

**Epson Knoware University Podcast**  
**Featuring the Perfection V500 Scanner**  
**September, 2007**  
**Transcript**

(Jingle music)

Greg: 6400 dpi, that resolution, that's really a pro-level resolution, because what that gives you is the ability to take a 35mm image, very small, and get an enlargement all the way up to 17 by 22 inches.

Margaret: One lucky podcast listener will win an Epson Perfection V500 scanner just for listening to this podcast and scoring 100% on the podcast quiz. That's this month on the Knoware University podcast.

From Epson Knoware University in Long Beach, California, I'm Margaret with the Knoware University podcast for September, 2007. And on this month's podcast, you'll learn all about the new Epson Perfection V500 scanner, and learn how you can win a V500. That's coming up at the end of today's show, so keep listening for all the details.

Epson is always bringing innovation to the scanner market, and the subject of this month's podcast keeps up that tradition. The new Perfection V500 scanner brings amazing technology to the market at an incredible price. To find out more, I spoke to Greg, Epson's scanner expert.

Welcome back to the Knoware University podcast, Greg.

Greg: Thank you, Margaret. Glad to be here.

Margaret: Most recently we talked to you about the Epson Perfection V200 scanner, and we have another new scanner out already. You've played this one pretty close to the vest and I know nothing about the V500. Tell me about it.

Greg: Well, the V500 is our new mid-level to prosumer-level scanner. It's kind of designed with the advanced amateur photo hobbyist in mind.

Margaret: Okay.

Greg: What this scanner is, it actually has a whole host of features really designed for that level of user. First of all, it only sells for \$250, so it's important to keep that in mind, the price point, when I tell you all these great features.

Margaret: Wow.

Greg: Number one, the scanner has a 6400 dpi optical resolution.

Margaret: Wow!

Greg: I thought you'd say so.

Margaret: For \$250, that's quite remarkable.

Greg: Absolutely. We're being able to bring this kind of technology we've introduced in our higher level scanners like the V700 and V750 down into this lower cost price band. Now, it's not quite as an advanced sensor as those scanners. It only has a 3.4 dynamic range, so it's not quite in the professional level as the V700 and V750, but still, at \$250, a 6400 dpi scanner, excellent value there.

Margaret: Right.

Greg: And to use that scanner to its fullest, it has a built-in transparency adapter for both 35mm slides, negatives and medium-format film up to 6 by 12.

Margaret: Okay.

Greg: And if you know photo hobbyists, a lot of the fellows who are still shooting film really like that medium format with the Hasselblad cameras and such like that.

Margaret: Okay. So you mentioned that this scanner has a dynamic range of 3.4. What really is dynamic range? What does it mean?

Greg: Well, dynamic range is a measure of the scanner's optical system. It actually is the ability of an optics system to pull out details even in the darkest areas of film.

Margaret: Okay.

Greg: Now, a professional-level scanner usually has a rating up in the 4 area, which means it can pull out details in the darkest parts of the negatives and slides and such like that. 3.4 is very respectable. It's not quite professional level. That would be more like around a 3.6 to a 3.8, and of course above, but 3.4 for a \$250 scanner is remarkable. Most other scanners you'll find on the market, competitive models, don't even have a Dmax rating because most of them actually measure out much lower than 3.

Margaret: Okay, and in all likelihood, I would guess that folks like all of us who are not professional photographers, we're probably not shooting photos from which you would be able to pull more than 3.4 out of it, is that right?

Greg: It really depends on what you're shooting. I mean, if you're doing a lot of night shots or such like that, then absolutely you'll want as much Dmax as you can get to be able to pull out all the details of those night shots.

Margaret: Okay.

Greg: But, you know, your standard snapshots, a landscape, such like that, you may not see it. What it really means though is that a high Dmax gives you an indication of optical quality.

Margaret: Okay.

Greg: The better dynamic range means the less signal-to-noise ratio you have in the scanner and therefore the better optical quality from the scanner, and it's something Epson tries to achieve in all of our scanner products.

Margaret: Great, and then if you really need a super high-end one like that, you would go for something like our V700 or V750.

