



# A POSITIVE APPROACH TO DIGITIZING NEGATIVES (AND OTHER TRANSMISSIVE FILM FORMATS)

presented by

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# WHAT WE WILL COVER

- Transmissive formats
- Negatives vs. prints – choosing one over the other
- Prepping transmissive materials for digitization
- Equipment
- Making processing decisions







# TRANSMISSIVE MATERIAL FORMATS

- Roll film
- Sheet film
- Slides
- Nitrate negatives
- Glass plate negatives
- Lantern slides
- Aerial film
- Microfilm
- Microfiche
- Motion picture film





Audience Participation

# WHAT DO YOU HAVE IN YOUR COLLECTIONS?

Please use the poll window!

- Roll film
- Sheet film
- Slides
- Nitrate negatives
- Glass plate negatives
- Lantern slides
- Aerial film
- Microfilm
- Microfiche
- Motion picture film

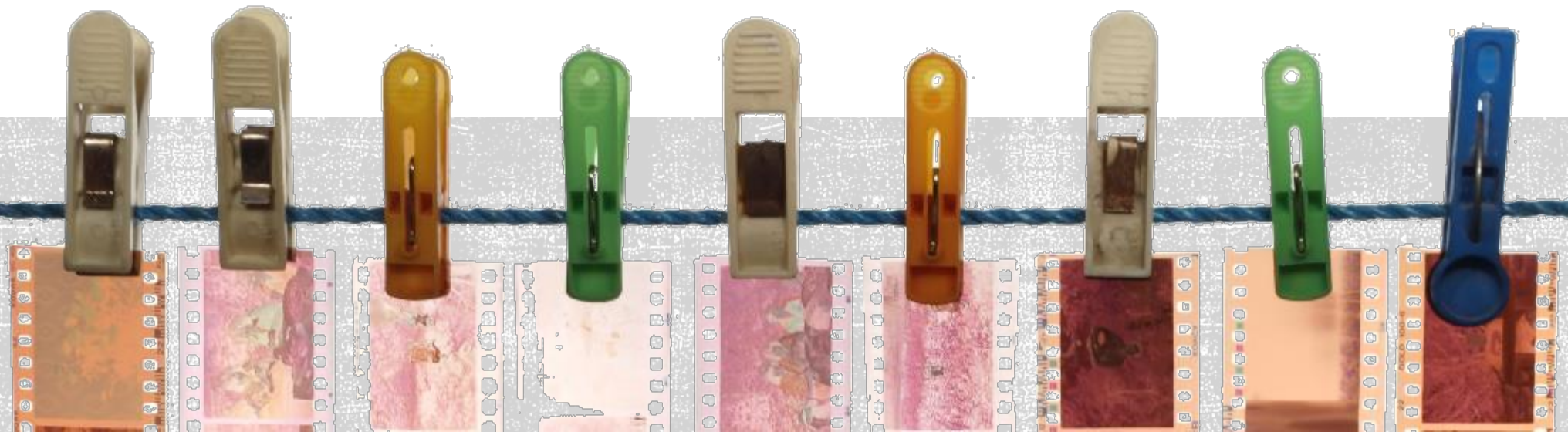






# THE POSITIVES AND NEGATIVES OF DIGITIZING TRANSMISSIVE MATERIALS

If you have prints and negatives in your collections,  
which should you use for digitizing?



## Audience Participation

# WHICH ONE DO YOU THINK TURNED OUT BETTER?

Please use the poll window!

Left image ▼



Right image ▼



Berkeley Folk Music Festival Archive, Charles Deering McCormick Library of Special Collections, Northwestern University Libraries. A project supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities



# NEGATIVE VS. PRINT

**Negative ▼**



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**Print ▼**





# BENEFITS OF DIGITIZING FROM NEGATIVES



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**Greater detail and  
options for enlargement**





# **NO ISSUES WITH COLOR LOSS**

Negatives help avoid issues with color degradation common in color photographs printed between the 1970s and 1990s

Image courtesy of Randall Sell, who is a good sport.

