

Options for making slides, copy negatives and digital files of artwork:

In General...

- Choose the slowest film or digital ISO you can to get the greatest detail.
- Work with 45 degree angles on the lights if possible.
- Start with the end in mind. Depending on usage, use the largest format or file size available.
- Get only the image and mask out the rest.
- Make sure the art work and camera are level and square
- Use a gray card to get exposures.
- Bracket for film:

1/2 stop +/- for slides

1 stop +/- for b&w print

2 stops +/- for color print

(bracketing should not be necessary for digital files)

Which material/medium you use for copy work depends on both your original and what your final goal. Generally if you need a transparency, your choice is color slide or black and white slide. If you need a print, you should use a color or black and white negative film. For prints, you can also use digital. For retouching and website, you will use digital.

Transparencies (Slides)

Color Slides

- Choose the right type of film for your light source or use an 80 (blue) filter.
- If you will need to mask the slide, ask for un-mounted slides from your processor.
- Turn off room lights! Strong fluorescent can add a green cast!

Black and White Slides

Making slides of your black and white photographic work presents some difficult choices. For speed and time, the option of color film seems hard to beat, but color film has colors and variables such as film type, light source, age of slides which all make a difference in how the slides look. There are only a few services, like dr5 Chrome, that will process ANY black and white film as a positive. (<http://www.dr5.com/>)

Print/Negative Film

Color Print Film

Quick, easy and available, this material is appropriate to copying its own: other color prints. Color print films won't make the best copy negs for b&w but can be used in a pinch.

Like with Color slides, you must match the color of the light source to the film or use an 80 filter for tungsten, and watch out for fluorescent lights. While your printer can fix slight color shifts, the better the negative you make, the better your final result.

Black and White Print Film

Once again, use slow film and carefully copy techniques. You will not need to worry about the color of the light source since black and white film does not record color.

Digital Files

Color slides from digital files

Some competitions and applications still require slides. If you need a slide from a digital file, there are a number of services on the web that will make one slide for \$2.50 on the low end to \$7 on the higher end. If you have to make many slides, you might consider using a copystand and film to shoot the prints.

Some services:

I have never used these - - but these popped up in a quick web search if you want to know more.

<https://www.gammatech.com/html/recording35.shtml?gclid=CLmfl9ql7ZkCFR0Sagodg1tzRw>

<http://www.artcompetitionslices.com/>

<http://www.replicolor.com/slides.htm?gclid=CPqXuYOK7ZkCFR0Sagodg1tzRw>

<http://www.colorslic.com/images.html>

For web, retouching and printing

There are many times when shooting a print of an image is better for acquiring a digital than scanning or going back to the original file. Scanning tends to pick up every flaw and is not always good for glossy images or reflective images. You may not have the digital file handy.

As in all the above, work carefully. Careful copy work can save so much time in 'fixing' something in Photoshop. Shoot a photograph of a gray card or macbeth grid and use that to correct color in the computer. Use a gray card to set you exposure, so that the relative lightness or darkness of the single image will not affect the exposure.