

EPSON STYLUS PRO 3880

What do you do when you already make the world's best inkjet photo printer? You make it better. The Stylus Pro 3800 shook up the inkjet printing world by making the A2 format so much more accessible with a printer that didn't take up a huge amount of space and was actually quite affordable. Many more photographers stepped up a print size thanks to the 3800 which, as far as professionals were concerned, also had the potential to earn its keep via the production of saleable prints.

All this is still true of the 3880, but it takes print quality to a new level via Epson's latest-generation inkset and print-head technology. The UltraChrome K3 with Vivid Magenta inks deliver a wider colour gamut, particularly in the red and blue areas of the spectrum. The eight-channel 'MicroPiezo AMC' print head delivers a maximum resolution of 2880 x 1440 pixels and outputs ink droplets as small as 3.5 picolitres. Epson's 'AccuPhoto HD2 Image Technology' precisely controls the placement of each droplet to help optimise ink usage and ensure smoother colour gradations.

That's the tech-speak, but the result is superb-looking prints which, importantly, seem almost effortless to produce. Epson is very much inkjet printing's answer to 'You press the button, we do the rest' with the built-in paper profiles proving exceptionally reliable, minimising any wastage of time and materials. And Epson is doing its level best to improve the economy which, at the A2 format, is starting to look very good indeed, especially if you're making prints for commercial sale.

Yet again, the Stylus Pro 3880 tempts us to think we've reached inkjet printing's apogee — but probably only until Epson comes up with its next generation. www.epson.com.au

