



# FLAAR Reports

Nicholas Hellmuth

Updated JULY 2004

## Satisfied Readers of FLAAR Reports





I have read a number of Flaar reports in the past and based my decision to purchase the Epson 7600 on them. I am now looking for bigger, better, and faster, which is why I ordered "All" the Flaar reports. Most important is image quality I need photo lab quality results not just for my clients, but being the artist I am my own worst critic.

**June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2004. R.D.**

Thank you very much for the reports. I purchased a Tally T8204 from the good reviews you gave this printer.

**May 31, 2004. C # 27269**

Your reports on the advantages and drawbacks of various equipment are great! I used your thoughts as part of my decision to buy the used Eversmart.

**May 19, 2004. P.H. #26922**

Thank you for your reply. I have already purchased the Fine Art Glicee report set and have found it very helpfull. I'm very keen to get hold of the report on the HP5500 printer, as this is the one I believe I will be purchasing.

**May 12, 2004. I.T. #26565.2**

It seems that the HP5500 is in general the best printers.I have received your first level report on the HP5000UV and I am about purchasing one now.

**May 9, 2004. A.G. #26606**

We've recently purchased and downloaded your reports on wide format printers and have decided to purchase the HP 5500.

**March 1, 2004 RB #24684**

We've recently purchased and downloaded your reports on wide format printers and have decided to purchase the HP 5500. We are thinking of getting an external RIP, but need additional info as we're not sure which one works best for our purposes.

**March 1, 2004 RB #24684**

Looking into buying an epson 7600 but am now thinking of the canon after looking at your first report. I am wanting to mainly produce canvas prints from customers photo-graphs, as well as short run giclee prints for artists.

**March 3, 2004 J.S. #24725**



FLAAR staff trained in wide format printer markets and applications receive and answer incoming e-mails by sending out Abstracts and Reports.



Thank you so much for the reports! We hope to make a decision on which to purchase this should be valuable information.

**February 27, 2004 K.O. #24592**

After reading your reports, we made the decision to purchase the Canon ImagePROGRAF W8200. We should be receiving this wide-format printer in roughly one week.

**February 24, 2004 D.W. #24446.3**

Our office purchased the HP Designjet 5000 UV about 2 years ago. At that time, I used several of your reports to help with my decision.

**February 11, 2004 L.C. #24159**

I purchased reports from you and it has helped in our selection of the HP printer.

**January 29, 2004 J.H. #23877**

Thank you again for helping me about 2 years ago when i was looking to replace my novajet III . After your correspondance and taking to jonathan kecht at color dna i purchased a hp5000psuv from him and have been producing signs and banners with great results.

I am now in the market for a printer that will produce outdoor graphics without having to preform a lamination or liquid uv spray which i am doing now to for the hp output. My wish list includes: print on uncoated materials, contour cut for decals,2-3years outdoors without post treatment, 36"-48" platform and good quality output(i would rate the hp5000 at best mode to be very high quality). My main use of this new printer would be short run small decals, wraps, banners and signs.

I would appreciate your thoughts on the 3 i am considering. All 3 companies are longtime players with credibility with mutoh being more unkown because or rebranding of their products.

**Hugh S., #21995, October 16, 2003**

Thank you very much for the invaluable information you have provided on fine giclee art reproduction.... I have received a plethora of information that is making my eyes sore and my brain swell. I am coming closer to a decision on a printer ; I believe it will be the HP 5500 series.

**Nick T., # 21863, October 13, 2003**

We purchased a 5000ps a couple of years ago based primarily on your reports. Just wanted to get an update. We thank you for your help. Great machine!

**Davis S.,#21032, September 2, 2003**



With your help I purchased a HP 5000 printer 2 years ago and I have never regretted the purchase ! Thanks a lot. I am interested in the mimaki JV3 160 S. What have you heard about this printer ?

