



The PrimaScan's bargain-basement price isn't reflected in its performance, which is really quite adequate.

PrimaScan

Colorado 2600u

PRICE £50 **EX VAT** £43 **SUPPLIER** Visioneer
PHONE 01483 445 480 **WWW** www.primascan.com

**A desktop scanner for just £50?
 It can't be any good, surely..?**

Here's another scanner aimed specifically at an undemanding home market. But with a price tag of just £50 it's likely to appeal to more experience users on a budget, too.

It's not immediately impressive when you take it out of the box. The 2600u isn't particularly small, light or stylish. It's not particularly anything, really. Setup is easy enough, with the software being installed first, followed by the hardware. All you have to go on, though, is a pretty cheap set-up sheet. All the documentation is supplied on CD, too, so corners have been cut.

The software bundle isn't that bad. You get MGI PhotoSuite III SE, which is admittedly a cut-down version of a program one iteration behind the latest release (PhotoSuite 4) but it's a good, basic, all-round image-editor. You also get TextBridge Pro to handle your OCR.

And, as ever, you get a TWAIN driver for use within your own applications, this time in the form of Scan Manager, which is a bit on the simplistic side and offers pretty limited 'advanced' controls that are limited to brightness, contrast and colour adjustments.

The basic specs are pretty fair at this price, with an optical resolution of 600 x 1,200 and 42-bit internal colour depth. The Colorado 2600u only offers to interpolate up to 2,400dpi, but that's still far more than most original artwork (and the scanning engine) are fit for.

In use

For overall speed, the 2600u is pretty good. The A4 preview time was just 16 seconds and the 150dpi scan took 24 seconds. These times are still going to be perfectly acceptable for most casual users. And in the 1,200dpi photo test the PrimaScan raced into an amazing first place, with a time of just 79 seconds.

The PrimaScan was tolerably fast in our A4 scan, and although there was a visible moiré effect from the printed page, it wasn't bad enough to make descreening essential. A fair result overall, if a little under-saturated.

The applied to the 1,200dpi photo scan too, where the colours were a bit too muted. The fine detail was on the soft side and while the 2600u could still distinguish the film grain, it wasn't particularly crisp.

PCPlus Verdict

PRIMASCAN COLORADO 2600U

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|------------------|------------------------|
| FOR | AGAINST |
| → Price | → Muted colours |
| → Everyday speed | → Soft-ish fine detail |

Specification	6
Quality	6
Performance	7
Value for money	9
OVERALL	7/10