

Ways to Increase the Mobility of Sharp Shape Foot Scanners

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To increase the mobility of our foot scanners, we have thought of different ways. One way is to use a smaller computer that can be installed on top of our scanner. Another way is to use a battery to replace the power supply and cable. Let us talk about these two ways in the following.

Currently there are many types of tablet computers on the market. Unfortunately not all of them can be used with our foot scanners. So far, we have only tried one. It is ACER Iconia W3-810. It has Windows 8 (32-Bit) in it.



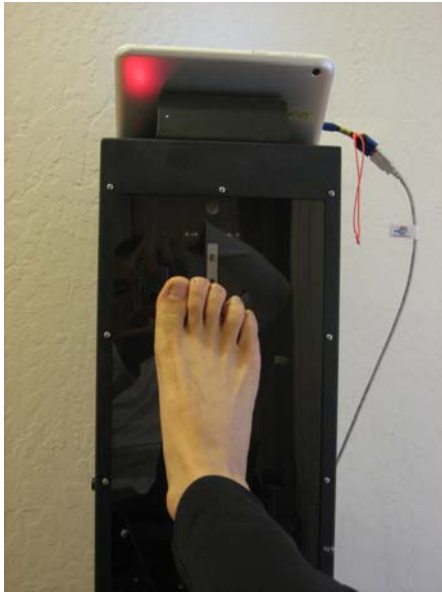
The above photo shown on the left illustrates the back side (operator side) of the scanner with the tablet computer on top of it. There are five red arrows marked with numbers. Let us go through these features in the following (refer to the red arrows in the photo):

1. The ACER Iconia W3-810 tablet computer is on top of the scanner. Underneath, we provide an aluminum bracket. This bracket can be mounted on top of the scanner by removing the three screws on top. On the bracket we mount two suckers that can stick to the back of the computer. It does not have strong holding force though, just enough to prevent accidental sliding.
2. Almost all tablet computers have either micro or mini USB port. This one has the micro USB port. Because our scanner has the regular Type B USB port, we have to use an adaptor (called OTG cable) to interface the regular USB cable. We will provide some mounting pads and ties to make the cable closer to the scanner body, so it will not be so bulky. We will choose a shorter cable for this application. However, the micro USB port on the computer is fragile. The user has to be very careful with it.
3. This is an option. A battery can be installed there. Because there are pros and cons, the user does not have to use the battery. He/she can still use the regular power supply with the wall plug. The battery will replace the power supply and the wall plug, but the battery needs to be charged and there are some risks with batteries. Since our battery has large capacity, it does not need to be charged daily. We do not have tests about how long it will last.
4. Foot pedal is shown. In this setup, it is the only cable that has to put on the floor. In fact, the foot pedal can be eliminated. In our current scanner design, we put an extra trigger button on top of the scanner. The user can press that button, instead of using the foot pedal to make scans. However, not all users get used to the top button. So you may consider still using the foot pedal.
5. It is the USB cable. The cable can be laid better than shown.

The above photo shown on the right illustrates the front side (patient side) of the scanner with the tablet computer on top.

With the above setup and without the cables connecting to the wall and to the desk, scans can be made. The users have to understand the following facts.

The tablet computer has a small screen without keyboard. Operations with complexity, such as processing the images, should not be done on the tablet computer. To make it simple, just type in the name, make a scan and write the file. If necessary, make the name as simple as numbers. After scans are made, images can be downloaded to a Desktop PC and more operations can be done there.



The above photo shown on the left illustrates the placement of the foot relative to the scanner with the tablet computer on top. The above photo shown on the right illustrates the scan program on the tablet computer.

Customers may want to know what other tablet computer options are. In theory, a tablet with Intel processor and Windows in it should work, but it has to be tested for certainty. We can rule out some tables that do not work with our scanners. The tablets with Android operating systems do not work. iPad does not work. We try to make more tablets work, but it is hard to go. Software drivers need to be made. On some tablet computers, the needed USB ports are not there. Even with the USB, the internal processors do not handle our programs.

The above are the information that we can provide to the customers who are interested in increasing the mobility of the Sharp Shape foot scanners. For more information about Sharp Shape and their products, please visit www.sharpshape.com.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact us at sharpshape@comcast.net. -- End of File --