

PRINTER TECH ARTICLE

Getting an Accurate Reading from the Toner Gauge

Many laser printers have a “toner gauge” to show the approximate remaining toner life in both graphic and numerical form. It can appear either on the configuration or the supply status page. This article will show how to why the toner gauge is often inaccurate and how to get a good reading.

Why the gauge may be inaccurate

Early in the life of the cartridge, the gauge is based mostly on page counts, which can be inherently inaccurate, particularly if your toner coverage is significantly different than the 5 percent anticipated by the . The gauge becomes more accurate as the cartridge nears the end of its life, because the printer relies less on page counts and more on the electromagnetic and optical methods described in the Toner Sensing article.

Also, you cannot always trust the gauge when using a non-HP cartridge, because of possible memory tag issues. HP even goes so far as to say that “smart cartridge features (cartridge out/low) are not available” with a non-HP cartridge.

Getting a better reading

Since the printer checks the toner level and resets the gauge only at certain times, it is useful to power up with no toner cartridge(s) installed, wait for the printer to complain about this, and then install the cartridge(s). This forces the printer to check the toner level and reset the gauge.

Some printers do not automatically reset the gauge when a different cartridge is used, so you may be prompted for this information or have to go into a menu and select “New Cartridge = Yes.”

LPT



hp color LaserJet 4600

supplies status page

Ordering Information:

Hewlett-Packard supplies can be ordered on the internet by calling Hewlett-Packard. (Please refer to your printer's manual for more information.)
For highest print quality always use genuine Hewlett-Packard supplies.

Black Print Cartridge HP Part Number: C9720A	61%
Estimated Pages Remaining: (Based on historical black page coverage of 5%)	5364
Low Reached:	No
Serial Number:	3222302
Pages printed with this supply:	3435

Cyan Print Cartridge HP Part Number: C9721A	43%
Estimated Pages Remaining: (Based on historical cyan page coverage of 3%)	5653
Low Reached:	No
Serial Number:	7361
Pages printed with this supply:	7378

Magenta Print Cartridge HP Part Number: C9723A	93%
Estimated Pages Remaining: (Based on historical magenta page coverage of 5%)	7318
Low Reached:	No
Serial Number:	4732
Pages printed with this supply:	702

Yellow Print Cartridge HP Part Number: C9722A	11%
Estimated Pages Remaining: (Based on historical yellow page coverage of 3%)	1117
Low Reached:	Yes
Serial Number:	2293
Pages printed with this supply:	9265

Recycling Information:

Toner Gauge

- may not be reliable with non-hp cartridges
- more accurate at the end of the cartridge's life
- it is possible to force a toner level recheck