

Computer Hardware—Output Devices

Computer hardware can usually be broken down into four types—**Input, Process, Backing Store** and **Output**. You need to know which one each part of a computer set-up belongs to, and explain how they are used (in simple terms)



Printer

A printer is used to produce a **Hard Copy** of a piece of work on-to paper. Different kinds are used, **Laser Printer**, which gives good sharp outlines, especially on text, **Inkjet**, which is good for colour pictures, especially photography, and **Plotter**, which is quite old-fashioned now, but sometimes used for drawing large-scale plans. Most domestic printers give A4 size drawings, whereas in an office, A3 may be used at times.

Projector

A digital projector allows what is on the computer screen to be projected onto a screen or a wall, allowing the user to give a presentation to others, allowing more people to see what is happening. .

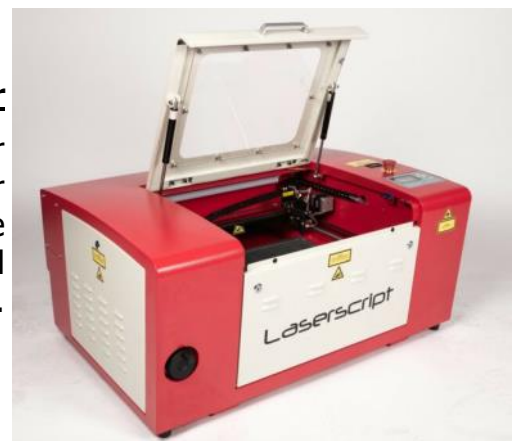


Monitor (VDU)

A monitor, or Visual Display Unit, allows the user to see what is happening within the computer. A good quality monitor, with a good resolution, will prevent the user suffering from eye-strain.

Laser Cutter

A 2D image on a CAD programme can be exported to a Laser Printer. This can cut the shape out on a piece of plastic or thin wood. It can also be used to engrave or 'etch' a picture onto a surface. Like a 3D Printer, this is a Computer Aided Manufacture (CAM) device.



3D Printer

A 2D CAD drawing can be converted into a real plastic object by exporting the file to a 3D Printer. This uses plastic filament to build up a model of the shape.



Vinyl Cutters

Wide format printers, such as Vinyl Cutters, can be used to print on long rolls of material, such as paper or vinyl. They are often used to make signs.

