



# A BUYERS GUIDE TO CAD

A step by step guide to finding a large format printer that best fits your needs

**Canon**

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# WHICH LARGE FORMAT PRINTER DO YOU NEED?

Before you invest in a large format printer, it is better to have a clear understanding of the requirements you will have. Considering the answers to the following 12 questions will help you appreciate how Canon's imagePROGRAF family will meet them, as well as determine which product is your best fit.



## TA Series



**imagePROGRAF  
TA-20**  
24"



**imagePROGRAF  
TA-30**  
36"

## TM Series



**imagePROGRAF  
TM-200 & 205**  
24"



**imagePROGRAF  
TM-300 & 305**  
36"

## TX Series



**imagePROGRAF  
TX-2000**  
24"



**imagePROGRAF  
TX-3000**  
36"



**imagePROGRAF  
TX-4000**  
44"



## 12 QUESTIONS TO FIND YOUR IDEAL IMAGEPROGRAF PRINTER

1. How large is your print volume?
2. Which paper format do you mainly require?
3. What tasks should your new printer perform?
4. What print quality do you require?
5. How fast do you need your printer to be?
6. How important is efficient consumption?
7. What file formats do you need to print?
8. How much does connectivity and control matter?
9. What software and tools will benefit you?
10. How important is ease of use?
11. What additional services might be useful?
12. How important are environmental credentials?



### 1. HOW LARGE IS YOUR PRINT VOLUME?

First, you should estimate the amount of printing you will need to do.

If you require only 2 to 3 prints per day, or up to 100 per month, we recommend the imagePROGRAF TA Series. With its lower purchase price, it offers the optimum value for money.

If however your needs are for over 100 prints per month, the imagePROGRAF TM or TX Series are a better choice thanks to their higher production speeds – designed to ensure you never miss another deadline.



### 2. WHAT PAPER FORMAT DO YOU MAINLY REQUIRE?

Every imagePROGRAF printer is capable of borderless printing with a width of 61 cm, which is ideal for A1. If you usually print in A0 format, then you can choose from either a device offering a printing width of 91.4 cm or one with a printing width of 111.8 cm.

Another decisive feature for rapid production is printing length. All the imagePROGRAF models can print 18 m from the roll as standard and, using a RIP, the imagePROGRAF TM printers can print an impressive 100 m in length. Particularly productive are the imagePROGRAF TX models which incorporate a RIP, enabling prints up to 350 m (2x 175 m) in length, thanks to their second roll.



### 3. WHAT TASKS SHOULD YOUR NEW PRINTER PERFORM?



#### Printing

All imagePROGRAF printers produce crisp text and high-precision lines, making them ideal for CAD drawings. They can also effortlessly render photographs in high quality and borderless printing is also simple thanks to an integrated cutting function.



#### Scanning and copying

If you want your printing system to scan and print simultaneously, it's best to opt for a multifunctional printer (MFP) with a connected scanner, from the imagePROGRAF TM or TX Series.

From design drawings and newspapers right through to drawings with marker pen corrections, these large format MFPs can scan all your originals quickly and reliably, so you can digitise your entire archive with ease.

Some all-in-one versions of the imagePROGRAF TM and TX Series printers are paired with a powerful PC and controlled via a touch-screen display.



### 4. WHAT PRINT QUALITY DO YOU REQUIRE?

If you require absolute precision from your printing system, the imagePROGRAF Series printers are an ideal fit.

Every printer has a high performance print head with 15,360 nozzles and a systems architecture that puts your data onto paper using a resolution of 2,400 x 1,200 dpi.

Printouts are absolutely true to size, matching your design with millimetre precision. The matt black pigment ink guarantees crisp lines and ensures even the smallest fonts are highly legible, with a line accuracy of ± 0.1%.


Gradients are smooth and harmonious with soft transitions – even neutral grey tones look great.

Prints are always impressive due to their luminosity, colour fidelity and naturalness. In addition, they are resistant to UV light so they do not fade, lasting a period of up to 60 years.

Water splashes and even rough handling on building sites have little impact. And if special paper is used, you can even make sure your prints are weatherproof.



Scanning with the imagePROGRAF MFPs



**For general use**

MFP Lei for originals up to 96.5 cm wide, 276.8 cm long and 0.5 mm thick.



**For specialist use**

MFP T36 for originals up to 96.5 cm wide, 15.2 m long and 2 mm thick.

**Need a bit more?**

You can upgrade to the unique dual roll feed for unwinding and taking up prints for maximum productivity at any time. Plus, a stacker handling up to 100 A1 sheets is available to keep everything in order.





Certified for economical power consumption and durability: the large format imagePROGRAF printers from Canon.



### 5. HOW FAST DO YOU NEED YOUR PRINTER TO BE?

Each printer within the imagePROGRAF family deliver prints quickly and reliably and can do so without borders on a wide variety of papers, and is able to cut them directly without any manual intervention.

