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**Minolta DiMAGE Scan Elite II
Offers High-Quality Scanning and High Productivity at Affordable Price**

Minolta is pleased to introduce the DiMAGE Scan Elite II, a new 35mm and Advanced Photo System film scanner. As a successor to the Dimâge Scan Elite, the European Digital Scanner of the Year 2000-2001,* the new Elite II has increased performance, efficiency, and ease of use, as well as a reduced price.

The DiMAGE Scan Elite II is easy to use for beginners while being a powerful imaging device for advanced amateurs and professionals. The 2,820 dpi scans are supported by sophisticated software controls. Using technologies from the DiMAGE Scan Multi PRO, the Elite II provides class-leading 16-bit A/D conversion and a dynamic range of 4.8 to reproduce fine gradations and details not only in the mid-tones, but also in the highlights and shadows. Transferring the huge image files to the computer is quick and easy with the supplied USB or IEEE 1394 (FireWire) cable.

Removing image defects has never been simpler with Applied Science Fiction's Digital ICE³™ technology that minimizes surface defects, restores color, and reduces grain.

Minolta's user-friendly driver software controls scanning, and offers flexible image correction with a well-organized interface. For first-time users, the Minolta Easy Scan Utility provides fast, simple scanning setup. A Photoshop plug-in for Macintosh, and TWAIN driver software for Windows allows the scanner to be interfaced directly to the bundled Adobe Photoshop Elements.

More affordable than its predecessor, the DiMAGE Scan Elite II is a simple, efficient, high-quality imaging tool for beginning or advanced image makers.

* The extract from the press release is attached.

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Main Features

High-Quality Scanning

The DiMAGE Scan Elite II makes it possible to faithfully reproduce smooth, detailed gradations with subtle colors.

16-bit A/D Conversion, a Wide 4.8 Dynamic Range, and 16-bit Output Capturing Color and Details from Highlights to Shadows

Powerful A/D conversion and wide dynamic range is indispensable for obtaining high quality scans. The 16-bit input can handle 65,536 gradations per color channel, 16 times greater than its predecessor's performance. The 4.8 dynamic range ensures highlight and shadow details are retained. The 16-bit output preserves the details of the original scan.

Optical Resolution of 2,820 dpi

The optical scanning resolution of 2,820 dpi allows photographers to reproduce a film image into fine-quality printouts. The Elite II can produce an image from 35mm film that can be printed on A4 size paper with a resolution of 300 dpi; more than enough quality for family albums and promotional business materials.

High Reproduction Performance with Negative Film

The DiMAGE Scan Elite II's reproduction performance with negative film is a remarkable advance over its predecessor. The Elite II automatically adjusts to the density range of the scanned negative to optimize the reproduction. For example, negatives with a large density range, such as pictures with backlit subjects, are controlled so that highlight areas retain detail rather than being washed out. Color images with a dominant color are analyzed to preserve the original appearance of the scene.

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Advanced Color Matching

Advanced color matching ensures that the colors in the scanned image are very close to the original film. In combination with photo-retouching applications featuring color management systems, scanned images retain virtually the same colors when used with different monitors and operating systems. This is essential for fine color control. The color matching system is compatible with all common monitors: sRGB, Apple RGB, SMPTE-C, PAL/SECAM, NTSC, etc.

Multi-Sample Scanning

Multi-sample scanning delivers virtually noise-free images, giving smooth, natural results. 2, 4, 8, or 16 samples can be taken. Multi-sample scans reduce random noise by averaging the sampled images.

Digital ICE³™ Sophisticated Digital Enhancement Tools That Significantly Reduces Total Work Time

The DiIMAGE Scan Elite II is one of a few desktop film scanners in its class that provide Digital ICE³™ (Digital ICE Cubed). Digital ICE³™ is a combination of three sophisticated digital enhancement tools from Applied Science Fiction: Digital ICE (Image Correction & Enhancement), Digital ROC (Reconstruction of Color), and Digital GEM (Grain Equalization and Management). Digital ICE³™ saves time and money by producing professional-quality images without resorting to time-consuming digital retouching, or hiring outside digital service bureaus.

This trio of image processing tools can be selected individually or in combination. Digital ICE™ significantly reduces surface defects in the film such as scratches and fingerprints; the advantage of this tool is apparent when working with enlarged images.* Digital ROC™ reconstructs the color of faded or badly exposed film, allowing photographers to preserve their film assets and protect their shooting investments. Digital GEM™ minimizes image grain without effecting image detail, enhancing pictures from high-speed film or enlargements of high-resolution scans.

