

**Toner Cartridge
Evaluation Report # 03-234
Cartridge Type: EY3-1382625 Optra S
August 1, 2003**

Cartridges submitted for evaluation by

Electronic Label Technology

708 W. Kenosha

Broken Arrow, OK 74012

Evaluation and Report By:

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R·I·T

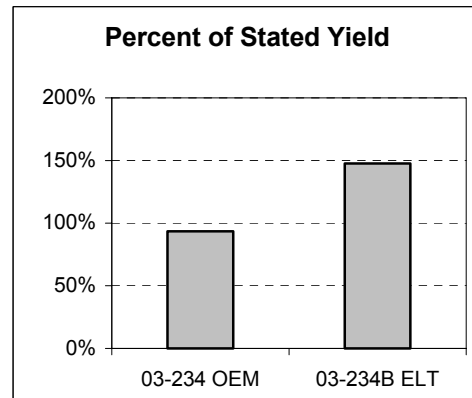
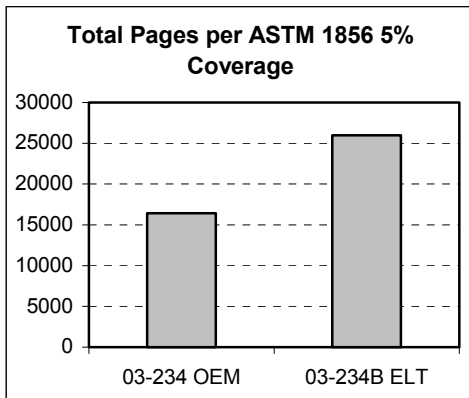
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**National Center for Remanufacturing and Resource Recovery
Toner Cartridge Evaluation Results**

SUMMARY RESULTS

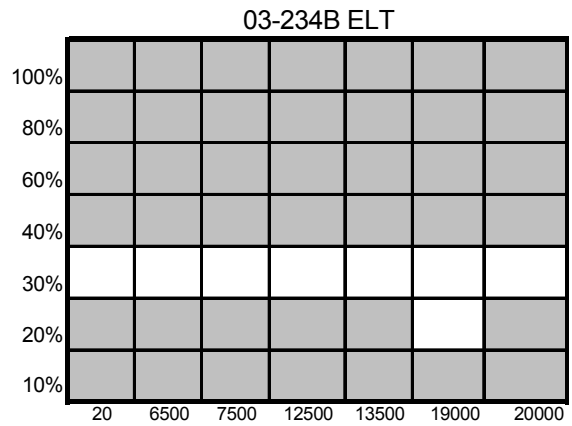
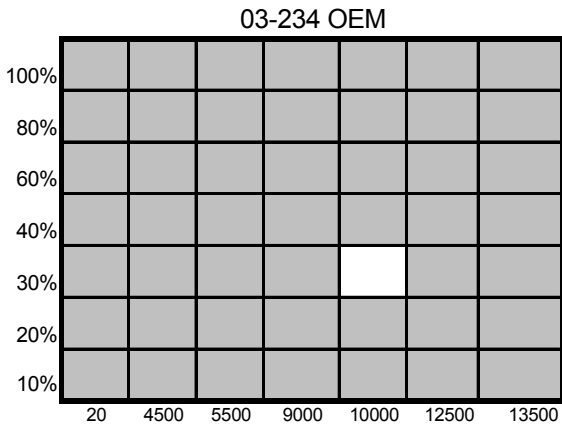
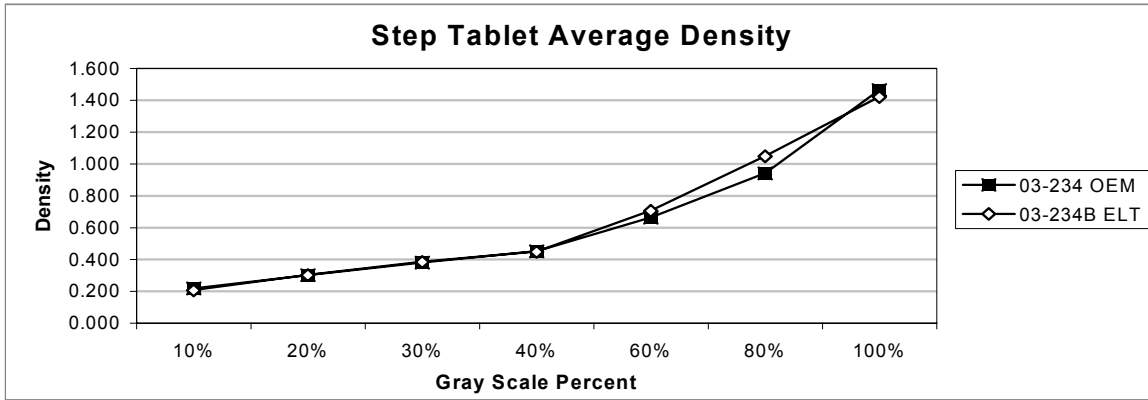
The page yield of the sample cartridge of 25,982 was 148% of the OEM stated yield of 17,600 pages. The sample cartridge produced clean, crisp, clear text and lines. Also, it consistently exhibited a maximum density performance above 1.3 throughout the life of the cartridge. No toner leakage was observed in the cartridge packing material or during operation of the cartridge in the printer. The sample cartridge produced no detrimental effects on the test printer.



