

SilverFast - Pioneer in Digital Imaging



SilverFast[®] 8

Professional Scanner Software



ENGLISH



Focus Control
for crisp and sharp images



SilverFast 8 Focus Control

Some high-quality scanners, flatbed scanners as well as dedicated film scanners, facilitate to adjust the optic's focus. This means the possibility to offset the focus up to several millimeters above or below the regular focus level. Some scanners feature an automatic focus control system, where others additionally allow the user to set the focus manually.



The Focus Control tool is only available for scanners, which feature a motorized focus adjustment facility. Please find a scanner list at the end of this document.

What do you do with a Focus Control?

You don't need a focus control, if your originals really lie perfectly flat on your flatbed. However, using filmholders slightly lifts your originals, slide mounts are of different thicknesses and also filmstrips inserted to film scanners are not always perfectly flat, the focus can vary from frame to frame. Setting an appropriate focus leads to crisp and sharp images. A flatbed scanner offering a manual focus control may also be used to digitize certain three-dimensional objects like coins.



The Focus Control functionality slightly differs from scanner to scanner. Not every feature described here is available for every device.

Using the Focus Control Feature

- Open your SilverFast 8 software. Focus Control functionality is not provided for the WorkflowPilot mode. So, initially turn off the WorkflowPilot, if you want to use Focus Control. Therefore, please click on the WorkflowPilot icon at the top left. A red icon symbolizes, the WorkflowPilot has been deactivated.



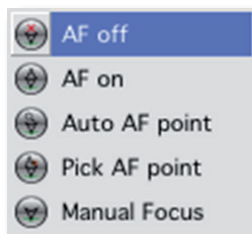
WorkflowPilot inactive

The Focus Control button is located at the very bottom of the vertical control bar. Depending on your scanner, you will find up to 5 focus settings:



Focus Control button

- **AF off:** Turns off the Focus Control functionality. Scans are performed without any focus offset, e.g. directly above the flatbed.
- **AF on:** SilverFast automatically sets the focus point to the scan frame's center. Before starting the final scan, SilverFast adjusts the focus offset automatically after analyzing this center point.
- **Auto AF point:** SilverFast analyzes the scan frame to decide, where the focus point should be placed. Before starting the final scan, SilverFast adjusts the focus offset automatically taking this focus point into account.
- **Pick AF point:** Set the focus point manually. Just left-click inside the actual scan frame at that position you would like the image to be focussed. SilverFast adjusts the focus offset automatically before performing the final scan.



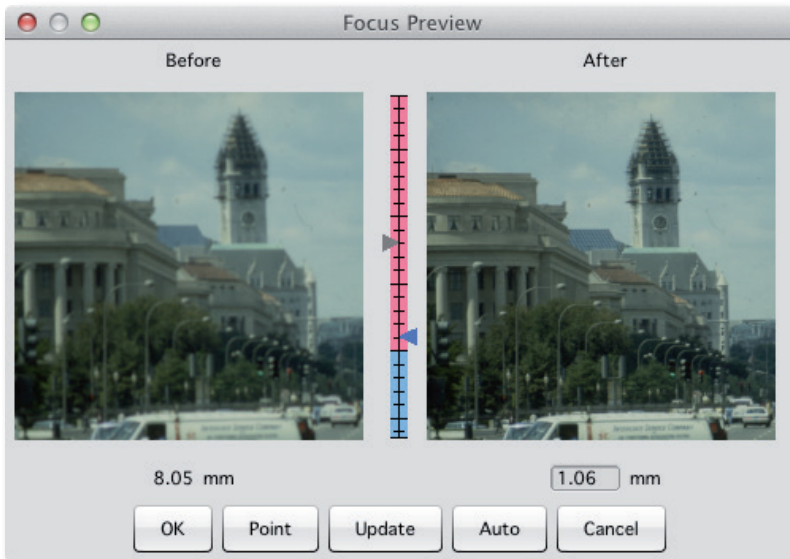
- **Manual Focus:** Set the focus point and focus manually. Just left-click inside the actual scan frame at that position you would like the image to be focussed. A Focus Preview dialog will open and SilverFast starts a prescan of that area.

Use this dialog to offset the scanner focus manually. Therefore, the preview dialog features several controls:

- **OK:** Keep new focus offset (blue slider, After) and close dialog. This focus offset will be used for the final scan.
- **Point:** Set a new focus point by left-clicking inside the actual scan frame. (You can move the Focus Preview dialog, if it has popped up in front of your frame.)
- **Update:** Perform a new prescan using the actual focus offset (blue slider).
- **Auto:** SilverFast calculates an optimum focus offset for this focus point and starts a new prescan using this offset value.



It is important to set the focus point to a high-contrast area. A sharp focus can not be determined on homogeneous image areas without image details.



- **Cancel:** Keep old focus offset (gray slider, Before) and close dialog. This focus offset will be used for the final scan.

- **Vertical Slider:** Set the focus offset manually by moving the blue slider on the vertical bar between both preview images. You can also enter the offset in mm inside the textbox below the After preview image. Click « Update » to start a new prescan.

List of Scanners that offer Focus Control

Following scanners offer a focus control functionality:

- Epson Expression 1640XL
- Epson Expression 10000XL
- Epson Expression 11000XL
- Epson Expression 12000XL

- Microtek ArtixScan F1
- Microtek ArtixScan M1
- Microtek ArtixScan F2

- Nikon LS 4000ED / Super Coolscan 4000
- Nikon LS 5000ED / Super Coolscan 5000
- Nikon LS 8000ED / Super Coolscan 8000
- Nikon LS 9000ED / Super Coolscan 9000

- Pacific Image Electronics PrimeFilm 7250 Pro3

- reflecta RPS 7200