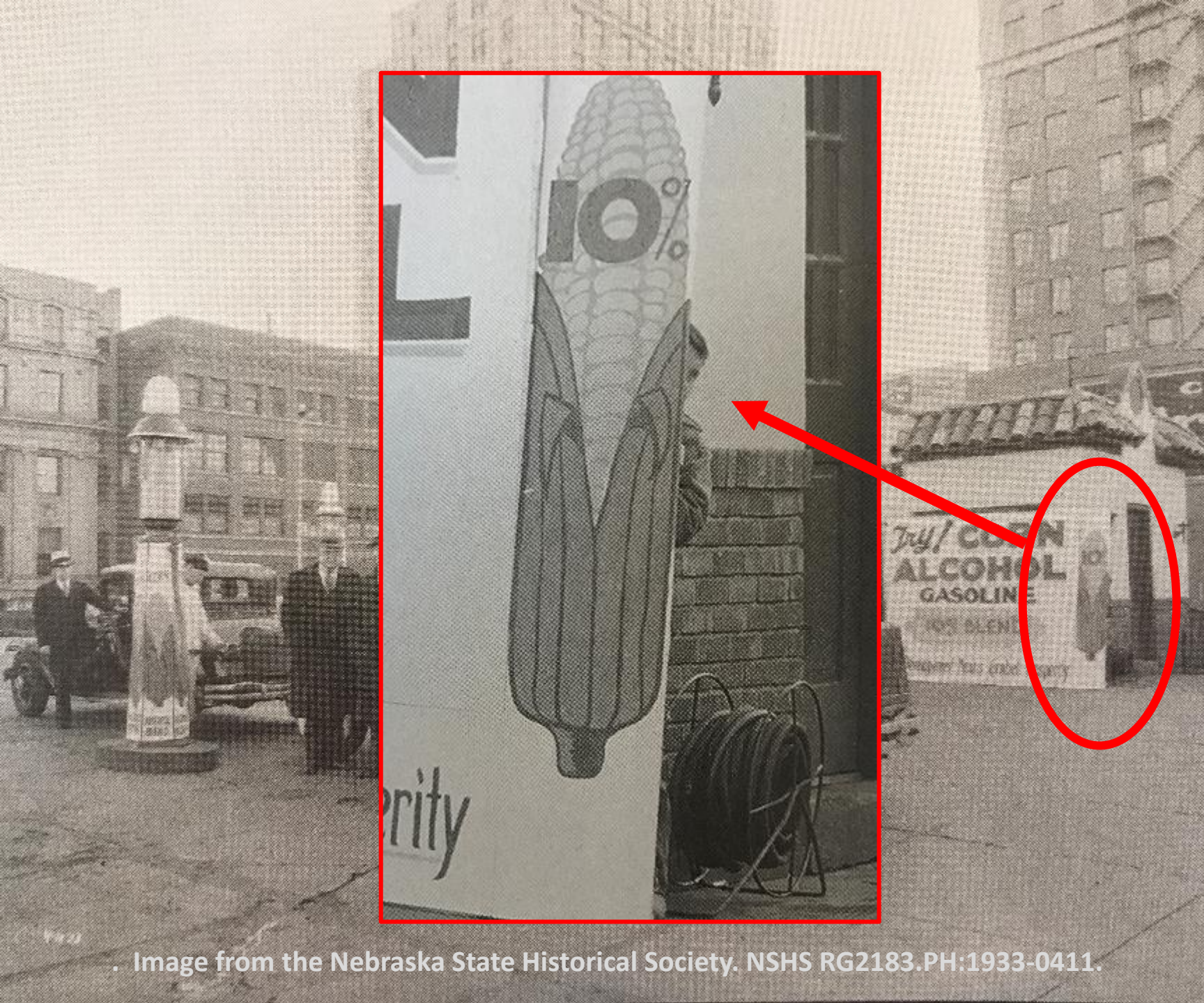




# SEE GREATER DETAIL

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A Practical Approach”  
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Jill Marie Koelling





# SEE GREATER DETAIL

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# SEE WHAT ISN'T THERE

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Image from the Nebraska State Historical Society.  
Solomon D. Butcher Collection, NSHS RG2608.PH-1523

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Image from the Nebraska State Historical Society.  
Solomon D. Butcher Collection, NSHS RG2608.PH-1523

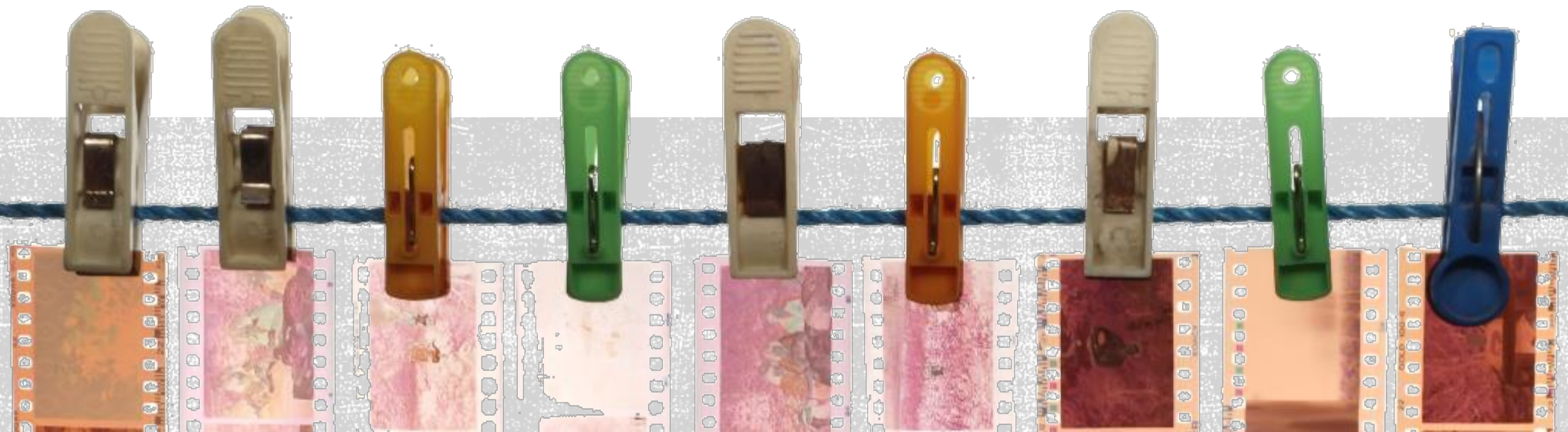
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# PRINTS VS. NEGATIVES AND THE BENEFITS OF PRINTS





# BENEFITS OF DIGITIZING FROM PRINTS

**Original Negative** ▼



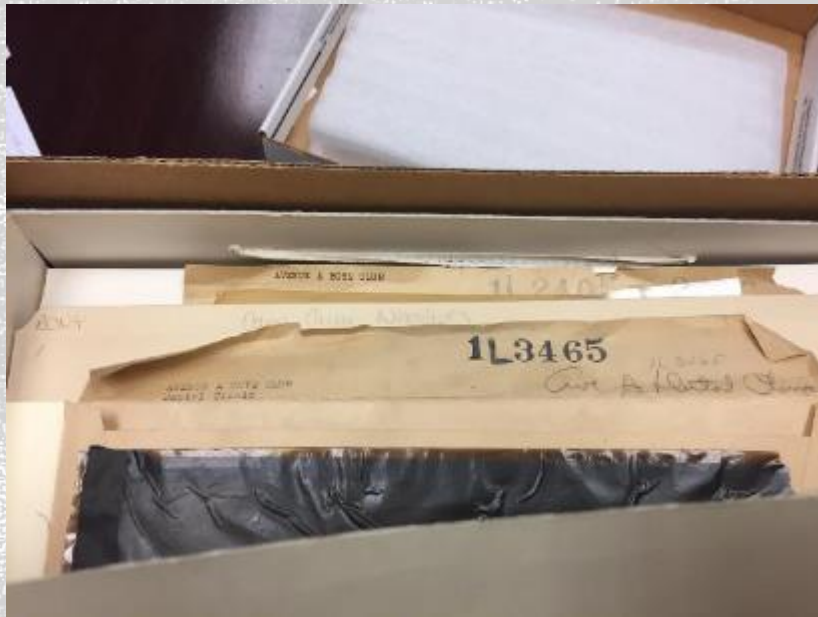
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**Print created by photographer –  
captures the exact artistic intent** ▲