A major portion of the total cost of ownership for a remanufactured cartridge can be measured as the cost per print. In the shaded areas below, fill in your current selling price and then divide it by the yield. Fill in the resulting cost per print in the space provided.

Cost / Print			
OEM Cartridge Cost:	\$219.29	Selling Price:	
Print Yield:	16,433	Print Yield:	25,982
Cost/Print:	\$0.013	Cost/Print:	

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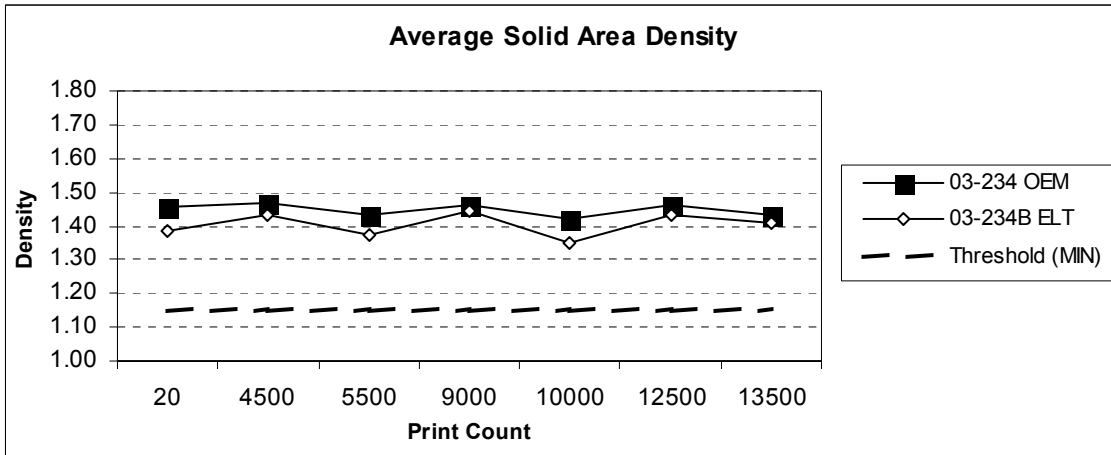
The 1423 IQ Test Target page includes two columns having a series of seven patches with the following levels of halftones: 10%, 20%, 30%, 40%, 60%, 80%, and 100%. These step tablets demonstrate how accurately the printer can produce each level. This is an important consideration in applications with graphical and photographic output.

Although no industry standards have been established, more pleasing results are achieved when a proportional change is maintained between levels throughout the life of the cartridge toner load (various shades of gray are resolved between each other). Poor performance is experienced when little change between levels occurs, such as when the 80% halftone is approximately the same density as the 100% step or when there is little discernable difference between a 10% and 20% halftone. In photographic output the first condition results in loss of detail in shadow areas (blocking) while the latter condition leads to loss of detail in the highlights (wash out). The patches are considered resolved when the difference between the two adjacent patches is greater than four times the standard deviation of the measurements taken within each patch. The box chart will be completely filled if the adjacent patches were adequately resolved throughout the evaluation. Any voids in the box chart indicate that there was not a discernable difference between the boxes at that point.

