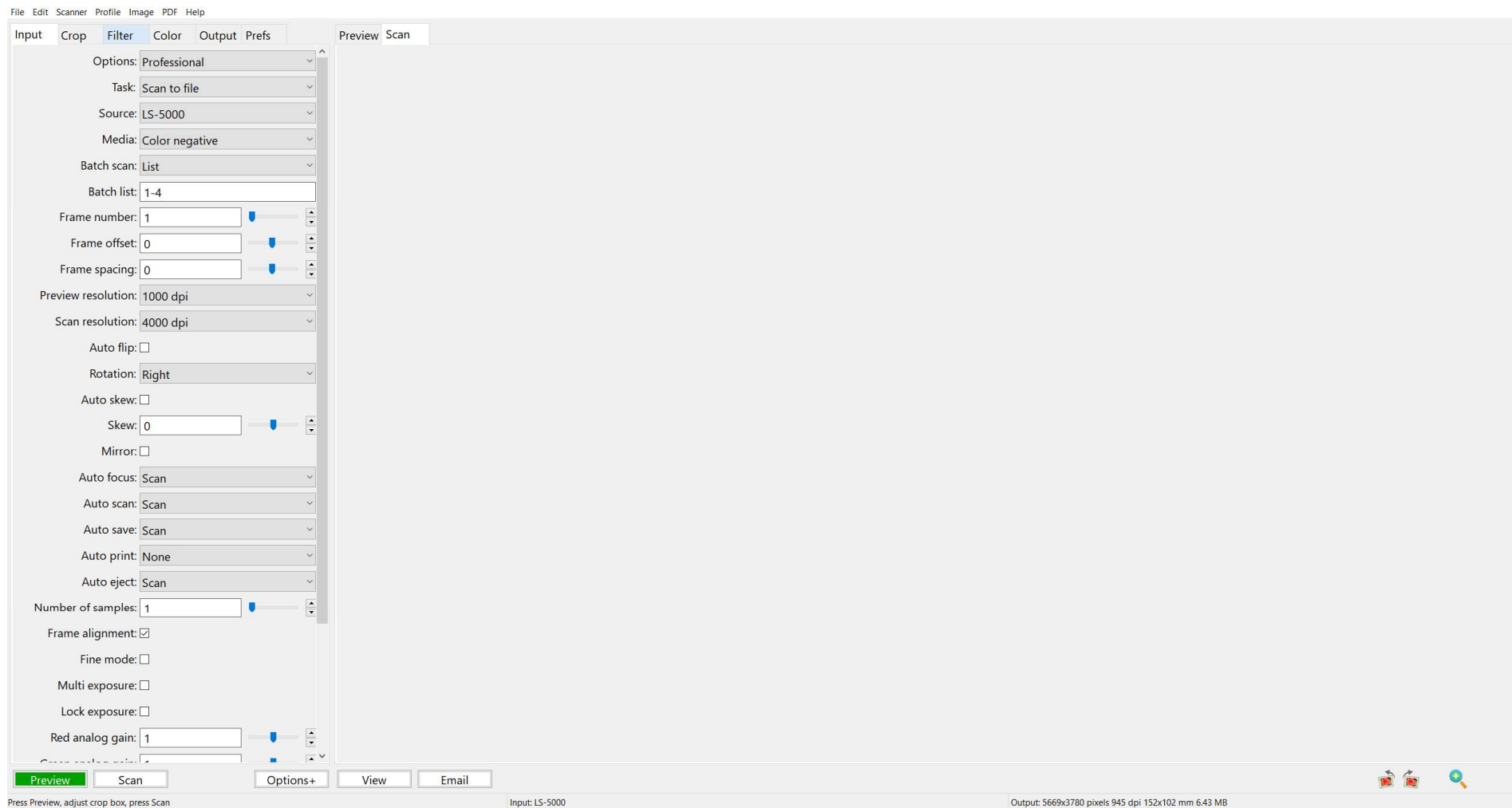


## Scanning of negatives with the SA-21 strip feeder on Nikon Super Coolscan 5000, settings in Vuescan

Suggested settings for scanning negative strips to JPG with the SA-21 strip film adapter. Similar settings can be used for Nikon Coolscan IV(LS-40), V (LS-50) and 4000.



