

Product Information

The Lyson Daylight Darkroom System



The true solution for digital black & white inkjet printing

Printing high quality monochrome images using a normal color ink set on an ink jet printer has always been a difficult task. The standard CMYK color process that most models employ is very difficult to balance throughout the levels of black in a monochrome image and color defects are normally present within the gray scale. Basically, if a neutral black is achieved for shadow detail then magenta or cyan creeps into the mid tones etc. Around five years ago, Lyson addressed this problem with the introduction of the first ink jet inks specifically designed for black and white printing, the Quad Black ink range. This consists of ink sets that contain four or six dilutions of the same black ink and, by using ICC profiles and Photoshop settings, true monochrome images can be produced using the standard OEM print driver software. Initially, the Quad Black range included three separate ink sets – warm, neutral and cool, and changing between each tone required swapping out the inks in a printer. Quad Black was quickly followed up by Small Gamut; an ink set that provides a degree of tonal control without changing inks. Both Quad Black and Small Gamut have set the standards for monochrome ink jet printing and are used by many thousands of photographers Worldwide.

The recent introduction of seven and now eight color ink jet models has expanded the possibilities for black and white printing even further. The extra channels available on these new machines make it possible to achieve even more levels of gray and toning effects. However, it became quite apparent to Lyson that the limiting factor in fully utilizing these additional channels is the OEM supplied printer driving software bundles as they are designed ostensibly for color imaging. Yes, good results can be achieved with Quad Black or Small Gamut inks on these machines with the OEM software, but with a true monochrome print driver, the output is simply stunning. Lyson began work on developing a special black and white print driver along with a new proprietary media coating technology to provide photographers with what they have always wanted from monochrome ink jet printing – the ability to accurately mirror traditional darkroom techniques including silver printing. The result of this development program is the Lyson Daylight Darkroom system, a combination of inks, media and print driver software that enables a standard photo quality inkjet printer to produce black and white images second to none.



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Lyson Daylight Darkroom inks

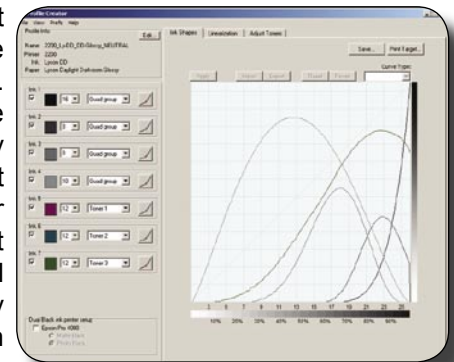


The Lyson Quad Black ink sets are renowned for their quality and Longevity. Independent testing of these inks carried out by Wilhelm Imaging research indicates an estimated display life of in excess of 100 years in average indoor display conditions. The Daylight Darkroom system uses a new seven ink combination of the Quad Black ink set that enables users to produce images in a variety of tonal effects from warm through neutral to cool. The Lyson Daylight Darkroom inks are dye based which runs against the recent trend towards pigments in photographic ink jet printing. However, with the proven longevity of Lyson's exclusive black dye technology rivaling most pigment ink sets, the benefits of using dye inks in monochrome printing can be fully exploited – deep, rich blacks with a D-max of over 3 (the best pigment blacks can only achieve around 1.8) and the ability to print on gloss media without bronzing (currently

impossible with Pigments). Basically, the Lyson Daylight Darkroom inks are the only product available that can mimic traditional silver halide processes on the surfaces that photographers want to use.

The Lyson Daylight Darkroom Software

A specially developed proprietary software package that replaces the standard Epson print driver on the user's host computer, the Lyson Daylight Darkroom software gives complete control over every ink channel on the printer to provide absolute continuous tone printing. The way that the driver and ink system work in conjunction with each other means that the printer is using a minimum of four shades of black and a maximum of seven shades at any one time during printing. The software package has two distinct but linked modules – Print Pro and Profile Creator. Print Pro provides all the normal features of a standard print driver with a few useful extras including image sizing and rotation, and a print preview screen. Print Pro also accepts two separate profiles that can be infinitely blended together – a very useful feature for tweaking the final look of the image. Profile Creator enables a user to quickly make or edit their own profiles for Print Pro using some simple test target prints. Linearization



The Lyson Darkroom Media range



A full range of media that has been fully tested with the Lyson Daylight Darkroom inks for guaranteed longevity. The range includes multiple finishes of fine art paper, and the new 320 gsm Darkroom gloss and 220 gsm Darkroom textured matte. These two papers mimic high end fiber based silver prints and provide a result previously unachievable from ink jet printing. The proprietary Lyson coating employed encapsulates the Daylight Darkroom inks to increase longevity even further. Independent life testing is currently under way but we confidently expect the Darkroom coating/Daylight Darkroom ink combination to far exceed the currently tested 100+ years indoor display life.

For first time users, the Daylight Darkroom system is supplied in starter kits that include everything necessary to convert a printer to run the Daylight Darkroom inks, along with the option to run normal pre-filled cartridges or a Lyson bulk ink feed system. Each starter kit contains the Daylight Darkroom software, a set of cleaning cartridges for removal of the normal color inks from the printer, a set of Daylight Darkroom ink cartridges or a Lyson bulk ink feed unit and 4 oz bottles of ink, and a 50 sheet pack of Darkroom Gloss paper 8.5" x 11". Starter kits are available for the following printer models:-

Cartridge based starter kits

Epson Stylus Photo 1270/1280/2000p
Epson Stylus Photo R200/220
Epson Stylus Photo 2200
Epson Stylus Pro 4000
Epson Stylus Pro 7600/9600

Bulk Ink feed based starter kits

Epson Stylus Photo 1270/1280/2000p
Epson Stylus Photo R200/220
Epson Stylus Photo 2200



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