Forward from Jim Weatherford

I was unable to find the original articles but I cut and pasted the content into a document that I have attached. Both articles are about settings for scanning slides and that is the tricky bit (and what takes a lot of time) so the settings are crucial; otherwise, each scan takes forever, and you end up with a gigantic file. Articles are way too long and filled with nonsense but there is very good info buried in there.

I have had a great deal of success scanning prints (I have scanned over 10,000) all the way down to the tiny prints the woman in the meeting referenced. Even at fairly high resolution, which for larger prints is totally unnecessary as the resolution of the actual print is not that high to begin with, each scan generally takes under a minute. I used 300 dpi most of the time which, again, is crazy overkill, particularly for sharing online, but even those take less than a minute. At a lower resolution they bang through in 15 seconds or less. As she suggested, my most common usage is to share them with family members online but I have been able to print several with pretty good results. Also tremendous for scanning old letters and diaries as well. As a reminder, this is for an Epson Perfection V600 Photo. I have had it for probably 5 years and am extremely happy with it.

First Article

SETTINGS FOR SLIDE SCANNING
I installed the CD software, then plugged in the machine, and finally I turned it on with the ON/OFF button HIDDEN on the right side of the machine. The online manual and the manual on the CD say to use the box with a diagonal arrow to turn it on but that's WRONG, WRONG, WRONG! Contrary to what the instructions say there IS an on/off button. The quick start guide included is correct in this respect.

So, for decent slide scans here is a nice setting list:

Mode = Professional
Document type = Positive film
Image Type = 48-bit
Resolution = 2400 dpi
CHECK the unsharp mask box to turn it on, set level to LOW
CHECK the Color Restoration box to turn it on.

Nothing else checked.

Click preview, select and flip any upside-down slides with the options
Click Scan and sit back and wait while all 4 slides are scanned (a little under 4 minutes to scan and auto-name and auto-save).

ACTUAL PROJECT:
Each slide takes 1 minute to scan, auto-name and auto-save.
54 boxes of slides x 100 slides each = 5400 slides.
That's 5400 minutes, which equals 90 hours. That's about two-and-a-half-weeks worth of work at my old jo, working 8 hour days. Totally doable!!!!

Each scan closed on disc is less than 5MB, so we'll round up to 5MB.
5,400 x 5MB = 27,000MB, which is 27GB.
WOW! 27GB will totally fit on a cheap 64GB thumb drive!
It will also fit on about 7 DVD-R discs. A spindle of 100 DVD-Rs is like $20, lol!

So: get this; get a can of spray duster; some distilled water if your originals are too gross; a 64GB thumb drive and some DVD-R + blank discs.

Second Article

First off, use the professional mode for slides. The automatic easy mode has drawbacks: it only allows 1200dpi scans at the highest setting; even though it's only 1200dpi it seems to take longer than the professional mode at 2400dpi; even though in the manual it says you can skip the preview...it actually does one preview at a time and shows that to you while it scans, which means the preview portion takes FOUR times as long. Also, when you select the color restoration option: the little preview is color restored, but the scan isn't! It's a weird flaw in the software. So: it takes 2x-4x as long and doesn't actually apply color restoration to the scan that is autosaved to your computer. Another problem is that the unsharp mask is NOT an option in the automatic mode! Thus: if you want to scan, color restore and sharpen you have to use the professional mode (and re-check the color restoration box after selection "all" 4 previews with the blue frame highlighting them AFTER EVERY PREVIEW!!!!). Use the professional mode.

48-bit color is noticeably better than 24-bit. Not just nit-picking, it's easily noticed. 24-bit results in flat blocks of color like 1990s over-compressed JPGS, lol. Make sure to use the 48-bit option.

On principle I NEVER enable ICE/dust correction because it does a couple things: slows down the scanning/saving process; and it also can do weird things to some photos. I've found it will do well on a bunch of photos, but then do weird things to the glint in peoples' eyes in portraits and makes then look crazy. We're happier with the sprayduster can.

I fiddled a little with the grain removal setting, but it just kind of blurred my test slides. Yep: if you blur a photo it's hard to see the grain. I leave the grain removal OFF. You can always blur your scans later if you wanted to.

Red EYE reduction: I suppose if you have like 500 slides of people with red eye (reflection of on-camera flash unit's light) then MAYBE you could use this, but I leave it off because I have no idea what it might randomly decide to do to normal portraits or even photos with no people in them. Why chance it?

Unsharp mask: you can always sharpen later; but if something is oversharpened it's harder to fix. Sharpening bumps up the color value between two areas of abutting colors (heavier outlines). The sharpening feature IS really nice, so I set it to the "LOW" setting. A good safe bet.

