide-format-printers.org](http://www.wide-format-printers.org), link for CONTACT). Fill out the form as though you wish to start from scratch. We will be glad to respond with information that will be of help.

But please understand, we have no realistic manner to solve software problems long distance.

**Cheap desktop printers.** They don't work and we don't recommend them or even want to hear about them. There are many good reasons why our web site is titled "wide-format-printers" and "large-format-printers," those are the subjects we cover. If you asked about other equipment, sorry, our staff of eight are working hard at answering the many people who appropriately asked about large format inkjet printers and please realize we just can't cover all the other kinds of hardware and software.

If you have a question about an Epson printer, again, now perhaps you realize why it was such a low price. Please realize we are unable to resurrect a product that does not provide what the ads skillfully lead you to believe. We get more complaints on the Epson 1520, Epson 3000, and the new Epson 1270 than all other printer makes and models combined. There are Epson inkjet printer user group web sites where you can report this kind of problem, at least so that other people won't fall into the same pitfall.

**Cheap scanners;** sorry, you get what you pay for. There are plenty of consumer magazines that will tell you how wonderful the \$300 scanners are. Of course if you have a cheap printer a lousy scan will look just great at desktop size. But if you enlarge your image to large format size, the imperfections will be obvious to all.

Recommendations on **where to have your artwork printed** as giclee. There are many nice places but we get too many complaints about problems of color matching or simply inadequate quality. As a result we prefer to avoid the potential problems of recommending a place. In the long run you will have more enjoyment if you do your own fine art printing. If you wish to do that, then fill out the provisional inquiry form and we will reply with the appropriate information.

There is no cost for these reports.



Several different people handle incoming inquiries on two different continents, so the person who answered this initial e-mail of yours will not necessarily be the same person who gets your follow-up inquiry. This is why we ask that you please fill out the Inquiry Form each time. FLAAR does not sell printers, so you are under no obligation to buy anything, nor pay for the reports either. But if you intend to have many prints made, or do this as a hobby, in the long run you have more personal satisfaction if you have your own printer in your own home or studio. Everyone is a beginner, so don't worry if you have zero experience. Our informative reports will provide all the basic information, links, and e-mail addresses on where to go to get help getting started.

If you don't intend to print yourself, perhaps you should try an Iris dealer who would most likely know giclee printing companies who can offer you print services. Try [iris@itnh.com](mailto:iris@itnh.com) (they service Iris printers and build the Ixia giclee printer as well as sell the Mutoh printer for fine art).



**Lamination problems:** it is not realistic to solve a lamination problem long-distance. If their lamination does not work, we would recommend LEDCO, USI, GBC, or Seal (unless one of those are what caused your problem). Someone is selling you equipment and laminate; it would seem to be their responsibility to make it work for you. We do, however, have a *FLAAR Fast-Facts on lamination equipment* which we will gladly send you.

**Business plans:** for obvious reasons it is not realistic for us to formulate a business plan for everyone who writes in. However if you wish to have a professional consultant, Professor Hellmuth is available to come to your company for a day and speak with you and your team. You cover RT airfare, basic expenses, and a normal business consulting fee for the day. Follow-up support is available from FLAAR by telephone, e-mail, fax, or subsequent follow-up visits.

**Costs and pricing:** costs vary by country, by season, by whim even. Our web site is read in more than 60 countries worldwide. Our offices are in Germany and Guatemala and although we are actually an American research institute we don't have enough staff to keep track of prices for scores of brands and dozens of models.

**Attachments:** due to the huge volume of incoming e-mail our staff does not have the time to open everyone's attachments. We gladly read all e-mails, but zero attachments. **Sorry, we are unable to open attachments.**

**Ink longevity:** We cover these questions in various reports.

**Bar code printers:** being photographers we just have not gotten excited about bar codes.

The purpose of FLAAR is to try to assist people before they made a decision. Please realize that FLAAR is a non-profit research institute at a university. Our web site attempts to indicate what topics we are able to cover. It's easy to overlook the notes on the topics that it's simply not realistic to handle.

FLAAR is deluged with tragic stories of people who bought the wrong equipment. If you believed the ads now you know why we are so harsh on the companies that utilize this clever means to lure you to buy their equipment. Even if you buy the equipment which we recommend, if you are ill-prepared for digital imaging reality, if you don't provide your equipment tender loving care, you too will have aggravations. Please do not order a printer simply because FLAAR likes it or recommends it. Whether you and your printer survive together and prosper depends on countless factors beyond our control.

