

# What computer should I get?



Generally a RIP computer should be the best computer in the shop. These recommendations below are for peak performance. There will always be a compromise of speed vs. price. You'll have to decide what you need. Also, the particular RIP software itself will have its own specific requirements.

## Operating System

Windows XP



Windows 7



Windows Vista



As of this time (February 2010) Denco recommends using Windows XP as the operating system for your RIP software and sign design software. Vista is not recommended, though it may work in some applications. Windows 7 Professional or Ultimate 32 bit and 64 bit is supported by most software. You should also make sure that compatible drivers exist for the equipment you will be running on your computer.

## Processor Speed



Processor speed is the next consideration. I usually like to buy about 2 steps below the latest/greatest available. It's a good compromise of price/performance. Also, a dual core processor will allow you to RIP 2 files at once. The software can't take advantage of a quad core chip, so don't bother going that route.

## Memory RAM



How much memory your Windows OS will recognize depends on which version of Windows you are running. 32-bit versions of Windows will see (and utilize) only 3GB or 3.5GB. Windows 7 64 bit Pro & Ultimate supports up to 192GB (more than most computer hardware supports).

## Storage (hard-drive)



For maximum performance, it should have 3 separate physical hard drives. One for the operating system, one to load the program onto and one to store the temp files on. A partitioned hard drive will not provide this same benefit. If you don't go with 3 physical drives the RIP will work on a computer that has only one drive.

## Display (video card)



The video card should NOT have too much RAM as this will eat into the amount available for the RIP (the operating system can only take advantage of a total of 3 GB RAM). We recommend 128-256 MB RAM on the video card. A video card that supports dual monitors can greatly improve productivity.

## Connectivity



Make sure your machine is configured properly to connect with your equipment. Printers connect via USB 2.0 or 10/100 Ethernet depending on brand. Plotters connect via USB, Ethernet or serial (AKA COM or RS232) connections depending on brand.

Feel free to contact Denco Tech Support with any questions.

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