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## Review: Canon imageFORMULA DR-2510C Compact Color Scanner

By Christel Burris

### Canon imageFORMULA DR-2510C Compact Color Scanner

[www.canonscanningsuccess.com](http://www.canonscanningsuccess.com)

#### TechnoScore: 4.5

1 = Lowest Possible Score; 5 = Highest Possible Score

#### INTRODUCTION

The imageFORMULA DR-2510C Compact Color Scanner is another great scanner from Canon. With its small footprint (6.3" x 11.8" x 6.3" at an incredible 5.3 pounds) and innovative three-way tray design that enables you to use it with the built-in eject tray closed, opened, or half-opened with stopper, the DR-2510C fits perfectly on a desk as cluttered as mine. Fast, high quality duplex scanning in a versatile and space-saving design — it doesn't get any better than that. Combined with reliable feeding, advanced image processing functions, and ease of clearing paper jams and I don't know why you'd want another scanner.

The first place I looked to find a price for the DR-2510C was the Canon e-Store but it was nowhere in sight. (It made me wonder if this model has been discontinued by Canon.) However, I did find it at various Web stores. The list price is \$895.00 but it can be had for considerably less. I found it on Amazon for \$665.76 and have seen it even offered in the \$500 range.

The Canon press release states the DR-2510C can scan at the same speeds in color, grayscale, and black and white (up to 25 ppm (50 ipm) at up to 20 Odpi for letter-sized documents), and I'd say it comes pretty close to that in real life. The slanted paper path enables you to scan a wide variety of documents, from thick documents and multi-sheet forms to drivers licenses and embossed plastic cards. The DR-2510C also has a new Auto Power

feature that adds to energy efficiency. The scanner will automatically turn on or off, depending on the status of the connected PC. And, it can be manually turned off as well.

The automatic document feeder will hold up to 50 pages. Scanning modes are Simplex, Duplex, Color, Grayscale, Black and White, Error Diffusion, and Advanced Text Enhancement. Using full duplex mode, the DR-2510C can scan documents up to 11" x 17". This is accomplished by folding the document in half across the long dimension. The two halves are scanned simultaneously and combined to form a single image. That ranks really high for "coolness" in my book.

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The daily duty cycle is 1,500 scans. Other features of the DR-2510C include Moire Reduction, Ultrasonic Double Feed Detection, Prevent Bleed-through/Remove Background, User Registration, Advanced Text Enhancement (Two Types), Skip Blank Page, Prescan, Auto Paper Size Detection, Deskew, Batch Separation, Text Orientation Recognition, and Color Dropout/Enhancement.

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In addition to the scanner drivers, the unit comes packaged with CapturePerfect 3.0, OmniPage SE 4, Presto! BizCard Reader 5 SE, and PaperPort 11 SE. For purposes of this review, I only installed the CapturePerfect software.

## BACKGROUND

I am the CEO of Push One Button, Inc., an authorized reseller of Worldox and TABS3/PracticeMaster. Push One Button specializes in installation, integration/configuration, and training of legal-specific software as well as Microsoft Office applications and small networks as well as advising law firms across the US in implementing a 'less paper' office. I have been working in the legal IT field for over 20 years supporting large and small law firms and sole practitioners in-house and as an outside consultant.

In the normal course of business, I use a Xerox DocuMate 252. I have installed various PaperPort, Fujitsu, and Kodak scanners for clients. However, after evaluating the Canon DR-2510C for Techno-Lawyer, I am seriously considering replacing the DocuMate.

To evaluate the Canon DR-2510C, I used a Dell Optiplex GX260 running Windows XP Pro SP3 with 1GB of RAM and a Pentium 4 running at 2.4GHz.

## INITIAL SCANNER UNPACKING AND SETUP

The scanner itself was nicely packed in a combination of molded plastic and cardboard that apparently kept the scanner away from the usual UPS box crushing/puncturing tools and processes. Ancillary items — the power brick and its AC cord, paper feed roller, USB cable, printed materials, and accompanying CDs — were in a separate cardboard box under the scanner.

Physical setup of the scanner took all of about 10 minutes. It was a simple process comprised of removing a protective sheet held down with tape, opening up the document feed and eject trays, removing a second, smaller protective sheet, opening the front of the scanner, installing the feed roller, and closing the scanner up again.

Loading the scanner driver, PDF Manuals, and Scanning software (CapturePerfect 3) from two

separate CDs took around 15 minutes. The total setup process, including unpacking various items and reading the setup guide, probably took 45 minutes. Being of the "older and sometimes wiser" group, I have found that it nearly always pays to spend the required time to read the instructions first (especially when installing hardware), rather than spending a lot more time later correcting what went wrong because I didn't do the preliminary reading.

Having finally completed all of the preliminaries, I verified that the scanner's power switch was in its "Off" position, and then proceeded to the phase we have all been breathlessly awaiting — firing the scanner up and putting it through its paces. As mentioned earlier, the power switch has two "On" positions: "On" (the scanner stays on regardless of what the PC is doing), and "Auto" (the scanner turns on and off with the PC) as well as an "Off" position.

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I plugged in the power and USB cables then switched the scanner's 3-way power switch to "On." Windows immediately recognized the scanner and informed me that it was installed and ready for use within a few seconds. Yay! Let's scan something!