It is essential that you find other people who already have a printer. Also find others who are still looking, and compare notes. Go to a trade show.

Cheap desktop printers fall apart eventually; their software is generally inadequate. You gradually achieve the awareness that the printer you received was merely a machine for soaking up expensive ink and paper. Yet these printers serve a useful purpose, you get some training in digital imaging. Nonetheless you waste your money because you could get even better practice with a serious wide format printer.

When you wish to bury the past mistakes and move onward and upward to serious wide format printers, we will be glad to assist you. Wide format printers start at about \$4,000; a serious wide format printer start at about \$8,000 to \$15,000, such as HP 5000ps, ColorSpan Esprit, good enough for professional use yet easy on the budget. Commercial inkjet printers (such as ColorSpan DisplayMaker XII) cost about \$25,000 but produce awesome quality and impressive quantity. Solvent ink printers begin at \$40,000. Good solvent ink printers such as Gretag Arizona are \$64,000. Grand format (superwide) solvent ink printers are \$150,000 to \$450,000.

There is no cost for any FLAAR report.

We cover 24" wide format printers and upward. We can even suggest places you can order your printer for personal home delivery. That's right, an actual human being will bring the printer to your house, will unpack it, set everything up, connect it to your computer, and actually show you how to produce museum-quality photo-realistic prints.

Our reviews of flatbed scanners cover scanners for hobby photographers (circa \$2,000 and up) for professional photo labs and prepress shops (\$10,000 to \$54,000).

Do you need a drum scanner? You would be surprised how easy the new models are to use and how much their prices have dropped. Or, we can recommend plenty of medium priced flatbed scanners that will do a good job. But no, we do not review HP scanners or Epson scanners, nor do we recommend Microtek nor their clones (such as Agfa, which are manufactured by Microtek).



"New Media" Building on the Campus Francisco Marroquin University. The FLAAR office is located on the main floor of this building.

Due to the avalanche of requests, however, we ask you to fill out the provisional inquiry form now available on all three web sites so we can attend to your request for assistance. Please keep in mind, our sites are called wide format printer and large format printer for a good reason, this is the subject that we cover. We do not cover desktop printers.

We now have new reports on: *RIPs for large format printers* and an enhanced version, *RIPs + basic help for first-time-users*. Although we can't repair a RIP you already have, we can suggest a better RIP that hopefully will not cause as many technical problems.

Just look for the complete list of all FLAAR titles at the back of the PDF reports, or return to our web sites; track down the provisional inquiry form, drag-and-drop it into your e-mail; fill it out, and let us know what reports you would like from us. Just please don't send as an attachment. If you are writing from the CONTACT page just send as drag-and-drop. Or, if it's an auto-send form, just press the SEND button.

If you have an aversion to forms, you may write spontaneously without using the form. Just be sure your free-form inquiry at least lets us know what it is you need to print, but equally importantly, what is your perception of the diverse range of equipment that is available. The more background you provide us on your needs, the more background we can provide you on a solution.

We thank Epson USA, ColorSpan, Encad, and Hewlett-Packard for providing printers that we could evaluate. All the other printers we evaluate by visiting all the leading trade shows in Germany and across the USA. We also listen to the comments of the almost a thousand people a month who send us e-mails out of the more than 14,000 people a month who read the FLAAR web sites.

FLAAR editors also visit sign shops, print shops, photo studios, and architectural studios to see what other users have to say about the printers they have selected.

The professors at Bowling Green State University also contribute evaluations based on their experiences. So overall you get quite a lot of information when you ask for any of the FLAAR reports.

To get your reports, just write [info@flaar.org](mailto:info@flaar.org)



FLAAR staff at Francisco Marroquin University, Guatemala. This pano photo was printed with our own HP 5000ps on TAL media.



