

How Scanners Work

There are many different types of scanners. For this example, we'll use a flatbed scanner because this is the type most people have sitting on their desk.

Begin the scan by placing an object on the flatbed's glass plate. If you're scanning a flat document, such as a single piece of paper, close the lid. If you're scanning a page from a large book, closing the lid may not be possible, but the scanner will still work.

Next, input the command to begin scanning, either through a software interface or by pressing a button on the scanner.

Your command is intercepted by driver software, which prepares the scanner for the work it is about to receive.

The scanner's optics move to take a quick preview picture of the object, sending data piece by piece through the interface. It appears line by line on your monitor.

To make adjustments to the image (color correction, resizing, and cropping), use the scanner's software. Then, prompt the scanner to perform the final scan. The optics move in compliance, but this time, they do so more slowly, collecting more detailed information.

When the scanner completes its scan and a final image appears on your monitor screen, you can store this image as a file, place it in another document (such as a school report), or send it to a printer.



USB: The easiest way to connect a scanner to your PC is using the USB (Universal Serial Bus) port, which detects the device automatically.

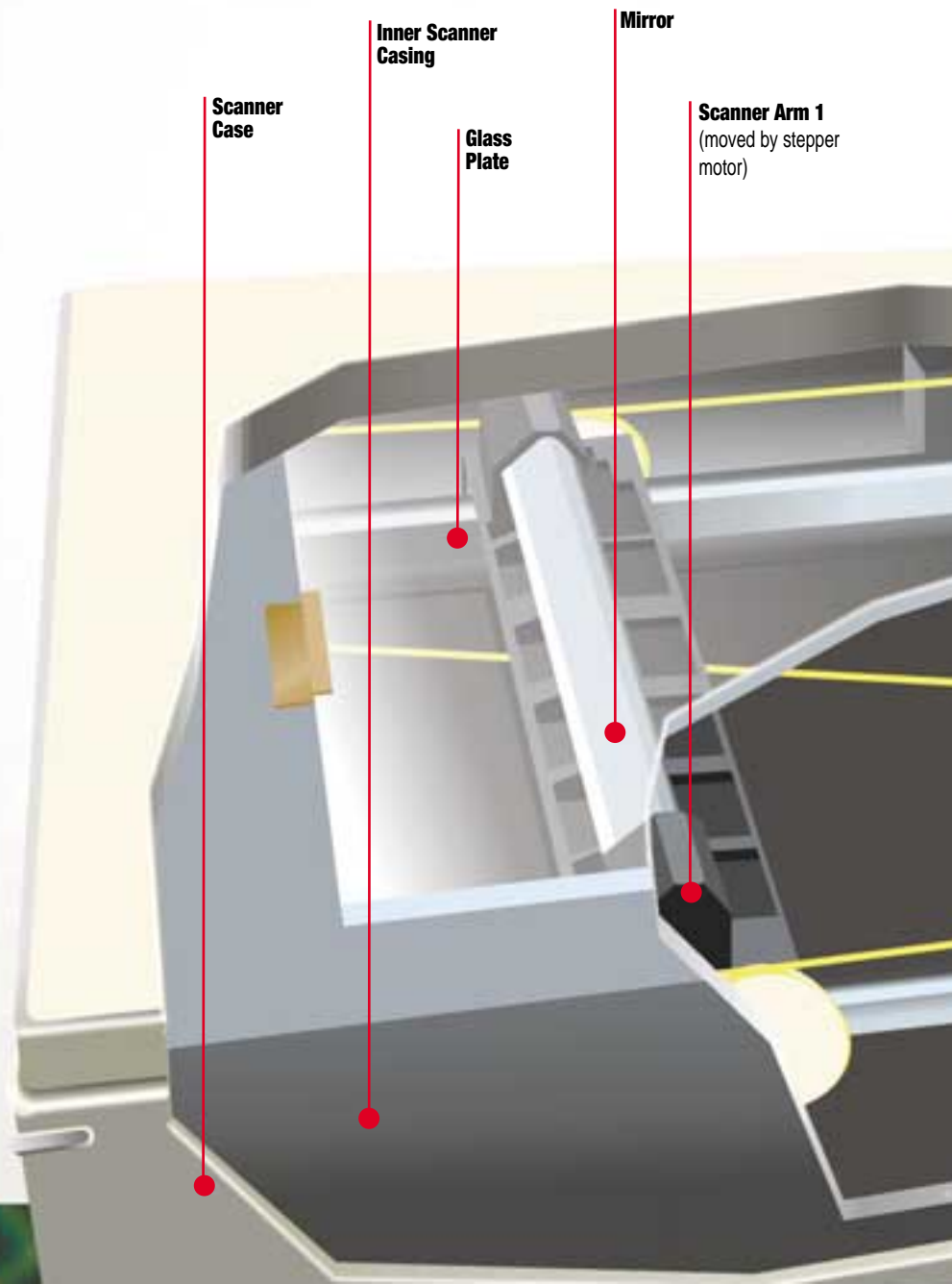


Parallel: A parallel-port connection isn't the fastest scanner connection, but it's easy to use and even older computers have this port.



SCSI: To utilize a high-speed scanner with a SCSI (Small Computer System Interface) connector, you need to install a special controller card in your PC.

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Types Of Scanners



Handheld scanners require you to move the device over the surface of the document.



Business-card scanners let you transfer contact information to your computer.



Standalone scanning devices let you scan and save documents, without using a PC.



Sheetfed scanners use a motor to pull the document through and require little space.



Other scanner innovations, such as the HP CapShare 910, let you scan documents on the run.

