DIY Workshop
Conversion of Negatives
Creative Camera Club – First Thursday
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Agenda

• Intro
• Difficulties with converting negative film
• Negative conversion eqpmt & SW
• Creation of contact sheets for negatives
• Creation of quality positives of negatives
  – Large & medium format
  – 35 mm
  – Q&A
• Conclusion
Intro

- Paul’s intro
- Participant intro
Difficulties w converting negative film

• Can’t see what you are working with
• Film scanners take a long time
  >10 min = 4 negatives w IR dust correction
• 3\textsuperscript{rd} party film scanning can be expensive
• DIY conversion w/ cameras difficult
  – Hard to remove the orange masking
  – Direct inversion requires lots of PS touchup
  – Takes a lot of time per negative
Negative conversion eqpmt & SW

• Non-film & film scanners
• Digital cameras, lightboxes, negative holders
• Batch conversion capability a must
• Scanning SW - VueScan by Ed Hamrick
• VueScan unadvertised feature:
  – convert camera images of negatives to positives
• Consider a jig: ShotCopy, modified copy stand
• PhotoLine/PhotoShop + ColorPerfect plugin
  – Caution: ColorPerfect was designed for scanned images vs camera images
• Image browsing SW –BreezeBrowser Pro & PIE
• SW to control camera remotely: DSLR Remote Pro/NKRemote
Software details ...

• VueScan ($40 basic, $80 pro)
  – www.hamrick.com

• PhotoLine (~$90 (59 Euro))
  – www.pl32.com

• ColorPerfect ($67)
  – www.c-f-systems.com/Plug-ins.html

• DSLR Remote Pro/NKRemote ($175)
Equipment details

- Lightbox – Porta-trace 2-bulb light box ($50)
- Glass (local glass shop)
- Adjustable monitor stand ($35)
- Bubble levels ($18)
- Xtend-a-slide 35 mm negative film carrier ($14)
How to Create Digital Contact sheets

- Make sure negative strips are clean
- Use 8-1/2 x 11” archival sheets to organize
- Light from behind using large lightbox
- Use clear glass to flatten
- Use digital camera/smartphone to take jpgs
- Use jig, steady hand, faster shutter speeds
- Convert using VueScan
How to Create Quality Positives - 35 mm

- Use the best digital camera you’ve got
- Use evenly diffused lightbox (e.g. HP TMA’s, PhotoSolve adapter)
- Fill as much of the screen as possible
- Use jig if possible (ShotCopy or other)
- Make sure your camera is parallel to the image (use bubble level)
- Consistent image positioning is important for batches!!!
- Shoot both RAW & jpeg
- Use PT Lens plug-in to correct lens distortion
- Crop as needed
- Use VueScan to convert jpeg negatives
- Use ColorPerfect to convert raw -> tiff negatives
  – Note: CP set up & use is not simple, but is well worth the effort!
- Post processing: Adjust for white balance, contrast, NR, and sharpness
Additional info ...

• Your goal should be to fill the image sensor with the entire 35 mm negative image
• This is possible using various techniques – macro lenses, extender tubes, macro settings, etc.
• When the negative image fills the sensor, look at the histogram and expose to the right (ETTR)
• This will produce better quality images – remember, when converted:
  - black -> white
  - white -> black
Conclusion

• What quality level do you *really* need?
• Do you have the eqpmt, SW, time, and desire?
• How important is batch processing to you?
• *You can do this yourself!*
• PandaPix offers DIY consulting + equipment
• PandaPix can create contact sheets/HQ images for you
• More info at [www.pandapixky.com](http://www.pandapixky.com) – DIY Tips