FLAAR Reports

Nicholas Hellmuth

updated SEPTEMBER 2004

Preview of FLAAR Reports

On Scanners

Nicholas Hellmuth inspecting CreoScitex scanner

Previews of FLAAR Reports on Scanners

During the last three years FLAAR distributed free reports to over 31,000 individuals and companies. At an average of 3 to 4 reports per person, that was over 93,000 free reports.

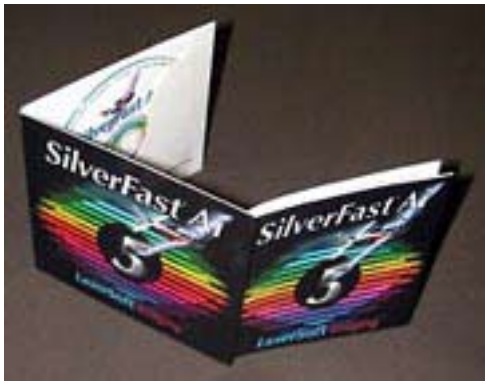
But the university said that the costs of distributing all these free reports should be shared with those who are receiving the reports. So, starting this month, we now ask for a contribution in order to cover the costs of doing the background research, writing, editing, and distribution. FLAAR has about 25 employees now, at two universities.

However where possible, Previews will be available at no charge. This way readers can at least see what is in the reports which incur a cost.

The prime value of a FLAAR report is to critique the shameless exaggeration of manufacturers. Can't blame them for trying, but we feel that end users deserve to have an ombudsman to provide assistance in sorting out fact from fiction.

Sample Coverage of the FLAAR Reports on Scanners by Nicholas Hellmuth

What about using a flatbed scanner for 35mm slides or negatives? If you need to scan slides for using on the web, then you can use a flatbed, but most flatbed scanners have weak points. This is why most people look at dedicated 35mm slide scanners (the ones that are upright, shaped like a toaster). We discuss the pros and cons of each shape of scanner.



What about scanning masses of slides? Most photographers, art professors, architects, researchers, medical doctors, and all kinds of professionals have amassed thousands of their own slides. It is not practical to scan them one-by-one on a slide scanner. It is less practical to let them float on top of a normal flatbed (slides slide on the slippery glass plate and get our of line).

FLAAR itself has 40,000 slides, all of which have to be scanned, so we are in a typical situation faced by many other people. We are now in the process of selecting, testing, reviewing, and recommending which system(s) are best and which other systems of cost-effective for mass-scanning of entire 35mm archives. The first result we have already reported namely to suggest not using Kodak's Photo CD system. We tried about 2000 slides and are unimpressed and disappointed (it was cheap, however, 50 cents per slide). Results of tests with better equipment are in our FLAAR Reports on scanners.

FLAAR Fast Facts on scanners by Nicholas Hellmuth

Why can't you scan your slides on an Epson, HP, Microtek, Agfa, or Umax flatbed scanner?

Interpolated dpi is useless so be careful not to mis-read the specs. I saw one misleading ad that claimed a cheap scanner scanned 99,000 dpi or something equally impossible.

Newton Ring Defects from Scanning

What is a Newton Ring?

How can Newton Rings be avoided all together?

Scanner Sweet Spot

If you scan the same image twice, one in the middle of the scanner and again anywhere else besides the middle, on most cheap scanners the results will not be the same. Why?

What is the most harmful thing in your home or office for a scanner?

What if your images have scratches, how can you get a clean scan?

Which Scanners are best for medical x-rays?

What about color negatives?

These are some of the crucial questions covered in the FLAAR Reports on scanners by digital imaging consultant Dr Nicholas Hellmuth.