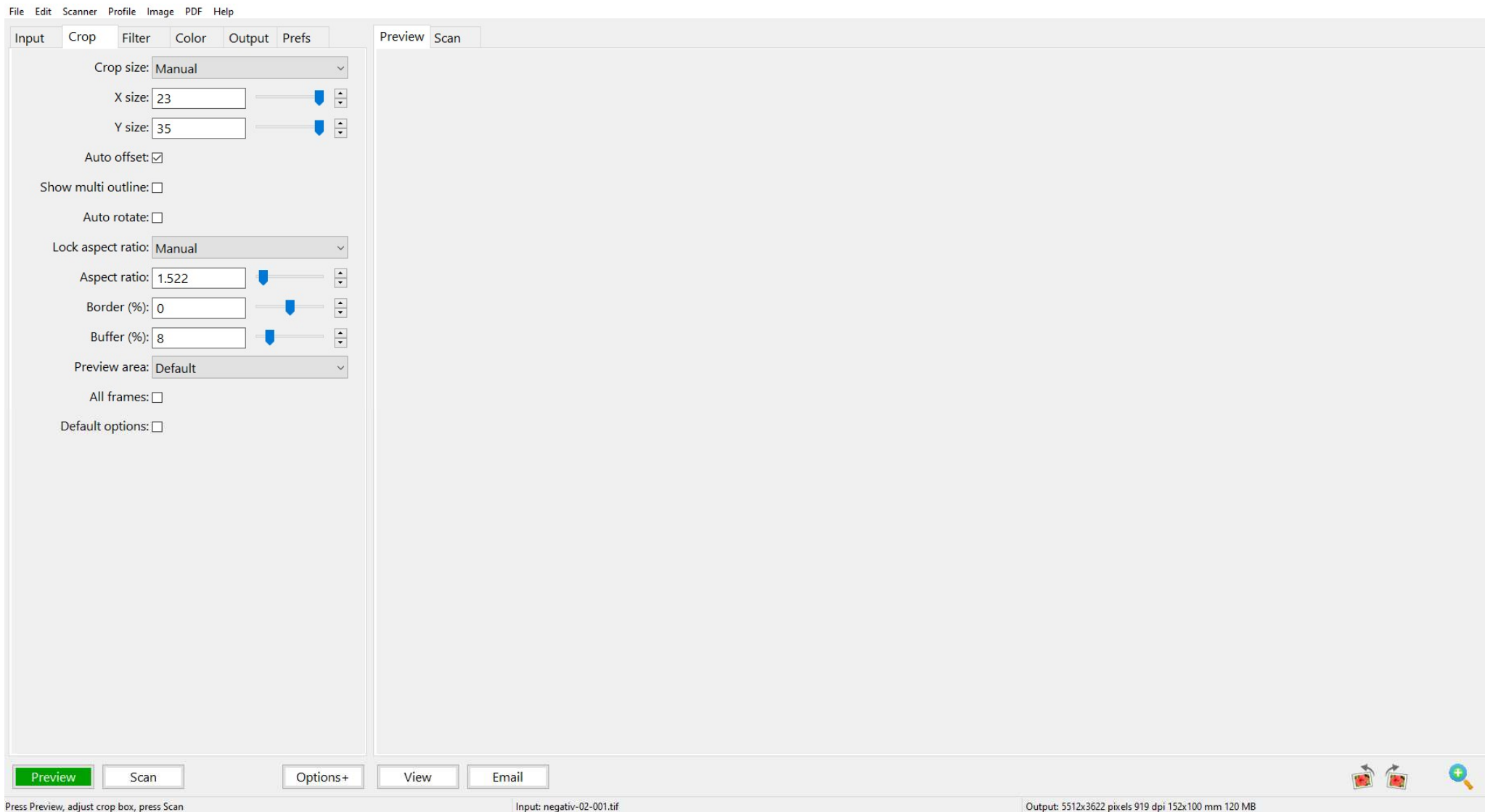
Media = "Color negative" or " B/W negative".

