



Home Made Slide Reproducer



You need a light box. They can be bought from art and photo supply outlets or home made using fluorescent tubes in a box covered with frosted plastic.

I was lucky enough to have a slide matrix with an old HP scanner which I taped down to the surface of the light box. You can easily make such a device with black paper and an X-Acto knife. I would use two masks, with the first one having openings $1\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{1}{2}$ and the second one glued over the first with a 2×2 inch opening. This way the slide sits on a small lip and is easier to remove and ensures that no light leaks out around the edges.

My camera has a sun shade accessory which when screwed to the front of the lens allows me to place the camera over the slide. You could rig up similar devices for cameras that don't have a large lens. I've not done it but I'd try various tubes, perhaps a mailing tube cut down to size, or even an aluminum can with the ends removed. The point is to figure out how to shoot the slide and not have the camera move, or extraneous light enter the lens.



I shoot the slide on Macro setting with the camera on Auto. For each slide I auto focus with the shutter button and snap the slide. I get quite good reproductions, including all sorts of hairs and dust spots. Many of my slides were developed by Seattle Filmworks in the 70s and 80s and they are fine when projected but horrible when viewed this close. I find that a soft brush removes some of the dust and specks but many are embedded in the film and I need to spend time photo editing them out.

Each slide has to be edited, cropped and cleaned up, which is where the time and tedium come in. However, paying someone else to do this is quite expensive and I was not thrilled over the idea of sending my slides to someone "out there" with no copies or assurance that they would be OK or that I would see them again. I decided that the slides should be photographed, and archived first. I can edit them as I need them for projects and slide shows. At least I have them saved on digital media which allows me to sleep well at night during hurricane season.

You can buy slide scanners for \$75 to \$200. One I was looking at offered editing right on the LCD screen of the device. Slides are copied to a SD card. One interesting slide, negative and photo scanner is made by ION, and is worth looking into. ION also has one that does the slides without the photos. I was interested in their ad copy where it said that slides were copied in seconds, and this is updated from the old version of these devices which were painfully slow. I do not own one, but make recommendations based on reviews and online information. There are others in the same price range and it might be worth the money if you have quite a lot of slides to copy. Remember these are precious memories and once copied they can be distributed to all the family.

