



Standing on the Shoulders of Engines

Brother DCP-7040 Laser Multi-Function Copier

BY ALVIN SOON

The Brother DCP-7040 is a mono laser printer for the SOHO/SMB crowd that needs a machine to copy, print and scan. It's one of the new 7000 series of five printers designed for Small Office and Home Office, Small and Medium-sized businesses.

The DCP-7040 is the second up from Brother's entry-level machines and just below the office workhorses with the MFC prefix. Its print engine, like the other new 7000 series printers, is based on the BLI award-winning Brother HL-2170W's engine. We take it for a test drive to see how it measures up.

Now it's not just the engine, the new 7000 series of printers all share the same distinctive lower half that looks just like the HL-2170. The DCP-7040 shares the same colors with the HL-2170, coming in light gray with dark gray accents. In case you're wondering where

the output tray slots out, there's actually no output tray per se, look at the cavity between the lower printer body and the upper scanner portion and that's the output tray.

There's a catch that hinges on the edge of the opening, and at first glance we didn't think it looked secure enough to hold our printouts. But surprisingly the little catch and the small opening serves its purpose quite well, as all our printouts sat snugly in the alcove without any springing loose.

The manual buttons are arrayed neatly along a near perfect horizontal line, when you want to copy for example, your hand travels from left to right, point to point from the Number of Copies button, trailing through the OK button to end at the Start button. The two-line LCD display is small but standard for business printers.

The mono graphic prints are rich in tones and detail at the midway 300dpi, bump the settings up to HQ1200dpi and there's more contrast in the printouts, probably comes with more detail but you'd be hard-pressed to spot the difference in fine lines with the naked eye. Switch the printing mode from General to Graphics and suddenly you'll find a lot more contrast in your prints, something you won't need for regular office printouts, but great for imaging. Otherwise, we suggest the toner-saving Toner Save mode; with text you'll hardly spot the difference while graphics are noticeably lighter, and you'll be able to print more pages on the same toner cartridge.

Text prints are clear and clean, zooming up to take a closer look it's revealed that they're well-defined and cleanly-edged. Scanning is surprisingly solid for a business-focused printer, 150dpi scans were fast and turned out beautifully for both text and graphics.

The DCP-7040 is not perfect, we've met a few operational errors – once we canceled a job and all it would print afterwards were blanks, a quick restart solved that. Another time we had a manual duplex job's page numbering jump, but other than that duplex printing is a breeze. Minor hiccups aside, the DCP-7040 is no less than a fine printer, with zippy print speeds for great quality printouts and low cost.

SPECIFICATIONS

Print	Monthly Duty Cycle	Resolution	Scan	Price
Mono Laser	10,000 pages	2400 x 600dpi	600 x 2400 dpi	\$5398

Front Side Bus: 200MHz-700MHz

Expansion Slots: 2 x PCIe x 16 slots (PCI Express Bus specification v2.0 compliant), 1 x PCIe x 4 slot (PCI Express Bus specification v1.0 compliant), 1 x PCIe x 1 slot (PCI Express Bus specification v1.0 compliant), 3 x 32-bit PCI slots (PCI 2.3 compliant)

Storage: Intel ICH9R Southbridge, JMicron JMB363 PCIe to SATA and PATA host controller

Audio: Bernstein audio module (Azalia)

Networking: 1 x Marvell 88E8052 PCIe Gigabit Ethernet, 1 x Marvell 88E8053 PCIe Gigabit Ethernet

Other I/O Ports: 1 x Floppy connector, 1 x Ultra ATA IDE connector, 8 x SATA connectors, 12 x USB 2.0 ports, 2 x Firewire-400 ports, 2 x RJ45 LAN ports, 8-Channel Audio I/O ports, 1 x Optical S/PDIF output, 2 x Coaxial S/PDIF I/O jacks, 1 x COM port header, 1 x Bernstein audio module connector, 1 x mini-DIN-6 PS/2 keyboard port, 1 x mini-DIN-6 PS/2 mouse port

Website: www.dfi.com

HWM'S VERDICT

Physique: **8.5**

Features: **8.0**

Print Speed: **9.0**

Print Quality: **9.0**

Value: **9.0**

9.0
Out of 10

Despite the occasional hiccup, the DCP-7040 is a fine MFP with beautiful printouts and scans.



hours
Copies are less defined but still clear.

hours
Text prints are clear and fine.



Graphic prints give you a rich range of tones and details.

Task	Timing
10 A4 pages of black text	28 seconds
10 A4 pages of text with colored graphics	28 seconds
One A4 copy (ADF)	10 seconds
One A4 scan (150dpi)	8 seconds
8 A4 pages of text with mono graphics (PDF)	24 seconds
One A4 Photodisc print	5 seconds
One A4 grayscale photo	5 seconds

*For print tasks, timing started when the printer started to feed paper and stopped when the last page was printed. 80gsm A4 paper was used for document printing. Documents were printed with quality set at Normal (600dpi). Timings may vary with different system configurations.