



Digitizing Your Old Photos

Let Someone Else Digitize Your Photos

- 1) Choose an online service or a local business that digitizes photos. Be sure to make several comparisons to get the best for your money.
- 2) Select, pack, send your photos to the service.
- 3) Depending on the service, but most will make small corrections to photos. Cost will probably run anywhere from 8 to 44 cents a photo.

Digitize Your Family Photos Yourself

- 1) Invest in a Scanner
- 2) Sort and Organize Photos
- 3) Scan in Batches
- 4) Separate each scanned photo batch into individual files
- 5) Label or identify each photo
- 6) Save on cd, dvd, computer hard-drive, external hard-drive, cloud service, or print.

1) SCANNER

Transforming an extensive library of paper prints into an electronic anthology is a big task. Any flatbed scanner or multifunction printer will do, but for the best — and fastest — results, invest in a dedicated device like Kodak's P811R Personal Photo and Negative Scanner, which accepts everything from wallet-sized to 8x10 images. Canon's highly rated CanoScan 9000F is much pricier but offers automatic corrections like fading and backlight. It can also handle slides and 35mm film.

2) Sort and Organize

Before you scan the photos, consider the way in which you'll organize them. By date? By event? How will the files be named? The options are endless, but no matter which method you choose, choose a system before you scan, and organize your printed photos into stacks accordingly.

3) Batch Scan

It's important that you thoroughly clean both the photos and scanner, as the scanner's sensitive sensor will pick up even a speck of dust on the glass or on the photo.

Scan multiple photos at once. On an average-sized scanner bed, you should be able to scan 4 4x6 photos at once, and crop them later. Use this method to cut down scanning time.

4, 5, 6) Separate, Label, Save each Photo

This can be done with several different photo editing software program or you can download a special scanning software dedicated to the process of separating photos.

I am at present trying out a trial version of a software program called Speedscanner. It will automatically identify each photo or if you have them to close you can manually select the photos. It will make each photo into a separate file and then let you label each photo. It saves each file in two formats (tiff and jpeg) to your computer, cd, or external hard-drive.