* Digital ICE³™ is recommended primarily for use with color film; it can also be used with chromagenic black and white film. Digital ICE is not recommended for use with Kodachrome film.

Quick and Easy Dual Interfaces High-Speed IEEE 1394 (FireWire) and USB

Two cables, for high-speed IEEE 1394 and USB 1.1 connections, come standard with the DiMAGE Scan Elite II, allowing quick and easy set-up and image transfer. Thanks to the plug & play and hot swapping interfaces, users do not need to restart or turn off the computer every time they connect the scanner. The high-speed IEEE 1394 interface facilitates the handling of large image files; it will change the idea that transferring high-resolution images is slow and frustrating.

Simple, Versatile, and Flexible Driver Software Facilitates Smooth Scanning

Designed for novices and advanced users, the DiMAGE Scan Elite II driver software offers flexible scanning control. Minolta Easy Scan Utility automates most scanning procedures for first-time users. Advanced image manipulation can be achieved with a variety of focusing and image correction functions. All driver software is user-friendly and provides a well-organized, simple graphic user interface; tab partitions and graphic function buttons allow for quick, easy access.

Minolta Easy Scan Utility Allows Easy Scanning Setup

Designed especially for the novices, the Minolta Easy Scan Utility makes it fast and simple to scan photos. Users simply follow the instructions appearing in windows to complete the scanning procedure. Image data is tailored to match its final application. For example, the scanner will control the file size if the image is to be sent to a friend via e-mail.

Versatile Scanner Control

Three Focus Modes

Even low contrast images can be focused accurately with Minolta's autofocus system, which employs film grain. The standard autofocus mode quickly focuses on the center of the image and produces razor-sharp scans. The Point AF mode is able to focus accurately on any point in the film area. Images can also be manually focused or defocused using a slider bar.

Flexible Image Correction

Image processing gives additional control over image sharpness. If the original film image is soft, edges and details can be sharpened using the Unsharp Mask, which produces subtle yet striking micro-image edge enhancement without affecting smooth gradations. The AE Area Lock allows users to adjust the brightness of the scan by selecting an specific area on the image to calculate the scanning exposure. Color tools allow flexible correction with R/G/B Color Balance or the Hue, Saturation, and Lightness Correction palette. Contrast compensation adjusts the relative values of the image. The Tone Curve and Histogram is laid out in one window for quick and easy access. Fine adjustments can be made to a specific color on the Selective Color Correction palette.

During correction, images can be temporarily saved with a click of the Snapshot button. Users can jump back and forth between the thumbnails to compare changes made to the image and chose the best result. The Image Correction Job function saves a specific correction setting, which can be recalled and applied to other images. With Pre/Post Correction Comparison, before and after images of corrections can be compared.

Automated Scanning Procedures Increase Productivity

The DiMAGE Scan Elite II substantially automates the whole scanning procedure. Users simply set up the scanner with the Custom Wizard. With the click of a mouse, the Custom Wizard can start the pre-scan, crop the image to the holder frame, apply Digital ICE³™, activate the Image Correction Job function, carry out the final scanning, and eject the holder. Custom Wizard can control continuous scans. The Elite II can scan four mounted slides or a six-frame 35mm format filmstrip at one time. The optional APS adapter allows an entire roll of Advanced Photo System film to be scanned automatically.

Bundled Software

Provided with the DiMAGE Scan Elite II is Adobe Photoshop Elements, the sophisticated, yet easy to use image editing software.

DiMAGE Scan Elite II

Technical Specifications

* with optional APS Adapter AD-10

Film type

35mm: Color/black and white, Negative/positive
 Advanced Photo System:* Color/black and white, Negative/positive

Maximum input resolution:

2820dpi

Maximum scan size:

35mm film: 24.21 x 36.32 mm
 Advanced Photo System:* 17.29 x 29.98 mm

Maximum input pixels:

35mm film: 2,688 x 4,032
 Advanced Photo System:* 1,920 x 3,328

Scan method:

Moving-film, fixed-sensor, single-pass scan

Sensor type:

3-line color CCD

Number of pixels:

2,700 pixels per line

Filter:

RGB filter

Multi-sample scanning:

2X, 4X, 8X, 16X, Off

Continuous scan:

35mm-film holder: 6 frames (max.)
 Slide mount holder: 4 frames (max.)