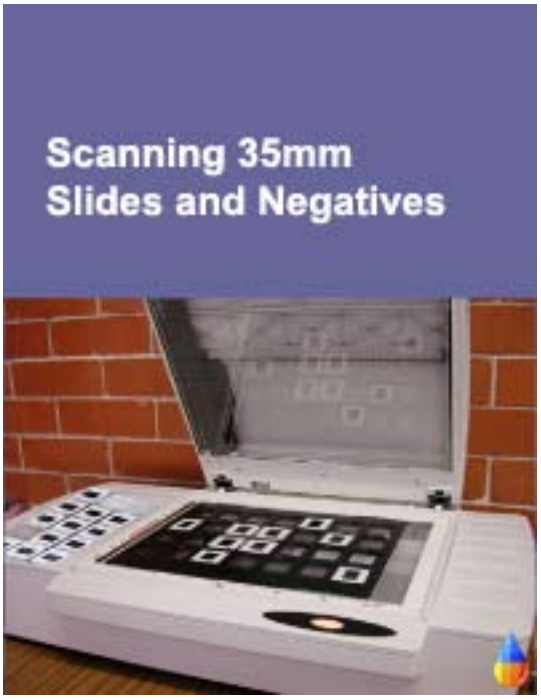
The answer to a simple question, "which scanner?" needs a tad more discussion. The commercial sites will gladly sell you the scanner they make profit on.

But FLAAR does not sell scanners, we do however sell information.

If you are scanning in order to print on a laser printer or on an inkjet printer sized 11 x 17, 13 x 19 inches, 24" wide format or larger, then we recommend you opt for the FLAAR Reports on scanners by Nicholas Hellmuth.

Scanners and Scanning 35mm

FLAAR has significant experience as consultant for scanning slide archives, such as for the Japanese National Museum. We are currently scanning several thousand 35mm slides in our own archive. This means our report on scanners is written from years of personal experience in scanners, scanner software, and the whole workflow process.



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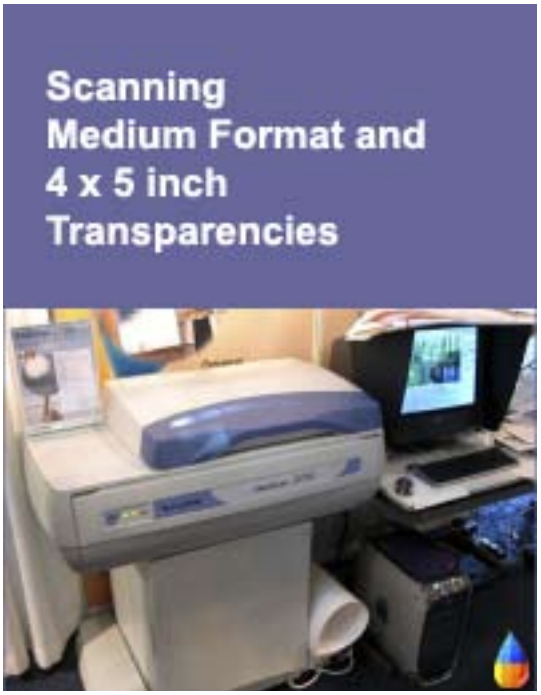
Scanning Medium Format and 4 x 5 inch Transparencies

This report is for photographers who wish to print on wide format printers: inkjet and/or laser-light digital imagers. Scanning medium format and large format chromes is a bit different than scanning 35mm negs and slides, so we have a separate report on each in this series. The entire FLAAR project on digital imaging is based on the Japanese ministry of education providing a grant for Professor Hellmuth to assist the National Museum of Ethnology, Osaka, on how to scan their photo archive (which was largely Dr Hellmuth's own photos which the museum had purchased the year before). This Japanese project and a succeeding scanner project had a budget of about $250,000. When you order the FLAAR Report-SERIES for Photographers you get the results of all these years experience.



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Recommended Books on Scanners & Scanning

plus

A List of Helpful Websites that Provide Tips on Scanning and Scanners

New August 2004

All three scanner reports together, $21.
If you want just two of them indicate which ($16 for any two).
If you just want one of them, indicate which one ($12 for any one of the above reports).

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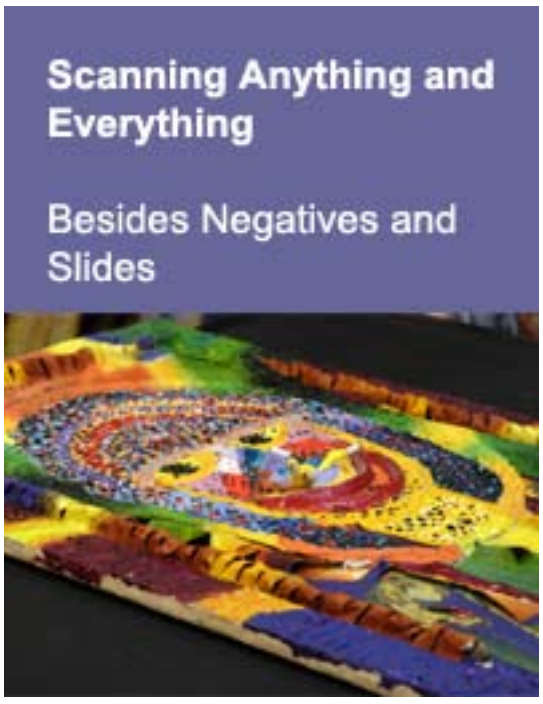

