



Canon CanoScan 3200F **PC PRO A LIST**

PRICE £54 (£63 inc VAT)

SUPPLIER www.dabs.com/uk/2TF5

VERDICT Great quality for the money. The film scanner and blistering speed combine to make this the most tempting option this month.

Usually, a Labs Winner tends to be one of the most expensive products in a peripheral test, but Canon's 3200F bucks the trend. It's not only one of the fastest scanners we've ever tested but also offers great quality. And somehow, it costs just £54.

Unlike Canon's LiDE range, the 3200F uses a cold cathode tube and CCD sensor to capture images at an optical resolution of 1,200 x 2,400ppi. This isn't the highest on test, but more than enough for reflective originals. Integrated into the lid is a 35mm film scanner, which allows you to scan a single 35mm frame, positive or negative, again at up to 1,200ppi.

Combine this with a TWAIN driver that has more options than most but is still easy to use, and the 3200F stands head and shoulders above the competition this month. You may want to change the default option to automatically expose the image – occasionally it doesn't work and results in an overexposed scan. The other defaults returned great scans every time with



accurate colours and good sharpening thanks to the unsharp mask filter. There are also three options to reduce dust and scratches, restore faded photos and correct film grain. These were fairly effective, but can introduce noise. In our 6 x 4in photo test, skin tones were accurately reproduced. Our only criticism was that colours tended to be slightly undersaturated – an easily correctable problem. Quality from the film scanner was also



surprisingly good considering the price. None of the scanners here will impress professionals for film-scanning quality, but the 3200F produced the finest result – exposure was the best we saw and resolution was also up at the top. Plus, dust and scratches were almost completely removed.

Beyond quality, we were bowled over by the 3200F's speed – the reason why HP's 3970 didn't win this Labs. A preview takes less than four seconds, and you can scan a 6 x 4in photo to 150ppi even quicker. An A4 photo at 300ppi will take a shade under ten seconds to scan, while upping the stakes at 1,200ppi won't slow things down too much – our 10 x 8in jewellery image was deposited into Photoshop in just 93 seconds.

On top of this is a decent software bundle, including a capable OCR package that can handle full colour pages. Overall, if you'll be scanning lots of film, the 3200F isn't the ideal choice – Epson's Perfection 1670 Photo is a better option, or the current A-Listed Canon 8000F if you can afford it. Otherwise, this is a superb-value scanner and puts several of the more expensive models to shame.

PC PRO RATINGS	
QUALITY	★★★★★
FEATURES & DESIGN	★★★★★
VALUE FOR MONEY	★★★★★
OVERALL	★★★★★