

Backgrounder

Minolta's New High-Quality, Affordable Film Scanner: The DiMAGE Scan Elite II

The new Minolta DiMAGE Scan Elite II film scanner is designed to produce high-quality scans and detailed color reproduction with fast, easy operation.

Key Features

16-bit A/D Conversion

The new DiMAGE Scan Elite II provides users with rich tonal gradation from its 16-bit A/D conversion which enables it to differentiate 65,536 gradations on each of its RGB channels – sixteen times the amount detectable by 12-bit scanners, such as the DiMAGE Scan Elite II's predecessor, the Dimâge Scan Elite. The results are highly detailed images with accurate color reproduction. The 4.8 dynamic range ensures shadows and highlight details are retained and the 16-bit output preserves the details of the original scan.

Digital ICE³™ Technology

The new DiMAGE Scan Elite II features Applied Science Fiction™'s (ASF™) Digital ICE³ (pronounced Digital ICE “cubed”) image enhancing technology for automatic image correction and restoration. Digital ICE³ is the combination of three digital enhancement tools: Digital ICE™, Digital ROC™ and Digital GEM™. With easy-to-use settings, Digital ICE³ eliminates scratches on photographic film or slides, restores faded colors and improves on a photograph's overall appearance by minimizing grain, quickly and automatically during the scanning process. This trio of image processing tools can be selected individually or in combination. Digital ICE³ is recommended primarily for use with color film and it can also be used with chromogenic black and white film. It is not recommended for use with Kodachrome film.

2,820 dpi scanning

The new Minolta DiMAGE Scan Elite II film scanner is equipped with 2,820 dpi optical resolution allowing photographers to reproduce a film image as a superior quality print. The Scan Elite II can produce an image from 35mm film that can be printed on A4 size paper with a resolution of 300 dpi – more than enough quality for family albums and promotional business materials.

Advanced Color Matching

The Minolta DiMAGE Scan Elite II's Color Matching capability offers sRGB, Apple RGB, SMPTE-C, PAL/SECAM and other color space settings so the images on one monitor will display the same color on another. In combination with photo-retouching applications featuring color management systems, scanned images retain virtually the same colors when used with different monitors and operating systems.

Dual interface

The DiIMAGE Scan Elite II offers two high-speed interfaces: USB and IEEE 1394 (FireWire) for quick and easy set up and image transfers.

Multi-sample Scanning

Multi-sample scanning delivers virtually noise-free images with results that are smooth and natural. Samples can be taken in batches of two, four, eight or sixteen.

High Reproduction Performance with Negative Film

The DiIMAGE Scan Elite II automatically adjusts to the density range of the scanned negative to optimize the reproduction. For example, negatives with a large density range, such as pictures with backlit subjects, are controlled so the highlight area retains detail rather than being washed out. Images with a dominant color are analyzed to preserve the original appearance of the scene.

Intuitive, user-friendly software

The DiIMAGE Scan Elite II offers more functions with new driver software delivered as a Photoshop Plug-in for Macintosh, TWAIN for Windows and as a stand-alone utility for both platforms.

Even low contrast images can be focused accurately with Minolta's three focus modes. The new autofocus system quickly focuses on the center of the image and produces razor-sharp scans. The Point AF mode is able to focus accurately on any point in the film area. Images can also be manually focused or defocused using a slider bar.

Image processing gives additional control over image sharpness. If the original film image is soft, edges and details can be sharpened using the new UNsharp Mask, which produces subtle, yet striking, micro-image edge enhancement without affecting smooth gradations. Multi-sample scanning delivers virtually noise-free images, giving smooth and natural results for up to 16 samples.

The DiIMAGE Scan Elite II automatically adjusts to the density range of scanned negatives to optimize the reproduction. For example, negatives with a large density range, such as pictures with backlit subjects, are controlled so that the highlight area retains detail rather than being washed out. Color images with a dominant color are analyzed to preserve the original appearance of the scene. The autoexposure (AE) Area Lock allows users to adjust exposure of the film by selecting an area on the image to calculate a new exposure.

During correction, images can be temporarily saved with a click of the Snapshot icon. Users compare changes made by viewing thumbnails and choosing the best result.

Color tools allow flexible correction with RGB Color Balance or the Hue, Saturation and Lightness Correction palette. The tone curve and histogram is laid out in one window for quick and easy access. Fine adjustments can be made to a specific color on the Selective Color Correction palette.

The DiIMAGE Scan Elite II's Custom Wizard automates the whole scanning procedure for a simplified scan setting process. The Custom Wizard can start the pre-scan, crop the image to the holder frame, apply Digital ICE³, activate the Image Correction Job function, carry out the final scanning and eject the holder.

Additional features include:

- Adobe *Photoshop Elements* is bundled with the scanner
- Side-by-side comparison between original and corrected images
- Image Correction Job function saves a specific correction setting to be applied to other images
- Tab partitions and graphic function buttons for quick and easy access

Specifications are subject to change without notice.

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