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## Apple LaserWriter Printers: Duplex Printing Is Supported (12/95)

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TOPIC -----

Is duplex printing supported on Apple LaserWriter Printers?

DISCUSSION -----

Duplex printing is supported on most Apple LaserWriter printers. However, the Color LaserWriter 12/600 PS printer does NOT support duplex printing. The Technical Information Library (TIL) article "Color LaserWriter 12/600 PS: Duplex Printing Not Supported" contains additional information on this printer.

There are complications that could arise as a result of using duplex printing. Apple Computer has never published an "official" statement about printing on both sides of the paper using LaserWriter printers. Although most LaserWriter manuals mention the best procedure and instructions for duplex printing.

When discussing duplex printing with customers it is important to understand the implications of this function as well as the reasons for having it in the Users Guides.

Most laser printers can print on both sides of the page with an acceptable degree of reliability as long as the proper steps are taken. Since competing products are advertised as being capable of duplex printing, and since most Apple LaserWriter printers are developed using the same print engines as competitors, we have traditionally stated that our LaserWriter printers are also capable of printing duplexed pages.

### Recommended Procedure for Duplex Printing

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When using duplex printing, LaserWriter users will have a higher degree of success if the second side of the paper is inserted using the manual feed tray. By manually feeding the paper for the second pass, the probability of paper jams in the paper pickup area is reduced, as well as the amount of pressure on the bottom of the page, which can sometimes cause black streaks on the reverse side of the paper as it passes the pickup rollers.

Customers should understand that paper jams are possible even using the manual feed tray because as the paper is initially passed through the fuser assembly, the heat and pressure from the fuser rollers can cause a curling effect on the paper. As the paper passes through the rollers, moisture is evaporated from the fibers. This is similar to the steaming effect seen when using an iron. Imagine ironing a piece of cloth while it was laying on a curved surface, the cloth would tend to take on the shape of that surface. The same effect is taking place in laser printers to a lesser degree.

Another thing is the surface of the paper is altered somewhat when sent through a laser printer. Many paper stocks are coated with a finishing material or some type of coating. As heat and pressure are applied to the paper, it is sometimes possible for the paper to come out slightly smoother or textured differently than its original state. This may also cause slight variations in the way the paper travels through the paper path of the printer. This may happen because the rubber rollers used to guide and carry the paper may not function as efficiently as they had on the original pass.

These finishing materials and coatings, as well as toner particles, are also more likely to "flake" during the second pass through the printer. Small particles of toner dust and/or finishing materials can form a residue on rollers which may cause complications while printing. These are normal printing affects, but magnified slightly when performing duplex printing.

While there are some complications that may occur during the duplex printing process, customers will usually experience little or no trouble in performing duplex printing on most LaserWriter printers.

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