BUYERS LABORATORY INC.

First Look

A BLI New Product Brief

Toshiba e-STUDIO163

16 PPM Copy • Print • Scan



Features

MSRP: Base unit \$2,195 Std. / Max. Paper Capacity: 350/600 sheets Monthly duty cycle: 20,000 copies TWAIN scanning Windows GDI printing

Noteworthy

- Coin controller
- Highest document feeder capacity among competitive models
- Ledger-size copying and printing
- High PM cycle and drum yield
- Toner recycling system
- Starter toner kit

Watch for upcoming Field Test and Lab Test reports on this product for thorough, hands-on analysis.

Target Market

The e-STUDI0163 is a non-networked device designed for small business and executive offices of up to five users that are looking to replace their analog systems. According to Andrew Kim, product brand manager for Toshiba America Business Solutions (TABS), "the e-STUDI0163 is a 16-ppm unit intended for users making the transition from analog copying to digital copying. Users in vertical markets such as hospitals, law firms and in doctor's offices, will benefit from the unit's ledger-size paper capability as well as its eSort and scan once/print many digital features." He also said that the unit can be placed in convenience stores or pharmacies because of its Coin Controller feature. After purchasing the harness option, these types of businesses can offer document copying to their customers.

Competitors

Kim told BLI that the unit competes against Kyocera's KM-1650, Sharp's AR-M162 IMAGER and Ricoh's Aficio 2016. Other competitors include the Canon imageRUNNER 2016 and the Konica Minolta bizhub 180.

WHAT'S NEW

Unlike its predecessor, the Toshiba e-STUDIO161, the unit is a Toshiba-manufactured product. It offers standard copying and local printing and scanning via a USB port. In addition, this device uses separate toner, drum and developer cartridges, thereby eliminating the premature disposal of one of the components which commonly occurs with units that use an all-in-one print cartridge. The toner cartridge is user-replaceable after 24,000 impressions, but a service call is not necessary until the first PM of 72,000 impressions. As a result, users producing 4,000 copies per month, which is what TABS expects for a unit in this range, would not require service for one year and six months. Further, the Toshiba-manufactured cartridges come with an integrated circuit (IC) chip, which detects if toner is low and presents this information on the control panel display. Users can produce output with a non-OEM cartridge, but will not know when toner is low as an "Empty" message is continually displayed until the toner runs out, and image quality may be adversely affected. Also noteworthy is that the unit features toner recycling

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so there's no waste toner to dispose of, minimizing environmental impact and reducing downtime. According to Toshiba, the e-STUDIO163's image quality is significantly improved over that of its predecessor because the unit uses Toshiba's new Serial Filter processing, which improves image quality by sharpening the definition of text and line art.

While the standard cartridges yield 24,000 impressions, a starter toner kit that comes with the unit produces up to 5,900 impressions. The eSort feature, which requires the optional 64 MB of RAM and the optional ADF, enables users to collate sets. The Coin Controller feature, mentioned above, enables businesses to deploy the unit for public copying. In addition, the unit's control panel is two times bigger than its predecessor, making it easier to read and navigate the number key buttons. According to Kim, the unit also uses fewer mechanical service components.

FEATURES

A Windows GDI print driver and TWAIN scanning enable users to print and scan from their PCs via the unit's USB port. Users place a document in the ADF or on the glass, and then launch the bundled Toshiba Viewer software program on the PC to scan the document to the desktop. The unit comes standard with one 250-sheet paper drawer and a 100-sheet bypass tray. Standard memory is 16 MB, upgradeable to 80 MB. Additionally, the scan once/print many feature allows users to scan an original once to make up to 999 copies of the original, and access codes restrict unauthorized users from making copies, for example.

OPTIONS

Options for the e-STUDIO163 include a platen cover, a 100-sheet ADF and a 250-sheet paper drawer that each accommodates paper sizes up to 11" x 17". Also available are the 64 MB of RAM for eSort and the Coin Controller Harness.

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