Installation of SilverFast

Insert the SilverFast installation CD-ROM into the drive. Start the CD if it does not run automatically. Double-click on the installation program "SilverFast InstallPilot.app".

- Select your language. Go on with "Next".
- Click "Install SilverFast"
- Decide whether the SilverFast manuals and the SilverFast QuickTime movies should also be installed. Click on "Install".
- The installation parameters are now set and the actual installation process can begin. Follow the installation instructions of the operating system. Make sure that you have all installation rights (root or administrator) for your computer.
- End the installation process under "Quit".

Start SilverFast

Start from SLauncher: Start SLauncher by double-clicking the application. Choose the installed SilverFast version with a mouse-click on the appropriate palette. SilverFast will start as usual.

Start from Photoshop: Start Photoshop and select your SilverFast version under "Import" in the "File" menu (Windows: "File" menu),
Serialization and Registration

The main dialogue comes up with the serialization dialogue, where you input your first name, last name, company and the serial number.

This code consists of numbers between 2 and 9 (no ones and no zeros) and all letters between A and Z except the letters "i" and "o".

Click “Unlock SilverFast” once you have entered all data.

Please register your version of SilverFast; only then will you receive support and have access to the latest versions using the Online-Update.

Clicking the „Register“ button, and then hitting the „Register“ button will then launch the registration procedure.

SilverFast Ai IT8 Workflow in six Steps

1. Prescan

Click “Prescan” to launch a prescan. Next, adjust your scan frame to the desired size. Adjust your frame by dragging the selection marquee over the image accordingly. Make sure the marquee frame is inside the actual image area itself.

2. Image types and Auto-Optimization

Under “Image Type”, make the appropriate selection to configure the Auto-Adjust, so the automatic image control knows how to optimize the image. Immediately after the selection of an image type, the auto-adjust is applied automatically (notice how your image is optimised).

If you do not change “Image Type” selection you can press the auto-adjust icon in the tool bar to optimise the image. You’ll soon notice how high lights, shadows and midtones are automatically corrected.

3. Correcting Brightness

If the image looks too bright or too dark you can open the “Gradation Curves” from the tool bar. Use the midtone slider to correct the overall brightness of your image.

Any correction that you perform can easily be undone by typing “Command-Z” and redone by typing “Command-Z” again (“Crtl-Z” on a Windows PC, respectively). In fact, you can toggle between the two.

4. Setting the Image Dimensions of the Scan

Enter the desired output settings like output size and output resolution. An output resolution between 200 and 300ppi is recommended for Ink jet and laser printers.
5. Sharpening the scan (USM)
Select "Sharpen (USM)" in the "Filter" menu. Since sharpening depends on resolution and scaling factor, be sure to set these parameters BEFORE sharpening. In order to see the effect of the USM on the scan, select "Prescan" in the USM dialogue. SilverFast then scans the selected part of the image and displays the effects the current settings will have on the final scan. By clicking and holding the mouse into the window, the before/after effect is shown.

6. Start Scan / Start Batch Scan
In order to start scan click on "Scan" button and the scan into the image application or to disk will start.
In order to time-efficiently scan several images in one single pass a batch scan mode is integrated in SilverFast. When all images are optimized for scanning according to step 1 to 5, the batch scan mode can be activated. This can be done in the "General" tab under "scanmode".
A click on the updated scan button brings up the storage dialogue where the folder and format to save in are chosen. A click on "Save" will start the batch scan.

Colour management
Ideally, the viewed colour of the screen image should be the identical for SilverFast and Photoshop. However, that can only happen when an identical working colour palette is used in both programs. If a self defined working colour palette is used, it should first be copied into the system folder containing ColorSync profiles (Windows: ICM profiles).

Patented, fully automatic IT8 Calibration of the scanner with SilverFast
The "Auto-IT8" calibration works as follows:
• The IT8 target with the imprinted bar code on placed on the scanner.
• Click the IT8 icon. SilverFast will then calibrate the scanner and display a confirmation message.
• Click the "OK" icon and the generated ICC profile is saved. SilverFast will now perform a new prescan in which the new profile will be applied.

Detailed information can be found on our homepage www.SilverFast.com, in our manual and in the addendums.
Additional Functions

Flexible Zoom (only available with SilverFast AI Studio ME)

Holding down the “Ctrl”-key turns the mouse button into a plus-magnifier. To perform a zoom, simply keep the key pressed and drag a scan frame within the prescan window. The contents of this frame will immediately be magnified once the mouse button is released.

