

Family Legacy Productions' Tips for Slides & Negatives



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These are tips for how to handle the slides and negatives that you would like to transfer to create digital slide shows, print, and preserve safely. I will refer to slides in the instructions below, and these tips can be used for negatives as well.

1. Whether you will be digitally scanning your own slides or sending them to a professional service you will get better results if you clean the slides. You can use compressed air—the same kind that you use for clearing dust from computer equipment, available at office supply stores. You can also use an antistatic brush or whisk (available online and at camera stores). Hold the slides at the edges and spray each side of the slide. If you are concerned about creating more smudges on the slides you can wear lintless cotton gloves (usually \$5, available online and at camera stores) while you are working with the slides. You will not be able to remove every speck of dust and scratch, but it will give you a good base to begin.

2. Next, you will need to count your slides and determine the time and expense you want to invest in digitally transferring your slides.

On average, if you scan them yourself, plan on spending 10-15 minutes per slide between the scanning, minor retouching, and color-correcting. Unless you already have scanning equipment, you will need to purchase a slide scanner. Two well-reviewed moderately priced consumer slide scanners are the Epson Perfection Photo Scanner V500 and the Canon CanoScan 8800F, both \$250. Slide scanners can cost as much as \$2000. You maybe also want to purchase an external hard drive to store your slides.

If you send your slides to a professional service, on average you will spend \$.50-\$.85 per corrected slide. Here is a link to a comparison of all the professional slide scanning services: <http://tinyurl.com/8847mf>. Usually, you will mail your slides to the service and they will transfer your slides and returned them and the digital files on CD in 6 weeks.

3. If you decide to scan your slides yourself, familiarize yourself with the scanner and software you will be using. Especially important is the resolution you scan the slides at. We recommend scanning your slides at a resolution of at least 3000dpi to get the most information from your slides. And make sure you know the location you are scanning the slides to on your computer so you will be able to find them easily.

4. If you have hundreds or thousands of slides, set reasonable goals--perhaps 20-50 slides per week. Since it is a tedious task, find a podcast, audiobook or music you want to listen to while you're scanning to make the process more enjoyable and increase the likelihood that you will finish the entire project.

5. Whether you send your slides to a professional service or scan them yourself you should save the physical slides. It is always a good idea to have a hard copy. The best way to house your slides is in archival quality polypropylene sheets in binders. You can find them Archival Products (<http://tinyurl.com/yaz5o4nf>) and at many scrapbooking

and photo stores. This will protect the slides from dust and environmental damage. It is also a good idea to store the slide binders in a different location from the computer, external hard drive, CD or other digital storage location in case of fire, flood, or theft so that you will have a back-up.