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Seiko Instruments USA Inc. Smart Label Printer 450

by Shirlyn Wong

Label printing is a must for those who mail large quantities of parcel out or just during the holidays when it seems that there are a lot of cards and packages that needs to be sent out to friends and family. If you're like me, then you know that feeding envelopes individually can get tiresome and label sheets require adjustments and proper templates to print right. That is why label printers are a pretty addition to your computer peripherals to quickly make neat labels. Here's one that prints using thermal-ink at a rate of one label per second. Details about the Smart Label Printer 450 can be found at <http://www.siibusinessproducts.com/products/slp450.html>.

The SLP 450 can be connected directly to a computer using either a serial or USB cable. But it can also be connected as a network printer so you can share with other people. It prints at 300 dpi (dots per inch) resolution and up to 2 1/8" label width. For my purpose, I hooked it up to my notebook computer and after installing the software, was ready to print my first 1 1/8" x 3 1/2" address label. The SmartLabel software is pretty intuitive showing icons for address, folder, 3.5" disk and name tag labels to name a few. You can also create a barcode or add an image to personalize your label. What I liked about it was that it didn't require me to have the image in a particular format (e.g. bitmap) or size to be able to add it to the label. It imports the image and you can scale it as you preview the label. Since it is a thermal-ink printer, you won't be able to print in color though so the image is black and white (with white labels). It was good enough for me.

In addition, SLP 450 includes a SmartCapture software so you can quickly transfer addresses from Outlook to use with the printer. You can also use the import feature to read in data from a CSV or TXT file. I created a CSV file with the recommended headers as the first row and quickly got my contacts into the SmartLabel software. Then selecting particular ones, I printed multiple labels with one click. I found it for under \$120 at Newegg.com and for the convenience of bulk label printing or just the specialized features (save your printer ink for other things); it is well worth the money.