Handheld Wand scanner comparison

Overview

1. **Wand Scanner** - Difficult to scan images without distorting them. It is difficult to move the scanner evenly across the page. Some images are better than others, but they are not consistent.
   Flip-Pal - it is stationary so no hand eye coordination or speed adjustments needed. Placing the document on the glass or "flipping" the Flip-Pal over onto the book or album or document and using our patented see through technology keeps everything steady--no distortion.

2. **Wand Scanner** - Difficult to scan images close to edges. Rollers are offset from sensor by about 0.1", so when you move the WS off the edge of a page, that last portion is not scanned.
   Flip-Pal - designed to be able to butt up to the book binding, means less chance of accidentally cutting off the top or sides of images.

3. **Wand Scanner** - Difficult to scan loose 4x6 photos: You have to place them on a hard surface, try to keep them from slipping while you scan which isn't easy, and then do a major crop before you have a usable image. Not something you do sitting on your couch or in the car.
   Flip-Pal - simple, just place the 4x6 on the glass. Push a button. You don't have to hold the photo. Completely portable, is not tethered to a PC. You can see what you are scanning when you scan it, vs. having to wait and put the SD card into a PC.

4. **Wand Scanner** - Lack of scan feedback: You don't know what you have scanned with WS until you load the photos on the PC.   This would especially be a problem if capturing photos that are difficult to access and no PC is nearby to verify that the scans were good.
   Flip-Pal -
   a) With Flip-Pal "what you see is what you get", but with WS you can't see where the scan window is so you may end up cutting off part of the photo or moving the wand unevenly causing distortion and not know it.
   b) With Flip-Pal you can easily view your image (while scanning) on our preview LCD screen where you can make sure you got the image immediately. Truly versatile and mobile.

5. **Wand Scanner S** - Transferring scans to PC: The microSD card doesn't fit in a PC without purchasing an additional adapter card to fit a standard SD card slot. The WS manual instructs users to use the USB cable to move scans from the wand scanner to the PC.
   Flip-Pal - normal SD card is included in the box. Simply put it in the computer and view. We also have a USB SD card converter in the box in case you have an older computer with SD card slot.

6. **Wand Scanner -** The roller or scan surface could pick up debris and potentially scratch an original as you slide across it with the scanner.
   Flip-Pal - no rollers pressing against originals. Safer for valuable originals.

7. **Wand Scanner** - Long term reliability: Concern about rollers wearing out or picking up debris which could cause them to stick or slip, thus bad scanned images.
   Flip-Pal - again, no rollers contacting debris. Scanner is housed, keeping out debris and potential problems associated. Long term reliability.

Tester's comments

1. Accurate / Easy and Quick :
   a. Difficult to scan images without distorting them. It is difficult to move the scanner evenly across the page. If you look at the images, most of them have some distortion (curves, waves, or non-parallel sides) even though I was trying to do a good job. Some images are better than others, but they are not consistent. I included some 1st and 2nd scans of the same album page to show the inconsistency.
   b. Difficult to scan images close to edges. I accidently cut the top or the sides off some images because it was difficult to get the scan window close to the edge of the photo album without falling off the edge.
   c. Difficult to scan loose 4x6 photos: You have to place them on a hard surface, try to keep them from slipping while you scan which isn't easy, and then do a major crop before you have a usable image. Not something you do sitting on your couch or in the car. Even the 8x10 photo was difficult to scan because it kept slipping, scan was crooked, or it cut off part of the image near the edge. I did three scans of an 8x10 and none of them were good.
   d. Lack of scan feedback: You don't know what you have scanned with WS until you load the photos on the PC. This would especially be a problem if capturing photos that are difficult to access and no PC is nearby to verify that the scans were good.
      1. With Flip-Pal "what you see is what you get", but with WS you can't see where the scan window is so you may end up cutting off part of the photo or moving the wand unevenly causing distortion and not know it.
      2. With Flip-Pal you get an LCD where you can make sure you got the photo immediately.
   e. Transferring scans to PC: The microSD card doesn't fit in a PC without purchasing an additional adapter card to fit a standard SD card slot. The WS manual instructs users to use the USB cable to move scans from the wand scanner to the PC.
2. Versatility:
   a. Difficult to scan uneven or three dimensional surfaces.   I got some glare on some album scans where the plastic was bubbled. The scanner sometimes catches on edges of photos that aren't covered with plastic. It would be especially difficult to scan old photo albums with warped photos or that use corner tabs to hold the photos. It would be impossible to scan photo albums with decorations, medals, or memorabilia included on the page, and of course any object with any thickness.
   b. WS can't scan an image wider than 8.5 inches because there is no stitching software.
3. Keeps originals safe: The roller or scan surface could pick up debris and potentially scratch an original as you slide across it with the scanner. Similar concern to running an original through a sheet-feed scanner.
4. Accurate: WS noise and detail at 600 dpi was similar to Flip-Pal at 300 dpi because WS requires a scan of a large area and then you crop it to a smaller image. It was missing detail in dark areas as well.
5. Long term reliability: Rollers wearing or picking up debris could cause them to stick or slip.