

**Title: Samsung ML-1640 Laser Printer - Ubuntu Linux**

**Subtitle: Hardware**

**Second Subtitle: #0 Printer for Linux**

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Summary: I needed a new printer for my Ubuntu Linux Desktop computer, forums and hardware review sites I settled on the Samsung ML-1640.

Decisions, decisions

Price has always been a factor for me when choosing a printer, I really don't justify spending a fortune. Bubble jet type printers were always good value for the money. The problem with bubble jet printers is if you don't use them regularly they will go up, well that's my experience anyway.

I have always been a Canon fan, I think they make some great products, the simple fact is they don't support linux, well they kinda do but it is a real pain. Linux drivers never quite work, that is of course if there is a linux driver for those silly idiots that has emailed them and rang them asking them for Linux drivers. I won't be asking anymore. I just won't be buying a Canon Printer ever again lol.

Laser Printers

I didn't have a printer at all for about six months, I was talking to a friend and he mentioned that his mother had bought a new printer, did I want her to buy one for me? yeah ok I will have a look at it.

It was a Hewlett Packard Mono Laser printer, quite old, but it still worked with no problems. This was the start of my love of laser printers. The only thing was that it would semi-regularly get a paper jam, no probs it was quite old. To avoid this rather than buy a new toner cartridge, I ditched it and decided to look at other options.

Researching

After researching extensively online and even ringing a great guy at Carters Broadmeadows (Victoria) to get thegoss on toner cartridge prices and as I had quite a long chat on the phone, there were some negatives for the Samsung capacity for the toner starter cartridge and then buying another cartridge empty. So it wasn't all roses and clear cut, I also had one of the brother printers as possibilities.

He made some very good points for sure, though in the end I needed good

manufacturer, which Samsung seems to be on the ball with, for the ML-1640. I'm not sure about other models.

### Price and Linux Compatibility

In the end I just kept getting drawn to the Samsung, it was/is relatively cheap, around AUD or even slightly cheaper and I guess it will probably drop in price soon.

The best thing is most of the research I did suggested that it worked with Linux. Of course the clincher. I purchased it from [Basek Smith \(DSF\)](#).

I was a tad concerned by what the consultant on the phone suggested, that it would take a week to get to me, but she was wrong, from when they received the direct order it was about 3 business days, not too bad at all. I just received it and set it up. The hieroglyphic instruction sheet is a bit vague, but I guess it gets the greyed out buttons. It was quite simple, just remember not to turn it on till you take the tone cartridge out of the wrapper, then put it back in "wrapperless" I won't say publically if I did it, but I did what you should do hehehe.

### Linux Configuration

Mostly with Linux when you get new hardware you basically throw the windows out. Usually you don't need it, they rarely have Linux drivers or software tools that work.

### Guess what?

Do not throw the Samsung ML-1640 install disk in the bin, it actually has a CD-ROM on it that can be used on Linux, halleluiaah finally a company gives a shit about Linux. Done Samsung!

Put the disk in the cd rom drive and just select browse, it doesn't autostart, but all, you should see something like below, if not navigate to it.

**Click the image below to enlarge.**

As you can see I have placed arrows next to the install file, you need to go to the folder on the CD you inserted, in my case I did the steps below. Now you need to enter a couple of commands.

```
cd /media/cdrom1/Ubuntu
```

Then I entered this line to get the install started

```
sudo ./install.sh
```

The install starts, the options aren't too difficult I just basically followed the prompts. It asks for your printer it knows which one it is, it knows where it is located eg. US ml1640 to ML1640, (pedantic eh), it seems to have two driver options, I just selected the first one, if it has any problems you can go through the config again. It adds the printer to your "Applications" Menu.

It installs an app called "Smart Panel" which shows ink/toner capacity, you get some new menu options.

I don't claim to be a Linux or Ubuntu Guru, but I guess I have some idea (I read a lot) so if the commands aren't perfect don't blame me, though I'm using Jaunty Jackalope Ubuntu desktop computer.

## Specifications

### Overview

Function Print

### Print

Speed (Mono) Up to 16ppm in A4 (17ppm in Letter)

First Print Out Time (Mono) Less than 10 seconds (From Ready Mode)

Resolution Up to 1,200 x 600dpi effective output

Emulation SPL (SAMSUNG Printer Language)

### Paper Handling

Media Size 76 x 127mm (3" x 5") ~ 216 x 356mm (8.5" x 14")

Media Type Plain, Thin, Recycled, OHP, Label, Card

## General

Processor 150MHz

Memory / Storage 8MB

OS Compatibility Windows 2000/XP/2003 Server/Vista, Various Linux OS

Interface Compatible with USB 2.0

Noise Level Less than 50dBA (Printing), Less than 26dBA (Standby)

Duty Cycles, Monthly Up to 5,000 pages



Dimension (W x D x H) 353 x 298 x 209mm (13.9" x 11.7" x 8.2")

Weight 5.7kg (12.6lbs)

## Consumables

Yield Average Cartridge Yield 1,500 standard pages (Ships with 700 page Cartridge). (1)

Type Single Cartridge

Model Code MLT-D108S

Features and specifications are subject to change without prior notification.

## Usage note

(1) Declared cartridge yield in accordance with ISO/IEC 19752.

[Samsung ML-1640 Mono Laser Printer](#)

It prints well and quite quckly too, I am very happy with my purchase. ;o