## USAGE

Following the instructions, I set the "Feed Select Lever" to the "Single Page Separation" mode (as opposed to the "Bypass" mode which is used for scanning what Canon calls "fastened together documents"), put a double-sided color brochure in the feed tray, set the paper guides ("document guide adaptor" in "Canon-speak"), and pressed "Job Button 3" (the uppermost of 3 "Job" buttons on the front panel). This resulted in a "Configure Device Settings" dialog at the upper right corner of

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the computer monitor, where you can apparently select from a list of scanning devices if you have more than one.

Since the Canon was indicated in the list box, I clicked "OK", and after a delay of a few seconds, the scanner took off and the heavy brochure immediately went off-kilter and jammed. After opening up the front of the scanner and removing a third protective sheet that was missed in all the earlier excitement, I started over. This time, again after a brief delay, the document went through perfectly, and the "Scanning Monitor" at the lower right corner of the display indicated "Scanning complete" but no document displayed.

So the search was on for the newly scanned document, which the aforementioned "Scanning Monitor" indicated was "Saved as file." Ok, but saved where and in what format?

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After not finding the document, I started up CapturePerfect, and selected the scanner, which resulted in the "Configure Device Settings" box mentioned earlier, then a Properties Dialog where a variety of scanner settings can be specified including Mode (B&W, Color, Grayscale, etc.); Page Size; DPI (resolution — 100 to 600 dpi in 7 steps); Scanning Side (Simplex, Duplex, Folio, Skip Blank Page); Deskew; Moire Reduction; Brightness (separate settings for back sides!); contrast, gamma; document orientation: double feed detection modes, etc.

After roaming around in the CapturePerfect menus, I found a "Scan Job" info box that pointed me to the newly scanned document — It was in the "My Pictures" folder in My Documents with a filename made up of a long number containing the date + time + an additional 5 digits at the end. The image was Simplex B&W in PDF format. The QuickStart guide I so enthusiastically read did not mention

anything about setting up saved file formats or destinations before pushing the "Scan" button.

My preference is to scan directly from Acrobat Professional 8.0 since it integrates quite nicely with Worldox. When scanning directly from Acrobat, the Acrobat Scan dialog box takes over. In my opinion, the typical law firm user will better appreciate the simplicity of this dialog box. As mentioned earlier, Push One Button uses Worldox as document management and, after clicking the Acrobat scan button, instead of the native Acrobat file/save dialog box, Worldox launched a Profile Save dialog box which is awesome for any firm who needs to have an easy way to add scanned documents into a document repository.

However, the upside to scanning from Acrobat is also the downside. Using Acrobat's user interface (instead of the Canon's user interface with CapturePerfect) you cannot choose some of the nifty features that come with the scanner like preventing bleed through when scanning very thin paper. But the option for selecting the Canon user interface is very easy to get to from the Acrobat user interface.

#### PROS

Scan quality is outstanding. At 300dpi it's far and away better than any other scanner I've used. The scans at 300dpi are so good that there is no need to scan at a higher resolution.

The scanner is so small and light, if it weren't for the cost of replacement, I'd be tempted to take it with me while traveling.

Normally, clearing a paper jam from a scanner can be a nightmare but with the DR-2510C and its straight paper path, paper jams are no big deal.

#### CONS

While the "one touch" buttons on the front of the scanner are useful, one of my favorite things about the Xerox DocuMate is I can program a button to launch Acrobat and immediately start scanning. While you can program any one of the DR-2510C buttons to "launch" a program, the only program it works with on my machine is Microsoft Publisher.

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## WISH LIST

My only wish is the ability to program one of the buttons on the DR-2510C to launch Acrobat. I can't think of anything else this scanner needs.

## CONCLUSION

All things considered, I was very impressed with this scanner. Over the past ten years, I have purchased and/or used at least half-dozen scanners. After putting the Canon imageFORMULA DR-2510C through its paces, I only wish it had been available when I bought my current scanner. This preference is mostly due to the superior quality of the scans the DR-2510C produces. Text is crisp, and photos are well rendered in color or grayscale. The Docu-Mate doesn't come close at any resolution.

The speed, ease of setup and use, and the multitude of settings for special circumstances also are big pluses for the Canon.

For the typical everyday jobs that a scanner would normally do in the average law firm, I would give it 4.5 stars, which would go to the full 5 if a Job button could be programmed to directly scan a pile of documents into Acrobat.

Other than the limited usefulness of the Job buttons, my only caveat at this time would be the question of long-term durability. Compared to the DocuMate scanner, the Canon is very light and the fold-out trays seem a bit flimsy.

Durability misgivings aside, I would purchase the Canon imageFORMULA DR-2510C in a heartbeat if I were still in the market for a scanner in this class.

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## CANON'S RESPONSE

We invited Canon to respond to this TechnoFeature. Mark Machida responded as follows:

*Thank you for taking the time to review Canon's DR-2510C Workgroup scanner. We are happy that you are impressed with the product. The DR-2510C is "light in weight" due to Canon's advanced scanning technology, however, I can assure you that it is not a "lightweight" product. It is built for long-term durability with a daily duty cycle of 1500 scans. As for your wish list, we appreciate the feedback on our one-touch buttons and we will take your recommendation under consideration.*

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Christel Burris has been providing legal technology consulting and implementation to law firms of all sizes for over 20 years. She is CEO of [Push One Button, Inc.](#), a legal technology firm that provides training, legal-specific technology and consulting to businesses from California to the UK. Having started her legal career as a receptionist for a small law firm in San Francisco, she has held positions in law firms ranging from the previously mentioned receptionist to IT Manager (and everything in between). She understands how law firms work and how lawyers think.

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