Scanning Anything and Everything Besides Negatives and Slides

This brief FLAAR Fast Facts covers scanning prints, objects, medical x-rays, textiles, materials, etc.
This information is free once you buy any other FLAAR Reports on scanning.

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Wide Format Scanners

Evaluation of a Wide Format Scanner: HP DesignJet Scanner 4200

Updated August 2004.

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Comments on Wide Format Scanners. FLAAR Fast Facts

Both reports on wide format scanners sold together, $60, discounted to $40 if you are a Favored FLAAR Reader (meaning if you have filled out an Survey Form).

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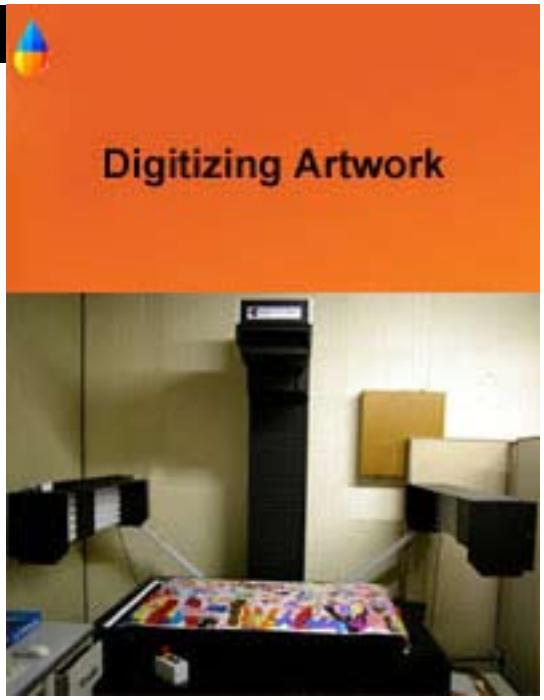
Xerox Engineering Systems (XES)
Scanner Software for wide formar scanners

Scanners for Fine Art, Giclee & Decor

If you prefer to produce giclée prints (rather than straight photography prints), then we have scanner information organized for the fine art giclée enthusiast.

Scanners: what flatbed scanners and large format digital cameras are best for digitizing your paintings *or artwork so you can print them*. Comparison between drum scanners vs flatbed scanners. If your budget covers only a megapixel point-and-shoot camera, this report is not for you. If you want a cheap scanner for home use; this report is not for you either.



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Scanner software
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Digital Imaging Software
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Sweet Spot
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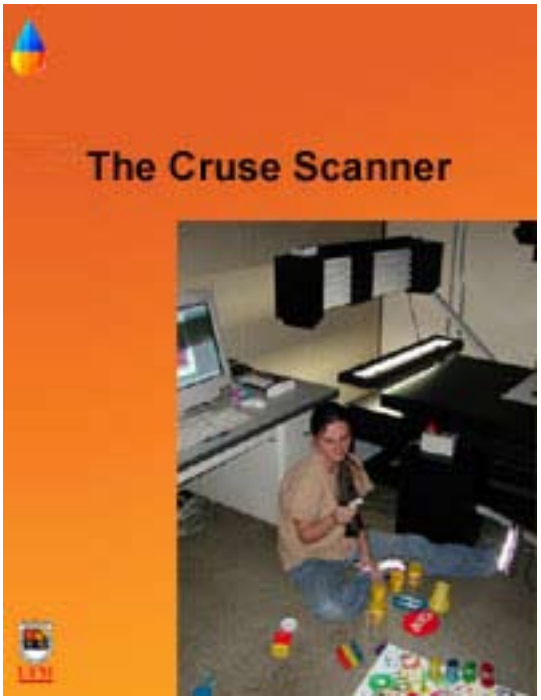
Where to Buy the Digital Photography Equipment?

