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

- 3rd 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)
  - http://www.breezesys.com/DSLRRemotePro/

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 – DIY Tips
- More info at http://www.instructables.com/howto/pbriggs8/