## DAMAGED NEGATIVES



## DIGITIZED IMAGE



Boys place wreath at Marquis de Lafayette statue in Union Square Park, New York City. Circa 1934. The Boys' Club of New York Records, MS 3000, The New-York Historical Society.



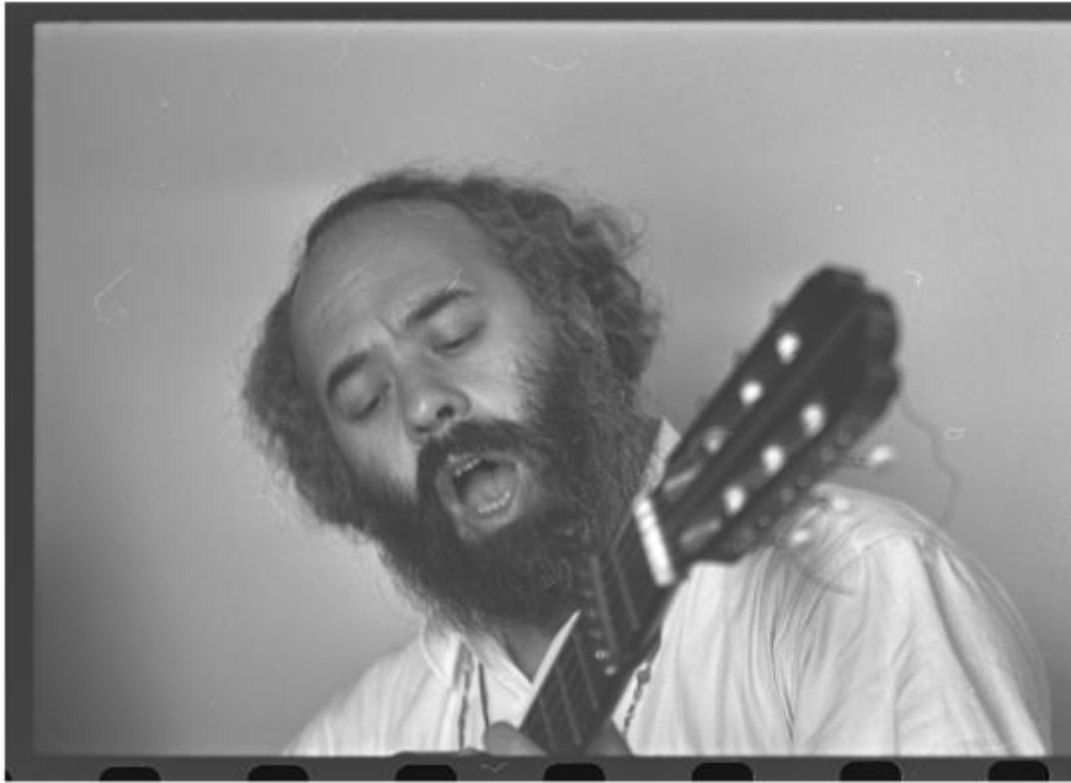
# COMMON ISSUES WITH NEGATIVES THAT IMPACT THE REFORMATTING PROCESS

- Dust Build-up
- Fogging
- Scuff marks or scratches
- Kinked or buckled film
- Over-processing due to chemical residue
- Acetate or nitrate film
- Slide mount degradation

