

Scanning Preparation

Starting from the Beginning

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Why Use Your Scanner to Enhance Photos?

Over the years I've scanned hundreds of photos. It's been fun to discover forgotten people and objects in old photos. Looking at the background objects in photos taken in grandmother's home was fascinating and created a flood of pleasant childhood memories. Now 50 years later I'm amazed I can still remember the designs in the carpet and on the wallpaper, the little knickknacks on shelves I played with, and the people in the old pictures I asked grandma about are still there frozen in time along with the faces of grandma and grandpa.

Please take a minute before you jump into that pile of old photos and start scanning and consider the following four questions:

- ? Why Use Your Scanner to Enhance Photos?
- ? Should You Update Your Software?
- ? Will Your Old Scanner Work With Vista?
- ? Do You Need a Little Help Scanning?





The photo above was dramatically improved using the free enhancement tools that came with the scanner.

You'd be wrong if you thought I used some wizardry in Photoshop or some high powered graphics enhancement program to bring out all the hidden treasures in the old photos.

I've used Photoshop for years and on rare occasion I do use it to work some magic to repair on old photo. However, 95% of the time I use the basic enhancement tools in the software that came with my scanner. I'm for simple, fast and easy when it comes to photo enhancement.

Unfortunately many of you have no idea of the great scanner enhancement tools you already have because the tools are hidden from you. With one or two button clicks you can start using the free tools in your scanner to save time and make your old photos look like new while scanning.

I've taught many basic scanning classes. The most frequent question I hear is, "What software are you using? I don't have anything like that in my scanner!" My reply, "Yes you do, you just need to know where to find it."

Most scanners come with free enhancement tools. However the companies that make the scanners assume you want quick and automatic scanning.

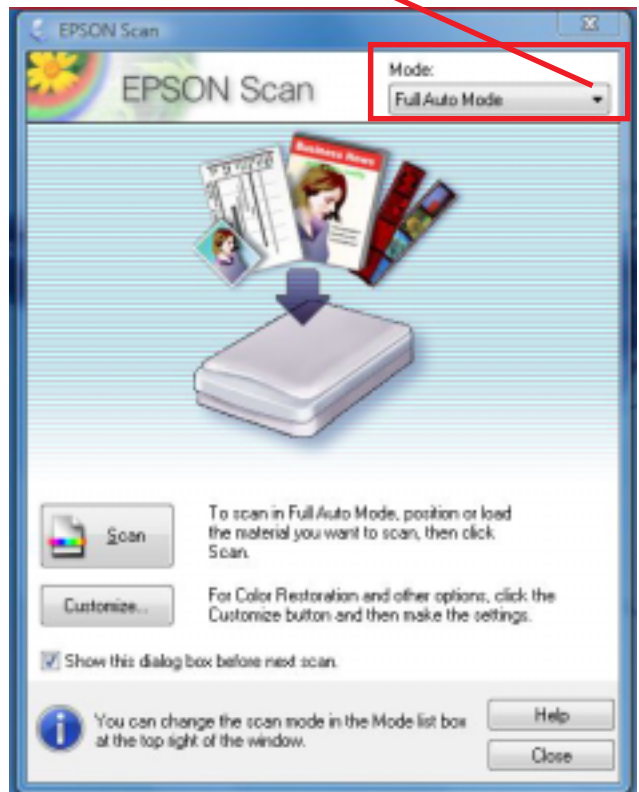
So where are the tools hidden? Right in front of you but under scary option or button names such as "Advanced" or "Professional."

I often hear, "My computer is hard enough to use. Why would I ever be so dumb and ask for

more punishment by clicking on anything that says, "ADVANCED or PROFESSIONAL!!"

Trust me. This is one time when you will really enjoy "Advanced" or "Professional" scanner settings.