Color restoration: WOW! Professionally I would never use this in the past, but this just works great with our Kodak EktaChrome and KodaChrome slides from the 1970s-1990s. I mean the benefit of having this checkbox CHECKED ON is amazing! Something that might take me 10 minutes to get in PhotoShop is just instant. It does wonders even on slides I thought were totally fine. USE IT!

There are other settings were you want to: UNcheck the write over files with the same name (why would you want to overwrite your previous scans? An accident waiting to happen). I think it defaults to name by sequential number (1, 2, 3...). I changed the default name from "Img" to "Slide" So they come out "Slide001" "Slide002" and on and on.

File type: I selected JPG with no compression (1 out of 100). You could also select TIFF. Honestly, the JPG is nice. When I was a professional (paid) scanner I would save as TIFF. It was lossless (doesn't throw out color information). JPEG has come a long way, and if you set it at no/low compression you won't have problems. TIFFs are still a tad bigger, but if you're scanning once and then throwing away your slides then scan huge and save as TIFF for that once in a lifetime chance of archiving. Honestly, the JPEG is totally fine: at a 1 setting you don't see any jpeg blocky digital artifacts-even when zoomed in. JPEGS also (still) seem to play better when most stuff online/social/tv set/BluRay player/etc. It really doesn't matter too much TIFF vs JPG (as long as you set the JPG to 1 No compression).

UNFORTUNATELY it defaults to some default compression setting closer to 100 which WILL LOOK AWFUL, lol. Set it to 1 and then forget it. You're pics will look great. Still worried? Then set it to save as TIFF files and you'll just have to burn a few more DVDs on a large project--no biggie, DVDs are cheap these days. Back in my publishing days it was always: TIFF = Files sent to book printers and files sent to archive CDs ; JPGS for online databases and educational CD-ROMS. It used to REALLY matter which you chose when, but now not so much because you can basically turn off the JPG's compression. Then it basically acts like a TIFF, but still works easily online/TV set viewing/etc.

In fact, setting the bit-rate on this scanner down to only 24-bit results in blocks of flat color-just like over-compressed jpgs looked like in the 1990s! That's why I said to use 48-bit.

Somewhere in the advanced settings option when you first open Epson Scan you can also uncheck the "include color profiles" box. Unless you're sending your files to a professional printing press that needs specific color profiles THIS JUST BLOATS THE SIZE OF EACH OF YOUR SCANS! I don't care about LAB COLOR vs CMYK vs Srgb ICC profiles and when I was a professional our printers (and by printers I mean the humans who ran huge color printing presses that are about 40' long) would set their prepress to strip out/ignore any color profiles accidentally left attached to image files we sent them...because THEY wanted to control the color, not some random file that nobody on our end looked at or modified or fixed or cared about. UNLESS YOU'RE A PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHER SENDING SCANS TO A COLOR PRINT PUBLICATION THAT REQUIRES YOU TO SEND ALONG COLOR PROFILES uncheck the box and save space on your computer. Even if you sent a scan to go on the cover of National Geographic I have a feeling they'd override your profile settings when they went to print the magazine.

For slides use a light table to flop them down on and arrange them. Also a lamp is good for helping to see which is the shiny side and which is the dull emulsion side with raised lines on it. Emulsion side goes facing the ceiling. If you don't have a lightbox just stick a fluorescent lamp bulb under a clear tuppeware container or something to make one.

I take four slides out, have my thumb and index finger hold them by the edges with space in between and that allows me to dustspray between all four at the same time. Fast and easy! Take time to arrange your desk and work area and you can shave DAYS off your project completion time.

WORKFLOW
Each box of 100 slides gets a new folder on the desktop. It is named with whatever is on the spine of the box of old slides.

Turn on compute and scanner.
Click on Epson Scan
Select "Professional" and "Current Settings"
2400dpi
Check color restoration box on
Check unsharp max on / Medium
Dust spray and put in 4 slides.
Click Preview
Click on any of the 4 previews (NOT the little checkboxes) and they will be highlighted with a blue frame.
Use the "E" rotate button to rotate any highlighted previews.

****VERY IMPORTANT STEP RIGHT HERE: Click the "ALL" button the highlight all four previews with blue frames and then click "RESTORE COLOR CHECKBOX TO ON"/ (The color restoration feature shuts itself off after every preview, and if you turn it back on it only applies to the previews with blue frames around them!). This is for "pros" who only color restore 1 out of every 4 slides or whatever.

Click "Scan".