Greg: Exactly.

Margaret: Okay, very good. So what else do I need to know about the V500?

Greg: Well, along with the ability to scan the wide variety of films, it also has the Digital ICE technology built in for automatic dust and scratch removal from film.

Margaret: Okay, and what does Digital ICE embody?

Greg: Well, Digital ICE, unlike digital dust correction which uses software purely to look for dust on the film, Digital ICE actually uses an infrared sensor to scan over the surface of the film and only remove the dust and scratches that are actually on the surface, not touching anything within the film itself. So the absolute image quality is not compromised one bit by the Digital ICE.

Margaret: And it's actually looking then for physical flaws in the film.

Greg: Exactly.

Margaret: Okay, so does turning Digital ICE on slow my scan down?

Greg: It depends on the image you're scanning and how much dust there is in it.

Margaret: Okay.

Greg: Digital ICE does require two separate passes on the scanner, one with the infrared sensor and then one with a normal scan, and the more dust you have on there and the higher resolution you're using the longer it can take to process that.

Margaret: Okay.

Greg: The upside of this, of course, is it will make a very accurate, clean scan. There's no time to do this all in Photoshop.

Margaret: Right.

Greg: So I don't have to spend two or three hours in Photoshop cleaning up all the dust by hand.

Margaret: So it's much faster than doing it by hand.

Greg: Absolutely.

Margaret: But a little bit slower perhaps than the software solution that's in the V200, for instance.

Greg: Well, that software solution, the digital dust correction, is also in the V500, so you actually have the choice.

Margaret: Okay.

Greg: If you wanted to do a quick scan with just simple dust removal you could use digital dust correction. If you have a very important photo that you need to get all of the dust out, an important slide or negative, use Digital ICE for absolute accuracy.

Margaret: Great. So what else do I need to know about the V500?

Greg: Well, the V500 also marks one really cool new technology that you're probably going to see in future Epson scanners as well. It's called a ReadyScan technology.

Margaret: Okay.

Greg: Now, this is, instead of a cold cathode fluorescent lamp in the scanner, the V500 actually uses an LED array for its light source.

Margaret: Wow!

Greg: Yeah, this is the first time we've had a scanner to use that kind of light source.

Margaret: Wow!

Greg: And what's important about that, it's actually on two levels. First of all, there's the environmental level. The LEDs do not use mercury, they take up less power and they also last longer, so they're much nicer for the environment in that respect.

Margaret: Right.

Greg: That's one of the reasons you'll probably see this on many more Epson scanners moving forward.

Margaret: Okay.

Greg: What the end user is going to see, however, is that the scanner is very fast. There's no warm-up time involved with an LED, so when you turn on the scanner it can scan instantly. When you go between scans, whether they be reflective, the transparency, back, there's no time for warm-up. So you can scan reflective, take the mat off, scan transparency, go right back to reflective again.

Margaret: Wow.

Greg: No time wasted in between. The LED also allows the scanner to scan more efficiently because it can process the light a little better, so it actually gets a little bit of a fast scan speed out of it as well compared to similar scanners.

Margaret: Okay.

(Jingle music)

Margaret: We'll hear more of our interview with Greg telling us about the exciting new Epson Perfection V500 scanner in just a minute. Remember to listen carefully at the end of this podcast for instructions on how to enter the drawing for a V500 this month.

And be sure to take the online course this month on Knoware University. During September you can learn all about Epson's Ultra Hi-Definition photo printers.

Four lucky Knoware University Students will win a Stylus Photo RX595 just by taking the Knoware University course and scoring 100% on the quiz.

One lucky podcast listener will also be entered in a drawing to win a Perfection V500 this month. Stay tuned to the end of this podcast for details on how to enter that drawing.

(Jingle music)

And now back to our interview with Greg, Epson's scanner product expert, at Epson headquarters in Long Beach.

So, Greg, we've talked about the fact that this is 6400 dpi, it's got ReadyScan, it's got a transparency adapter that will handle up to medium format. What does the 6400 dpi give me in this?

