

100GB HARD DRIVES ARRIVE!

SPECIAL
ISSUE

COMPUTER SHOPPER[®]

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TOP 100



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This economical 600-by-1,200dpi scanner outperformed pricier models in our speed and color-accuracy evaluations, and ships with luxuries such as dual USB/parallel interfaces, a 35mm-slide adapter, and an exceptional software bundle. With a selling price of about \$122, it's a great buy for families, hobbyists, and small businesses.

EDITORS' RATING | 8.2

EASE OF USE.....	8	INSTALLATION AND SETUP.....	7
FEATURES.....	8	PERFORMANCE.....	9
IMAGE QUALITY.....	8	VALUE.....	9

PROS: Excellent image quality; fast; produces legal-size scans; includes document-management program; dual-personality driver suitable for both novices and advanced users
CONS: Setup doesn't completely match instructions in guide; larger than average; top resolution of 600dpi by 1,200dpi without interpolation limits usefulness for transparencies

MICROTEK SCANMAKER V6UPL



Simply put, the Microtek ScanMaker V6UPL is one of the best scanner packages we've seen in this price range. Well worth considering for the home or small office, the \$129.99 model scans legal-size pages, comes with a wide assortment of software, and offers fast performance along with high-quality scans. Although slightly hampered in transparency scanning by its 600-by-1,200dpi resolution, the V6UPL includes a limited slide adapter suitable for scanning the occasional slide or filmstrip. Microtek also sells a more capable transparency adapter as well as an automatic document feeder for the unit.

As with some other ScanMaker models, the unit's setup doesn't quite match the printed instructions. The guide says you should install all the software before installing the hardware. But as soon as you install the scanner driver, it looks for a scanner and complains that it can't find one. Plugging the scanner in at that point solves the problem, but the fact that you have to guess at the right procedure is unsettling.

Once installed, the scanner worked without a hitch. For one-touch scanning, a single button brings up the scanner utility and initiates the prescan. As an alternative, you can install a toolbar that loads when you start Windows and offers buttons for scanning to



your printer, your e-mail program, or any TWAIN-compliant program. Each toolbar button opens the scanner utility with options set appropriately for the type of scan indicated.

Microtek's ScanWizard 5 driver also gives you a choice of interfaces. Novice users will want to stay with the default screen and minimal choices; experienced users can switch to the advanced interface, which offers custom control over such features as color correction, tonal curves, white and black points, and other arcane parameters.

The V6UPL achieved outstanding speed on our lab tests. We timed it at 17 seconds to scan a 5-by-7-inch photo in color mode and at a notably fast 12 seconds to scan an 8.5-by-11-inch page in monochrome (both at

300dpi). Image quality was also solid. Skin tones on our test photo looked natural, and the scanner did a particularly good job of producing a crisp image and holding details in dark areas. We saw no problems with color balance across the entire range from dark to light, although the V6UPL's dynamic range is only average for its class. Line accuracy, meanwhile, was slightly below average for this scanner's class.

Microtek's software covers a wider territory than most scanners at this price. In addition to the usual photo-editing, OCR, and photo-album programs, you'll find a program for Web-page design and another for document management, a welcome addition for managing scans other than photos.

Taken together, the Microtek ScanMaker V6UPL's software package, operating speed, and good-quality scans make it a very impressive scanner for the price.

TOP 100

THE HARDWARE PICKS

- Altec Lansing ADA890
- ATI All-in-Wonder Radeon
- Cornerstone c910
- Epson PhotoPC 3100Z
- Epson Stylus Photo 1280
- Gigabyte GV-GF3000
- Hercules Game Theater XP
- HP CD-Writer DVD Combo 9900ci
- HP ScanJet 7450c
- Klipsch ProMedia 4.1
- Lexmark Z53 Color Jetprinter
- Logitech Cordless MouseMan Optical
- **Microtek ScanMaker V6UPL**
- Mobility Electronics EasiDock USB 300F
- Nikon Coolscan IV ED
- Olympus Camedia C-3040 Zoom
- Olympus Camedia E-10
- Plexor PlexWriter 16/10/40A
- Samsung ML-1210
- Samsung SyncMaster 570vTFT
- SanDisk ImageMate
- Seagate Barracuda ATA IV
- SOHOware NetBlaster II
- Sony DCR-PC110 Digital Handycam
- Sony Spressa CRX200E/A1
- ViewSonic VG175
- Voyetra Turtle Beach Santa Cruz
- Western Digital Caviar WD1000BB