

## PRINTERS and PLOTTERS

Printer	Type	Description
Dot-Matrix	Impact	Cheap, small and noisy. Will print graphics. This is old technology but is still used because of the ability to produce multiple copies (carbonised paper). You will see them in Visa receipt machines, ATMs... Usually only monochrome print. Printing speeds measured in lines per minute. Characters produced by small pins being fired against a ribbon of ink to leave an impression on the page.
Daisy wheel	Impact	Again older technology. Noisy but very good quality output. Can only print the characters that are contained on the print-head. Will not print graphical images. Usually only monochrome print. Printing speeds measured in lines per minute. Characters produced by a small hammer being fired at an engraved plate which strikes a ribbon of ink.
Inkjet	Non-Impact	Quick and relatively quiet. Printing speeds measured in pages per minute. Good quality text and graphics. Colour usual, although cost of ink can be high. Characters formed by ink being squirted at the page. Cheap. Good quality for printing onto photographic paper
Laser	Non-impact	Quick and quiet – faster than inkjet. printing speeds measured in pages per minute. Good quality text and graphics but cannot print onto photographic paper. Works as a photocopier would and uses toner and not ink. Colour and mono common although toner for colour can be expensive.
Plotter		
	Flat bed	Draws a picture by having moving pens over both axes. Size of bed determines size of paper, but very, very large paper sizes possible.
	Drum	Paper moves over a barrel for one axis and pens move over second axis. Paper size can be very large eg banners....