Batch list: Choose "1-4" if scanning 4 pictures on the strip

Auto Focus: Choose "always" (autofocus on preview and scan) or "scan" (autofocus only on scan, recommended)

Auto Scan = "Scan" ( automatic start )

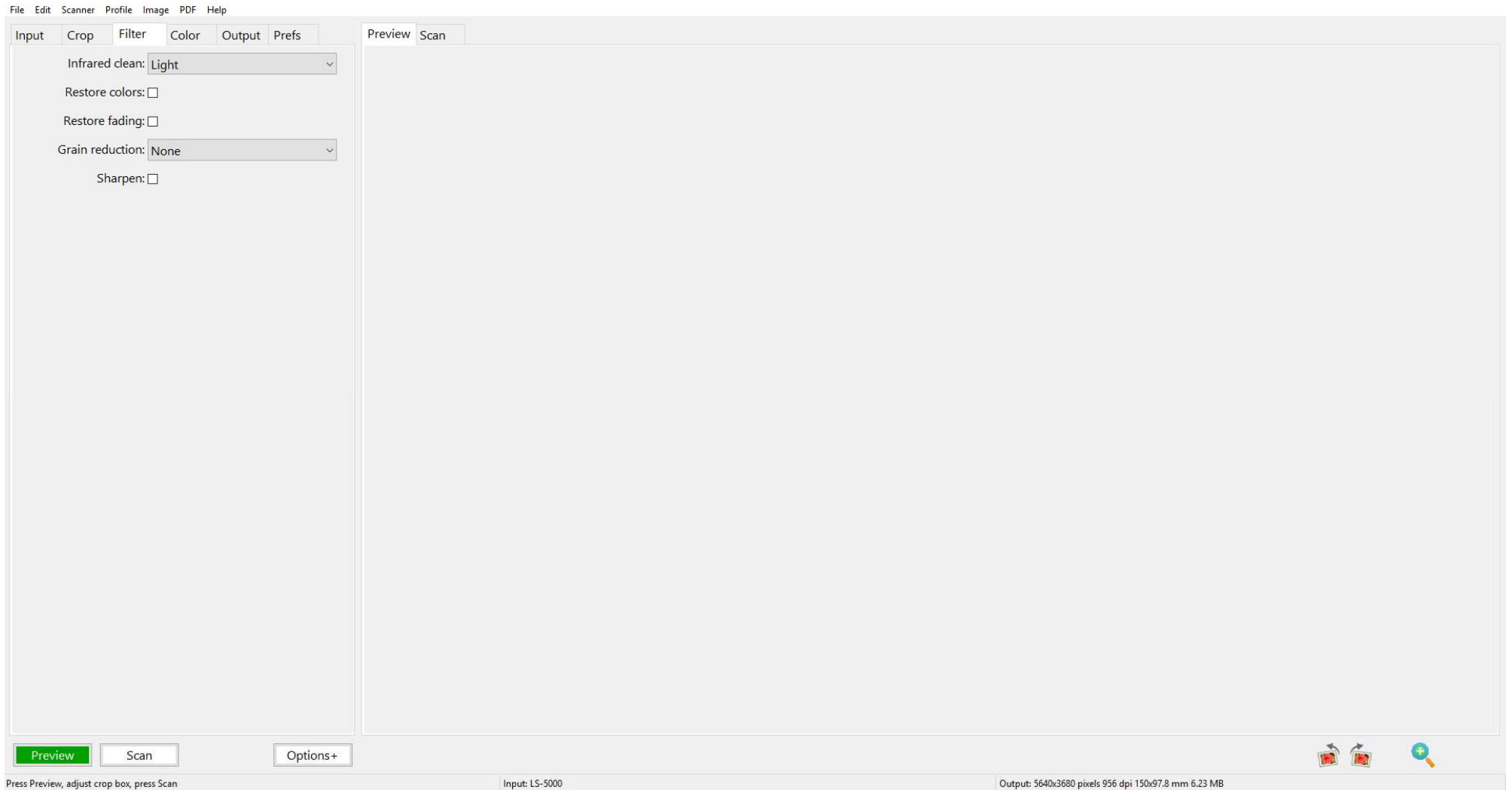
Auto Eject = "Scan" ( automatic eject after scan )



Alternative: Choose Crop size = auto, and lock aspect ratio = "Image size" (meaning "image size" as defined in the output tab - and this should be 10x15cm or 4x6" or something that matches the 2:3 aspect ratio of the film. However manual crop usually works best.

