

New Scanning-Software SilverFast 9

Save your analog images, it has never been so easy. Our life holds countless moments and events ready for us. We try to remember the most beautiful and most important of them forever. That's why we use film to capture these unique moments and to put the memories on record. All over the world, billions of these photographic contemporary documents are waiting to be digitized.

Since these analog images, regardless of whether they are photos, negatives, slides or Kodachromes, are exposed to constant dangers, these irretrievable witnesses of past eras must be protected by digitizing them. The decay of the originals progresses every day, as the chemical composition has been in a constant process of change since the development of the images. Colors fade or change (see info graphic 1) and if stored incorrectly there is even a risk of fungal attack. Further dangers such as destruction by fire or flood disasters or theft can never be completely ruled out.



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Scanner Software
SilverFast SE,
SE Plus
and Ai Studio

PHOTOGRAPHIC FILM DESATURATION OVER TIME

Estimated Number of Years for "Just Noticeable" Fading to Occur on Film Material in the Dark at Room Temperature (75 °F / 24 °C).



Source: Wilhelm Imaging Research, FotoConservacion2011 – Logroño, Spain – Table 1

A new version of this scanner software has recently been available: SilverFast 9

SilverFast has been further developed extensively and, compared to its predecessor, contains a number of new features, optimized image processing and an improved user interface. Revised algorithms working in the background of the software, are able to speed up the scanning process to the point of 75% faster. This saves a lot of time when you consider that scanning many thousands of original images can often take weeks or months.

That is why thousands of institutions and millions of amateur and professional photographers worldwide are facing a major and very important task: preserving the world legacy of analog photography.

Which type of scanner is best suited for your digitization project depends on the types of originals your analog archive consists of. If you have mostly photo prints that you keep in photo albums or shoe boxes, you will need a flatbed scanner for your project. But if you only stored film material, whether

slides, negatives or Kodachromes, you should consider using a film scanner. In the event that you need to scan both photo prints as well as film material, a flatbed scanner with transparency unit would be best.

Regardless of the scanner type you are considering, using a special scanner software that is optimally adjusted to the hardware is always recommended. The German software company Laser-Soft Imaging has been a world leader in this area for decades with its SilverFast software.

SilverFast contains a multitude of extremely useful features. For years, one of the most important tools has been the **WorkflowPilot**, which guides the user in the correct order through all processing steps. The user is supported with tutorial texts and also with help videos which can be called directly from the software. This helps to learn the software while working with it. The idea for this concept derived from commercial aviation. "Pilots are using checklists to safeguard every working process. Everything takes place in the right order and mistakes are avoided," explains Karl-Heinz Zahorsky, CEO



△ Slide from 1972 – infested with mold

of LaserSoft Imaging, who also is a pilot with a commercial flight license.

Since dynamic range, along with resolution, is the decisive quality characteristic in image processing, the SilverFast software contains a tool that is capable of increasing the dynamic range. The patented **SilverFast Multi-Exposure** feature (multiple image exposure) increases the contrast range – and thus the image details the scanner can perceive – by an average of twice and thus contributes to significantly better results.

A completely new solution for scanning large amounts of images with just a single click is the **Single Archive Command (SAC)**. This functionality is integrated in the archiving version SilverFast Archive Suite. Thanks to the available presets, there is no knowledge of image processing and no complex configuration of the software required. This ensures that practically everyone can accurately digitize their images. A special scanner raw data workflow is used to ensure that no image data can be lost from scanning to processing.

With its SilverFast series, the German company is also a world leader in color management. Color corrections are often a very time-consuming aspect of digital image processing. The patented **SilverFast IT8 calibration** is used to ensure the scanner can perceive colors correctly right from the start. So-called IT8 color Targets, which are

manufactured according to an ISO standard, are used to characterize the color vision behavior of a scanner, i.e. to measure individual characteristics and to take them into account for creating a correction profile. These individual deviations can arise, for example, during production or through aging of the device.

You can guess how precisely the software can be adjusted when you open the Expert Mode available for many tools (included in the Ai Studio version). Settings, which in many other programs can only be roughly adjusted using sliders, in SilverFast can be controlled in detail using numerical values. If you note that the era of scanning started approximately 50 years ago with the technical developments of Dr. Rudolf Hell in Kiel, Germany, it is not surprising that the Kiel-based company still offers these fine adjustment options today. Another exam-

ple for the high-quality standards of the software is its histogram, which is used to detect and correct typical image errors such as under- and over-exposure. Only with SilverFast the histogram can be displayed in so many different modes: additively as a combination of all three color channels, transparently as an overlay of the three channels or in three separate curves. It is possible to switch between RGB and CMY display, and all displays are also available in 16-bit mode.

Back to the new SilverFast 9

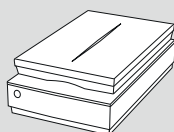
The software contains countless other unique features that allow to scan entire collections of analog images very quickly and with high quality. Basically, you don't need any additional software, as all the important tools known from other image processing programs such as Adobe Photoshop are available. In addition to numerous automatic features, this also includes neutral pipettes, unsharp masking and tools for removing dust and scratches.

Summary

We recommend using this additional software and we are sure that LaserSoft Imaging will further expand its market leadership in the field of scanner software with the release of the new **SilverFast 9**. **SilverFast 9 is now available for download at www.SilverFast.com from 49.00 EUR.** If SilverFast was already included in the package when you bought your scanner (see info graphic 2), keep an eye out for discounted upgrades to the premium versions Ai Studio and Archive Suite. All newcomers to the subject of „scanning“ should also be interested in the fact that LaserSoft Imaging will soon publish an extensive E-Book. ■

SILVERFAST INCLUDED WITH SCANNER PACKAGE

Flatbed Scanner



Epson Perfection V550
Epson Perfection V600
Epson Perfection V850
Epson Expression 12000XL

Film Scanner



Plustek OF 8100 SE
Plustek OF 8200i SE
Plustek OF 8200i Ai
Plustek OF120 Pro



SilverFast is available for many other scanners from Canon, Epson, Microtek, Nikon, Plustek and Reflecta.