**Edwin M., #20854, August 23, 2003**

Thank you for the letters for me about printers media and rips.I have no printer but I want to buy it. You reports very help me.Thank you

**Vladimir V., #20757, August 18, 2003**

I just wanted to drop you a note of thanks for your excellent website(s) and your independent reporting on large format printing. Following your advice, I have purchased a Colorspan Series XII 72" printer, and I am, so far, very satisfied with the results. I would be more than happy to cite your website, if you granted me permission to use some of your text (with proper attribution and a link to your site, of course). If you have any further resources that will help me get the most of my printer and ripstation, I would be happy to purchase these reports from you. Thanks and best regards

**Martin B., #19092, August 4, 2003**



FLAAR support staff answering incoming e-mails by sending out appropriate abstracts, Reports, and information. FLAAR currently has 20 employees at two universities.

Hello, I think your page/organization its really great, sadly I buy my printer before I read your web page, so , now I have a X2 colorgrafx, and Im really dissappointed. The xerox service here is horrible.

**Miguel N., June 30, 2003**

Thank you so much for sending the reports along. I spent most of Friday evening reading them and they were most informative. Your site is invaluable for the little artist such as myself who has few resources and many decisions to make about so many aspects of printing an art print. You certainly were right about the Epson 7600 needing a whole set of new inks. Of course the salesman where I bought it didn't mention that. I read it in your report and opened the box Saturday afternoon to read the fine print in the manual. I will be in touch, and I hope that you will be too. Thank you also for the referral to Parrot. They contacted me and I'm hoping to get some good pricing on media and inks.

**Lynn M., #19481, June 24, 2003**

Thanks a million. We received everything just fine. Isn't technology great when it works the way it should. We appreciate the timely response. We will certainly look up the premium reports. We are in process to upgrade from an HP5000 42" to a 5500 60" plus add a RIP and a laminator - it sounds like some of the premium reports could be helpful.

**Ron N., #18210, March 24, 2003**



Thank you so much for these reports. It has been very helpful as I have been looking at the HP Designjet 500ps and 800ps. I am sure we will proceed with purchase of one of those for our larger format needs. For super B size needs, I have been looking at the new HP DesignJet 20ps model. I know these are fairly new and you mention them briefly in your reports, however you don't say much about them. Have you had a chance to evaluate these and if so, what is your opinion on them?

**Craig W., #17748, February 20, 2003**

All of your pdf reports arrived in fine shape and are much appreciated. You make a convincing case for the HP 5000 printer and Scitex EverSmart scanners -- a bit rich for my budget, but used by some local photo-processors. Thanks very much for your continuing reportage, and for taking time to send me those reports.

**C. B., December 11, 2002**

"Thank you very much for the report on the HP 5000 printer. It was most useful in narrowing my choice for a large format printer. Till now in India the advice was to buy an EPSON for all fine art printing. I am keen to start in the business of printing paintings on canvas for sale. From the material on your website and all the reports that I have downloaded and read you have made life very easy and simple.

**Kapil S., #16855, December 3, 2002**

Thanks for the good information. I talked to an HP rep and he suggested that I use the HP Designjet 800.

**Jon W., #13672, October 16, 2002**

I appreciate very much the two excellent reports which on a quick scan seem to be just what I need. I know that I will visit you site often from now on, and I will of course tell many how excellent it is.

**Ciaran W., #16102, October 14, 2002**

Your reviews and reports already helped me decide on the HP Designjet 5500ps.

**James C., #15760, October 10, 2002**

Thank you so much for the PDFs. Especially the one on Inkjet Printers as Proofers will be very useful for us as we make our purchase decision.

**Barbara T., #15862, October 4, 2002**

I'm contemplating the purchase of the HP 5000. Thank you for providing this excellent resource.

**Bala K., #15346, October 2, 2002**



thank you for the information you have send me, i found the information very helpful, i am sure i will be in contact whit you, because i am planinig to buy a large inkjet printer

**Camilo G., # 15516, September 18, 2002**

I received your information. Thank you. At this moment, I am going to consider to invest in large format ink jet machine.

**Dijuana S., #15187, September 17, 2002**

Thank you very much for the info on the laminators. We will study and contact the people you have recom-  
mended.

**T. M., #15430, September 12, 2002**

Thank you for these reports. Although we haven't the needs of a large sign shop nor the desire to make a huge investment, your information should be helpful in making a decision.

**Shannon D., #15390, September 10, 2002**

I think the HP5000 will meet our needs. I have read many of your reports and they have been very helpful in sifting through all the info and hype.

