

QUICK VIEW

- Manufacturer: Epson
- Model: Perfection V700
- RRP: \$999
- Scanner Type: Flatbed colour image scanner
- Optical Resolution: Super Resolution lens: 6400dpi x Sub 9600dpi (film holder scanning), High resolution lens: 4800 x 9600 dpi (reflective and contact sheet scanning)
- Optical Density: 4.0 DMax
- Document Size: Includes A4, letter, 35mm strip film six frames x 4, 35mm mounted film 12 frames, 120/220 film (max. 6 x 20cm) two frames, 5x4-inch 2 frames, 203 x 254mm (when using film area guide)
- Scanning Speed – Reflective Scanning: Monochrome A4 300 dpi – 11 Sec, 24 bit colour A4 300 dpi – 14 Sec, A4 600 dpi – 25 Sec
- Film Scanning: 35mm negative film, 2400 dpi – 47 Sec, 35mm positive film 2400 dpi – 44 sec
- Supported Platforms, USB 1.1, USB 2.0, IEEE 1394 (FireWire)
- Dimensions (WxDxH) 308 x 503 x 152.5mm, Weight: approx. 6.6kg

PROFILE



OTHER OPTIONS

Epson Perfection 4990 Pro
CanoScan 9950F

CONTACT

www.epson.co.nz

RATING

PROS Easy emailing, burning to CDs and printing, plus panorama stitching and one-step redeye fix

CONS Average design and awkward operation

Design	18
Features	20
Scan Quality	18
Performance	18
Value for Money	20
TOTAL	94/100

EPSON V700

Hans Weichselbaum lifts the lid on Epson's latest scanner and finds a product that is fast, accurate and well-priced

Six years ago, I bought my first dual scanner. It had a resolution of 2500dpi and was terribly slow. The price? \$10,000.

Today, every keen photographer needs a scanner. Even if you are fully digital, the chances are you have boxes full of film and photos.

However, a dedicated film scanner is expensive. So, is it necessary, or can the latest flatbed do the job just as well? I thought test-driving the latest model from the Epson Professional Photo series would be a good way to answer those questions.

THE FIRST IMPRESSION

The silver-grey and black colour scheme is in line with previous Epson photo scanners, but the design is somewhat different. In fact, it reminded me of the scales in your local Post Shop.

The V700 Flatbed/Film Scanner does not come with an ordinary film-lid. It sports a dual-lens system, promising an impressive resolution of 6400dpi in the film department.

My heart sank when I saw the separate power supply. Oh no, not another one of those, I thought. But then I remembered that top scanners keep their power transformers separate to minimise noise for improved image quality. So, I stopped complaining and was looking forward to seeing what the promised DMAX of 4.0 can do with my film. The higher the DMAX of a particular scanner, the wider the range of tones the scanner can capture and the higher that scanner's Dynamic Range is.

Before switching on the unit, you need to release the two locks that hold the moving parts safe during shipping. This is well-indicated with plastic labels which need to be removed – it would be difficult to overlook, even if you are not in the habit of reading instructions. After connecting the scanner to your computer with the supplied USB cable (or you might prefer the Firewire option), you are ready to install the software.

SOFTWARE INSTALLATION

The scanner comes bundled with Photoshop Elements 3.0 and SilverFast SE 6. The driver installation disc also has ABBYY FineReader 6.0 Sprint Plus. This is an OCR programme – one of the best, in my opinion – and very handy to turn your document scans into editable word files or spreadsheets.

You will also find a Copy Utility and a Creative Suite, which can turn your scanner into a simple photocopy machine.

During driver installation, you will be asked about colour profiles with three to choose from. I installed them all and then selected Adobe RGB 1998, which is the choice of most professionals.



SUPER-FAST SCANNING

There has been an improvement in speed with every generation of new scanners, but I was still blown away by the speed of this machine. It only took nine seconds for the pre-scan and 15 seconds for a full A4 colour scan at 300dpi!

There are three settings to start your scan: Full Auto Mode, Home Mode and Professional Mode. The first option is fine for scanning documents, but for serious work, especially with film, I wouldn't consider anything other than the Professional Mode.

CRISP AND ACCURATE

The Auto Levels command does a good job, giving crisp and accurate scans with excellent colours. I found the highlight clipping a bit heavy-handed, but that can be corrected manually.

Scanning times go up with increasing resolution. Loading a tray with 12 slides and scanning at 6400dpi will allow you a generous lunch break. Switch on the ICE and you can add a dessert and a bottle of wine, and you will find the scanner still humming away when you stumble back to the office.

In most cases, 4800dpi is plenty and the scanning time comes down to a more reasonable 18 minutes for 12 slides.

Be careful with the Dust Correction, which tends to drown the finer image details, but the ICE worked as expected, leaving you with a clean and sharp scan.

CONCLUSION

Would I buy one? Yes, if I didn't already have its bigger A3-sized brother in my collection.

Where else can you get a scanner that can do 35mm to 8x10-inch film in near drum-scan quality for less than \$1000?