



First Look at Paradigm's imagePRO Ci 40 Wide-Format Scanner

Paradigm expands its imagePRO line scanner series by adding a new contact image sensor (CIS) wide-format scanner in April 2009. The new imagePRO Ci 40 scanner complements its 42" imagePRO series by adding a very affordable scanner well below the \$10,000 mark scanner. The new imagePRO Ci40 scanner is aimed at the CAD, AEC, and GIS marketplace as well as the technical document copying market. The new imagePRO Ci40 scanner is an OEM product from Colortrac based on Colortrac's Ci40 scanners.



Features - Models	Ci 40-m	Ci 40-c	Ci 40-e
Scan Width	40"	40"	40"
Monochrome Speed @200dpi	10 ips	10 ips	10 ips
Color Speed @200dpi	N.A.	0.83 ips	3.33 ips
Optical Resolution	600 dpi	600 dpi	600 dpi
Scanning Technology	CIS	CIS	CIS
Field Upgradable	Yes to -c & -e	Yes to -e	No
Warranty	1 year on-site	1 year on-site	1 year on-site
Price*	\$7,995	\$8,995	\$9,995

*Price does not include optional stand (\$520) and optional ScanWorks Scanning Software (\$695)

Features and Technology

The imagePRO Ci 40 has embedded copy logic that enables it to be used as a walk-up copier and connected to a computer either by a USB 2.0 interface or



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directly to the network using a built-in gigabit Ethernet connection. The operator panel is placed on the top of the scanner and allows the operator to perform simple copy functions. Furthermore the imagePRO Ci 40 introduces face-up scanning — the first imagePRO scanner with that feature. Face up is a new feature that allows the operator to see the drawing as it goes through the scanner. Although several other manufacturers have introduced face-up scanning this year, the benefit is more on the physiological side. After scanning, the paper exits to the front, thereby enabling the operator to remain in the same position.

The Achilles' heel of CIS scanning technology is the very narrow focus depth of the scanning technology that makes wrinkled material looks blurred. Paradigm's imagePRO scanner has gone back to the original CIS design from the 1990s with a single precision-engineered drum to force the document gently down to the sensor to avoid blurred scanned images.

Another innovative design feature is the use of two bi-directional LED lights to light up the CIS rod lens from both sides, enabling more light coming into the CIS sensors to reduce exposure time and increase scanning speed. Using LED yields another advantage because that type of light source is instant on, meaning you realistically can start scanning less than 30 seconds after it's powered on. In this environmentally green time, this is a welcome option, as is the imagePRO Ci 40's Energy Star rating.

The new imagePRO Ci 40 is rated at 10 ips monochrome scanning speed and between 0-3.33 ips in color, dependent on the scanner model, and with an optical resolution of 600 dpi and a maximum interpolated resolution of 9,600 dpi — more than enough for any CAD, AEC, or GIS needs. The scanner comes in three different models that can be field upgraded if needed.

Available Models

The entry model is the imagePRO Ci 40-m — a monochrome scanner for only \$7,995 which includes a 1 year on-site warranty. The on-site warranty can be expanded for an additional annual fee. The imagePRO Ci 40-c is a color entry-level scanner priced at \$8,995, and finally the top of the line imagePRO Ci 40-e is priced at \$9,995.

The imagePRO Ci 40 is Paradigm's fastest color scanner across all models. The imagePRO Ci 40 scanner comes standard with the SmartLF scanning software for easy scan-to-file and scan-to-print operation. The SmartLF software is entry-level software, and more professional users will most likely add Paradigm ScanWorks software with added features and more control for the scanning process.



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The imagePRO Ci 40 has an optional scanner stand for an additional \$520 and the optional professional scanning software, ScanWorks, for additional \$695.

Market Position

Paradigm offers a mixed selection of 36"-42" wide scanners and the new imagePRO Ci40 falls right in between, increasing the choices for a scanner buyer. This gives Paradigm some tactical options. First of all, priced less than comparable 36" competitive scanner, the extra 4" wider scanning capability plus built-in copy features could add up to a competitive advantage. Secondly when compared with Paradigm's own higher price 42" scanner series or competitors' 42" scanners, the imagePRO Ci 40 can be a less expensive alternative for the price-conscious buyer. Although the imagePRO Ci40 as an OEM version of Colortrac Ci40 scanner is priced slightly higher it does offer a full 1year on-site warranty.

Stanley Adams Group Recommendations

For the price-conscious buyers Paradigm's imagePRO Ci 40 is definitely a must-see product with specifications and features at the higher end of the scale. The target market of CAD and AEC (where the focus is more on the monochrome scanning capability) or the GIS segment (where fast color scanning and high geometric precision are important) can benefit from CIS scanner technology's strengths. We have previously evaluated the SmartLF software that comes with the scanner as good and intuitive for the occasional scanner user. Paradigm's professional ScanWorks software has all the features a professional scanner operator needs.

Pro	Con
Price	No thick media scanning
Weight	New scanner usually requires a ½ year to iron out all bugs.
Monochrome & color speed	
Energy Star compliant	
No warm up time	
Gigabit interface	

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About the Author



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Henrik Vestermark is an independent consultant and professional who has 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.