Thank you for your purchase of my negative and film holder for flatbed film scanners. These are custom created for any film format size using computer aided drawing (CAD) software and exported by means of additive printing (otherwise known as "3D printing"). These are designed for use with flatbed film scanners and will not work with regular scanners that do not feature the transparency adapter needed to illuminate a film negative. Each of these holders are custom made and may contain sanding or other finishing marks. These will not affect the function of your holder.

**Model Specific Tips:**

**Epson and Canon Specific Holders:** If you have purchased one of my holders made specifically for your Epson or Canon flatbed film scanners, most are designed to be placed inside your OEM 120 film holder. A couple models (the Epson 4870 and v500) are designed to fit inside your 35 mm carrier. As noted in the item description, they will not work properly if you don't have these stock holders.

**Special note on 110 double strip models:** These holders have all been redesigned to allow for them to be temporarily or permanently affixed in to one piece and the film inserted from either end slot. This can be especially helpful if you have curled film:

Rather than cement the two parts together before shipping, I decided to leave this up to the buyer. Cementing the parts together will help ensure that curled film stays flat for scanning, but it's permanent and you'll never get them apart again without breaking the plastic. You will also have a higher risk of fingerprints and scratches that could result from handling your film in such a way. In any case, if you decide to cement the two pieces together, any household glue or cement will suffice. Do not, however, use any fast setting resins that generate heat when curing as this may damage the holder. A thin bead of cement should be applied down the wide center cross beam only. I do not recommend cementing the entire perimeter as this may make the parts so tightly bound that you could have difficulty inserting your film from the ends. Please make certain you can slide your film in from the side before gluing the pieces together. A better temporary option is simply to use masking tape to hold the two halves together when scanning curled film.

**Advanced Photo System (APS) holders:** If you've purchased one of my APS film holders, you may be wondering how you get your exposed negatives out of the plastic canister they're stored in. While there are special APS retrieval tools, I simply broke mine out using a pair of pliers. I gently started cracking the canister in all directions until I was able to pull my entire negative
out. I now store the negatives in a regular negative sleeve along with my other film. Some customers have advised that you can also get your negatives out by gently prying open the film door with a small screwdriver while reversing the film sprocket to eject the film. In this way you can keep your negative stored in the canister after scanning. I have not tried this method myself.

**Kodak Disc Film Holder:** Removing the center hub: This negative holder requires that you remove the center hub of your disc negative for the best results. This can be done one of two ways. The quick and easy method is to use a utility knife to cut the center hub out. The second method is to turn the disc numbers-side-down where you will find a black ring surrounding the hub on the top face. If you gently pry under this ring, you can lift it away and then remove the negative from the hub.

**Generic Film Holders:** Some of my holders are generic in that you can use them with just about any flatbed film scanner. These holders come with two bottom halves. If you look closely, you'll notice that they are of different thickness. The 1 mm thick bottom is for Canon models (and others that focus closer to the scanner glass) and the 3 mm bottom is for Epson models. If you've ordered a **Kodak Disc** negative holder, you'll note that each half is of different thickness. Simply flip the assembled holder from one side to the other depending on whether you have a Canon or Epson scanner.

A few other key points that applies to all models of film holders:

- Depending on design, your frame halves may only assemble one way for the best fit.
- For proper orientation, negatives should be scanned upside down (so any numbers or letters in the negative margins are backwards when looking down at the negative). This isn't absolutely necessary, especially if you have software that can "mirror" the scanned image.
- The negative holder doesn't lock in to place. This is by design. The top half of the frame is meant to simply sit on top of the negative edges. The weight of the top half of the frame should hold your negative flat enough for good scanning. If that's not enough, you can try placing small foam strips on the top of the frame so your scanner lid pushes down on it to assist in holding the film flat. Some customers have also reported good luck using masking tape to temporarily hold the two halves together tightly for especially curled film. Holders for the smaller film formats like 110 and Minox may fit a little tight the first few uses. They will loosen up with use.
- If you are having focus issues, try "shimming" underneath the bottom half of the frame to raise the negative higher off the glass. Small strips of paper work great for this.
- All my frames are made from Polyactic Acid (PLA) plastic. **PLA plastic has a strong tendency to warp if left on heated surfaces.** Please avoid placing your negative holder on heated surfaces or leaving them in direct sunlight for long periods of time.
• Don't give up too easily on your first scan attempt. People can become disappointed, especially with the smaller film formats like 110. Experiment with your scanning software. Often what a customer may think is a problem related to a faulty film holder can be attributed to not using the best scanning options. An example is below. On the left is the original scan of a 30 year old 110 frame I had, and on the right is what it looked like after I cleaned it up in the scan software. The options I chose for scanning were unsharp mask/backlight correction/color correction. Your software likely has similar settings. What a difference a few adjustments can make! (those horizontal lines on the images below are from my PDF conversion software)

