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NAB Fairgoers Were Thrilled by Kinoton's FilmScanner

This year's NAB once again stunned its visitors with a large variety of exciting electronic media innovations. One of them attracted the fairgoers' special attention: the Kinoton FilmScanner presented at the 35Digital Alliance booth.

The reason for this intense interest is the sophisticated new technology this high resolution film scanning solution for postproduction and film archives provides.

Microprocessor controlled capstan drive and reel motors ensure a smooth and constant film transport through the scanning system that does not rely on the perforation, but on adhesion strength only. That way the FilmScanner provides the most gentle treatment even for most delicate archive materials.

A slit light source for white light and infrared light is facing the scanning system, illuminating the area with unsurpassed uniformity and intensity. The core piece of the scanner head are CCD digital line sensors of the latest generation for RGB and infrared light. Every radiometric and geometric image information stored on the film such as details, resolution (line pairs), colour and contrast get scanned at highest optical and digital resolutions of up to impressive 5 μm.

A sensor board transfers the scanned information pixel by pixel as raw data into a digital data stream. Via four optical lines the data is transmitted losslessly into the frame grabber board – a newly developed PCB with four parallel optical high-speed inputs – in the work station or data storage. The digitally scanned images get stored on the RAID hard drives and are ready for the digital postproduction workflow.

The easy to use graphical user interface offers various manual or automatic (self-) calibrating functions and settings to facilitate the scanning process and to ensure the operator gets the scanning results he wants – day by day.

According to the applications intended, the FilmScanner is available in two versions: as 4KCineScan for postproduction use as presented at NAB, and as 5KArchiveScan which is perfectly suited for film archives.