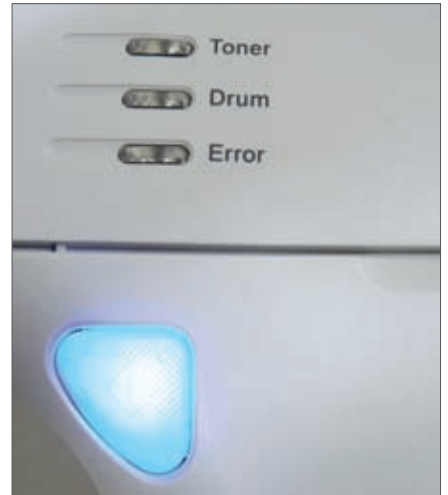The single sheet manual feed slot and paper input tray.

Toner, Drum and Error alert LEDs and blue-backlit LED (Go button) at the edge.

Brother HL-2140

Many users are going for monochrome laser printers and not colour because we tend to print more in black and white like business proposals, emails and school assignments. Another reason is also because monochrome laser printers are more affordable than their colour siblings.

This month, Brother sent us their new HL-2140 for review which is designed to meet the requirements of home and small office users. Measuring 368x361x170.5mm, the monochrome laser printer features a squarish form factor and small footprint that looks to fit neatly anywhere without taking up too much space. According to its specifications, the HL-2140 boasts fast print speeds of up to 22ppm and print resolutions of up to 2400x600dpi.

A USB port is conveniently located at the rear, while a single-sheet manual feed slot and input paper tray of 250-sheet is at the front. The output tray is at the top, together with the control panel consisting of alert LEDs – Toner, Drum and Error. There is also a large blue-backlit LED button at the edge which acts as a Ready LED that flashes depending on printer status, as well as a Go button which is used for wake-up, error recovery, form feed, job cancel and reprint functions.

Setting up is a breeze. Just connect the USB cable and install the software drivers and it is ready to do your bidding. As the toner is front mounted, it provides users with easy replacement and remedy of paper jams.

Performance-wise, the Brother HL-2140 printed an A4 text document in 6.03sec and ten pages in 30.03sec, which is notably fast compared to some larger monochrome laser printers we had tested. It also churned out three Excel charts and graphs in just 12.19sec and a page of A4 image in 5.99sec. Overall, text quality looked sharp enough for your school projects or business contracts, even at small font sizes of six or four. This means you can choose to squeeze more text onto a page and still have no problem reading the printouts; you also help to save the trees. The A4 colour image also has more depth when we printed at maximum resolution (2400x600dpi) compared to the same image printed at draft quality.

Compatible with Mac and Microsoft operating systems, the HL-2140 comes with a standard toner with 1,500 pages yield; replacement toner costs SGD55. But for heavy users, they can choose the high yield toner (SGD80) that offers up to 2,600 pages of printouts.

If you are looking for an affordable and compact monochrome laser printer, the Brother HL-2140 is a sturdy worker retailing at an attractive SGD198.

Our only gripe is that it does not have a built-in network port for network printing. But if you want a monochrome laser printer that has integrated network port and wireless LAN 802.11b/g, check out the HL-2170W (SGD398).—Koh Siang Liang

OVERALL RATING ★★★★■

MONOCHROME LASER PRINTER
Brother HL-2140

PRICE
SGD198

• Performance.
• Compact form factor.

• Does not have network port.

SPECIFICATIONS
Processor 181MHz
Standard Memory 8MB
Interface USB2.0
Paper Tray 250-sheet
Paper Sizes A4, Letter, B5, A5, B6, A6, Exe, Legal, Folio
Print Speed up to 22ppm
Print resolution HQ1200 (2400x600dpi), 600 dpi, 300 dpi
Emulation GDI
Dimensions/Weight 368x361x170.5mm/5.8kg

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