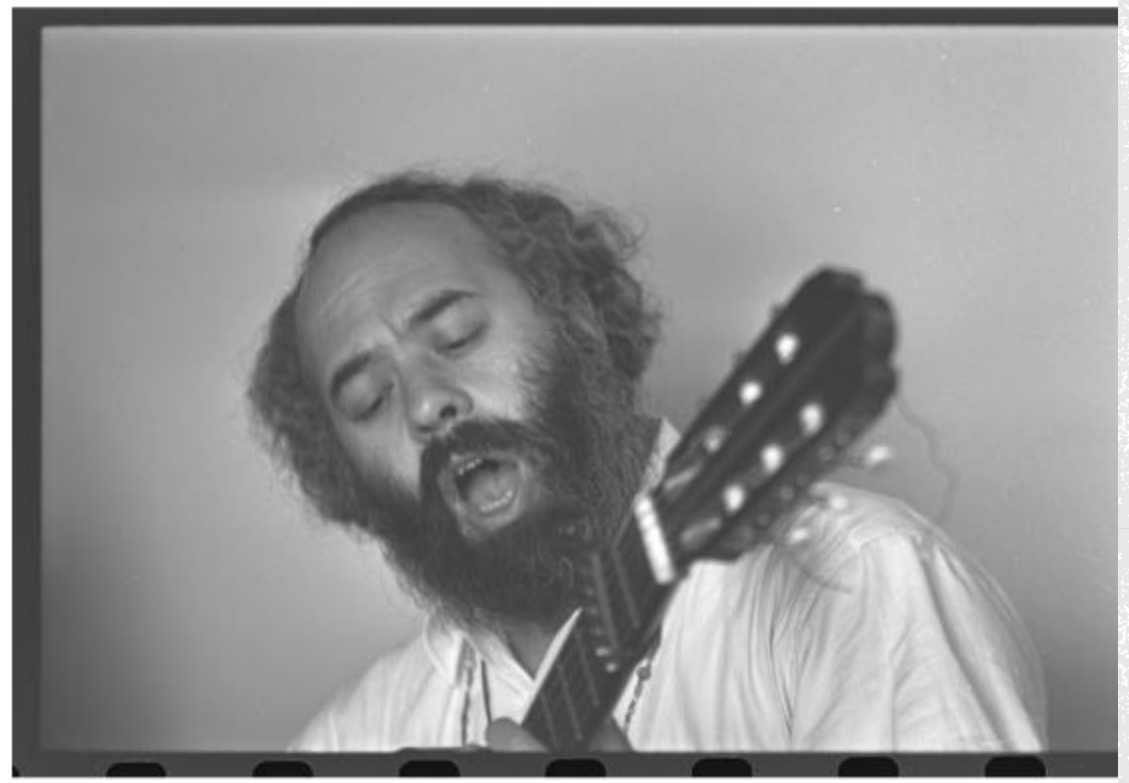




# A CASE FOR DUST REMOVAL



Scan from negative showing dust and fibers.



Scan from same negative, after dusting with ionized compressed air.





# A CASE FOR DUST REMOVAL



Scan from negative showing dust and fibers.



Scan from same negative, after dusting with ionized compressed air.



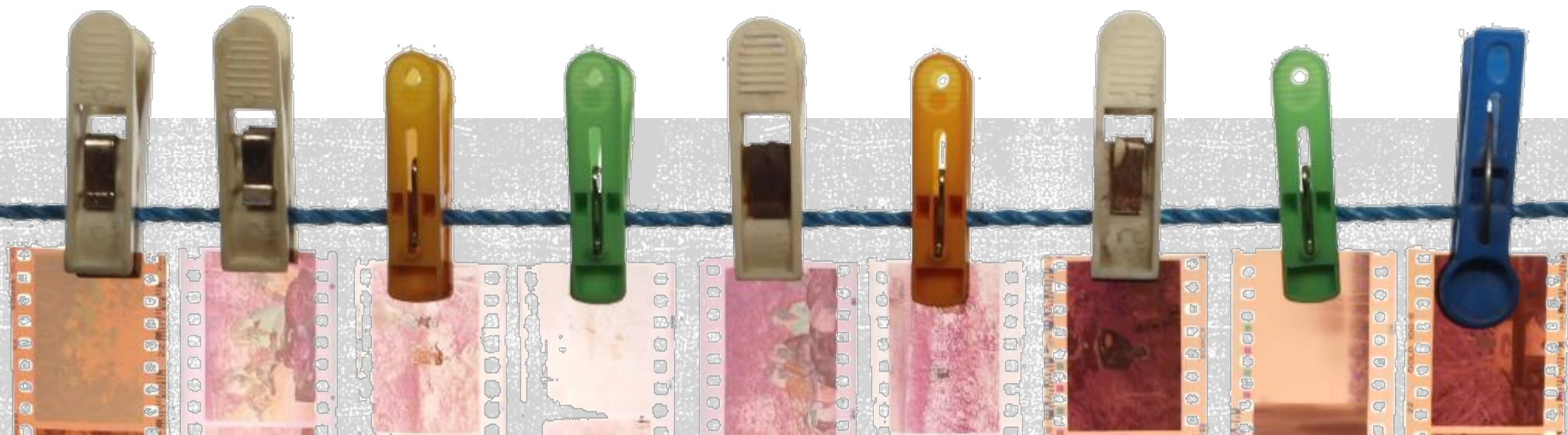


Audience Participation



# QUESTIONS?

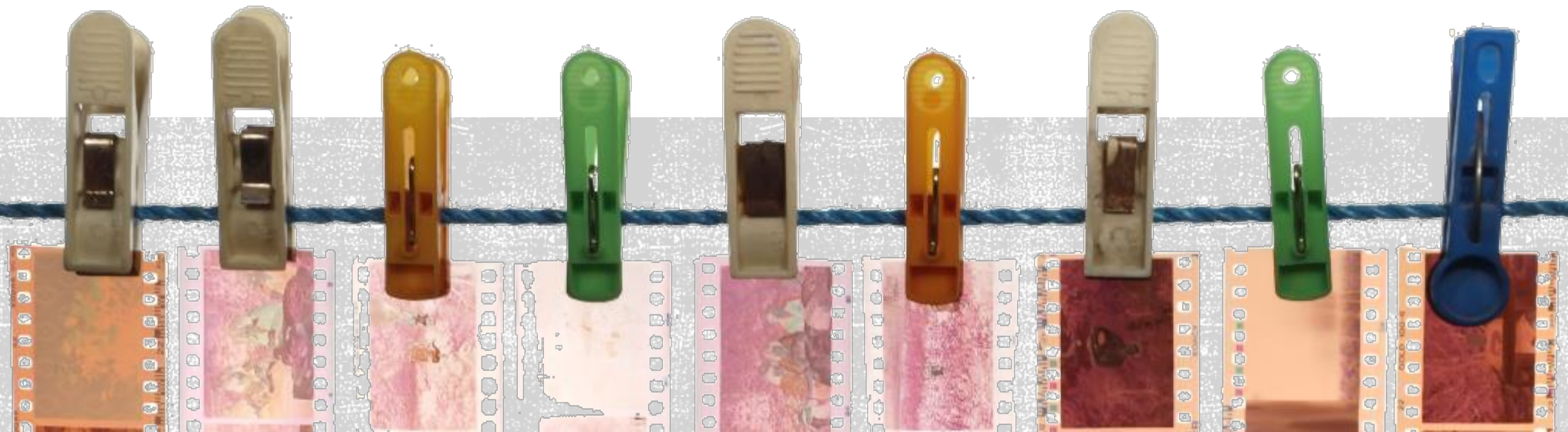
Please use the chat window!