**Peggie H., #15580, September 10, 2002**

Thank You for sending the reports and for the free reports on your sites. Your work on this is much appreciated and is helping me narrow down my decision.

**T. G., September 9, 2002**

Thanks for the report on fine art digital printers, (very helpful). I now need to identify a scanner that is suitable to scan original artwork.

**P. R., August 28, 2002**

I have received reports before and have found them useful in getting close to a purchasing decision. I would just like these few reports to present to my boss.

**David K., # 15039, Aug 21, 2002**



Nicholas and Ana Mercedes taking notes at a sign shop during their inspection of a ColorSpan printer. FLAAR Reports are based on real life experiences of actual printers at work (or failing to function). If you are about to buy a printer, it might help to know which brands and models do a good job after you unpack them.



I was in touch with you last year, when I received a lot of reports from you about this matter. I want to buy a large format printer HP 5000 42" UV and a Heidelberg Linoscan 1800 scanner.

**D.P., August 18, 2002**

Thank you for your reports, after reading them, we will be purchasing the Colorspan Esprit with the upgrade to 12 colors.

**S. F., #14645, August 18, 2002**

Thank you for your prompt and extremely informative response to my questions regarding printers and rips. Because of your apparent enthusiasm, when the time is right, even though I haven't seen any work done by the HP 5000, I will probably buy one. Thanks, this was very helpful-I think after reading this I'll go for a HP 5000PS instead of a 24".

**Julian T., #14607, August 1, 2002**

Thank you for all the info. I feel adequately armed to make the printer decision.

**Maggie G., #14353, July 22, 2002**

I have written to you before, and I thank you very much for the invaluable information that you have sent. At least the sent report helped narrow down my choices.

**Avi S., July 17, 2002**

I have to tell you folks: Thank GOD for you, or I'd really be wandering around in the dark. You've been my flashlight, and I've learned so much from your outstanding website. This stuff is overwhelming to a beginner like me, and you've already saved me from one disastrous decision

**Peter C., #14092, July 18, 2002**

A huge thank you for all the help and information regarding our likely purchase of large format printers I know that I will be in a position to make and informed decision

**G., July 10, 2002**

I love your web page here, I am going to use your reports to buy a printer, it is easy to use, informative and painless

**K.S, July 3, 2002**

Your site has incredible bits of stuff we need to read about because we want to buy a major printer for reproducing fine art. Thank you

**Barbara E., # 13879, June 26, 2002**



This is a quick note to say thank you for your valuable information. It will really help me make a wise and informed decision.

Thanks once again.

**Al K., #13676, June 25, 2002**

Thank you VERY MUCH !! I have received different reports and they where all very useful. Printers is a new subject to me and reading your reports gave some knowledge that helped me decide which printer to buy.

**Giglia G., #13625, June 21, 2002**

Thank you so much for the information you sent...I would be willing to compensate your organisation for what you have provided me...I truly appreciate your efforts, and the information you sent definitely is of great value to me.

**Carl J., #13400, June 18, 2002**

Hi Nicholas. I greatly appreciate all the information you have sent me regarding scanners and printers. Also, I just got a call from Dan Hunt at Parrot who said you contacted about my interest. He has referred me to a review of the new Epson 9600 which I will look at ASAP. Thank you!

**R. D., May 20, 2002**

Thank you so much for all of the documents you've sent, they have all been very helpful. I've decided to go with a HP5000 (new or a demo model)

**B. F., May 28, 2002**

I really enjoyed the two reports you already sent me ... They have given me a clear understand of some of the aspects of large format printing. After reading these reports and looking around, I believe the HP5000 is the printer I need. ...

Your site was one of the first I came across on the internet. Therefore I read your reports before looking at manufacturers sites. I think your site gives much more prudent information and a non biased opinion.

**A. B., #12044, April 27, 2002**

Reading and working on your reports we learned a lot about inkjet printers and decided to buy an HP 5000PS/62'. We are a design and printing company (ex alphagraphics franchisee for istanbul/turkey).... We really thank you very much for your help and interest.

**S. G., #11567, April 10, 2002**



FLAAR staff with the now more than 19,000 e-mails from corporations, government agencies, companies, and individuals who ask Dr Hellmuth for his suggestion of what printer, RIP, media, scanner, or digital camera to purchase. Overall, several million people have read FLAAR evaluations of digital imaging hardware and software since this program started several years ago.



