

Scanner_Epson

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Chapter 1

Scanner_Epson

1.1 Scanner: Epson

To support the needs of print publishers (and film production houses), ImageFX includes scanner modules for some of the more flexible reflected-light color scanners.

The Epson scanner module supports scanning in 24-bit color, 8-bit grey and 1-bit monochrome. This single module is compatible with two cable types and all members of the Epson family of desktop color scanners. Some features in this panel, however, will only work with the Epson 800c model scanner, because this is the only model that offers those additional features.

The Epson scanner must be connected to your Amiga's own built-in parallel port. ImageFX cannot use the Epson scanner connected to a parallel port on any other expansion card you may have.

In most cases, parallel switchboxes will also cause trouble. Epson scanners are designed to turn off their photoconductive elements when not connected to a live computer port. Thus, switching between the scanner and a parallel printer can cause a jam when you later attempt to use the scanner with ImageFX. If this occurs, you will need to power down; and then restart your computer.

The Epson Scanner module defaults to Preview Mode, with a reduced view of the scanner bed displayed in the ImageFX Preview buffer.

Across the bottom of the Epson scanner module are the Basic Scanning controls. If you are just setting up your scanner for the first time, click the Extras... button to determine that the scanner module is properly configured.

When configuring for Epson Scanners the first time, it is best to set up the Scanner module control panel before physically connecting the scanner for the first time. Just load the Epson scanner module and wait until ImageFX reports that it cannot communicate with the scanner. This may take several minutes.

After canceling the requester, proceed to the Extras panel and set cable type to suit your hardware configuration. Then use the

Preferences panel to save your scanner configuration as part of the overall ImageFX preferences file.

The first item in the Extras panel determines which cable type you are using to connect the scanner to your Amiga. The two settings are: GVP and ASDG. The GVP cable is carried by Redmond Cable, (615) 478-5760. The ASDG cable may be available through other sources.

The other items in the Extras panel control features that are built into the Epson scanner. ImageFX uses names that are consistent with the excellent Epson documentation. Consult the scanner manual for a full description of these features. Options that are not supported by your model of scanner will be ghosted.

When the Extras panel is configured to your liking, click Okay to proceed.

The first scan you make should be done in Preview mode. This is a quick, low resolution scan of the scanner's entire bed. It appears in near-realtime in a reduced view on the Preview screen.

The cycle gadget that shares the top tier with the Extras... button determines whether the preview scan will appear as Grey or Color in the preview buffer.

Depending on the image's content, you may wish to view the preview scan in either Color or Greyscale. Greyscale preview is much faster and it usually carries more detail; but no color information, of course.

The preview and preview color settings have nothing to do with whether the scanned data contains greyscale or color information. The actual scan content is determined by selections in the bottom tier of buttons:

Bit Depth The first cycle gadget in the bottom tier determines whether the scanned data will consist of 24-bit color, 8-bit greyscale, or 1-bit monochrome information.

1-bit monochrome
scan data is converted to 8 bits for processing. If you wish to save the scan as a monochrome image, set your preferred Render module to use just 2 colors, render the image, and then save the Rendered image.

Color Channel
The Color Channel cycle gadget performs the same function for the scan data as the Color Channel selectors in ImageFX's main Toolbox perform on the Main Image buffer: They determine which of the Red, Green, and Blue channels are active. In the case of the scanner, if a channel is not active, the corresponding color strobe inside the scanner will not be fired.

Dots per Inch (DPI)

The DPI selector covers a wide range of scanned image resolutions. The higher the DPI setting, the longer a scan will take and the larger the resulting data file will be.

Preview scans therefore, default to a very low DPI setting. To be viewable on a computer screen, an image needs only 50 or 75 DPI resolution.

Full fidelity Detail scans destined for magazine publishing should be scanned at the highest DPI setting available. Generally, however, Dots per Inch, overall image dimensions and ultimate file size will vary depending on the image and its intended use.

Scanned Image Size Controls

The elements in the upper portion of the Epson Scanner panel provide control over image dimensions.

X and Y Area Dimensions

The top Integer gadgets are for directly entering scan Width and Height pixel dimension values. Clicking on either Area button produces a secondary dimensions requester. They also act as readouts for values set through use of the Interactive Cropping Tool.

X and Y Offset

The bottom Integer gadgets are for directly entering pixel dimension values representing an offset from the top, left corner of the scan bed. Clicking on either Offset button produces a secondary dimensions requester. They also act as readouts for Offset values set through use of the Interactive Cropping Tool.

Measuring System

This cycle gadget determines whether Area and Offset dimensions are expressed in terms of Pixels or Inches (centimeters, if Metric Units is selected in the Prefs panel).

Scan Limit

This cycle gadget determines whether the Preview or Detail scan will cover the Boxed area represented in the Area and Offset dimension readouts (also represented by the size and position of the Interactive Cropping Tool), or the Full page (the entire scanner bed).

Orientation, Preview/Detail & Scan Buttons

Assuming that you have set all of the scanning controls to appropriate values, the two gadgets at the left of the Epson module panel are used to actually produce the scan:

Portrait/Landscape

You can determine whether the scanned image data will be loaded into the ImageFX main buffer in portrait or landscape orientation. This setting does not change the direction of the scanner. It merely saves you the additional step of rotating the scan 90 degrees.

When scanning an image into Virtual Memory, using Landscape mode can take a VERY long time. Normally, it is better to scan in Portrait mode and use ImageFX to rotate the image afterward.

Preview/Detail

This cycle gadget is used to determine if the scan will be used as an approximate or Preview image for purposes of setting up a particular area to be scanned in detail. The Detail setting prepares ImageFX to load the full-fidelity 24- or 8-bit data into its Main image buffer.

Scan When all other scanning parameters are set, click the Scan button to scan an image.

Please consult the manual for a tutorial entitled "Scanning an Image with Epson" which describes a typical scanning procedure using the Epson scanner module. As with all creative processes, your own method may vary.
