

Watford Camera Club guide to Printing Images – a selection of ‘local’ products.

| Company | Cost for 12"x8" (A4) | Pros | Cons | Tips |
|--|--|--|---|--|
| Costco – Watford (order online then pick up 2 days later) | £0.99 | Cheap. Order online – very easy. Can pick up – quick & free. | Need Costco membership (£30 pa?) Only Gloss or Lustre ‘basic’ paper. Be careful of exposure settings. | Ask for printer 6, no autocorrect. Organise well in advance to allow for possible reprint (still cheap!). If your image is not the same aspect ratio they will automatically crop down – you need to add a border beforehand in order to make it fit and keep all your image. |
| Simlab - Hatfield | £0.81 | Very cheap. Order online – very easy. Pick up (cheap) or delivered. Same day dispatch if before 1pm. Many different sizes offered. | Delivery is £5.95 + VAT for any number of prints. Do Lustre or Gloss (plus fine art papers at higher prices) | No ‘auto adjustments’ available so ensure colour and exposure are correct. Organise well in advance and get lots of prints done at same time then only pay one lot of £5.95 delivery. |
| DSCL - Stockport | £0.77 | Very cheap. Order online – very easy. Same day dispatch if before 1pm. Many different sizes offered. | Delivery is £4.57 for any number of prints. Do Lustre or Gloss (plus fine art papers at higher prices) | Organise well in advance and get lots of prints done at same time then only pay one lot of £4.57 delivery. Allow 3-4 days to account for postal services. |
| Asda – Max Spielmann Watford | £8 | Very good quality paper & print. 20 min Click & Collect service in store. In store printing (eg. USB stick) Pick up in store – easy (Watford) | Comparatively expensive. 5 days for any delivery. Lustre finish only. Limited sizes/ratios. | Get advice from our very own Martin Patten who works there. *10% discount for Watford Camera Club members. |
| Boots. | £1.99 | Print and pick up in store for £1.50 (or order online in advance and pick up in 30 mins) In store printing (eg. USB stick) | Delivery £4.45 – can be 8-10 days. Limited sizes/ratios. Only 1 finish ‘premium quality’!? | Get lots printed at same time to save on postage (£4.45) or pick up in store (£1.50). |
| loxleycolour.com | £2.69 for 1 to 9 £2.29 for 10 or more | Offer many sizes/aspect ratios Also offer customised sizes. Offer up to 5 free test prints (7" by 5") to get calibration correct. | Website quite hard to navigate at first. | Shipping is £4.65 + VAT so ordering a large number in one go will work out cheaper. (Larger print sizes could be £7.56 as they use Royal Mail) |
| theprintspace.co.uk | £7.32 | Very high quality papers and print. Full range of sizes/aspects. Order online. | Very expensive, but they claim to be much higher quality than ‘high street’ products. | Delivery for prints £4.85 so order a few at same time. You can pick up from London outlet for free (Shoreditch). You can order a sample pack of 11 photographic papers for £6. |

Please bear in mind that it is hard to compare the services above given the difference in quality of their products. Time and experience with any one of them will help you learn and refine your usage. For example I have found Costco prints to come out quite dark until I learned to adjust them on my computer before sending them. Also most printers offer images with or without a border. Paper thicknesses (weights) are not given on websites – they may vary also.

An alternative option is to **buy a printer** yourself and print at home. This requires careful consideration as there are many factors affecting your choice. How good a quality do you want? What size do you want to print up to? (eg. A4 or A3). Do you want to print on single sheets or off a roll? Additionally you then have to consider the cost and rate of usage of ink cartridges, also of paper which can vary greatly according to quality and finish. Ask an experienced club member for advice. Printing at home gives you complete ability to control the colour/exposure/finish that you want instantly – rather than when they arrive through your letterbox with only a day to go!?

Mount Board

Paper Spectrum (paperspectrum.co.uk)

- Product is called Pinnacle mount board
- Pre-cut to 50cm x 40cm
- Packs of 10 of any colour
- Economy delivery – up to 5 days - £4.96
- Next day delivery - £8.34
- Order 3 or more packs/colours and pay only one delivery.
- You can order a free sample swatch of all Pinnacle boards/colours.

Prices (examples) – all prices for a pack of 10 and 1400 mic (1.4mm) thickness.

- Ice white - £14.39
- Simply white - £14.39
- Snow white textured - £14.39
- Black (with white core) - £14.39
- Hayseed (with white core) - £14.39
- Granite Grey (with white core) - £17.49
- White or cream backing boards (700 mic) - £9.59
- Clear reusable cellophane bags - £4.99 (self-seal, re-sealable)

Hobby craft (Bushey Arches retail park).

- Daler-Rowney Graduate mount board
- A1 sized sheets (59cm by 84cm) – so you can cut 2 mounts of 40cm by 50cm with a little waste.
- 10 colours – White, cream, black + others
- £3.50 per sheet – so £1.75 per competition image. (Compared to £1.50ish for Pinnacle – above)
- Also have a variety of other finishes/textures for £5 or £6.
- 1400 micron thickness.
- Because it's local it might be handy for last minute emergencies.

Cotswold Mounts (online orders – cotswoldmounts.co.uk)

- Many different colours of Daler-Rowney mount board
- 1400 micron cream or white core
- £4.27 for packs of 4 (£1.07 each) of 50cm by 40cm
- Minimum order £20 before postage
- Postage £7.50 (free for orders over £75)
- Also offer with 6 sizes of aperture cut for £9.60 (pack of 4)