EPSON PERFECTION 4990 PHOTO

Tone MAGAZINE
GOLD AWARD

★★★★★

+ Fast, accurate, simply stunning results

– Hard to keep dust off the scan surface

= The best flatbed scanner I've tried

Key features

- 4800dpi native resolution (higher by software interpolation)
- Optical Density (D-Max) of factor 4
- Handles up to A4 prints, and batches of three 120 or 220 medium format transparencies, two 4x5, eight mounted slides or 24 frames of 35mm film.
- Drivers are supplied for Mac and Windows
- Software supplied includes Adobe Photoshop Elements 2, SilverFast scan software, OCR and EPSON Scan and file management
- *NZ Macguide* magazine Best Scanner Award

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EPSON Perfection 4990 Photo Scanner $999

EPSON's latest flatbed scanner, the 4990, romps through scanning a big colour print at 300dpi in under a minute, and that's in gorgeous 48-bit colour.

Fitted with Digital ICE technology, the 4990 can correct dust and scratches during the scan. Software that ships with the scanner includes image file management (Apple users will most likely prefer iPhoto), but the EPSON scan software runs in Automatic, Home or Professional modes, and pro mode is definitely usable in most instances, allowing a host of tweaks and preferences to be set. In case that's not enough, SilverFast software is supplied as an alternative for those who really know their pixels, plus an Optical Character Recognition package for those scanning documents.

Prints reproduce clearly and quickly, but of course, the real test of a scanner is transparency reproduction. I scanned 20-year-old black and white negs, colour transparencies and even colour negatives. All that with breathtaking accuracy and getting very close to way more expensive dedicated transparency scanner quality.

With a variety of scan functions available like unsharp mask, ICE, dust removal, colour restoration and more, there's enough in the supplied software to keep most users more than happy.

> **"SilverFast software is supplied as an alternative for those who really know their pixels…"**

The 4990 can be connected by either FireWire or USB (but not both at the same time). The USB 2 cable is supplied, but not the FireWire cable.

Twenty-four scans at 2400dpi from transparencies in around 20 minutes is a great working solution (speed slows considerably if ICE and/or Dust Reduction is checked).

The 4990 comes with four transparency templates for different film-strips, mounted slides and transparency formats plus a flexible guide for larger sheets of film.

This is the best flatbed scanner I've ever tried, no contest. It's a top class scanner for almost any application.
By Mark Webster