



Océ new CS4300 Wide format Scanner series

First Look at the Océ CS4300 Scanner Series

Although announced in September 2008, Océ finally released its new CS4300 scanner series in November, which replaced the older CS4100 scanner series. All of the scanners are OEM products from Contex with Océ enhancements achieved by slightly changing some scanner configurations and adding the Océ Scanning and Copying software to better differentiate the products in the very competitive scanner marketplace.

The CS4300 scanner series targets the reprographers, CAD studios, GIS, architects, small display graphics, and central scan and copy environments.



The new Océ CS4300 scanner series

Features – Models	CS4336(Q)	CS4336(Q)S	CS4342(Q)S	CS4354(Q)S
Scan Width	36"	36"	42"	54"
Monochrome Speed @200dpi	12 ips	12 ips	12 ips	12 ips
Color Speed @200dpi	0.6/1 ^(Q) ips	1.5/3 ^(Q) ips	1.5/3 ^(Q) ips	1.5/3 ^(Q) ips
Optical Resolution	600 dpi	600 dpi	600 dpi	508 dpi
Scanning Technology	CCD	CCD	CCD	CCD
Field Upgradable	Yes to Q version	Yes to Q version	Yes to Q version	Yes to Q version
Price*	\$11,600	\$16,200	\$20,600	\$28,600



Océ new CS4300 Wide format Scanner series

**Price includes stand and scanning software.*

Features and Technology

The CS4300 scanner series replaced the older CS4100 scanner series, and Océ continues to offer better specifications for more or less the same price as the CS4100 scanner series. All the new CS4300 scanners are based on a 600 dpi optical resolution scan engine, with the exception of the CS4354 that continues to use 508 dpi optical resolution hardware. Maximum scanning resolution is 9,600 dpi. All CS4300 scanners are rated at 12 ips in monochrome scanning and vary between 0.6 to 3 ips in color scanning.

Océ continues to offer file upgrades to the Q model that mostly double the color performance for all models. The software package that comes with the scanner is new. Gone is the Océ Color Scan software, which has been replaced with the Océ Copy Easy scanning software. The Copy Easy application allows the customer to upgrade the software to a true color copy RIP in the field using the same software interface. This change is welcome, allowing a more consistent offering to the scanner customers.

The CS4300 scanner series includes two 36" models — the CS4336 and CS4336S. The CS4336 is aimed at customers with occasional color scanning needs, and the CS4336S is designed for customers who need color production scanning speed. For the 42" scanning segment Océ has reduced its offering to one scanner model — the CS4342S — with identical performance to the 36" CS4336S model plus a 6" wider scanning area. The CS4354 has the same specification as the CS4154 it replaces.

All the CS4300 scanner series models use a new and much faster USB 2.0 interface with xDTR technology. The previous FireWire interface option has been discontinued. The USB 2.0 xDTR technology increases the sustained performance of the USB 2.0 interface from approximately 18MB/sec to 32MB/sec, avoiding the color scanning bottleneck of the USB 2.0 interface that plagued the previous CS4100 scanner series and prevented it from reaching its full potential. Using the new xDTR technology, customers should expect to see that they can achieve close to 3 ips at 200 dpi in full color, making the Q upgrade to these scanners worth the investment.

Lastly the Océ CS4300 scanner series is backed by Océ's one-year on-site warranty in United States, and all models are RoHS (Restriction on Hazard Substance) compliant.

Market Position

The Océ CS4300 scanner series continues at the same price level as the older CS4100 series and addresses the same segment as in the past. For the same



Océ new CS4300 Wide format Scanner series

price, customers get a slightly faster scanner with a higher optical resolution. With the new lineup Océ has a consistent line where a 36" scanner in any configuration is less expensive than a 42" scanner. However this situation could potentially be a competitive disadvantage when other manufacturers can offer less expensive 42" or 44" models, albeit at a lower performance level than the Océ 36" CS4336 scanners. Whether or not this fact is a real disadvantage will depend on customers' preferences and if they considered performance more important than price point in relation to the extra scanning width.

Stanley Adams Group Recommendations

The Océ CS4300 scanner series continues to offer scanners for reprographic needs, and you should expect to get a very stable, mature, and good-performing scanner. Despite the premium pricing of these scanners, you will get a work horse that will last for years to come. However with the simultaneous launch of the new Océ CS4236 scanner, potential customers should evaluate if the CS4236 scanner can meet their needs when compared to the CS4336 scanner, saving them at least \$2,000.

We rate the Océ CS4300 scanner series as recommended.

Pro	Con
Very fast monochrome performance	Premium price
Fast color performance	Requires 10 min warm-up time
Thick media scanning	Not Energy Star rated
Very easy replacement of consumables	
Color scanning accuracy	
Copy Easy scanning software can be upgraded to full RIP copying functionality	

This paper was written by Henrik Vestermark of the Stanley Adams Group, Inc.

Web: www.StanleyAdamsGroup.com

E-mail: contact@StanleyAdamsGroup.com

About the Author

Henrik Vestermark is an independent consultant and professional who have worked in the wide-format scanner and printer industry since 1988. His expertise includes all aspects of the wide-format digital capture market, and particularly focuses on the wide-format scanner industry.