

September 14, 2009

Slide to File in Under 5

Purpose

Present an alternative to using a scanner for digitizing slides, negatives, or prints.

1. Types of scans and scanners.
2. Time and quality considerations
3. Demonstrate setup, methodology, processing and results.

Materials & Equipment

- Slides and/or negatives for digitizing
- Slide mounts for negatives
- Cotton gloves for handling negatives
- Dust Off[®]
- Slide projector and slide trays
- Hot press illustration board such as Crescent #200 or suitable substitute. Needs to have a very smooth, flat matte surface (not gloss or shiny) white or light gray.
Available from Meininger's 499 Broadway — \$12
- Digital camera (6+ megapixels recommended)
- Tripod or other camera support
- A really dark room

Procedures - for slides

1. Ready slide tray(s)
2. Setup camera, slide projector, projection surface as shown in the diagram.
3. Set camera settings for test photo. Select a “typical” slide for your test.
 - Flash off
 - Auto, Portrait, or manual setting.

4. Darken room and take a test photo.
5. Transfer test photo to computer. We recommend using a card reader such as this USB SDHC Memory card reader.
<http://www.meritline.com/usb-card-reader-all-in-1-765---p-34532.aspx>
 - Check for unwanted border.
 - Check detail.
 - Check exposure.
6. Repeat 4 and 5 until you are satisfied with the result.
7. Click Check and Next! (How often you check depends how picky you are and how variable the slides are.)
8. Transfer photos to your computer.
9. Back these up the same as you do for your other archival photos. (Burn to CD or DVD etc.)

Procedures - for negatives

1. Determine what method you want to use for dealing with negatives. Dealing with negatives takes a lot of time no matter how you do it.
 - Photo Service - High end to Walgreens, Costco, Target, Wolf Photo etc.
 - Whole strip on your scanner
 - Specialized scanner or attachment.
 - Scan from a print.
 - Treat negatives the same as slides.
2. Prep negatives
 - Cut negative
 - Put into a slide mount. (You can reuse old plastic mounts) (Use cotton gloves if at all possible)
 - Place in slide tray
3. Repeat 2 through 9 from slide procedure.

Slide to File in Under 5 – *Quick, Easy, and Good* an alternative method.

- This method will give you *better* results than most other transfer options, up to the \$5-10/slide custom transfer services.
- It is *much faster* than small scanner based solutions and gives equal or better results.
- It provides the opportunity to custom crop slides if so desired.

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DO NOT use a regular projection screen of any sort.

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Illustration board or other matte white flat surface.