Tip: If crop size is too big choose choose Crop = manual, x = 23, y = 35, lock aspect ratio = manual, Crop, border = - 0.8%

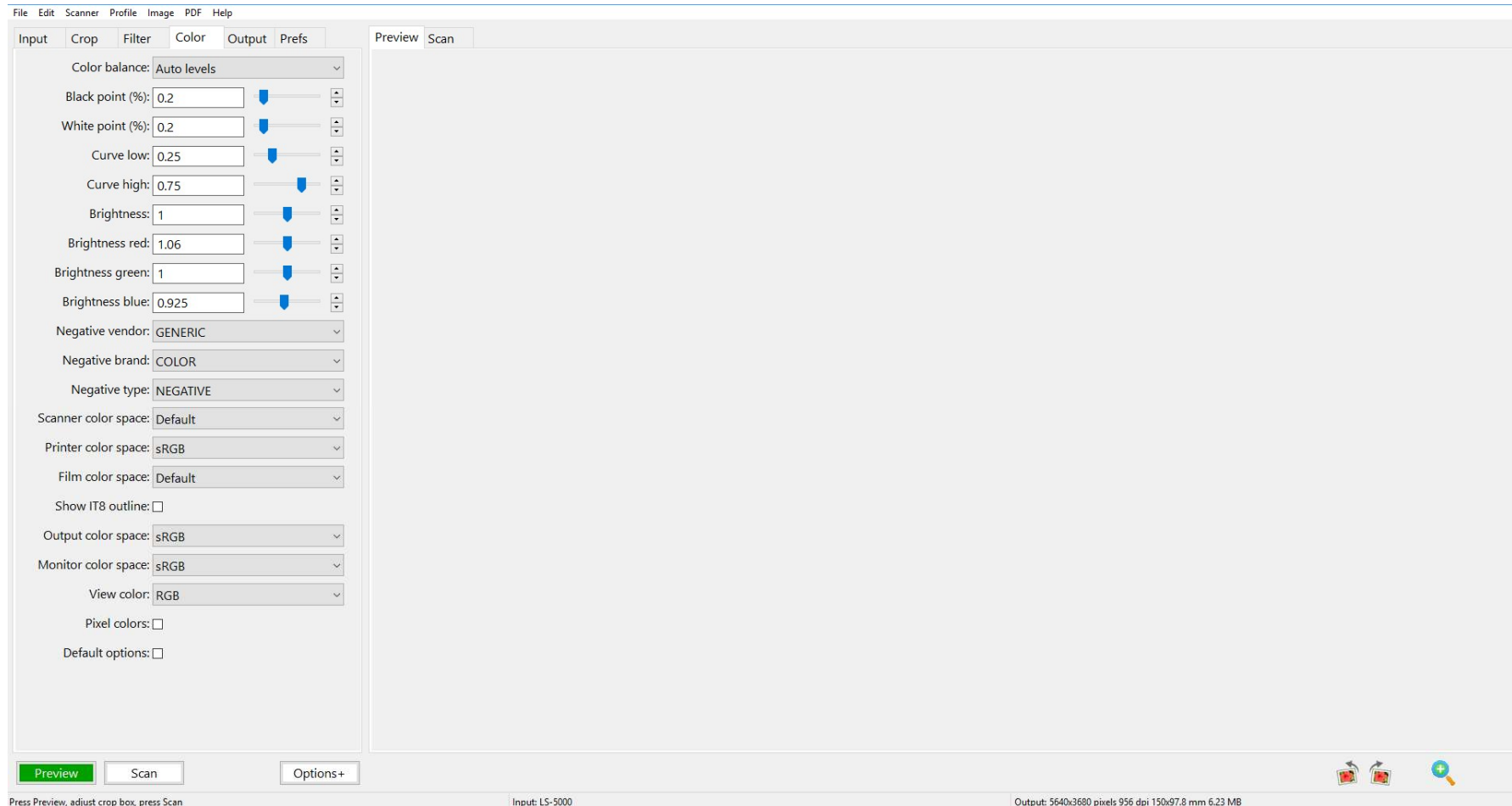
Some film strips have semi-circular cuts in the side, they can affect cropping, try to feed in the opposite direction.



