

## Using Your Flatbed Scanner to Create Digital Images

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Have you tried making original digital images by scanning physical objects with your computer's flatbed scanner? It works great with thin objects like leaves, but you can also get by with scanning fairly thick things as well. I have a nice image of a banana I made that way. Even a garden-variety scanner often produces excellent detail when used like this.

Depending on your scanner's resolution, you may be able to enlarge objects far beyond life-size for interesting macro photographs. If an object is too big to fit on the scanner, you can scan it in pieces and combine the pieces using panorama stitching software.

The scanner's lid may make a fairly dull or ugly background. Try covering your subject with a piece of fabric in an interesting color or design. Alternatively, use your computer software to replace the background with another of your choosing. Perhaps a photo of the sky or some foliage, maybe out of focus, would work. Or create a entirely new background digitally. Try filling a new layer with a solid color and apply a "Texture" or "Render" filter to it.