

What is the difference in transfer speeds of the interfaces used on today's scanners?

Today's scanner models offer a wide selection of ways to interface to the computer. Here is a comparison of the different kinds of interfaces used on today's scanner models and how they compare in speed.

Interface	Maximum Transfer speed (MegaBytes per second)	Speed compared to standard parallel
Standard parallel	0.115 MBps	---
ECP/EPP parallel	3 MBps	26 times faster
USB 1.1	1.5 MBps	13 times faster
USB 2.0	60 MBps	522 times faster
SCSI	5 MBps	43 times faster
SCSI-2 (narrow)	10 MBps	87 times faster
SCSI-2 (wide)	20 MBps	174 times faster
FireWire® (IEEE 1394)	12.5 to 50 MBps	Up to 435 times faster

Did You Know?

- ▶ Some Epson Perfection™ scanners offer the newest version of USB 2.0. Many Epson scanners also offer the FireWire IEEE 1394 interface, either as a standard interface or as an option.
- ▶ USB 2.0 is backward and forward compatible with USB 1.x, meaning that if you have a USB 1.0 or 1.1 device, it will plug into a USB 2.0 connection on your computer. This also means that if you have a USB 2.0 device (such as an Epson scanner), you can plug it into a USB 1.0 or 1.1 connection on your computer. It will only work at the slower speed, but it will work.
- ▶ USB 2.0 will initially support higher functioning PC peripherals such as video conferencing cameras, scanners, printers and fast storage units.
- ▶ FireWire interfaces are standard on all Macintosh® computers and are currently the preferred interface for all high-end scanners. Epson's Expression™ series scanners offer optional FireWire interfaces on all models, and standard FireWire interfaces on all Pro models.

Notable Quotes

Q: So how does USB compare to IEEE-1394?

A: While the two serial buses seem similar, they are intended to fulfill different bandwidth and cost needs.... Applications that are best suited for 1394 are disk drives, high quality video streams and other high bandwidth applications; all higher end consumer devices. USB is appropriate for middle and low bandwidth applications such as audio, scanners, printers, keyboards, and mice. USB and 1394 are complimentary technologies. (*USB.org - FAQ*)