Alternatively, a preset zoom ratio can be selected in the pull down menu in the lower left of the prescan window.

Automatic Frame Detection and Frame Rotation*

This function places automatic scan frames on the preview. Note that it is necessary that these images have a certain distance between them and the scanner edges. A strong contrast background is very helpful for reflective images. Transparencies should be placed into the respective holders whenever possible. Inactive frames will be displayed in white colour; the active frame in red.

*The SilverFast SE Plus and AI Studio Upgrades additionally include the auto-rotation feature which aligns all frames automatically. The mouse can be used to adjust the frame size by moving it over the frames corners or sides and the frame itself can be rotated by click dragging the as well as to align the frame manually.

Global Colour Correction (GCC)

In this dialogue, you can change the entire colour rendering of the scanned artwork.

By clicking or click dragging within the colour sphere, the colour characteristic of the scanned artwork will be moved into the selected area.

The degree of changes can be adjusted by means of the three-step slider. The lower level will produce small changes. The upper level will produce large changes.

Selective Colour Correction (SCC)

Open the selective colour correction from the tool bar and click into your image on the coloured object you wish to correct. SilverFast recognises the colour. Both the center colour and the HSL sliders will change respectively. By clicking into the top or the bottom of the HSB-controls and holding the mouse button down, you can change the hue, saturation or luminance of the colour selected. HSB-correction allows easy colour control.

You can get more sophisticated control by typing numbers into the cells of the colour matrix or by selecting presets from the pop-up menus in the top colour patches of the matrix.

Corrections can be done directly in the colour circle. Either six (CM6) or twelve (CM12) corrections can be performed simultaneously. Complex corrections which shall be applied to only part of the image can easily be done by using up to four layers and quick masks. The "ACR" slider regulates the saturation of the colour. Note that the ACR checkbox needs to be activated.
Selective Colour to Grey Conversion (SC2G)

SC2G serves to selectively converting primary- and secondary colours into shades of grey.

Under "Scan type" you switch from colour to grey-scale mode.

Clicking onto the button "Selective Colour Correction" opens the SC2G dialogue.

Clicking onto a shade you want to change will select the appropriate colour in the SC2G dialogue. Colour triangles above the colour to grey controls indicate the colour effect ed more visibly. Press the small top or bottom triangles on the controls. The top triangle will increase the brightness, the bottom triangle will decrease the brightness of a shade.

Dust and Scratch Removal (SRD, ISRD*, ICE**) 

The "SRD" function for removal of dust and scratches is available for all scanners. Some scanners have an Infrared channel as well. These machines then have the additional "ISRD" and "ICE" function in the menu.

SRD (Smart removal of defects) is a scratch removal without the use of infrared information, but still offers many helpful settings which work with layers and quick masks. Even B/W negatives are restorable, which does not work with infrared due to technical impossibilities.

ISRD (Infrared smart removal of defects) operates on its own layer with real time preview. The effect of the infrared channel can be adjusted individually. ISRD works fine with Kodachrome.

ICE (**Image correction and enhancement) - uses Infrared channel works fully automatic without any form of preview of the final result. Depending on scanner model up to 2 intensities may be selected.

Multi-Exposure (ME, only available with SilverFast SEPlus ME or AIStudio ME)

Multi-Exposure scans transparencies with variable exposure times. This increases the dynamic range of the scanner while minimizing noise (random pixels generated by imperfect CCD elements). As a result much more fine details become visible especially in the darker areas of the image.

Multi-Sampling (MS, only available with SilverFast SEPlus or higher)

Multiple sampling can be applied for some scanners that show a visible, strong noise in the shadow areas, in order to eliminate the artefacts.

Multi-Sampling can be activated with its own button. The number of scans per scan frame can be 1, 4, 8 or 16. A small number in the button will show the number of sample scans.

AACO (only available with SilverFast SEPlus or AIStudio)

SilverFast AACO is an excellent tool for the correction of dark, too much contrast bearing image parts while preserving the details in the highlights.

AACO is freely adjustable and is activated by clicking the icon left of the preview window.