Greg: Well, 6400 dpi, that resolution, that's really a pro-level resolution, because what that gives you is the ability to take a 35mm image, very small, and get an enlargement all the way up to 17 by 22 inches.

Margaret: Wow. And that's the size that our Stylus Pro 3800 and 4800 print. So if you're a user of either of those products, this scanner would be a good choice for you.

Greg: Absolutely. I mean, it really allows you to be able to make gallery-size prints, what we like to call those, gallery-size prints.

Margaret: Right.

Greg: From your own images. So if you've got a really great 35mm that you took, perhaps of the Grand Canyon or something else really spectacular, you can scan it, get rid of the dust and scratches with Digital ICE, scan up to 6400 dpi and make a beautiful print out on one of our large-format printers.

Margaret: That's remarkable. Now, I've heard of some other scanners that are claiming much higher bit depth. What's all that about?

Greg: Well, that's a little bit of interesting mathematics, is really the best way to put it. Some other scanners out there are actually using multiple passes of the scanner to give you 96-bits and six-color scanning. And in reality, this is not a matter of having hardware that can actually do like an analog-to-digital converter that can really convert 32-bits per channel. What this really is is taking a normal 48-bit scan, scanning the image twice at 48-bits and then using software to compress it the two images together.

Margaret: Okay.

Greg: They say 96 because that's 48 times 2, but in reality it's not much different from doing the same thing in PhotoShop. The same thing with six colors. They aren't using extra colors in the spectrum. It's not like red, green, blue, cyan, magenta, yellow. It's just red, green, blue, red, green, blue, pressed together.

Margaret: Interesting. So it's not that those other ones have actually added any more bit depth. They're just making two passes of the scanning head.

Greg: Exactly. Actually, the only physical difference between the two passes is that one uses a slightly different colored lamp than the other.

Margaret: So what kind of software comes in the package with the V500?

Greg: Well, the V500 includes the Epson Scan with the Easy Photo Fix, and of course Digital ICE built into it there.

Margaret: Okay.

Greg: It also includes Adobe Photoshop Elements.

Margaret: Wow.

Greg: The ABBYY FineReader Sprint Plus OCR and the electronic users guide.

Margaret: Okay, and the Sprint Plus OCR lets you take text documents and turn them into editable text, right?

Greg: Exactly.

Margaret: Okay, and Adobe Photoshop Elements – that’s a great deal to have in there.

Greg: Yeah. Just a scanner of this level, we want to make sure you have the tools necessary to really get the best out of your images.

Margaret: Great.

Greg: And if you don’t already have a version of Photoshop, this is a great start.

Margaret: Great. Well, that’s great information, and as you probably remember from previous podcasts, Greg, every month we give away a prize to one lucky Knoware University podcast listener. This month that winner will get an incredible Perfection V500 scanner, just for scoring 100% on the Knoware University podcast quiz!

Greg: Oh, what a lucky dog.

Margaret: I’ll say. How do I get in on that?

Greg: I don’t think you and I are eligible because we’re employees or something of that sort.

Margaret: I think you’re right.

Greg: Unfortunately, no scanners for us, but hey, you out there in Podcast Land, you can enjoy one if you win one. Trust me, you’ll like it.

Margaret: Well, thanks for your time today, Greg. Thanks for coming back on the Knoware University podcast.

Greg: I always love to be here. Thank you for having me, Margaret.

(Jingle music)

Margaret: Remember, you still need to take this month's podcast quiz in order to qualify for the drawing for the Perfection V500 scanner for podcast listeners.

Visit the final exams section located in the Student Center of Knoware University. On the final exams page you'll see a special quiz listed for the September 2007 podcast, right below the link for the regular Knoware University quiz on Epson's Ultra Hi-Definition photo printers. Score 100% on the podcast quiz and you're entered to win the Perfection V500 that's just for podcast listeners.

Well, that's it for this month's Knoware University podcast. Join us next month for another new Knoware University podcast with another Epson product expert and more chances to win great Epson products.

Until then, this is Margaret from Epson. Thanks for listening in and thanks for selling Epson.

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