Part of the FLAAR staff at Bowling Green State University of Ohio, printing on our ColorSpan DisplayMaker XII

Click to view each FLAAR Network site

<a href="http://www.wide-format-printers.org">www.wide-format-printers.org</a>	<a href="http://www.FineArtGicleePrinters.org">www.FineArtGicleePrinters.org</a>	<a href="http://www.large-format-printers.org">www.large-format-printers.org</a>
<a href="http://www.digital-photography.org">www.digital-photography.org</a>	<a href="http://www.flatbed-scanner-review.org">www.flatbed-scanner-review.org</a>	<a href="http://www.laser-printer-reviews.org">www.laser-printer-reviews.org</a>



"I sincerely thank you again for the information you have provided.† Your service and good information is refreshing in the face of the noted hype of many of the products you review...especially to someone who is just beginning.

Sincerely,"

**August 20, Jenner L.**

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"I got both e-mails and now have all 6 reports that you sent. your assistance is most appreciated. Your reports are very helpful for someone that is technically inclined, but fairly new to this particular group of technologies. I am sure the help you have provided will save me a lot of grief and money and minimize my disappointments with purchases I am contemplating. Thanks again."

**August 20, Greg H.**

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"Thank you very much for the rapid response. I look forward to digesting all the information you have kindly provided. Thanks again"

**August 24, James F.**

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"First of all thank you very much for your fast and personal response. It is almost hard to believe that there are people that actually are interested in giving out information and in teaching others about technology."

**August 28, Cristina R.**

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"Thank you for quickly providing the information I requested yesterday. I am deeply grateful to have found your site and the extensive information and experience provided by the University staff and end users.† The attention to this material and maintaining it in an updated format is impressive. Again, my thanks and kind regards."

**August 31, Pat R.**

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"Thanks ever so much for the reports. The work you all do is very much appreciated. Informative, clear and easily understandable what more could one ask for besides having you come do our printing for us. ;-) Thank you once again. Sincerely"

**July 3, Bev A.**

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"I am so impressed with your service. I am most grateful for the detail you have provided. I will remind everyone of your service, it is most helpful and reassuring when making these major decisions."

**July 9, James F. from Ohio USA**

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FLAAR staff receiving your Inquiry-Dialog forms and sending off the reports via Adobe Acrobat PDF format.



**TESTIMONIALS**  
*Readers experiences*



# LIST OF ALL FLAAR REPORTS ON LARGE FORMAT PRINTERS

[\(click here to see detailed information on each title\)](#)

## 1. Printers

- List of all wide format printers that ever existed
- Wide Format Printers for CAD, GIS, Maps, Aerial Photographs and 3D Computer Generated Drawings
- Everything your Wide Format Inkjet Printer can Do, Sources of Profit (if you intend to use your inkjet printer commercially) Sources of Enjoyment (if you intend to use your printer for home, hobby or a second part-time business)
- 24" Wide Format Printers Budget and Entry-Level Inkjet Printers For Photo-Realistic and Fine Art Giclee
- Which Large Format Inkjet Printers are optimal for Photo Realistic Quality? Museum Quality Inkjet Printing on Canvas, Photo Glossy and on diverse other Inkjet Media
- Which Wide Format Inkjet Printers are good for producing Fine Art Giclee Prints
- Direct Digital Printing on Fabrics with Wide Format Inkjets Which Inkjet Printers Can accomplish Dye Sublimation for Heat Transfer to T-shirts, other textiles, ceramic tiles, and even metal.
- All the various Kinds of Inks and Colorants used in Large Format Digital Printers plus Frequently Asked Questions about inkjet inks
- Signs, Posters, Banners Which Large Format Printers can best do Indoor Signage, Trade Show Graphics, etc
- Thermal Transfer as an alternative to inkjet printers for signs and other large format needs FLAAR REPORTS on Digital Imaging Hardware, Software, Media, and Inks
- Answers to Frequently Asked Questions on the Hewlett-Packard DesignJet 5000 and 5000ps
- Is it advisable to buy a used Large Format Printer? Or any earlier (obsolete) model even if it is still new?
- How to protect yourself when you buy a Printer How to recognize hype, misleading claims? How to realize ink longevity claims may be misleading? Survival Guide when

you are shopping for a Large Format Printer

- Piezo vs Thermal Printhead Designs Pros and Cons, Fact vs Fiction Is Piezo inkjet best or can you expect more with Thermal Printheads?
- Laminating Equipment For Large Format Inkjet Printing
- Inkjet Printers as Proofers
- Large Format Electrostatic Printers
- Experience with the ColorSpan Esprit And with the ColorSpan DisplayMaker XII
- Short-run Inkjet Printing on Thick and/or Rigid Materials (up to 3 inches thick)

## 2. Scanners and Digital Photography

- Which Scanner is best to Digitize your Negatives and Transparencies when you need Photo-realistic Perfection and Fine Art Glicee Quality? plus, Part II How to Digitize Works of Art that are too large for a Flatbed Scanner? (scanner vs digital camera on a repro stand)
- Scanners for Pre-press
- Digital Photography and Digital Cameras, review of major kinds, 1-shot, 3-shot, tri-linear, CCD and CMOS.