NegFix

NegFix is a conversion tool for negative films - currently, over 120 different film profiles of the largest manufacturers are selectable.
Histogram
In the histogram you can change the highlights (white point), the midtones and the shadows (black point) by dragging with the mouse on the small movable triangles. The respective values can be monitored with the input fields below and also with the input fields above and below the gray scale bar. You can switch the midtone characteristic by toggling to "L" or "N" (L = logarithmic and N = linear).
Professional users can use the input fields and movable triangles "Min" and "Max" to adjust highlight- and shadow values. The "Colour Space Compression" can also be freely adjusted with the small movable triangles. Colour cast which may possibly be there in the image can be reduced with the slider at the bottom of the dialogue.

Multiple Neutralising Pipette (MidPip4)
MidPip (Advanced Colour Cast Removal) allows removal of colour casts conveniently, which result from a mixed light situation. If you want to set several neutral points at once, click onto the pipette and hold the "Option"-key while setting up to four neutral points. The pipette will remain as a cursor until you either click the pipette again or you have set the fourth neutral point. In order to fine tune a neutral point, double-click onto the pipette tool and the MidPip dialogue window will appear. The value fields show the "Before-After" RGB- or CMY-values of all neutral points. They are fully editable. Even very subtle corrections can be performed.

Reset / General Reset
In order to reset the correction within the active scan frame, click the "Reset"-button in the SilverFast dialogue window. In order to reset all SilverFast correction settings, press the "Shift" key and click on the "Reset-All"-button in the SilverFast dialogue window.

Removing the Screen from Printed Artwork
To scan artwork done with offset printing, for example from a magazine, the scans have to be "descreened." First, select the function "Descreening" in "Filter."
In order to generate a preview, simply click the "Preview" button within the opened dialogue. The mouse pointer changes to a square, with which a homogenous part with medium brightness of the image should be chosen and clicked. A scan starts immediately. The previously activated input field "detect screen" ensures that the correct screen is calculated automatically. The result of the descreening is displayed after the end of the final scan in the "Descreened" window. Simultaneously, the detected screen is displayed in numerical values in the "Descreening Parameters" window.

Options / Defaults
Options*
Before you start working with SilverFast, please set important preferences under the "Options..." dialogue. These preferences will be automatically incorporated into any future scans performed.

*Attention! The "default dialogue" windows differ from scanner to scanner and some features are only available for certain scanners or certain imaging software. The following parameters are set:

The brief instructions below outline the most important pre-settings. A complete explanation of all functions can be found in the general SilverFast manual and in the additional PDFs.

General defaults*
- Interpolation: Switching between standard interpolation and the higher-order antialiasing interpolation.
- Q-factor: The Q-factor is the quality factor for an image. The range is from 1 to 2.5. Please refer to the Manual about the calculation of the optimum scanning resolution. The default is 1.5.
Auto defaults*
- Auto Contrast: The best contrast setting of the picture viewed is automatically chosen upon activation.

CMS (Colour management) defaults*

Colour Management
- CMS Input > Internal: Here the preferred model for correcting the colour deviations of the current scanner can be selected. The choice is between "none" and "ColorSync" calibration.
- CMS Internal > Monitor: Here the matching from the internal colour space of SilverFast to the current monitor is being defined. "None" is if the user does not want any matching. "Automatic" is for Photoshop. (Please check the internal ICC profile set in SilverFast should be the same as the one allocated in Photoshop's internal colour space).
- CMS Internal > Output: The preferred system for defining the output colour space generation can be chosen here. Select "RGB" for no output matching, "ColorSync / ICM" if you want ColorSync / ICM to do the output matching, "ICe-LAB" if you want to generate device independent colour space. "P&B CMYK" for SilverFast's own powerful separation to CMYK with Photoshop matching.

Profiles for ColorSync / ICM
- Scanner (Reflective): ICC profile for the reflective unit of the scanner.
- Scanner (Transparency): ICC profile for the transparency unit of the scanner.
- Internal: ICC profile for the internal colour space.
- Output / Printer: ICC profile for the printer.

Embedded ICC Profiles
This option enables the user to pass the image data to an application which would do automatic matching with the embedded profile. When a TIFF-file is generated from SilverFast the ICC-profile is embedded into the TIFF data.

Please use the link below to see further explanations, examples and help

- Quick Time Training videos
- SF6 manual
- Official Guide, by Taz Tally
- PDF tutorials and instructions
- 6.6 Addendum to manual
- Support forum