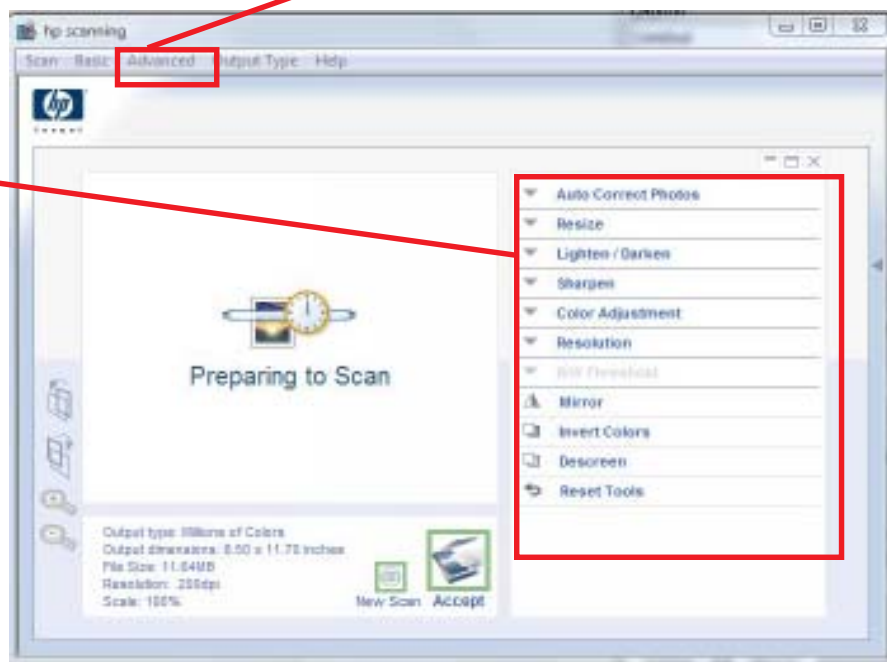
If you are using an Epson scanner, you will need to change from "Full Auto Mode" to "Professional" Mode.



The "Professional" mode provides many different enhancement options.

If you are using an HP scanner, you will need to click on the “Advanced” menu. Clicking one of the options will cause all the advanced enhancement option headings to appear down the right side of the scanner display.

If you are using another type of scanner, look for an option or heading that will provide you with more than the basic or automatic scanning options.



Selecting “Advanced” or “Professional” option should allow you to do all of the following:

- Change the Output or Target Size to 8 X 10 inches.
- Enter or select from a range of DPI or scanning resolutions.
- Adjust light, dark, mid-tones.
- Add or reduce different colors.
- Increase color intensity or saturation.
- Descreen when scanning obituaries, newspapers, copies, to remove the dot (moire) pattern.
- Automated Enhancements.
- Color correction.

Should You Update Your Software?

It’s a good practice to update your scanner software once a year. However, the old adage applies, “If it’s not broken, don’t fix it.” If your scanner is working properly it might be best to leave it alone and not update it.

Updating Software

Go to the web site of the scanner company and click the Support link. Next, click “Support” or “Driver Downloads.” Go to the support page of scanner model and check to see if they have any new software downloads for your scanner.

Will Your Old Scanner Work With Vista?



Need a Little Extra Help Scanning?

I recently created a new scanner tutorial. It contains interactive tutorials and scanning movies that will make scanning easier and teach you some fun tips and tricks to get the most of your scanner while keeping it simple and easy. More information may be found by clicking on the following link:

<http://heritagecollector.com//SVT/SVT1.htm>



If you have recently purchased a new computer it will probably have the Vista operating system installed. Unfortunately some older scanners are not compatible with Vista. You may need to purchase a new scanner.

Wait awhile before you give the old XP computer and scanner to the grandkids. You may still need the old computer to use with your old scanner.

Check the support site of the company (HP, Epson, Canon, etc.) that makes your scanner to see if it is compatible with Vista. Be careful to select the correct download to update your scanner model.

If your scanner is not compatible consider keeping your old computer system so you can still use your scanner or you will need to purchase a new scanner.



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<http://www.heritagecollector.com/Newsletter/Newslist.htm>

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