A/D conversion:

16 bits

Output data:

8 bits, 16 bits (per color channel)

Dynamic range:

4.8

Scan time:

Approximate time with positive film, 2820 dpi input resolution, 8-bit output color depth, no Digital ICE³, no cropping, no autoexposure, no color matching:

† Scanning time will increase when using any of the Digital ICE³.

Macintosh:

	Pre-scan	Final scan	Index scan (per frame)
35mm film:	7 s	33 s	7 s
Advanced Photo System film:*	8 s	29 s	7 s

System environment:
 CPU: PowerPC G4 533 MHz
 RAM: 512MB
 Hard disk space: 35GB
 Operating system: Mac OS 9.1
 Application: Adobe Photoshop 6.0
 Memory allocated to application: 380MB
 Interface: FireWire (IEEE 1394) as standard

Windows:	Pre-scan	Final scan	Index scan (per frame)
35mm film:	7 s	33 s	7 s
Advanced Photo System film:*	7 s	28 s	7 s
	System environment: CPU: Pentium IV 1.5 GHz RAM: 512 MB Hard disk space: 630 MB Operating system: Windows 2000 Professional Application: Adobe Photoshop 6.0 Memory allocated to application: 400 MB Interface: Adaptec AFW-4300		
PC interface:	USB 1.1: USB 4P x 1 IEEE 1394 (FireWire): IEEE 1394 6p x 1		
Focus:	Autofocus (Point AF available), Manual focus		
Light source:	Cold-cathode fluorescent tube		
Power requirements:	Voltage: 100-240V AC Frequency: 50/60Hz		
Maximum power consumption:	20W		
Dimensions:	145(W) x 100(H) x 325(D) mm		
Weight (Scanning unit only):	1.5kg (approx.)		
Standard accessories:	35mm-film Holder FH-U1 Slide Mount Holder SH-U1 USB Cable UC-1 IEEE1394 Cable FC-1 AC Adapter AC-U10 CD-ROM for DiMAGE Scan Elite II Photoshop Elements		
Optional accessories:	APS Adapter AD-10		

Specifications and accessories are based on the latest information available at the time of printing and are subject to change without notice.

Specification figures are based on Minolta's standard test method.

System Requirements

MACINTOSH – USB

- Computer:** Apple Macintosh models with a USB 1.1 port as standard interface
- CPU:** PowerPC G3 or later (PowerPC G4 is recommended for scanning with Digital ICE, ROC, GEM, and 16-bit output.)
- Operating system:** Mac OS 8.6 – 9.1
- Memory:** A minimum of 64MB free memory in addition to the requirements for the Mac OS and applications (128MB or more for scanning with Digital ICE, ROC, GEM, and 16-bit output. 256 MB or more is recommended.)
- Hard disk space:** 100 MB or more of free hard disk space. (500MB or more for scanning with ICE, ROC, GEM, and 16-bit output. 1GB or more is recommended.)
- Monitor:** 1024 x 768 pixels or greater is recommended.
A monitor with 640 x 480 pixels can also be used.
- Number of colors:** 32,000 colors or more
- Other:** CD-ROM drive
- Photoshop plug-in driver software has been fully tested for use with Adobe Photoshop ver. 5.0.2, 5.5, 6.0, Adobe Photoshop 5.0LE, and Adobe Photoshop Elements.
- ColorSync profile is included in the CD-ROM for DiIMAGE Scan Elite II.

MACINTOSH – FireWire (IEEE 1394)

Computer:	Apple Macintosh models with a FireWire (IEEE 1394) port as standard interface
CPU:	PowerPC G3 or later (PowerPC G4 is recommended for scanning with Digital ICE, ROC, GEM, and 16-bit output.)
Operating system	Mac OS 8.6 [†] – 9.1
Memory:	A minimum of 64MB free memory in addition to the requirements for the Mac OS and applications (128MB or more for scanning with ICE, ROC, GEM, and 16-bit output. 256 MB or more is recommended.)
Hard disk space:	100 MB or more of free hard disk space. (500MB or more for scanning with Digital ICE, ROC, GEM, and 16-bit output. 1GB or more is recommended.)
Monitor:	1024 x 768 pixels or greater is recommended. A monitor with 640 x 480 pixels can also be used.
Number of colors:	32,000 colors or more
Other:	CD-ROM drive Photoshop plug-in driver software has been fully tested for use with Adobe Photoshop ver. 5.0.2, 5.5, 6.0, Adobe Photoshop 5.0LE, and Adobe Photoshop Elements. ColorSync profile is included in the CD-ROM for DiIMAGE Scan Elite II.

[†] Users of Mac OS 8.6 must download and install the dedicated driver software from the Apple Computer web site.

