

mobilepc

FAST-MOVING COMPUTING

REVIEWS

HP Deskjet 450wbt

TRULY WIRELESS PRINTING, BUT WITH A WAIT



Portability often brings compromises. But this printer from HP offers quality printing in a reasonably sized package, making it a good choice for anyone who needs good-looking photos or documents on the road.



BEST FEATURE Bluetooth printing lets you cut the cord

WORST FEATURE Printing isn't a speedy process

The Deskjet 450wbt is enticingly designed, with a silver top cover that swings back to become the paper tray. There's no tray for output, so you do need to make sure the coast is clear for your pages. The tray handles any media, from 4 x 6-inch photo paper to 8.5 x 14-inch legal sheets. To make sure small

photo paper is properly aligned, a special slot folds down across the paper feeder. Print quality is generally very good. In our photo quality test, the images were sharp and well saturated, although the reds seemed to predominate slightly. HP rates the printer at five pages per minute for text and three per minute for text and color graphics, but, as usual, those are highly optimistic numbers. In our tests, we got between one and one-and-a-half pages a minute in both modes. Text was very sharp and readable down to six-point type at the normal quality setting.

This version of the Deskjet 450 ships with a Bluetooth CF card, which allows for wireless printing. Using a Pocket PC, we printed contact information from the handheld in seconds with just a couple taps of the stylus. You can also connect the printer to a computer with the included parallel port cable or with a USB cable, which unfortunately is not included.

The drivers install easily on both Mac and Windows machines, and they

provide a ton of options for tweaking the printer. Overall, this is a fine printer from a company known for printing, and a worthy addition to its product lineup. —Mark McClusky



A slot folds down to hold 4 x 6-inch photo paper.



The battery pack and Bluetooth card reside on the rear of the printer.

HP Deskjet 450wbt		\$349
Weight: 4.4 pounds; 4.8 pounds with battery pack	Size: 13.3 x 7.3 x 3.2 in. with battery pack	
Specs: 1,200 x 1,200 dpi black and white; 4,800 x 1,200 dpi color; Bluetooth card; lithium-ion battery pack		
www.hp.com		