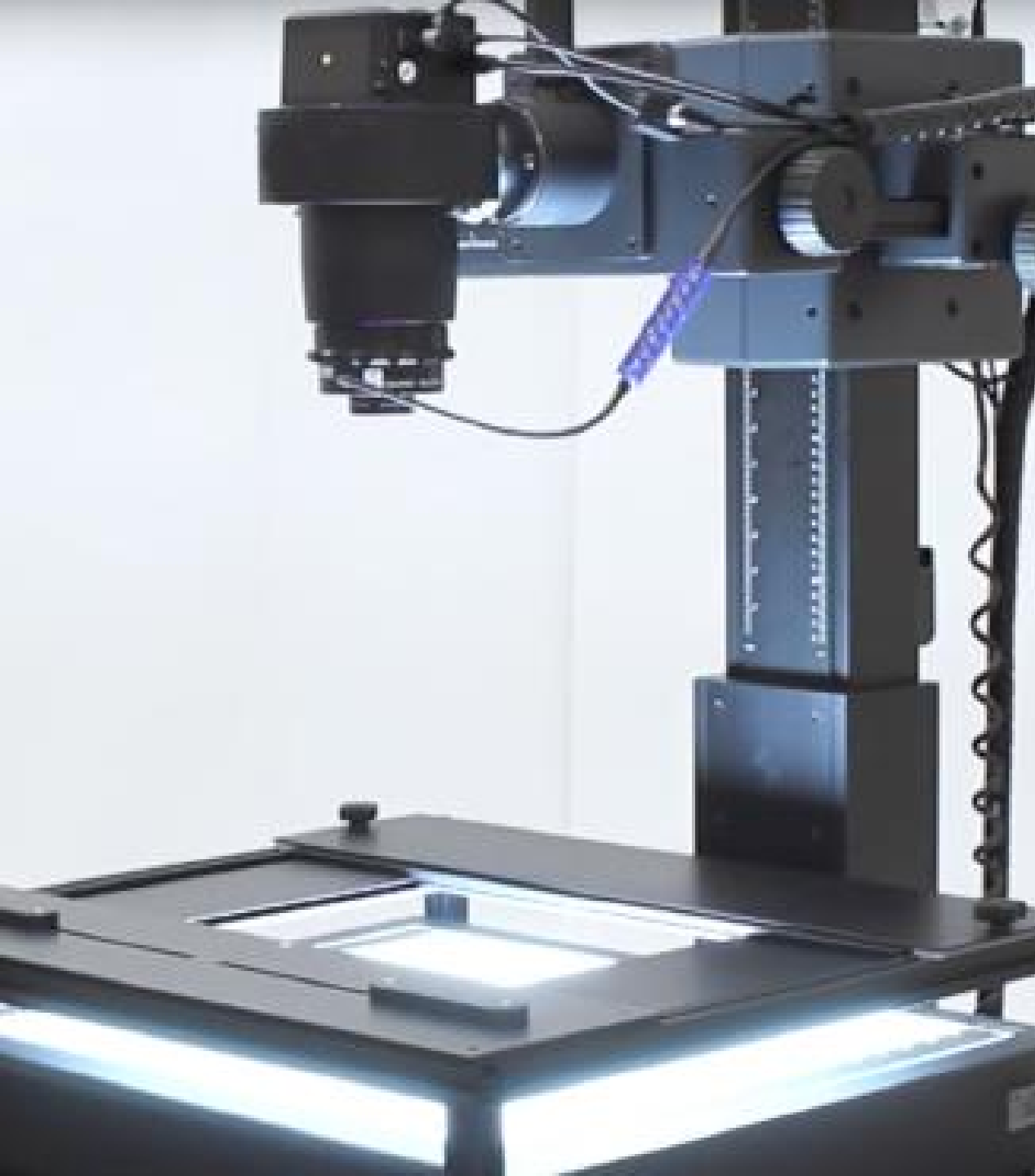




# EQUIPMENT OPTIONS







## EQUIPMENT

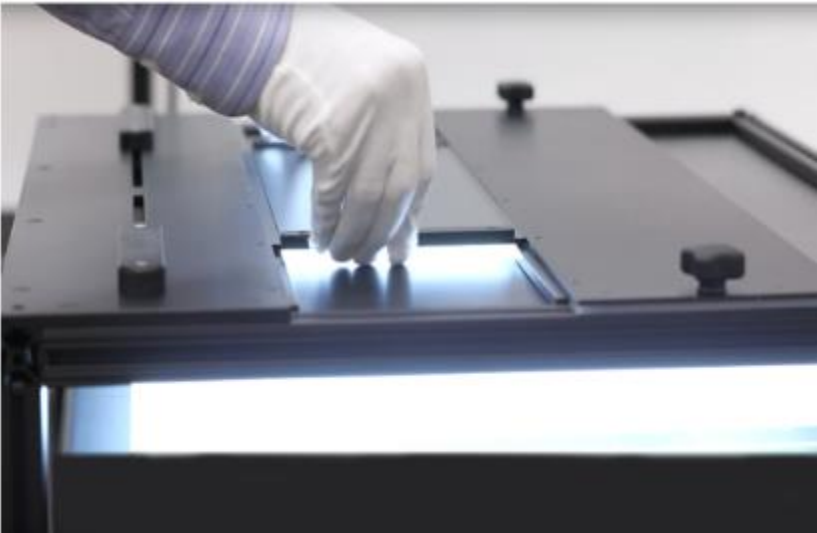
- Phase One IQ180 camera
- 72mm lens
- 120mm macro lens with extensions tubes
- Film stage
- Light box
- Magnification range from 300 PPI to 5000 PPI







