
Polaroid Digital Palette

The following pages explain how to send 35mm Express graphics to the Polaroid Digital Palette. With 35mm Express and this device, you will be able to produce high resolution (1K, 2K and 4K) graphics.

Be sure to read Chapter 4 in the 35mm Express manual before you start. Then, place these pages in the appropriate location in Chapter 4 and refer to them when you use this option for the first time.

What You Need To use the Digital Palette you will need:

- **Configuration File:** Make sure the Digital Palette configuration file is defined via the "DPalette" DOS environment variable. This specifies the path and name of the configuration file. See your Digital Palette manual for complete information.
- **Memory:** At least 400K available memory is needed. However, 2 MegaBytes of expanded memory is recommended. When outputting to this Film Recorder, the amount of available memory is very important. More complex graphics can be shot faster and more efficiently if expanded memory is available.
- **Disk space:** If expanded memory is not present, then ample disk space should be available for output of these graphics. For 2K graphics, at least 1 MegaByte of space is needed. For 4K graphics at least 2 MegaBytes is needed.

Before You Begin

See the "General Procedure" section of this chapter for basic information on using 35mm

Express output options. If you have not already installed this output option onto your computer, you should do so now. Follow the instructions on the installation pages that you received with this documentation.

***Making Sure
Your Graphics
Are Compatible***

Create graphics for use with the film recorder the same way as usual. Please note the following:

Fonts: The only fonts you may use with the Digital Palette are Swiss Regular and Swiss Bold.

International characters: The expanded set of international characters may be used.

Available Film Types: The film types come from the Digital Palette's configuration file (DPALETTE.CFG). If 35mm Express does not find this file, it will read the film types directly from your film recorder. The actual film types that you may select from the TYPE OF FILM list are dependent on the camera back that you currently have attached to your Digital Palette. Any film types that are "greyed out" are not applicable for the camera back that is currently attached to your film recorder.

Note: Automatic film types, i.e. Polaroid 339 or Presentation Chrome, will be ejected or advanced automatically by the film recorder. Other film types, i.e. Polaroid 669 or Polaroid 691 mini overhead transparency film, require you to manually pull out the film once it is exposed. Before pulling the film out, **be sure the LED light on the film recorder has stopped flashing.** If the film is pulled out too soon, the exposure will not be complete!

***Using the
Digital Palette
Output Option***

When you are ready to shoot graphics, select **OUTPUT** from the Main Menu of 35mm Express, then select **DIGITAL PALETTE**. Once you select this, 35mm Express will then try to communicate with your film recorder. If your computer begins to beep and/or you receive a "**device communications error**", immediately check the **COMMUNICATIONS SETUP** option. Select the correct option for the location of your film recorder and make sure the film recorder is actually attached to the port that you select.

Use the following menu items to enter the information that 35mm Express needs to know:

SHOOT GRAPHICS: Select this when you are ready to expose film and then select the graphic or batch of graphics you wish to image. Be sure that all the other settings in this output option are correct before imaging (i.e. correct number of exposures). Also, film must be loaded in the camera.

Once you select this option, at some point you should be able to hear the camera's shutter open/close and the LED light on the front of the Film Recorder should flash. If you receive an **Input/Output Error message**, a problem has occurred with the communication to this film recorder. You should select abort, check the **COMMUNICATIONS SETUP** option, and make sure the film recorder is connected to the computer correctly. You will then have to restart 35mm Express.

Once the graphics have been imaged, examine any messages that may appear at the top of the screen in "**Device Status**" and "**Folder Status**". If you receive a message in the Device Status, this is from the film recorder. Refer to your Polaroid Digital Palette documentation concerning any message you may receive here.

Also be aware of any messages under the "Status" column. The following are a few messages that you should take note of:

- **"Error: Font not found"**. The graphic(s) sent over to the Film Recorder contain an unavailable font and will remain unshot and make sure they only contain the supported fonts.

