

## CHAPTER 2 - SCANNING & COPYING

Scanners  
Camera Copies  
Pixels & DPI  
File Types

Digital restoration is the easiest and safest manner of restoring and protecting old photographs. By making a high resolution digital copy of the original photograph and following the examples in this KwikGuide you may be able to bring a damaged photo back to a near-perfect likeness of the original.

The first step in the process is capturing a high quality, high resolution image. This success of this step may affect how well many of the restoration techniques can be performed.

Most scans are usually not restoration-quality. They most often were captured at a low resolution and saved as JPG files; both are bad for restoration projects. This chapter will explain how to capture the ideal scans you need.

### Create Good Scans

Three characteristics make a good restoration scan.

- High Quality – A good quality scanner is essential.
- High Resolution – High Resolution is at least 300 DPI, usually higher.
- Scans saved in an un-compressed file format.

### What To Look For In a Scanner

In addition to creating a good quality, high-resolution image, a scanner should be able to save the image using un-compressed formats like TIFF or Elements' PSD format at 300 DPI or more.

### Flatbed Scanners

A flatbed scanner that accommodates an 8.5 inch x 11 inch document will work in most cases. If you wish to scan slides or negatives, look for a scanner that includes separate scanning lights, usually located in the lid of the scanner.

Larger format scanners, while great for over-size photographs and documents, may be expensive, usually costing over a thousand dollars.

For serious restoration projects a full-featured flatbed scanner will deliver the best results.

### All-in-One Devices

All-in-one devices that include a printer, fax, and scanner may not have the features desired for restoration-ready scans. In addition, they may not produce images

equal to the quality of mid-range flatbed scanners. All-in-one devices are not recommended for restoration projects or important archival scans.



Figure 2-1. A flatbed and Flip-Pal mobile scanner.

### Mobile Scanners

Several portable or mobile scanners perform very well, though most scanners of this class do not have an extensive feature list, may have limited pixel-resolution, and usually save files in a compressed JPG format. However, devices such as the Flip-Pal® mobile scanner do provide an excellent means to capture photos or documents while at a library, research center, or family gathering. The Flip-Pal mobile scanner creates excellent scans and its flip-and-scan technology allows you to scan bound documents and book pages.

See the scanner reviews on the KwikGuide web pages.