Thank you so much for sending the reports. I had no idea this stuff was so complex. Your information certainly makes it easier to understand. We are planning to buy a HP800PS and foregoing RIP software for now. Thanks for your help.

**F. F., #11421, April 4, 2002**

First of all , thank you very much for the 2 FLAAR reports I received a couple of days ago. I am a newbie in wide format printer, but I learned so much this whole week from all your sites and surf to some of the manufacturer's site as you recommend in your comprehensive reviews and articles. after a whole week of research, I decided to buy a HP 5000 UV without PS, as you suggested. The price different between HP 5000PS and HP 5000 is USD\$3,000! since I prepared to buy an aftermarket rip which will performance better compare with onboard rip.

**S. S., #11226, March 28, 2002**

Thank You for Yours reports. It is really good work. For me they are the most important information to make decision which printer to buy. First I would like to buy Epson 7000 or 9000 but now I think that HP Design-Jet 5000 with BestColor RIP will be the optimal choice for me. Would You be so kind enough to send me all reports that I haven't got jet. Sorry for this long list but I really need them. I will grateful for that...Thank You very, very much

**W. Z., #11128, March 23, 2002**

Thank you for sending the information on the HP 5000. After reading the reports it made me feel very good about the decision of purchasing it and ready to tackle a wider range of markets. Being a new business owner I would like to be able to use it to it's fullist potential. ... I hope i`m not asking for to much at once but we are thinking of buying an additional printer and i like to read. A BIG Thank you to everybody there for doing the research and providing all the helpful information, and making things that much easier for a new business owner.

**J. S., #10488, March 16, 2002**

Thank you for your reports... They are extremely informative and will go a long way to helping us make the right decision about how various options can meet our printing needs. I also appreciate your timeliness in replying to our inquiries .... Thank you again for your prompt assistance and your willingness to share an unbiased view.

**D. L., #11095, March 19, 2002**

I am so happy to have those information from you and it is a welcome sign of relief for me because i was really confused about where i should go in terms of growing my business in large format printing. i am kindly asking you guys to please send me the following information or reports so that i can be in a better postion to make the call when it comes to migrating to the next level in my business.. thanks for the information and i will share that with my friends because it is a valueless information that i am seeing from your research,.

**C. M., #10761, March 13, 2002**



The reports were excellent and very much appreciated! You are the perfect source of information on a very tricky subject. ... Well, thank you very much for your reply and your help. I am definitely going to send anyone I talk to to FLAAR for any large format printing issues...you've been a big help.

**J.G., #10486, March 5, 2002**

Based on your reports and actually testing images on an HP DesignJet 5000ps, I am considering buying this printer. But I need to make a decision about whether I will get it with the UV inks or dye inks. I would prefer getting it with one or the other, and not need to buy it with both sets. So any information you can provide that will help me to make this decision will be helpful.

**S.B., #9258, February 27, 2002**

I can't believe that I found your site and how completely informative and thorough it is. Unbelievable! Thank you so much. You should consider teaching how to collect and share data such as this for other products in the world. I'm off to read your pdf's. Thank you.

**M. P., #10185, February 22, 2002**

I've sent several requests for information, and they have been EXTREMELY helpful! Thank you! ...I am trying to decide between an HP5000 and Roland HiFi jet. I have referred many many folks to your site--keep up the good work!

**L.K., #8255, February 21, 2002**

Thanks you very much for such a quick response !! The information you sent is very, very interesting.... We are looking to buy either a NUR Salsa Ultima 2400 or a Tiara Sapphire, or the Arizona 1100-3, ....so, if you have any specific information on these products, it would be helpful. Thanks again ! ... and be sure that I will personally recommend your site to anyone !! It's Great ...and it surely opened our eyes on specifications we didn't thought of !!

**P.M., #10261, February 21, 2002**

Thanks for the help. Actually, I've already forwarded information about your site and services to my boss at Headquarters,... He, in turn, passed the same information to the field (about 22 Air Force bases) and to our Air Force-level functional manager at the Pentagon. You're getting some additional visibility. Thanks again for all the help.