Operator's Manual for the Cruse Scanner / Digital Camera System. This is the FLAAR update and revision of the operator's manual for this $97,000 reprographic system in the FLAAR facilities at Bowling Green State University. The Cruse system is the Rolls Royce for digitizing your fine art paintings in order to reproduce them subsequently as a giclée print. This camera is designed and built as you would expect for a German engineering company (Cruse GmbH).



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There are several ways to obtain the FLAAR Reports on scanning paintings for fine art giclee printing.

First, you can order the fine art giclée SERIES; check out

www.wide-format-printers.net/scannersprepressfineartgiclee/scanningfineart_negatives.htm

Second, you can sign up for the FLAAR course on fine art giclee that includes both scanning paintings, photographing paintings, and printing your paintings as giclee. Information on this course will be forthcoming on the FLAAR websites.

But in the meantime, you can obtain all the FLAAR Reports on 35mm slide scanners, wide format scanners, and scanning medium format and 4x5 chromes. Just go to www.wide-format-printers.NET/35mmslidescannerswideformatflatbed/CanonKonicaMinoltaNikonCoolscanslidescanners.php and find the major link on scanners (links are in the column at the right).

Screen Cezanne Elite scanner

CLICK HERE TO VIEW EACH FLAAR NETWORK SITE

www.cameras-scanners-flaar.org | www.fineartgicleeprinters.org | www.digital-photography.org
www.wide-format-printers.org | www.laser-printer-reviews.org | www.ctpid.ufm.edu.gt | www.flatbed-scanner-review.org
www.FLAAR.org | www.wide-format-printers.NET | www.large-format-printers.org | www.flatbed-scanner-review.org

Please realize that all reports are in Adobe Acrobat PDF format. The reader software is free from www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html
PDF files are intended to be read on your computer monitor. Naturally you can print them if you wish, but if the photographic images within the reports were high enough dpi for a 1200 dpi laser printer it would not be possible to download them. So the images are intended to be at monitor resolution, naturally in full color. FLAAR itself makes the files available only in PDF format because that is the international standard. We have no mechanism to print them out and mail them. Obviously if you have downloading problems we will try to help, but please realize that we assume you have a 56K modem (or better) and capabilities to handle a basic PDF file.

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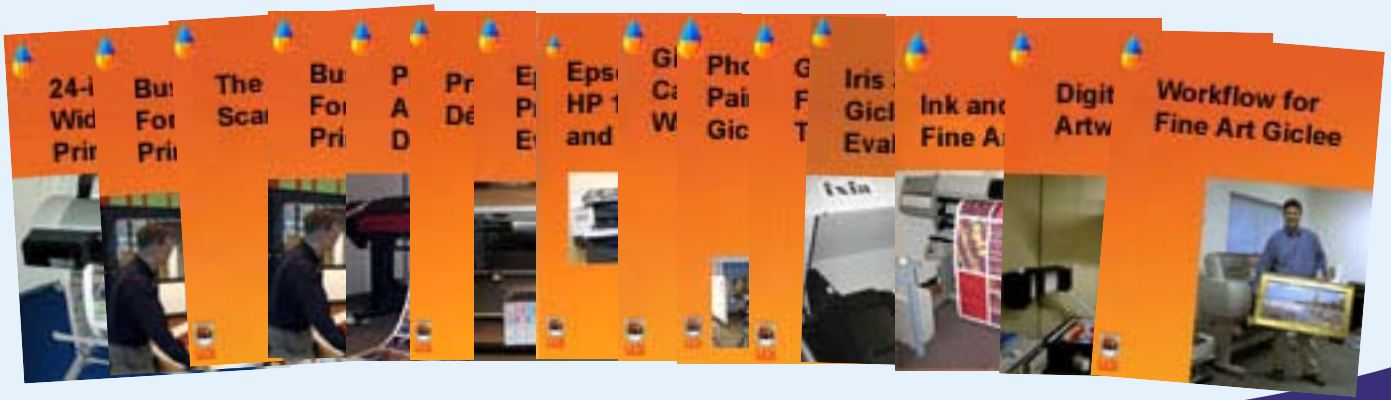
Acquire these reports at:

www.wide-format-printers.net

Media Series

RIP Series

Fine Art Glicee Printer Series