



Tips and Tricks

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My husband and I traveled to Monaco in the spring to evaluate the digital camera software and hardware from Sinar. Their new solutions are really nice — we'll review them in a later article.

However, while we were in Monaco, we had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Binucci, the founder of Binuscan. As most of us in the digital imaging industry are familiar with the company name, I thought to myself, "Oh, they're the ones who make the software for scanners companies." Little did I know how much more this technology company really does.

Binucci is a very passionate man who loves the printing process. In fact, the reason he designed the software was so that he could have custom tools that work the way a printer needs. He said, "What is this 'out of gamut?' I can't tell my clients a color is 'out of gamut,' and won't print; I am a printer."

Binuscan is a technology company today and develops software solutions for many manufacturers in the digital imaging industry, including Eastman Kodak and UMAX, to name a few.

PHOTORETOUCH PRO

At first glance, the interface of PhotoRetouch Pro, one of Binuscan's software solutions, is very intuitive and the application launches in seconds. The alpha version I have been running on my titanium Mac laptop for a few months is pretty stable and has only crashed a few times and with no corruption to files — very unusual for a shipping alpha version.

We found the brushes and tools

to work very much like the Quantel Paintbox and Live Picture tools. The ability to brush in sharpness and color corrections really appealed to me as a retoucher and Photoshop expert.

The creative tools are easy to use and work the way professional retouchers and color experts think. The Black generation is amazing,

and the CMYK separations are the best I have ever used.

WONDERFUL TOYS

There are a few more amazing tools in this software package. The first is the ability to read ICC profiles in a visual way. Currently, you can go to manufacturers' Web sites and download profiles; however, these profiles are charts of numbers that to most digital imaging artists mean nothing — we like visual references.

In PhotoRetouch Pro, you have the ability to load these profiles and voilà — a color chart appears. This is really cool. You can save this chart and apply this information to files and see the

before and after side by side.

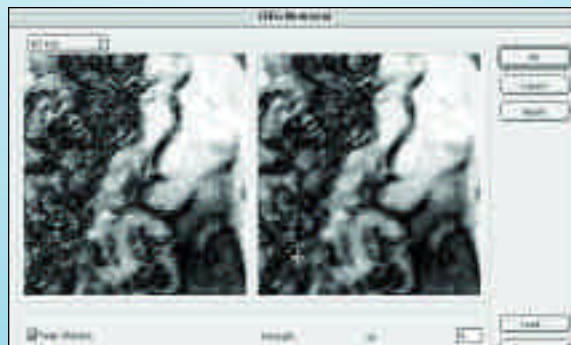
Second, they developed a method for evaluating the structure of the pixels in a file called the XRAY tool. This is the most amazing tool for previewing files that look great on the screen but have problems that you can't see until you go to press (for example, newton rings, JPEG artifacts and defects in CCDs on scanners and digital cameras). You've gotta love this, because normally you don't see these problems until you go to press. Not only can you see the artifacts, you can correct them.

Currently you can purchase the alpha version for \$500 on Binuscan's Web site (www.binuscan.com). You will then receive a full upgrade in the fall when the final version ships. The software is written and designed to utilize the power of Mac OS X.

Binuscan also has a workflow product called ColorPro Suite 6.0 that sells for \$1,990 and includes PhotoRetouch Pro.

Evaluating the Image for Print Binuscan's PhotoRetouch Pro

TEXT AND IMAGES BY HELENE DELILLO



In the screen shot here, you can see the "before" image on the left and the "after" image on the right, which shows the effect of XRAY.

for more info visit www.binuscan.com