PC/AT – USB

- Computer:** IBM PC/AT compatible models^{†1} with a USB 1.1 port as standard interface^{†2}
- CPU:** Intel Pentium or later. (Pentium 166MHz or later for scanning with Digital ICE, ROC, GEM, and 16-bit output. Pentium III or later is recommended.)
- Operating system:** Windows 98, Windows 98 Second Edition, Windows 2000 Professional or Windows Me
- Memory:** A minimum of 64 MB of RAM (128 MB or more for scanning with ICE, ROC, GEM, and 16-bit output. 256MB or more is recommended.)
- Hard disk space:** 100 MB or more of free hard disk space. (500MB or more for scanning with Digital ICE, ROC, GEM, and 16-bit output. 1GB or more is recommended.)
- Monitor:** 1024 x 768 pixels or greater is recommended.
A monitor with 640 x 480 pixels can also be used.
- Number of colors:** 16-bit high colors or more
- Other:** CD-ROM drive
The TWAIN driver software has been fully tested for use with Adobe Photoshop ver. 5.0.2, 5.5, 6.0, Adobe Photoshop 5.0LE, Adobe Photoshop Elements, Paint Shop Pro 7, and Corel PHOTO-PAINT 9.

^{†1} Only for PCs with pre-installed Windows 98, Windows 98 Second Edition, Windows 2000 Professional or Windows Me

^{†2} USB port guaranteed by PC manufacturers

PC/AT – IEEE 1394

- Computer:** IBM PC/AT compatible models
- CPU:** Intel Pentium or later. (Pentium 166MHz or later for scanning with Digital ICE, ROC, GEM, and 16-bit output. Pentium III or later is recommended.)
- Operating system:** Windows 2000 Professional or Windows Me operating system
- Memory:** A minimum of 64MB of RAM (128 MB or more for scanning with ICE, ROC, GEM, and 16-bit output. 256MB or more is recommended.)
- Hard disk space:** 100 MB or more of free hard disk space. (500MB or more for scanning with Digital ICE, ROC, GEM, and 16-bit output. 1GB or more is recommended.)
- Monitor:** 1024 x 768 pixels or greater is recommended.
A monitor with 640 x 480 pixels can also be used.
- Number of colors:** 16-bit high colors or more
- Recommended IEEE1394 interface:**
Adaptec AFW-4300
OHCI-compliant IEEE 1394 port as standard interface[†]
- Other:** CD-ROM drive
The TWAIN driver software has been fully tested for use with Adobe Photoshop ver. 5.0.2, 5.5, 6.0, Adobe Photoshop 5.0LE, Adobe Photoshop Elements, Paint Shop Pro 7, and Corel PHOTO-PAINT 9.

[†] Non-DV-dedicated IEEE 1394 port guaranteed by PC manufacturers

Error-free operation is not guaranteed for any of the systems recommended.

System requirements are based on the latest information available at the time of printing and are subject to change without notice.

* Digital ICE³ and Digital ICE/ROC/GEM are trademarks or registered trademarks of Applied Science Fiction.

* Windows is either a registered trademark or trademark of Microsoft Corporation in the United States and/or other countries.

* Macintosh and FireWire are trademarks or registered trademarks of Apple Computer Inc.

* Other corporate and product names are trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective companies.

Appendix

The Dimage Scan Elite F-2900 named "European Digital Scanner of the Year 2000-2001"

The Dimage Scan Elite went on sale in November 1999. This film scanner handles both 35 mm and Advanced Photo System (APS) film formats, and is equipped with "Digital ICE™" automatic image correction functions that can automatically detect and compensate for scratches and dust on the film surface.

EISA had this to say about why they selected Dimage Scan Elite as digital scanner of the year -- "With this film scanner, Minolta has created a secure and reliable tool for both the professional and the enthusiastic amateur photographer who wants to digitize 35 mm- and APS slides and negatives. With automatic dust and scratch correction, good colour control, 2820 dpi resolution and excellent included software this scanner delivers professional quality at a reasonable price, making it appealing for more people than just the elite of the digital photography world."

EISA is made up of representatives from 40 professional camera and video magazines from 19 European countries. Since 1982, awards have been given annually for outstanding products of the year in 20 categories, including single lens reflex cameras, compact cameras, digital cameras, and films. The year 2000 marks the 19th year for the awards.

The award ceremony will be held on September 19 in Cologne, Germany.

* Digital ICE is a trademark of Applied Science Fictions, Inc.