Advanced Carriers:  
Detented Movement for Maximum Throughput



Basic Carriers: 35mm Strip Film, 120mm Strip Film, 4x5 Sheet Film

# EQUIPMENT

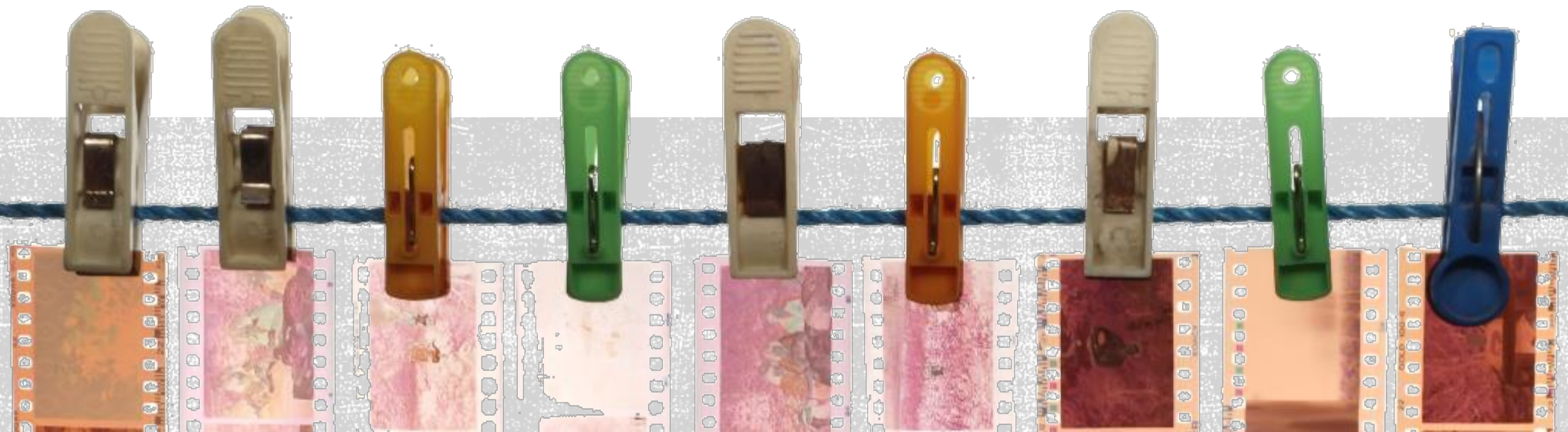
Film stage compatible with all film types and sizes as well as 3rd party holders for large format and glass plate negatives.







# PROCESSING DECISIONS





# PRESERVATION COPY vs. ARTIST'S INTENT

Negative ▼

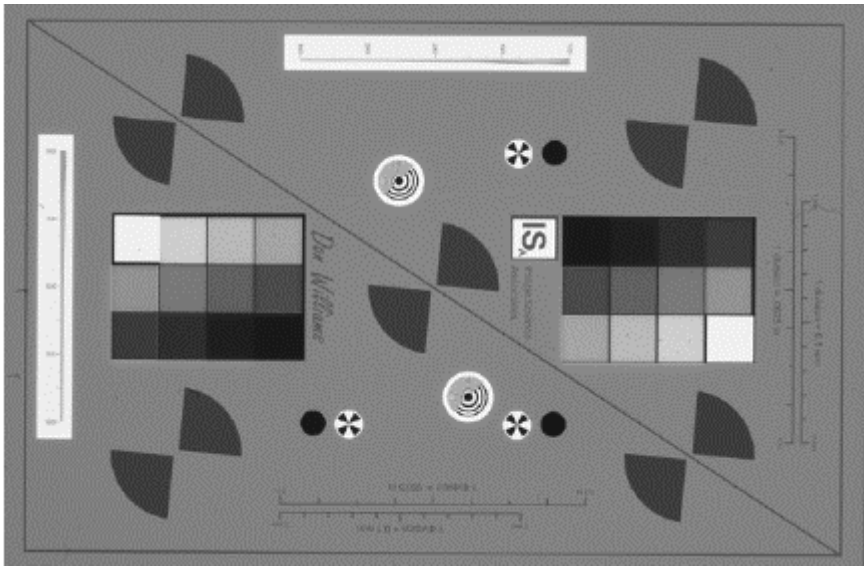


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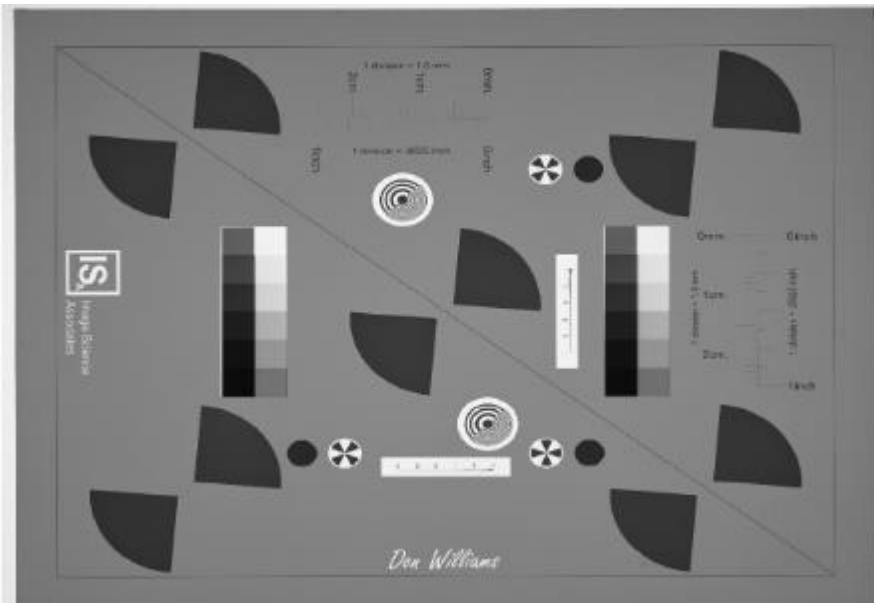
Print ▼