Infrared Clean = “Light”.

Restore fading: Try Restore fading = “on” if your pictures are changed in color. If your pictures have good colors keep it off. Restore fading must be used together with Output tab, Color balance = “Neutral”.

Sharpen: Choose “sharpen = off” for the most natural look. Choose “sharpen = on” if you prefer a little more sharpness, but it will look less natural.



Color balance = “Autolevels” will correct some color cast. Or you can choose “neutral” if your pictures have good colours.

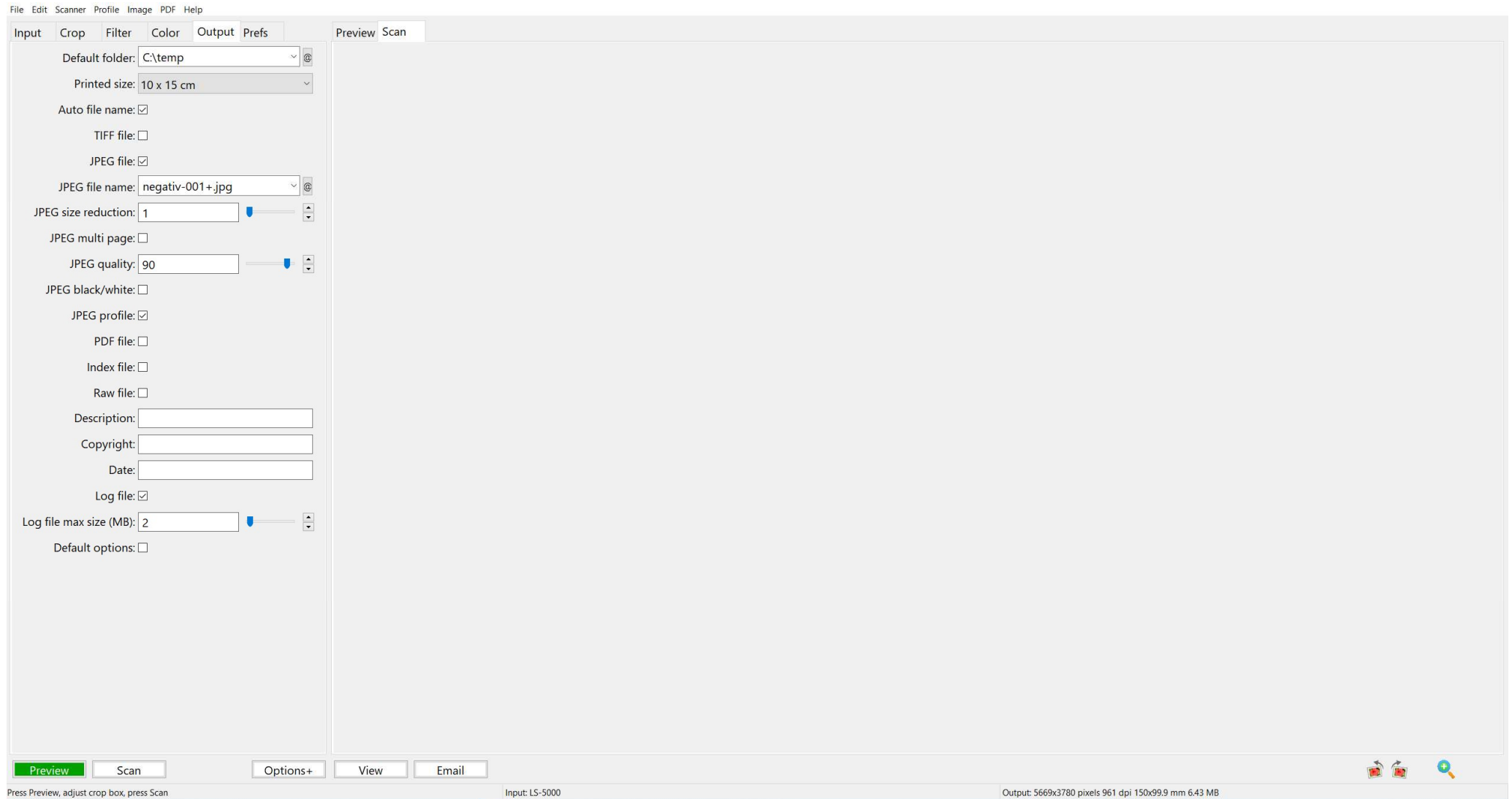
Black Point: Default Value is 0, however this gives the picture a washed out look. Choose 0.2-0.5 But do not make it too high or you will lose detail in the black parts.