![Original Scan](image1.jpg) ![Cleaned Up Scan](image2.jpg)

"Help! I'm getting a "no film strip found" error when trying to scan with your holder!"/ "I'm just getting a full sized scan of the entire holder and the images are tiny and/or blurry!" - If this is you, please know you are not alone as these are the most frequent comments I get from people having trouble. These errors are not caused by some problem with the holder you have purchased, they are caused by incorrect settings in your scan software. Please ensure the following -

• Make sure any "thumbnail" or "autocrop" mode is turned off. Further, turn off any "automatic film size detection" options.
• Ensure you have selected "transparency/film" as your scan mode
• Have you removed the light cover from your upper lid?
• In most cases, you must scan using full manual controls. Any sort of "automatic" scan modes will not work with most aftermarket film holders. If you're using Epson Scan, this mode is called "professional." Canon users utilizing the MP Navigator EX software must use "advanced" mode. For Canon users who don't know how to use "advanced" mode, please see the end of this file for further information.
• If you're using the appropriate scan mode as described previously and all you're getting is a full sized scan of the entire holder, you may have to use your mouse to draw a rectangle (also called "mask") over the individual images you want to scan. Once you do this, the image should display and/or scan correctly.
• Please make sure you have not covered any holes or markings on your OEM holder and that it is placed correctly on the scan bed. Doing so can cause focusing problems or your scanner may refuse to scan at all.
• Some users have reported that some scanners will refuse to scan if there are visible gaps between my holder and your OEM holder. This should not occur if you have turned off all "automatic" scan settings as discussed previously, but if it still does you may need to cover these gaps with opaque masking tape.
• Have you selected the correct film type? Some scan software may ask you to choose what size film or film holder you are using. Since most of my holders require the use of your 120/medium format holder, make sure you have selected this as your film type (yes, even if you are trying to use one of my 126, 127, etc holders). Reminder - Make sure you also turn off any "thumbnail," "autocrop," or "auto detect image" settings.
If you are still having problems or simply have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at contact.negative.solutions@gmail.com
Negative Solutions Customers - Canon's MP Navigator EX scan software can cause some unique problems. Based on help I've had to provide other customers, please read the following instructions on how to set your software to use "advanced" mode:

FAQ: Scanning Film in Advanced Mode

In Advanced Mode, you can specify the color mode, output resolution, image brightness, color tone, etc. when scanning documents. This section explains how to scan film.

REFERENCE

The following is explained using Windows Vista procedures.

1. Place the film on the Platen, then start ScanGear (scanner driver).
See Placing Film
See Starting ScanGear (Scanner Driver)

2. Click Advanced Mode.
The Advanced Mode tab appears.

REFERENCE

Settings are not retained when you switch between modes.

3. Set Select Source, Film Size and Color Mode.

4. Click Preview.
Preview image appears in the Preview area. Images are cropped (scan areas are specified)
automatically according to the film size. Select the checkboxes of the frames you want to scan.

REFERENCE

If mounted negative slides cannot be scanned correctly, adjust the cropping frames.

5. Set Output Settings.

6. Adjust the cropping frame, correct image and adjust colors as required.

REFERENCE

See the corresponding sections below for details on Image Settings and the Color Adjustment Buttons. See Image Settings

7. Click Scan. Scanning starts.

REFERENCE

ScanGear's response after scanning can be specified in Status of ScanGear dialog after scanning on the Scan tab of the Preferences dialog box.
The following advice I found in a discussion forum may also be helpful...

"It is possible to scan any negatives with Canon CanoScan with or without the OEM templates. Just put the negatives on the glass or in your aftermarket holder and use the Canon Scangear scanner driver software (MP Navigator Ex - Film then check the box on the left just above the big "Scan" button "use scanner driver").

Set your resolution, negative film etc then do your prescan. When the message comes "can’t detect film," click the symbol very top left (a sort of film and frame icon). This just gives you the raw picture of the light strip with the film as blank shadow on it. Probably with a small selection field hovering somewhere. When you draw a selection field in the area where the film is, suddenly the picture will appear. Don't select outside the picture, that makes the exposure go funny."