**E. L., #10233, February 21, 2002**

Thank you. ... I want to say, that your help through your reports have been of extremely high value to me and my company. You're doing a great job educating people in this complex field of high end wide format printing. Thank you.

**D. J., #8984, February 19, 2002**

Thank you for responding to my request for information. I very much appreciate it! ... Your web-site is very informative and a wonderful resource for the small business-person. ...Again, Thanks

**S. B., #9726, February 14,2002**

I know I will be buying the HP 5000ps (42") for our campus' art studios (after having read some of your reports). That will be for the large format "exhibition quality" prints. ...I am setting up a new studio and want to cover a range of needs.

**R. H., #9650, February 3, 2002**

I learn a lot from your reports an I gon to buy a HP 5000 Gracias por su ayuda

**C. M., #9586, January 25, 2002**

Thank you for the reports, you had sent. It really helps to have people like you guys, this is important information for me. Thanks again

**C. J., #9238, January 21, 2002**



Thanks for responding! I'm finding all the information you have sent to be extremely helpful. You dont know how rare it is to get unbiased information about industrial equipment.

**D. S., #9060, January 16, 2002**

I am really appreciate the information that you send me by this way. Those reports on Photo realistic quality printers, Inks, RIP+help and Media&Inks were great help for me understanding and knowing enough for take a appropriate decision by the way my selection was the hp model 5000ps uv. Its wonderfully that some one like me who life in a country thousand miles away from U.S.A could receive this kind of support and in so short time. Thanks for your illustrative reports. Now I am thinking to buy a hp 5000ps to start a giclee printing service in Mexico.

**J. S., #5792, January 14, 2002**

Thank you for your prompt response to my requests. I have certainly found your sites most helpful in my attempt to educate myself as a novice to wide-format fine-art printing. I quickly learned that I could have easily made some costly errors resulting in unsatisfactory results had I not had the information you've provided on your Websites and in the PDFs you've sent before making a decision to purchase.

**R. R., #8156, December 13, 2001**



Thank you for the wonderful reports. They have really cleared up a lot of my questions. Excellent!

**D.H., #8170, December 11, 2001**

Thank you for your reports. They have been very helpful and informative. Your sites are a treasure trove of information for me and FLAAR is to be commended for providing the information.

**B. H., #7260, December 8, 2001**

When I sent my first inquiry form to You, I didn't believe, that Your help will come so quickly (every time). So I feel, that it is my obligatory to answer Your questions. First, I would like to thank You for all useful tips and information, which has helped me to make the decision (and I think, it was the right one:-).

**M.K., #5941, October 5, 2001**

I cannot thank you enough for sending me such outstanding information. After reading one report, I feel confident stating that it is rich, discerning, authoritative, and thoroughly educational. I typically spend a great deal of time and effort researching a subject before making a purchase.† Having just begun to explore digital imaging, I feel fortunate beyond words to have found you.† You have saved me literally hundreds of hours and probably many more dollars.

You and your colleagues provide a service of unparalleled quality and value, a real contribution to the community. Please continue. Grateful and wildly inspired,

**C.L., #6231, September 18, 2001**

I'm overwhelmed. Thank you SO much! You've exceeded my wildest hopes. I'll be only too delighted to promote your fabulous site & help wherever I can. My very best wishes,

**A.R., #7072, September 17, 2001**

Estamos muy agradecidos con tu pronta respuesta, que no la esperabamos tan rápida. Voy a checar los documentos que me enviaste y me volveré a comunicar. Los felicito por la calidad en la información que manejan, he estado aprendiendo mucho.

Thanks a lot!!!!

**C.R., #6017, September 5, 2001**

Thank you for the reports, which I have already downloaded and printed out. I,m impressed by the prodigious efforts which have gone into producing them, and even with a cursory glance so far, I know they,ll be very useful in pointing me to solutions.

**N.P., #5930, September 4, 2001**

Thank you for quickly providing the information I requested yesterday. I am deeply grateful to have found your site and the extensive information and experience provided by the University staff and end users.† The attention to this material and maintaining it in an updated format is impressive.

