



**No vendor has manufactured a scanner *specifically* to scan bulky three dimensional objects or living botanical specimens.** The photoartists employing this exciting medium have all adapted off-the-shelf flatbed scanners intended to digitize photographic negatives and transparencies, photographic prints or two-dimensional artwork. The majority of us discovered this curiosity independently and through many hours of obsessive trial and error, brought it to artistic heights. What began in the early 1990's as a curious novelty was launched into an exciting emerging medium in just a decade or so despite the initial controversy and mockery.

**A new scanner, or an Epson scanner is *not* a prerequisite for any of my workshops. But **ONLY SCANNERS WITH A CCD mechanism can be used!** *Scanners using a CIS device will not work for 3D capturing.* If you are dissatisfied with your present scanner and want to replace it or don't have a scanner but are confused about which features you need or what brand or model to buy get an Epson Perfection model....**

#### **WHY EPSON?**

All flatbed scanners can be operated as a "stand alone" device OR you can choose to access it from the import menu of Photoshop, PaintShop Pro or even Painter (*any image editing program*).

General suggestion for newbies: purchase the least expensive Epson scanner. "Entry level" models "Perfection Photo" series, the features designed to scan negatives and transparencies increase the price. The business end of the scanner, the sensor, is the same. More expensive "Perfection Photo" models targeted for "Pros" have an increased "Dmax" an advantage for negative/transparency scanning but not so much for what we are doing.

All Epson scanners, from 69.00 to 3500.00

**What you need to know about buying a scanner**

**"A cheap Epson scanner is better than a more expensive any other brand."**

#### **WHY EPSON?**

**ONLY scanner models employing a CCD array (*not a CIS*) can be used for scanography.**

use a driver interface that is virtually identical. The higher end models have a couple of extra options. All Epson scanners include Adobe Photoshop Elements 2.0 or 3.0. This software is all your "average Joe" serious amateur photographer needs. But since we are "artists" folks like us may prefer to do our image editing using different software.

Now if you also expect your new scanner to work double-time and you are finally going to scan those 35mm negatives from the olden days or your dad's medium format negatives from the 50s, then you might benefit from the "Pro" price point models because you will be using everything that you paid extra for.

Epson's large format models are too pricey for the newbie, but if you have always really needed to make the highest quality reproductions of your artwork or paintings, these double size 3000.00+ models are everything you need and they make for very fine scanography too.

Manufacturers like to throw a lot of numbers at buyers who assume that the higher the number the "better". This is not always true. Let's talk resolution. All of the Epson scanners offer "high resolution". The industry regards "high resolution" as only 300ppi. Yet manufacturer's boast about higher and higher resolution. Optical resolutions of 1200 and upwards are more of an advantage to 35mm film scanning than the 1:1 size images we will be making. Why? Because a 35mm image is a teeny-weeny thing that needs to be enlarged way, way up to be printed at snapshot size. Resolution has nothing to do with image quality, more pixels means a larger print dimension and *not* more colors or a sharper image! A higher resolution is a *bigger* picture. But not necessarily a *better* one. What determines a superior image quality is the scanning sensor's ability to recognize and

record lots and lots of colors- subtle color nuances. And *that* is where Epson is heads and tails above everyone else. We just get a more vibrant, life-like three-dimensional looking result. The flowers appear to leap right off the page at you. And logically this shouldn't be. All scanners have a very shallow depth of field- not unlike a macro lens...yet our specimens are anything *but* flat. In fact they surpass traditional camera photography as far as close-up magnification goes. The only thing a scanned image can be remotely compared to is an image from an 8 x 10 view camera. Your scanner has more in common with large format digital camera than a Xerox "copy" machine. You will be making what is essentially a "photogram" image of the finest, lush detail.

Many scanographers prefer capturing with a third party scanning software such as Silverfast, ArtScan or VueScan. To jump to these websites visit my [resource list](#).

### **CIS vs. CCD array scanners**

Not sure what you've got? You can start by reading the scanner manufacturer stats. The stats should clearly state that the device uses a "CCD array". If it states *nothing* or CIS- look at another model. All Epson manufactured scanner models state the scanning device.

CIS devices can only capture a document placed flat against the platen. When the lid is left open the background is white, gray or splotchy shades of white and gray. There is NO way to capture a black background and the subject matter is fuzzy and not sharp. The CIS device is smaller and cheaper. You will find them in all brands other than Epson and Epson CX "all-in-one" type scanner-copier-printer models.