White Point: The default Value is 1, meaning that 1% of the pixels is made pure white. However this removes a lot of detail in the light parts. Choose 0.1-0.2. But do not make it too high or you will lose detail in the light parts.

Curve Low, Curve High: If you want greater contrast try Curve Low = 0.30 and Curve High = 0.70, but you will lose some detail in the dark parts. The best is to keep the default values and make adjustments later if needed. To view the curve choose “image”, “graph curve”.

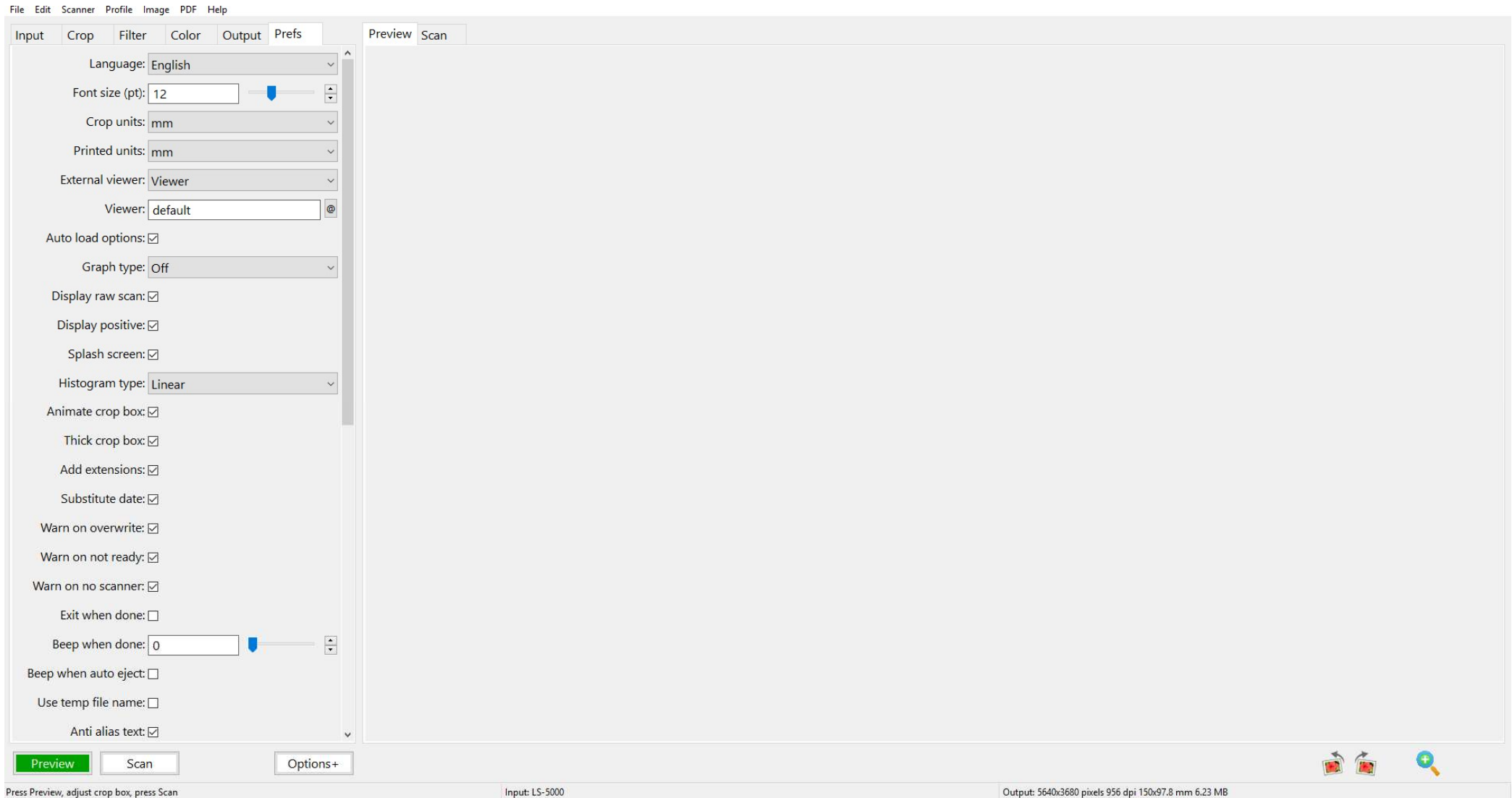
Brightness red = 1.06, Brightness blue = 0.925 ( adjust these values including green as needed to get the white balance right, different from film to film )