## 3. Media and RIP's

- All the different kinds of photo paper, fabric, silk, canvas, vinyl, backlit material, watercolor and artist's paper, even metal that you can print onto using a large format inkjet printer.
- Suggested Media and Inks for large format Signs, Posters, and Banners.
- Media and Inks for Fine Art Giclee and Photo-Realistic Quality Large Format Printing on Canvas, Watercolor Paper, Photo Glossy, and Matte.
- COLOR MANAGEMENT Where to find training, books, and help on color management.
- RIPs for Large Format Printers: What in the world is a RIP? Why in the world would I need one? This report also includes general infor-

mation for people new to large format inkjet printers.

- List of the Main Brands of RIP (Raster Image Processor) RIP is Software including Adobe PostScript to provide additional options for operating your large format printer

## 4. Actual-Factual end user reports

- Arizona, a Solvent-Ink Printer for Outdoor Signage A report kindly sent to FLAAR by an experienced End-User
- Iris G print (the Iris 3047 used for Fine Art Giclee Printing): A report kindly sent to FLAAR by an experienced End-User

## 5. Trade Shows

- Large Format Printers, Inks, Media, and RIPs presented at ISA Trade Show Las Vegas, Nevada (March 2001)
- Large Format Inkjet Printers at Graphics of the Americas Trade Show (Feb. 2001, Miami) and PMA Trade Show (Feb. 2001, Orlando) FLAAR REPORTS on Digital Imaging Hardware, Software, Media, and Inks at Trade Shows
- Large Format Printers, Inks, Media, and RIPs presented at CeBIT Trade Show Hannover, Germany (March 2001)
- Large Format Printers at DPI Trade Show April 2001 including comments on printers seen at B.I.G. trade show, May 2001
- Large Format Printers, Inks, Media, and RIPs presented at SEYBOLD Trade Show San Francisco, California (August 2000).
- Large Format Printers, Inks, Scanners and related subjects presented at PHOTOKINA Trade Show Cologne, Germany (September 2000).
- Large Format Printers, Inks, Scanners and related subjects presented at DRUPA Trade Show Duesseldorf, Germany (September 2000).
- Which Trade Shows are Worthwhile Visiting to learn about Scanners and Large Format Printers?



***SAMPLE OF TRADESHOWS  
VISITED BY FLAAR EDITORS  
to gather data for the FLAAR Reports  
which are now available for you.***

The Senior Review Editor personally visits all important tradeshows across the USA and in Germany.

Printers, inks, RIPs, media, scanners, digital cameras, software are all inspected.

We meet a wide variety of end-users at these trade shows as well, and find out from them how the equipment works (or fails to work) in their businesses.

At tradeshows we also interview knowledgeable specialists who know color management, canvas, watercolor paper, B+W photos, signs, printing on fabrics, etc. These are the people FLAAR partner's with.

So when you write FLAAR, we first respond by sending you as many reports as our staff judge are needed to provide you tips, help, info, and solid facts.

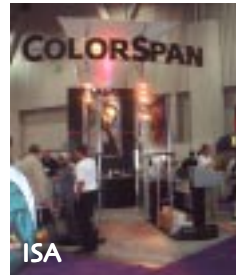
Then, to provide a further follow-up, we forward your request for help to pertinent individuals we have met at the tradeshow booths so that they can answer additional questions that you may have. This consulting system is provided courtesy of our university at absolutely no cost.



SEYBOLD 2001



GOA



ISA



DPI



DRUPA 2000



SGIA



PHOTOKINA



PMA



CEBIT 2001



PHOTO EAST



BIG PICTURE

Snapshots of a few of the Tradeshows we have attended.