The print speeds attainable depend on the model, print mode selected, and the media used, with the highest speeds achieved using high-speed mode and normal paper.

Even the entry-level imagePROGRAF TA-20 printer can deliver an A1 printout in 32 seconds, which equates to 56.3 m<sup>2</sup> per hour. By comparison, the high-end imagePROGRAF TX-4000 prints an A1 sheet in a mere 18.5 seconds and produces an impressive 97.3 m<sup>2</sup> per hour.



### 6. HOW IMPORTANT IS EFFICIENCY?

Canon's advanced FINE technology ensures no ink is wasted, with microfine droplets of pigment ink placed precisely on the paper by the print head's nozzles.

To produce an A1 printout in high-speed mode on normal paper, the imagePROGRAF printers only consume between 0.09 and 0.15 ml of ink. Since every last drop of ink from the cartridge is used, there's no wastage nor residue to be disposed of.

Power consumption is equally efficient with low consumption in both operation and sleep mode. This has enabled each printer to be certified with the Energy Star and to have achieved a silver rating with EPEAT, the global eco-label for IT products.



### 7. WHAT FILE FORMATS DO YOU NEED TO PRINT?

PDF files can be generated as an exchange format in all applications. The imagePROGRAF printers process them perfectly for optimal results. Thanks to HP-GL/2 support, you can also print directly from a CAD/GIS environment. And you can even print easily and directly from Microsoft Office programs using a free Canon plug-in.



### 8. HOW MUCH DOES CONNECTIVITY AND CONTROL MATTER?

In general, all imagePROGRAF printers can connect via ethernet or wireless network. For additional flexibility, you can also use the cloud in conjunction with your smartphone or tablet to print, even while out of the office. The imagePROGRAF TA and TM Series also enable you to print easily using AirPrint.

If scanning or printing onto or via a USB stick is helpful, you can do this with one of the MFP versions of our imagePROGRAF devices.



Print large format posters and banners directly from MS Office programs with the free Canon Plug-In for Office.





Changing the ink cartridges on an imagePROGRAF printer couldn't be simpler – and printing can continue while you do it.



Quiet operation means no unwanted interruptions when you are working.



## 9. WHAT SOFTWARE AND TOOLS WILL BENEFIT YOU?

Canon provides a comprehensive, free software suite for its imagePROGRAF family to make work easier:

- **Direct Print & Share:** preview PDF, JPG, TIF and HP-GL/2 files before printing and without opening the original application
- **Accounting Manager:** undertake efficient cost management for your print jobs
- **PosterArtist:** create professional posters and banners using templates and royalty-free images and graphics
- **Free Layout plus:** achieve optimal layout of files on the printed sheet
- **Media Configuration Tool:** create and save paper profiles and material settings to save time
- **Device Management Console:** manage multiple imagePROGRAF printers on the network



## 10. HOW IMPORTANT IS EASE OF USE?

One of the defining characteristics of the imagePROGRAF printers is their user friendliness, minimising operator involvement while making things as intuitive as possible, right across the printing process.

A clear, easy to understand display makes operation at the device effortless.

Every printer is designed so that it can be operated from the front at all times. This makes, for example, changing ink cartridges easy for everyone. When ink does run out, the cartridge can even be changed without interrupting operation, thanks to the imagePROGRAF's handy sub ink tanks.

Paper is also conveniently loaded from the front and the imagePROGRAF TX Series even loads the paper and aligns it for you automatically.

When it comes to output, the imagePROGRAF printers can create borderless prints to your required size without any time-consuming, manual cutting needed.

Even the print head can be replaced, if necessary, without ever involving a service technician.



## 11. WHAT ADDITIONAL SERVICES MIGHT BE USEFUL?

With Canon's eService you can take advantage of a new type of support package that requires no initial hardware outlay – you simply pay based on what you print each month. It ensures you will enjoy automatic ink replenishment based on your usage – so you're never left short – plus in depth device monitoring and the highest levels of support and maintenance.



## 12. HOW IMPORTANT ARE ENVIRONMENTAL CREDENTIALS?

All the imagePROGRAF printers are Energy Star and EPEAT Silver certified. This is thanks to their lower environmental impact than comparable products, as they require less power when in use and have a longer service life.

Every printer is quiet during operation and in idle mode, with the TA and TM Series being especially quiet, printing at just 42 dB(A). This makes them suitable for small offices where just a bit of excess noise might be intrusive.

The pigment ink used within Canon's cartridges is solvent-free, so there are no harmful substances to consider nor unpleasant emissions. The imagePROGRAF printers also keep on printing until the last drop of ink is used, so there's no wastage and no residue to be disposed of. You can also opt to use recycled or FSC® certified paper as an additional, environmentally responsible measure.



To find out more about Canon's LFP printers visit:  
<https://www.canon-europe.com/lfp>

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