Negative Vendor = “Generic” or choose film type. For B/W negatives try "generic" (dark film) or "Ilford" (light film).



Printed size: This setting does not really matter for scanning to file, when you set the dpi manually on the input tab (as here). However it can influence cropping if you use the setting “Crop”, “Lock Aspect Ratio = Image Size”, so it is good to keep a value of same proportion as the slides.

JPEG File name: Choose “negative-001+.jpg” or whatever you like, the plus sign means that the pictures are autonumbered starting with “001”. Remember that if you delete pictures during scanning it will fill out the “empty” number before going on.



External viewer = "None", if not the picture will pop up in Windows every time you scan.

Beep when done: Choose "4" if you want the computer to beep 4 times when scanning is finished.

## Some tips

Save your setting by choosing "File", "Save options".

When you have scanned a picture and it is still on the screen you can make adjustments and press "save" to save an extra copy without scanning again.

Release memory: Choose "Image", "Release Memory"

To manually eject the strip choose "Ctrl + J" or choose "Scanner," "Eject"

Scan to TIF File: If you want to scan to a "neutral" TIF file for making adjustments later, choose JPG File = off and TIFF File = on. Then in the input Tab you should set Color balance = "None".

Often the colors have also changed over time, and you cannot see that directly on the negatives. If you take the time to find the right settings in Vuescan you can often get good pictures without further editing. If you are not satisfied with the colours you can try

1. Adobe Lightroom, develop mode, try auto whitebalance or autotone (right panel). Or try this plugin for Lightroom <https://www.negativepro.com/>
2. Try the software "Ashampoo Photo optimizer 7"
3. Adjust RGB curves manually or try this software <https://www.negativepro.com/>

Read more here

<http://www.hamrick.com/vuescan/html/vuesc.htm>

## Scan to jpg and raw DNG file.

You can scan to a JPG file with adjustments from the color tab, and to a "raw" DNG file (with no adjustments) at the same time.

In the output tab choose

Raw file = on

Raw file name: Choose same name as JPG file

Raw output with = Save (saves raw after IR cleaning)

Raw save film = off (do not apply settings in the color tab)

Raw DNG format = on.

### **Scan to raw TIF file for later “rescanning” with Vuescan**

If you want to be sure to scan only one time, you can make a scanning of the raw data from the scanner and later “rescan” these files in Vuescan  
In the crop tab choose

Crop = maximum

In the output tab choose

Raw file = on

Raw output with = Scan (saves raw file with separate IR channel)

Raw save film = off (do not apply settings in the color tab)

Raw DNG format = off

The settings in the color tab will not be applied

### **Notes about negatives and the “orange mask”**

It is difficult to get the colours right on negatives, more difficult than on slides. It is because of the orange base color in the negatives, the orange “mask”. The challenge is that the orange color is different for different film types. The color is also not uniform throughout the picture. The color of the orange mask is partly used up in a chemical reaction generating the RGB colors in the negative, meaning that some places in the negative has very little orange mask left. It cannot be corrected in some easy way by adjusting RGB values or white balance or sampling the white balance at the border or adding an inverse layer or whatever.

Vuescan tries to compensate this when scanning negatives, and different film-types can be chosen.

Another approach is to scan as “raw” DNG files in Vuescan and use some special software for converting negatives, like the “Negative Lab Pro” Plugin for Lightroom. .  
Sometimes this gives better pictures, sometimes they are better from Vuescan.

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[www.datanord.dk](http://www.datanord.dk)

Scanning of slides and negatives.