Change 4 slides.
Repeat a 193 times...once you get 4GB worth then save to DVDs, drag and copy to thumbdrive and drag and copy to external hd.
Delete scans off computer.
Repeat 7 more times.
Pop the cork on some champagne...you're done! Actually, you'll probably want to be drinking throughout the entire project because scanning is a dull, dull process. That's why I became a librarian. Yes, being a librarian is way more exciting than being a scanner operator. LOL!

Save to DVDs.
Save to USB Thumb drive.
Save to an external hard drive (1 Terabyte for $49) using an external hard drive plug-n-play docking station ($20).

Store the slides in a cool, dark place.
Put a couple thumb drives in different spots.
Put DVD copies in different places.
Have yet another thumbdrive to plug into our TV to view the slides! Many BluRay players also accept USB thumb drives (or just pop the DVDs you burned into it and view photos).

3 Different archive media (USB Thumbdrive, DVD-R +, External Hard Drive)...plus the copies on the desktop computer this scanner is plugged into.

SHINY SIDE GOES UP for slides (dull emulsion side down).

For a little more money, and a bit more time you'll have USEABLE FANTASTIC scans.

My father and I both researched this slide project. He is a film/darkroom photographer how was an automotive engineer and I was a digital imaging specialist from 1997 -2007 and am now a librarian. It took him a couple days and he favored the Epson v850 for around $1000. I researched for 15 minutes and actually ordered this V600 (for around $200). LOL. It just makes sense.

Go look at the photos people post as examples in the reviews for the Wolverine and Jumble units: I can't even tell what some of the pictures are of! Let alone gauge their quality of digitization.

If you've got the time and money for this machine you won't be disappointed with the results.

Computer (we have a 2/3 year old Dell with i5 core processor and Windows 10, regular non-solid state hard drive)
This Scanner
Dust-off Sprayer
USB Thumbdrive (archive 1)
Blank DVDs (archive 2 or more if you burn multiple copies to send to various relatives)
External HD (archive 3)
Time: 1 minute per slide

This thing is heavier than my 25 year old Umax PowerLook III scanner which was used in by my at my job in a multi-million dollar publishing empire. They of course laid-off everyone and sent the work to China/India. They DID sell me my computer and the Umax cheap though! I don't know who got to take home the Nikon CoolScan slide scanner (w/auto-feeder), LOL!

If you want a simple solution with GREAT quality and TONS of user changeable settings (but also simple settings too) then GET THIS!!!!

Do you have only a month to scan 50,000 slides? Well, then contract a vendor to do them for 60 cents per slide and then sell you an external hard drive with your scans on it...plus shipping...plus expedited service...plus insurance which will give you a few dollars if the shipper looses all your slides so instead of your photos you'll have like $300 and the horror of loosing priceless, irreplaceable pictures.

By the way: for my 5,400 slides it would cost at least $3,240 to have them scanned (plus shipping, plus hard drive they return the scans on, etc.).

For that much money I could: buy this Epson v600 and pay friend, young relative, random weirdo off CraigsList,college student, neighbor $3000 to do the actual scanning for me!

If anything I gave you: a template to plan your project/setup/costs & some easy start-up settings to get great slide scans. I hope this helps.

By the way, this thing comes in a HUGE box. Everyone thought I bought a new TV.

UPDATE: It's the second day of ownership, and even with our time spent testing settings, setting up a light box, unpacking and dusting off 54 boxes of 100-slide carousel wheels we managed to scan 2 entire boxes out of the 54! Not bad at all! It's going to snow tomorrow, so that'll mean we'll probably get another 2 boxes done. So, casually in about a month our huge archive will be completely scanned. We already popped some of the scans onto a USB and plugged it into a BluRay player: SO COOL SEEING OUR OLD PHOTOS!!!

Don't waste anymore time shopping for the cheaper scanners: THIS IS THE ONE YOU WANT!

The ONLY THING THAT SUCKS ABOUT IT IS: after every 4 slide batch is previewed the "Color Restoration" box UNchecks itself. So you have to select all four previews and ONLY THEN click to check the color restoration box, and then scan. However that takes about 2 seconds and is a LOT faster than going into PhotoShop and trying to color correct them. I can spend 5-15 minutes trying to color correct an RGB color image, and even longer for a CMYK image for print (textbook, magazine, book cover, etc.). After you do a few dozen you won't even have to think: your hand will just click ALL and Color Correct and SCAN. Muscle memory.

The other thing that sucked was the "hidden" power button that was misidentified in two of the three manuals (online, on CD, printed startup guide).

Good luck, have fun, spend a day or two scanning and rescanning a few documents to get the perfect settings and physical workflow that works for you!