- **"Exposed, Multi-Pass"** message. There was not enough memory (RAM) nor disk space in which to output the entire graphic at one time. Thus 35mm Express had to process the graphic in parts. If any graphics do have this message, then "banding" has occurred. "Banding" is a horizontal line that appears on the slide - more than one line may be present. You should examine any graphics that obtain this message. In order to get around this problem, you can:
 - Use a lower resolution, or
 - Install expanded memory into your computer, or
 - Free up disk space - at least 1 Mega-Byte for 2048 RESOLUTION or 2 MegaBytes for 4096 RESOLUTION.

- **"ERR" messages**. These messages come directly from the film recorder and may be similar to the message that appears above in "Device Status". Please refer to your Polaroid Digital Palette documentation concerning these error messages.

OPTION MENU: Select this to specify which, of the following options, you want to use:

SHOOT COLOR PALETTE: Select this to expose a 63-color palette.

LIGHTEN/DARKEN COLORS: Select this to lighten or darken the exposure of the

selected images. Choose from 1-Darkest to 7-Lightest. Normal is the default.

RED ADJUST: Select this to change the exposure of red from 1-Darkest to 7-Lightest. Normal is the default.

GREEN ADJUST: Select this to change the exposure of green from 1-Darkest to 7-Lightest. Normal is the default.

BLUE ADJUST: Select this to change the exposure of blue from 1-Darkest to 7-Lightest. Normal is the default.

NUMBER OF COPIES: Select this to set the number of copies you want of each graphic you have selected.

FULL FRAME: Whether you should use this depends on the media you are using.

Slides: It does not matter which option you use.

Prints/Transparencies: YES will change the aspect ratio to fill the entire frame. If you have circles or pie charts, you may not want to select this option because it will distort these objects. NO will flood the background and your image will not completely fill the frame size.

ADVANCE FILM: Select this to move the film ahead one exposure.

TYPE OF FILM: Select this to specify the film type you will be using.

FILE CABINET: Select this to specify the drive and cabinet location of the graphics to be imaged.

COMMUNICATIONS SETUP: Select this to tell 35mm Express where the film recorder is connected to the computer. Note that this device is normally connected to a parallel port (i.e. LPT1 or LPT2).

1 - COM1 to send graphics to the first serial port.

2 - COM2 to send graphics to the second serial port.

3 - LPT1 to send graphics to the first parallel port.

4 - LPT2 to send graphics to the second parallel port.

5 - TO DATA FILE to output the graphics as a data file on disk. After selecting the desired graphics and choosing SHOOT GRAPHICS, you will be asked to enter a DOS file name under which the graphics will be saved. If you wish you can precede the name with a DOS directory path. To output this file from DOS, use the DOS COPY/B command (i.e. copy/b *filename* LPT1:).

NUMBER OF EXPOSURES: Select this to set the number of exposures (1 - 100) remaining on a roll of film. Make sure that this option is set correctly because imaging will be stopped if the number of exposures is 0.

RESOLUTION: Offers three different options for the quality of the output. 1200 produces high quality slides. 2048 produces higher quality slides. 4096 produces highest quality slides. As you increase the resolution, more memory and time is required to produce the output. If the 4096 option is "greyed out", it is not currently available with your film recorder.

BACKGROUND OPTIONS: Select this in order to choose various ramp types and the colors to be used with the ramping.

RAMP TYPE allows you to choose various options for ramping the background. The options are:

NONE for no ramping to occur. The solid color that you chose back in Create/Edit will be used.

TOP TO BOTTOM for ramping to start at the top and blend in at the bottom.

LEFT TO RIGHT for ramping to begin on the left side of your graphic(s) and blend toward the right side.

DIAGONAL FROM TOP TO LEFT for ramping to begin at the top right corner of your graphic to the bottom left corner.

You may also set the colors for the ramping. Select **FIRST COLOR FOR RAMP** to determine the beginning color. Select **SECOND COLOR FOR RAMP** to determine the bottom color. The film recorder will then blend the colors between the two that have been selected. If **RAMP TYPE NONE** is selected, then these two color options are "greyed out" and you cannot select them.

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