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HP Helps Professional Photographers Stay Ahead Of The Competition

New Versatile Printing System Delivers Professional Quality Prints For Display Or Sale

Birmingham, UK, 28 February, 2006 – HP today announced the launch of its new HP Photosmart Pro B9180 A3+ Photo Printer, designed specifically for professional photographers.

With eight, high capacity individual pigment-based HP Vivera Inks and enhanced media compatibility, this leading printing system allows photographers to be up to 30 percent more productive¹, helping them succeed in the increasingly competitive professional photography market.

Magnum photographer Carl Dekeyzer said, "There is no time wasted waiting around for proofs with the HP Photosmart Pro B9180. As well as demonstrating impressive print speeds, the new system delivers prints at an affordable cost per page. The outstanding image quality and the precise and consistent colours allow me to select those images that will be best suited to display or sale."

Drawing on HP's heritage in the graphics and commercial printing market, this efficient, powerful new printer produces high quality, instant dry, durable, waterproof prints that resist fading for up to 200 years, a new benchmark in photography.²

The newly designed printing system features HP's proprietary scalable printing technology for increased productivity, versatility and affordable cost per page, along with eight individual pigment ink cartridges, four two-colour printheads and a range of professional photo and fine art papers. The high-capacity ink cartridges allow professional photographers to print up to 80 A3+ prints or 840 10 x15 cm photos³. In addition, HP Pro print plug-in for Adobe Photoshop, and a host of ICC profiles in the printer software, deliver precise, predictable colour quality, print after print.

Professional quality papers

For photographers without large format printing facilities, producing A3+ prints that meet professional requirements is a challenge. Industry leading HP Advanced Photo Paper solves this problem. Featuring a retail quality finish, in glossy and satin-matt, customers will appreciate the durability of the thick, heavy paper. The paper's instant dry porous coating allows immediate handling without smudging, helping to create a more productive and efficient studio.

Additionally, new A3+ HP digital fine art papers, based on HP's professional large format media range, provide photographers with the materials needed to display their work in a gallery. Four types of papers – Watercolour, Aquarella Art, Smooth Fine Art and Artist Matte Canvas – provide professionals with greater choice when printing work for display.

Henry Wilhelm, Wilhelm Imaging Research Inc., (WIR) said, "With WIR Display Permanence Ratings of more than 200 years, prints made with the HP Photosmart Pro B9180 A3+ Photo Printer, Vivera pigment inks, and select HP glossy photo papers and matte fine art papers⁴ set a new benchmark for overall colour print permanence. When displayed framed under glass, prints made with the new printer, inks, and papers are among the longest-lasting prints in the entire 130-year history of colour photography.

"To put this achievement in perspective, displayed prints made with the HP B9180 and Vivera pigment inks are five times more stable than the best of all current traditional dye-based silver halide colour prints, Fujicolor Crystal Archive prints (WIR rated at 40 years) -- and more than ten times longer lasting than Kodak Edge Generations and Royal Generations prints (WIR rated at 19 years)."

Industry leading image quality with HP Vivera Inks

The eight high-capacity HP 38 Pigment Ink Cartridges, with new patented waterproof⁵ HP Vivera inks, deliver durable life-like colour for professional portraits, landscapes, proofing and fine art prints. The new ink cartridges have been engineered to deliver consistent results with the HP Photosmart Pro B9180 A3+ Photo Printer.

In addition, the four HP 70 dual-colour printheads feature 8,448 nozzles for precise, consistent drop placement, enhanced colour accuracy and prints that will more closely represent the image seen through the lens and on the PC.

HP's third generation grey ink creates colour as well as black and white prints with smooth transitions from one shade to the next. Neutral tones are consistent, subtle and controlled. Photographers can select from the two types of black inks: photo black for high contrast black and white photos with deep, rich blacks, or matte black for printing onto HP's range of fine art papers.

For enhanced productivity, photographers can individually replace the printheads and single ink cartridges, which are available in 27ml sizes as required. This will help small studios keep costs in line with usage.

Professional performance and versatility

The HP Photosmart Pro B9180 A3+ Photo Printer delivers ICC profiling options for perfect colour reproduction on a variety of standard and specialised media. Professional photos will look just as they did through the lens or on the calibrated monitor, with precision colour consistency for the highest quality prints. Colour control and accurate photo proofs are also available for a variety of HP and non-HP media as well as digital fine art paper.

Photographers can immediately print their photos and proofs with HP's fast, professional printing technology without having to rely on a photo lab. Proofs can be printed in less than 2 minutes for A3+ prints and less than ten seconds for 10 x15cm prints, a new speed benchmark⁶. The printer is perfectly suited to master the most challenging photo printing tasks as well as the everyday printing of documents.

PC, Mac or mixed environments requiring multiple connectivity options can utilise the USB-high speed and Ethernet networking capabilities. Software tools include Adobe Photoshop plug-in and optional raster image processor (RIP) software for professional colour management.

"Designed for professional photographers, the new HP Photosmart Pro B9180 A3+ Photo Printer and specifically developed supplies enable photographers to produce prints of the very highest quality," said John Duckworth, Consumer Printers Category Manager, HP UK&I. "Its new printing system is ideal for professional and studio usage, providing the tools for photographers to realise their artistic vision."

The Photosmart Pro B9180 A3+ Photo Printer will be available in June priced at £499 inc VAT (price subject to change)

About HP

HP is a technology solutions provider to consumers, businesses and institutions globally. The company's offerings span IT infrastructure, global services, business and home computing, and imaging and printing. For the four fiscal quarters ended Jan. 31, 2006, HP revenue totaled \$87.9 billion. More information about HP (NYSE, Nasdaq: HPQ) is available at www.hp.com.

¹ Based on December 2005 competitive landscape and similarly priced printers, HP internal testing

² "When displayed framed under glass, prints made with the HP Photosmart Pro B9180 printer, Vivera pigment inks, and select HP papers have WIR Display Permanence and Album/Dark Storage Ratings of more than 200 years and are among the longest-lasting prints in the entire 130-year history of colour photography. Tested HP papers include HP Advanced Photo Paper, HP Hahnemühle® Smooth Fine Art Paper, HP Hahnemühle® Watercolor Paper, and HP Matte Photo Paper." Henry Wilhelm, www.wilhelm-research.com

³ Preliminary yield estimate: Approximately 80 A3+ prints or 840 10x15cm photos. Actual yield depends on specific use. For tested results by printer, see www.hp.com/go/pageyield

⁴ Tested HP papers include HP Advanced Photo Paper, HP Hahnemühle® Smooth Fine Art Paper, HP Hahnemühle® Watercolor Paper, and HP Matte Photo Paper. Additional HP papers are also being tested with Vivera pigment inks. For test details visit, www.wilhelm-research.com

⁵ Waterproof with HP Advanced Photo paper; water resistant with other HP-recommended papers. Based on HP image permanence lab's comprehensive water resistance testing. Please contact HP for further details.

⁶ Based upon HP internal testing

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