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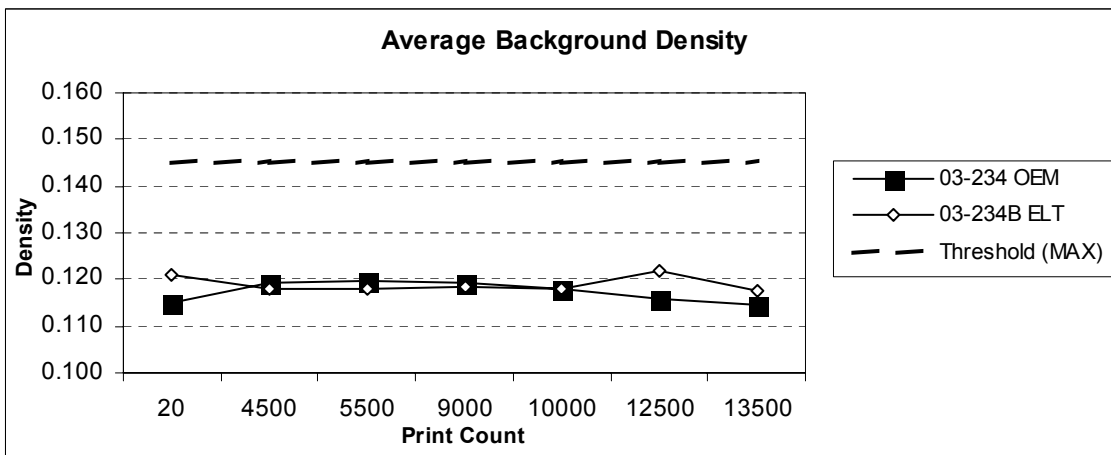
Average Maximum Density

The Maximum density for a print may be simply described as a measure of 'blackness.' An image quality test target was run at the start of testing and at every 1000 pages. Density measurements were made on the one inch square solid area blocks located at the center of the page and in the four corners. The threshold limit is the minimum density value the block could have and maintain an acceptable appearance. Maximum density values below this threshold would appear as voids within the block and would be considered unacceptable by the average customer.



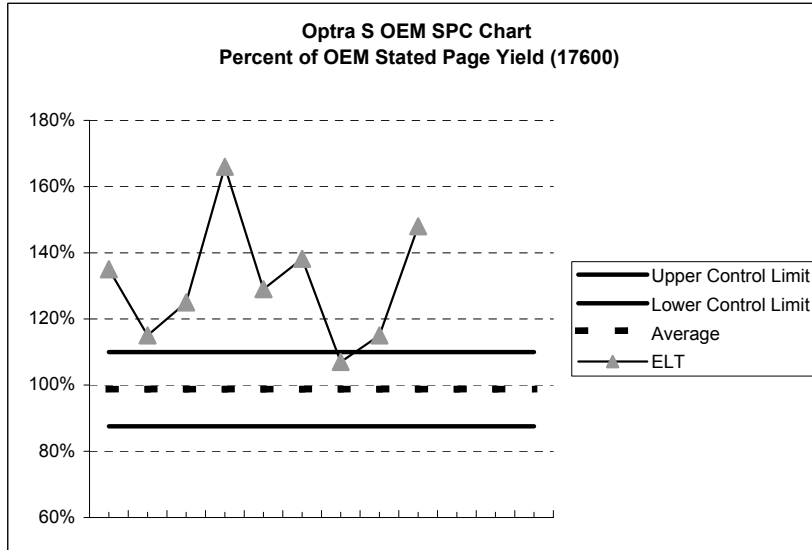
Average Background Density

Background can be characterized as small, randomly distributed spots in non-image background areas on a print. An image quality test target was run at the start of testing and at every 1000 pages. Background density measurements were made in the open areas of the 1 inch square hollow blocks located near the center of the page. The threshold limit is the maximum density value the block could have and maintain an acceptable appearance. Background density values that exceed this threshold would be considered visible and unacceptable to the average customer.



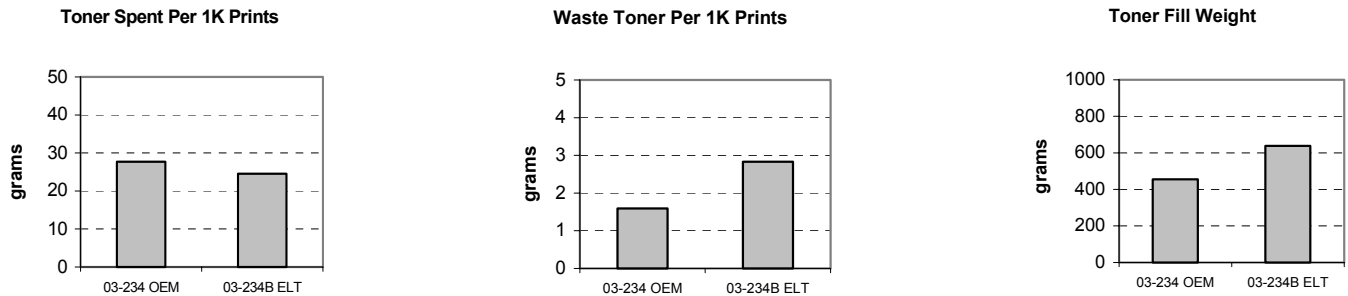
National Center for Remanufacturing and Resource Recovery Toner Cartridge Evaluation Results

The Statistical Process Control Chart represents the OEM cartridges that have been evaluated to date at NCR³ Using the ASTM F1856 process for the specific cartridge model submitted for analysis. If the cartridge did not fall within these control limits NCR³ can help determine the root cause of the shortfall. Whether the cartridge was under the lower control limit (LCL) or above the upper control limit (UCL), there is a cost of non-conformance associated with each. If the UCL is exceeded there may be an opportunity to maximize profits. If the LCL is exceeded there is the cost of possible customer dissatisfaction. The toner transfer charts (below) indicate how much toner is transferring to the print media. NCR³'s Imaging Products Laboratory is equipped with the latest equipment to analyze toner, OPC's, magnetic rollers and PCR's.



