

Pat Greany's Experience with Several Printing Labs

For large prints I usually use ArtBeat Studios – They do Metal, Acrylic and Canvas and paper prints – They are most noted for high Quality of Metal Prints.

I go to artbeatstudios.com for ordering and they are extremely good and not the lowest priced. They will send your printed packaged like no other. Very good Customer support. I had a 12x60 Metal textured finish done by them and it is beautiful.

BayPhoto: you can get about anything you want. I often look for specials they offer to get items from them. You can download the online order system and get a good example of what you are getting. Bayphot.com an example of a 16x20 metal print would be 100.50 Dollars.

MPIX offers the fastest turn around in my opinion. They will do anything from prints to wall art, cards, photo books. They always have sales going for various products. An example of a 16x20 metal print with them \$134.00 but with a 25% coupon puts it about the same price as BayPhoto. I often use them for photos to display at the fair. You can do like a 12x18 for \$14.99 then mount on 16x20 for display or a 16x20 for \$23.99. Again I watch for the sales and get a discount.

I have also used White House Custom Color. They are a good lab located in Minnesota so you get stuff quickly.

Another option for Canvas if you want something really well done is APC/Luxe Prints. I recently had an image done there and it was very nice but more money than others. It is a Scott Kelby recommend Lab.

Doug Zander's Experience with McKenna Pro

I have been very pleased with McKenna's service. I usually have high gloss metal prints made by them; a couple times a year for a whole month at a time they have a special on metal prints of certain sizes. They also have sales every month on something pertaining to the seasons. November, they do a holiday cards sale so customers can order cards and get a discount with their own photos on them. Their quality of prints is good, I still think there are better printing shops than McKenna like Bay Photo, but for what I do I like them. The biggest reason I like McKenna so much is because they do a \$2.50 shipping cost for every order. Then if you wanted to ship directly to a customer it is \$7.50. I have paid over \$50 for shipping with other companies for shipping a box that is really light and not at all large in the scheme of things. They seem to strive to get prints made in a timely manner and they will ship relatively fast, usually within the next few days after you send in your order.

The cost of them is okay. They had a price raise a year or so ago because of the price of aluminum but it wasn't too much of a raise in price. Like I was saying, I try to order when they are doing a sale. It just makes things easier on the pocketbook. The bigger metal prints that they make can get expensive if you have to make a large print for a customer. But it is still the same \$2.50 shipping on an oversized package.

Their customer service is really good as well. I have had issues with a water mark not looking good and they have called me and talked to me about placement of the photo and then I can resend the image if it needs to be redone. They are super good about canceling an order as well. They have a special email that you have to email them to cancel and then you can reorder if need be.

Now those are the Pros of the company. Here are the Cons of the company.

I do not like that they do not offer more high-end prints. They kind of do a higher end look but compared to Bay Photo it doesn't compare. I also wish they did acrylic prints. Last I looked they didn't offer them. The acrylic look is very pleasing and I wish they had an option to order them. Another thing that I found I wish McKenna did was make more shapes out of their prints. I was trying to print smaller circles for our tee pees we were making and McKenna doesn't print smaller circles. So I had to use another company and pay shipping that was almost as much as my order. I have found a few companies online that do many different shapes and those come in handy when trying to buy a customer a gift with their favorite photo of them on it.

If anyone has any questions about McKenna just message or text me. I would be happy to answer any questions.

Doug

406-750-9940

Chris Gaare's Experience with MPIX

MPIX has a wide variety of printing options.

Semi-gloss, deep matte, fine art or giclee.

They print on canvas, metal, wood, acrylic and posters.

They also have a variety of photo gifts, books, banners and cards.

Pricing is very reasonable and they always have weekly sales.

Example of pricing for a 11x14 Print is \$9.79

Canvas is \$75.00

Metal is \$69.00

The colors are true and professional.

Shipping is free if your order is \$35.00 or more.

Delivery is between 2-7 days depending on what you order.

They go the extra mile with packaging your art with sturdy cardboard and styrofoam supports.

I have always been happy with my orders and highly recommend this company.

Naoko Otani's Experience with Bay Photo

What I've ordered:

Photographic prints: Surface types – Most of the times, Kodak paper Lustre (default), but tried glossy, metallic, Fuji Pearl once. Metallic and Fuji Pearl look similar and vivid but Metallic has a silver tone.

There are more surface types. They also have higher quality Fine Art Prints, but haven't used them.

11x17 Calendars: Very thick high quality paper. Option for big vertical images. Less than \$18 when on sale.

Online order or Software?

Use software Bay ROES (Remote Order Entry System), which is required to order certain products and provide extensive options. It has an option of "No color correction" and prices are much lower. You can order online, same prices as Full Color Correction through Bay ROES, but fewer print sizes available. You can choose "No color correction" but it seems prices won't change ordering online.

Cost: (Lustre prints) No Color Correction 12x18 \$9.60; 11x14 \$5.80

Full color correction 12x18 \$11.99; 11x14 \$6.99 Often offers 15-20% off.

<https://bayphoto.com/prints/photographic-prints/>

Shipping: Ship within 1-2 days. \$1.00 if prints 11x14 and smaller. Usually arrive in a week. If bigger prints or ordering over \$15, \$2.99 for 2-day shipping. Shipping cost varies depending on products. Well packaged. The shipping box is sturdy for bigger prints. Cardboard envelope for 11x14 and smaller.

<https://bayphoto.com/shipping-policies/>

Customer service: Great. They did what I asked for free. They redid it when pictures were darker when ordered for the first time. When I made a mistake ordering "Full Color Correction," they changed the order to "No Color Correction" and reduced the costs. When pictures have creases on the surface, they also resent the pictures. Had the same technical problem once in a while with the software. I finally contacted them via email, and I got a response with a step-by-step solution a few days later, which solved the problem.

Pros: Great price for quality. Fast production and shipping. Great packaging. Great customer service.

Cons: Came out darker than what I saw on my laptop (Mac) screen, but that's an issue on my end. I dim the screen brightness by half or more. Bob's presentation will help me solve the issue in the future. The color tone was what I expected.