

Northlight as part of a restoration/archive workflow

The Northlight can be regarded as a very precise optical workbench with a variety of tools available, which in turn can be modified for different purposes. The specific demands of restoration – not least that every project will be different – make a tool-kit approach very attractive.

Accuracy is more important than speed, since the post processing will take considerably longer than the scan speed. Building a pipeline that can be tailored for each job, and which removes attended hours from the process, is a vital component of getting the price and productivity right for the market especially for second tier movies.

FilmLight can modify the Northlight scanner for restoration in a number of ways:

- Remove the pins and use the film guide for positioning.
- Supply adjustable pins – useful for uniform shrinkage.
- Adjust the loop length – useful for longitudinal shrinkage.
- Expand the gate to scan the perfs using some of the currently unused array, and add downstream electronic registration for separations.
- The proposed IR channel is also of great importance for colour film.

In addition, the Northlight can scan almost all film formats; the linear array gives us more flexibility than an area array for more unusual formats.

A combination of Baselight, Truelight and the Northlight scanner host software is of great use in managing metadata, feeding automated or semi-automated dust and scratch removal processes from other suppliers, and providing QA and client approval versions.

The 4K scan ability is of major importance for archive projects – if there is just one chance to scan your material, it should be scanned at the absolutely highest resolution with data deliveries provided at multiple stages of the project.

FilmLight offers our Northlight customers a per-project package of technology and consultancy to set up the pipeline. This can involve attended scanning, software development, and modifications to the Northlight, as well as re-setting your system at the end of the project.

Package comprises pinless gate, reduced size pin option, reduced pressure gate operation, downstream stabilisation and re-register of separations, one week on-site consultancy. Excludes travel and accommodation.

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