Scanning stamps for online sales

If you are going to sell a stamp(s) on eBay, it is better to scan the stamp with a scanner than to take a picture of the stamp. The modern day scanners can yield very nice resolutions that provide a very accurate image.

SCAN STAMP AT 600dpi resolution

SCAN LOT OR GROUP AT 300dpi resolution

SCAN COVERS AT 150dpi resolution

When scanning investment grade or better quality stamps, scan the front and back.

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DOWNSIDE OF SCANNING: Note that the scan tends to bring out all the faults of the stamp. You should make an effort in the description of the stamp to describe any tears, thins, repairs, missing corners and/or perforations, and any other defects.

SCANNING STOCK PAGES: While some recommend taking the stamps out of a stock page when you scan so that the whole stamp image is visible, this is not practical. You only should remove the stamps from the stock page if they are better quality or investment grade items.

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SAVING THE SCAN: For all practical purposes, it is best to save the scan as a jpg. This allows universal access to the image. While some experts recommend saving the jpg with a compression of no more than 20%, you can compress the image when you save it up to 40% which will yield an adequate image on any monitor. Again, for investment grade and better quality stamps, save the jpg with the lowest amount of compression and the highest amount of quality.

NOTE: some scanners have settings for the type of scan. You do not need to use the “photograph” setting. You can use the “magazine” or “illustration” setting.

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UPLOADING TO EBAY: most of the programs that help you upload your auction item with images to eBay will resize the image for a thumbnail in the listing and a larger image when the thumbnail is expanded.

EBay Enhanced Uploaded and Turbo Lister automatically resize and compress images to eBay's standard sizes.

If you self-host your images or have an offsite hosting service, be sure to keep the image size small (say, less than 500k) so download times for your customers are reasonable.