35mm standard film target



4x5 standard target

# TARGETS

These standard film targets are used with the Image Science Associates DICE software to validate:

- Tonescale
- Sampling frequency
- White balance
- Resolution







IT8 target\_ektachrome



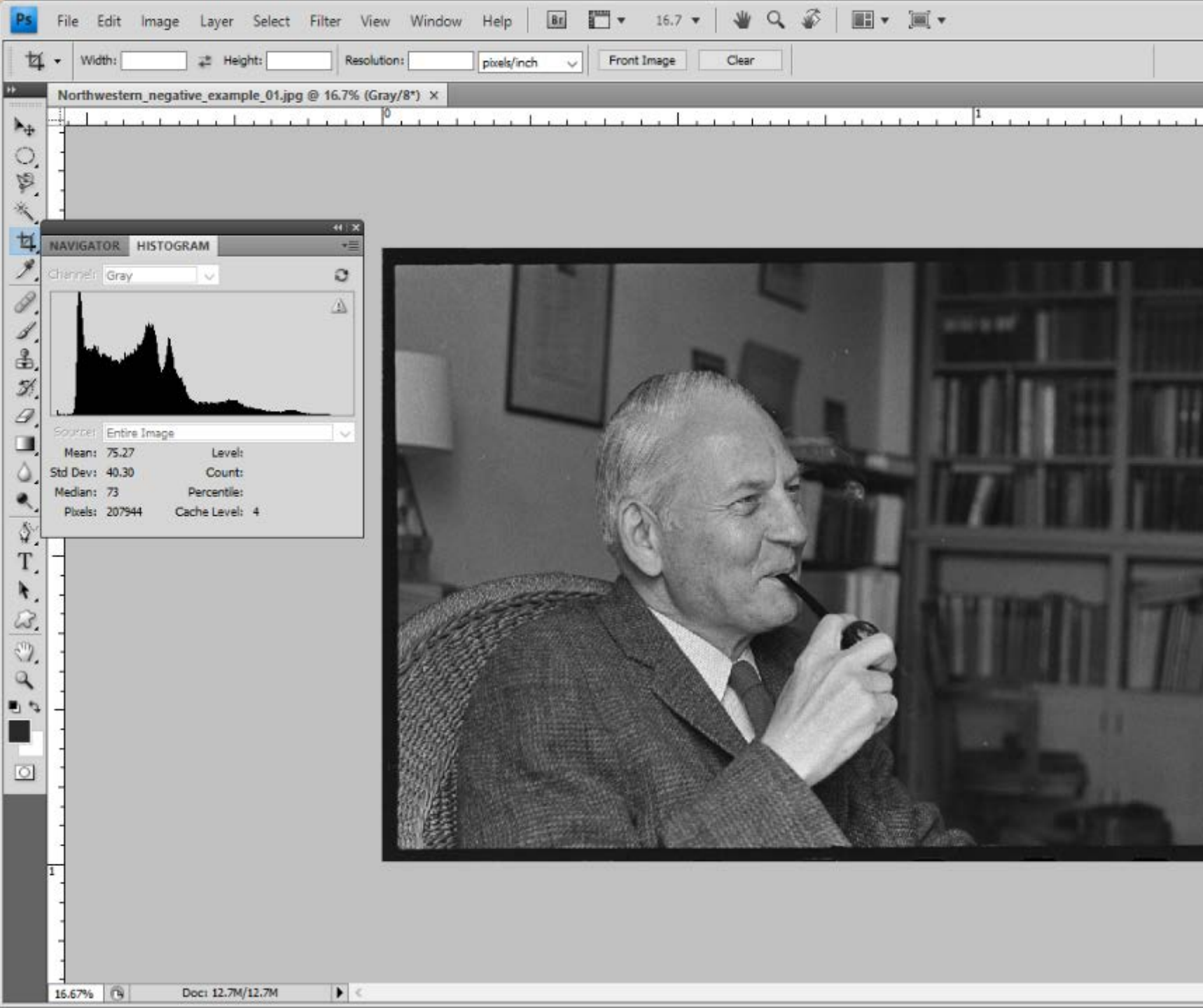
IT8 target\_kodachrome

# TARGETS

These targets are used to profile color values for slides







# CAPTURING ALL OF THE DATA IN THE NEGATIVE

- Intention is to capture the archival copy of a negative, which includes all of the highlights and shadows of the image.
- This image shows the histogram with no clipping.
- This would be considered the archival copy.