The Cartridge Toner Transfer Charts illustrate the efficiency of the cartridge. The compatibility of the toner and the charging components within the cartridge is critical to function. It is common for remanufactures to add more toner to the cartridge to compensate for inefficient toner transfer. The toner particle size distribution and OPC charging characteristics should be matches for optimum transfer efficiency.

Cartridge Toner Transfer Charts

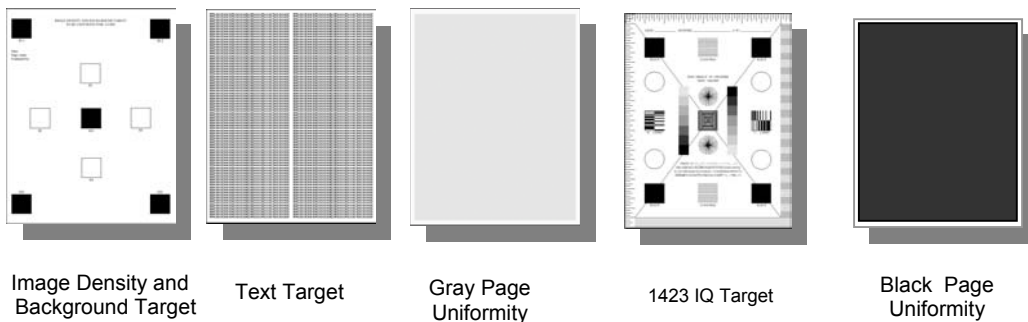


The Evaluation of All-In-One Laser Printer Toner Cartridges

Summary – The NCR³ evaluation process is based upon a series of integrated standardized tests (primarily ASTM F1856 and the STMC Guide for Toner Cartridge Evaluation) to provide an evaluation of all-in-one laser printer toner cartridges for cartridge yield, image quality, and cartridge integrity.

Overall Approach – The initial step is to establish a baseline performance by using a series of integrated standardized tests to evaluate the performance of a selected control toner cartridge designated Cartridge A. Then, Identical tests are performed on the cartridges of interest (Cartridge B) using the same printer. The performance of the Cartridge B is compared to that of Control Cartridge A.

Image Quality – A suite of 5 IQ test are run at the beginning of testing and at approximately 1000 page intervals thereafter. Density and background measurements for images produced by Cartridge B are compared to those produced by the Control Cartridge A. The image quality evaluation focuses on text sharpness, maximum density solid area performance, background, and image artifacts. It is not inclusive of all image quality attributes.



National Center for Remanufacturing and Resource Recovery Toner Cartridge Evaluation Results

Cartridge Yield – Depending on cartridge size, one to three 1000-print runs are made using a specified 5% output test target. By weighing the supply hopper before and after each run, the toner consumption per page is determined for each 1000-print test interval. At the outset of evaluating the cartridge, the toner supply hopper assembly is separated from the cartridge and weighed. When a cartridge has printed approximately 80% of its advertised yield, printing is stopped. The cartridge is disassembled, any toner in the supply hopper is removed and the empty hopper is weighed. By subtracting the empty hopper weight from the full hopper weight, the initial toner load is determined. By dividing the initial toner load by the average consumption rate of the yield runs, the cartridge print yield is calculated. This approach eliminates the subjective judgment of print fade and the variation procedures employ to establish the end of life print count (cartridge yield). Yield comparisons are made between Cartridge B and the control Cartridge A.



Cartridge Integrity – Upon receipt, the cartridge packing materials are examined for signs of any toner leakage. At the conclusion of the test runs for a given cartridge, the host printer is inspected for any signs of cartridge toner leakage and detrimental effects to printer components.

1. RIT's Center for Integrated Manufacturing Studies, the National Center for Remanufacturing and Resource Recovery (NCR3), the Imaging Products Laboratory, (collectively, "CIMS"), as applicable, certifies that the subject consumables were evaluated in our facilities. The results described in this Report are only applicable to the specific samples evaluated and do not certify the manufacturing or other process used to produce them, and CIMS has not verified that the components or procedures used to produce such samples are representative production units or processes.
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