

Casino Chip Scanning Tips

By Charles Kaplan, LM-115-148

Chip Preparation

- 1) Remove chip from holder. If the chip is in a plastic flip or has any covering, the covering will cause some lighting distortion.
- 2) Clean chip, if needed, if the cleaning will improve the appearance. Some chips should definitely not be cleaned.

Using a Scanner – Use a CCD (not CIS) scanner. CIS scanners do not render certain colors correctly, such as orange or pink.

- 1) Set resolution to 300 to 600 DPI. The higher the resolution (DPI) the better the results.
- 2) If your scanner software allows, use the mode that gives you the entire scanner bed (no cropping or adjustments)
- 3) Place chip 1" from the side and top of the scanner and put index card on top of the chip, aligned in the corner

Using a Camera – it is more difficult to get a good image of a chip with a camera. You need a steady hand or tripod.

- 1) Put the chip on low, flat and level surface, if possible, use a solid color or white background under the chip.
- 2) Use indirect natural light, no flash or direct sunlight. The lighting in a casino is fine, no flash needed.
- 3) Take picture from directly above the chip and as close as possible. Otherwise, the image is distorted, not round.
- 4) Check results and reshoot making adjustments.

Image Editing with PhotoScape (free and safe download from http://ckaplan.com/PhotoScape_V3.7.exe)

- 1) LIGHTING CORRECTION – lighten, darken or adjust contrast, if needed, by pressing the “BRIGHT, COLOR” button at the bottom, center of the home page, use slide bars to make adjustments, click “OK”
- 2) ALIGN
 - a. Align tool is on the home page (rotate arbitrary), 1st button on the left over “RESIZE”
 - b. If > 15° adjustment or image is tightly cropped, go to the “ROTATE” tab and click on “KEEP THE ORIGINAL SIZE”
 - c. Use the slide bar to align, focusing on a straight up or down line or symmetrical points
 - d. Click “OK” when done
- 3) CROP
 - a. Go to the “CROP” window and click on “CROP ROUND IMAGE”
 - b. Enlarge image to make cropping easier by pressing the “ZOOM IN” button (circle with a plus sign)
 - c. Position cursor at top of the chip, press and hold the left mouse button, and drag to the bottom of the chip and slightly to the right and release the left mouse button
 - d. Drag the left and right anchors to the sides of the chip
 - e. Check the cropped size, 2nd box from the left under the image, and make sure that width “w:” is equal to height “h:”, if not make adjustments by moving the anchor points
 - f. If anchor points are correctly at the top, bottom, left and right and width does not equal height, it is OK, as long as it is within 1%. If width=309, then length can be from 306 to 312
 - g. Click “CROP” to make the crop
- 4) RESIZE
 - a. Go back to the HOME page, and click on the “RESIZE” button (center, near bottom)
 - b. Object Sizes
 - i. Round objects, suggested: 450x450, minimum: 240x240, maximum: 950x950
 - ii. Cards – slot, playing, business, room key w:650
 - iii. TITO’s, post cards w:750
 - iv. Large items maximum width: 950
 - c. For round objects, if width does not equal height
 - i. Resize width to 450
 - ii. Unclick “PRESERVE ASPECT RATIO”
 - iii. Resize height to 450
 - iv. Click on “OK” to complete resizing
- 5) SAVE
 - a. Click on the “SAVE” button
 - b. Any name is OK, keep it simple
 - c. Save as a JPG using “QUALITY SETTING” of 85%