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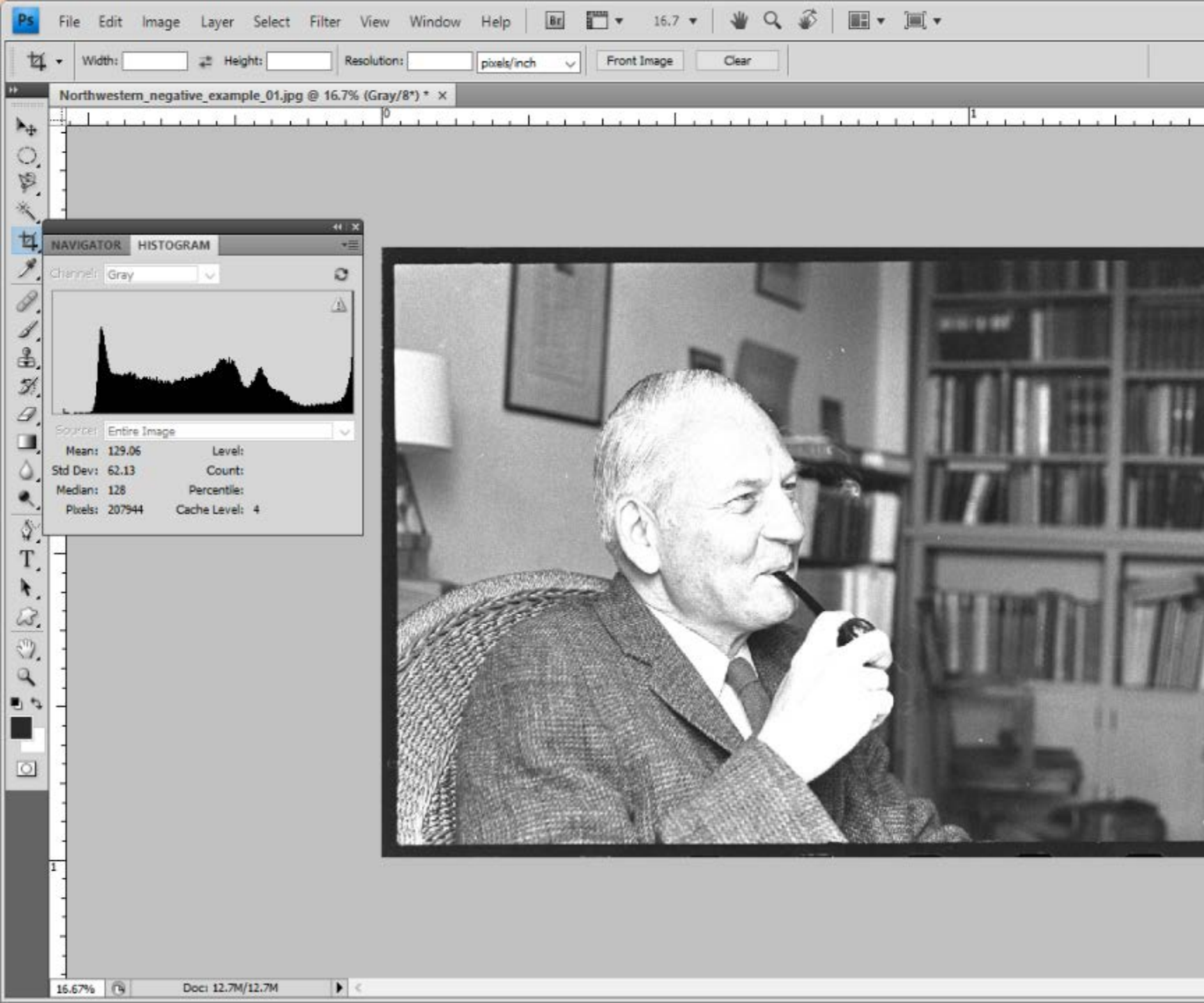


## CAPTURING ALL OF THE DATA IN THE NEGATIVE

- Intention is to capture the archival copy of a negative, which includes all of the highlights and shadows of the image.
- This image shows the black scale of the histogram being clipped.

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# CAPTURING ALL OF THE DATA IN THE NEGATIVE

- Intention is to capture the archival copy of a negative, which includes all of the highlights and shadows of the image.
- This image shows the light colors of the image being clipped or “blown out.”

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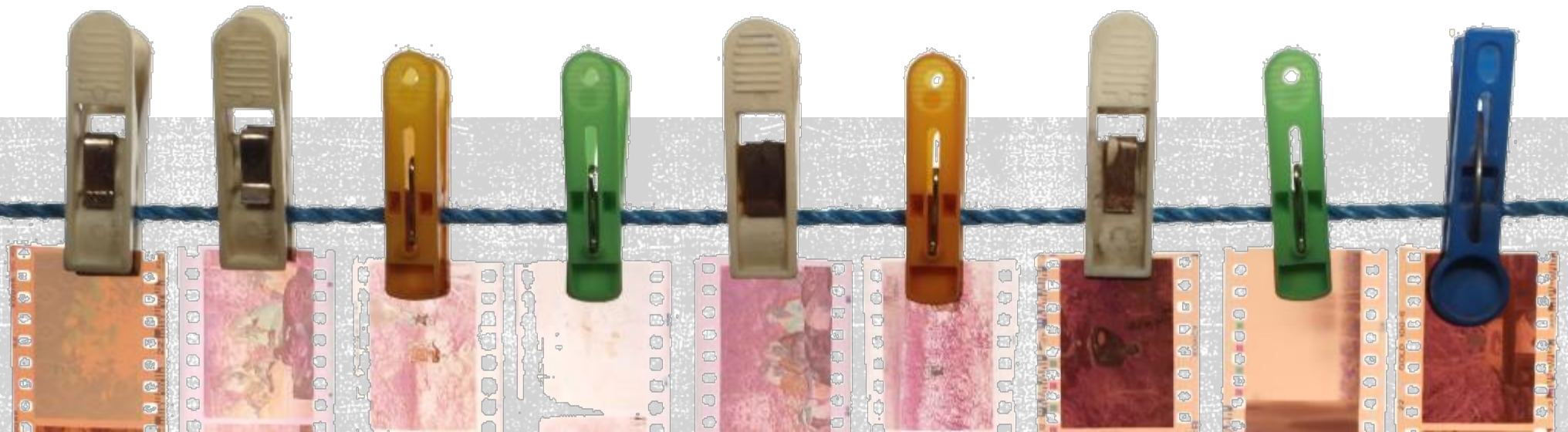


Audience Participation



# QUESTIONS? COMMENTS?

Please use the chat window!







# THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY!

Special thanks to Northwestern University and New York Historical Society for allowing us to use their images in today's presentation.

**For further inquiries, please contact us:**

**[info@bslw.com](mailto:info@bslw.com) | [www.bslw.com](http://www.bslw.com) | 1.800.288.1265**