Again, my thanks and kind regards,

**P.R., #5944, August 31, 2001**



I got both e-mails and now have all 6 reports that you sent. your assistance is most appreciated. Your reports are very helpful for someone that is technically inclined, but fairly new to this particular group of technologies. I am sure the help you have provided will save me a lot of grief and money and minimize my disappointments with purchases I am contemplating.  
Thanks again,

**G. H., #5330, August 20, 2001**

I do realise that if everyone emails you back saying thanks for your help it may overwhelm your intray. On the other hand, some people need to email you back so you know your efforts are appreciate. I nominate myself to that category. Many thanks

**P.C., #5488, August 8, 2001**

Thank you for sending the two reports. They were very informative...

Your sites have been a great help in weeding through all the different products and guiding me make best use of the meager funds I have available in this very expensive play land. Thanks,

**S.B., #5336, August 8, 2001**

I am so impressed with your service. I am most grateful for the detail you have provided. I will remind everyone of your service, it is most helpful and reassuring when making these major decisions.

**J. F., #4401, July 9, 2001**



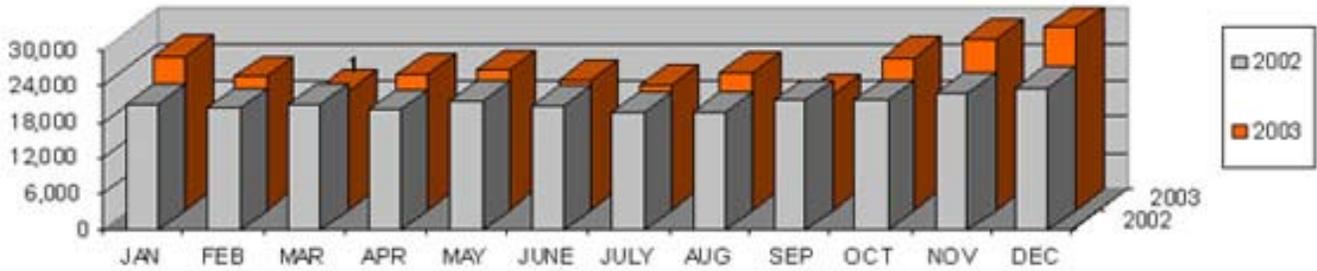
Panorama views of the front room and one of the interior areas of the FLAAR facilities, New Media Building, Francisco Marroquin University.



Dr Hellmuth's private office is further inside this area. It is also filled with scanners, several more wide format printers, and lots of camera equipment. Due to the clutter we don't show an image but you are welcome to visit. FLAAR is open to the public. We just ask that you make an appointment and in most cases such a visit is considered a consulting session, so check with the office manager, Cindy Shepard, for information on consulting with FLAAR.



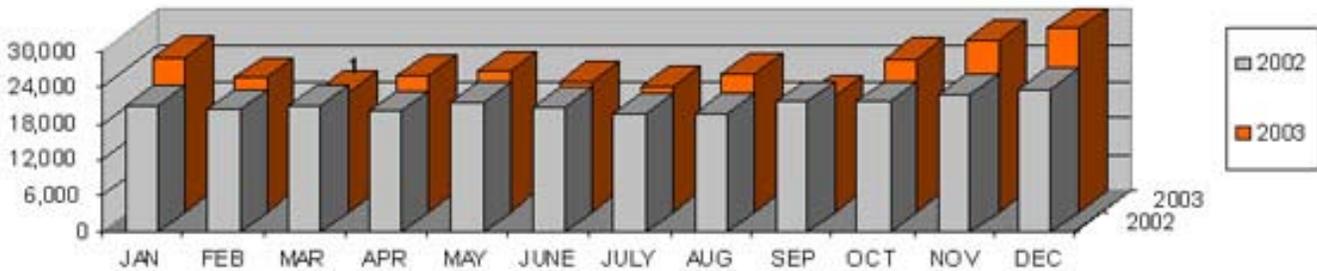
### Year 2002-2003 Readership digital-photography.org



1=For this month server problems resulted in difficulty accessing the logs. We estimated the month based on previous years and on traffic of the month before and after.

For year 2002 Total hits 9,531,349; Total Visitors 252,771; Total Page views 804,316  
**For year 2003** Total hits 10,597,400; **Total Visitors 280,037**; Total Page views 881,070

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