



Stamp Recognition Software

SRS



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SRS Quick Start Guide

Scanning Your Stamps:

- Scan your stamps at 150 dpi against a solid black background.
- Try to keep the stamps in the proper orientation (ie not upside-down) & straight.
- You can scan in several stamps at a time then cut & paste them directly into the image viewer in SRS. You can also drag & drop images from other sources. Our product, **EzImage**, is invaluable for **Auto-separating, Auto-Cropping & Auto-Rotating** images.
- Stamp images with selvedge must be trimmed to be found (do not separate the actual stamps !). Plate Blocks and multiples must be separated as single stamp images to be found (you can use cut & paste to accomplish this).
- If possible, scan stamps of the same denomination together so that when you do an interactive search for say 20c stamps, you can easily cut & paste the images into the image viewer in SRS. This will save time as you will not have to perform the same search multiple times.

The Results Window:

- The results from your search will be displayed as thumbnails in a viewer. If you Double click on an image you can view it full size, or you can Right click it to add it to your data. You can add multiple stamps to be inventoried.

Filtering:

- Always try to pre-filter your searches before running SRS (ie use the Interactive mode) which will speed up the search process. Enter any information about the stamp that is easily available such as denomination (25c). To be even more effective you can refine the search by using Search by Fields such as denomination.
- You can search on the entire country's database OR you can elect to only search main #'s (ie no sub varieties such as perf, watermark & other minor varieties) which will increase the search speed significantly. In some cases, single stamps from souvenir sheets & panes of stamps will have minor #'s assigned to them by Scott & will not be found. If your search does not produce the expected results, turn on the Main #'s and varieties preferences in the SRS options dialog box

Search Mode:

- **SRS** has separate search modes for Mint & used stamps as different settings are required. Also, separate options are available for irregular shaped stamps (ie round, triangle, free form shapes). For irregular shaped stamps, be sure you **CHECK** the Irregular Shaped Stamp checkbox **BEFORE** you load your stamp. After your stamp is loaded the checkbox is automatically unchecked by SRS. All of the preset levels in the Search Mode and Used Stamps area are suggested

settings. As you become more familiar with SRS you may want to refine these settings to work with the country and type of stamps you are trying to identify. You can do this by using the Manual Control setting and change the search criteria that works best for you. You can save or recall your custom settings using the Save/Load Settings buttons. An example may be Early US and Modern US.

- **IMPORTANT:** SRS has the ability to **load all of the stamp indexes** and cache the files in memory to make searches VERY fast. Just click on **Load Idx's** to load them. SRS will check to see if you have enough memory to do so. Once loaded, you will have an indicator that the Index files are loaded and cached. Two other very handy options are the checkboxes. **Auto Start Search** will begin searching as soon as you place an image in the viewer. Searches will be done using the current search level that you have selected. **Auto Search Levels** will automatically start your searches at Fast (surface Scan) and work progressively towards the Deep Scan mode until your stamp is found. This is very useful in that if a stamp is not found at one level, you do not have to select another level & start the search again. SRS will automatically progress to lower levels until something is found.

General Notes:

- Make sure you have the correct country open in EzStamp as SRS will only search images for the country that is currently open.
- When more than expected possible matches start showing up in the results window you may be using a Search Mode level that is too low. You can stop the search, change the Search Mode level and restart it or you can navigate to the SRS main window and change the Search Mode while the search is running. SRS will dynamically adjust to the new Search Mode.
- For older stamps with flat solid colors especially Red and Gray you may need to use lower settings which may increase the possible matches that show up in the Results windows.
- When the stamp you are looking for is identified you can stop the search by clicking the Stop Search button in the top left corner of the Results window. You don't have to wait for the search to finish. Be sure to Right click on your identified stamp to add it to your data before closing the Results window.
- If your search seems to be going too slow and no possible matches are showing up in the Results window you may want to change your Search Mode. You can change search modes while the search is running and SRS will adjust dynamically. You can watch the counters above your image and just to the right of the clipboard image to see how the search is progressing. If the numbers are going very slow this may be a sign that you are using a Search Mode level that is too low.
- Used stamps with very light cancellation may be identified faster using the Fast or Intermediate settings.
- Some very early stamps that have solid colors and are printed on colored paper may be identified faster with less possible matches using the Used Stamp settings.

These types of stamps are good examples to create your own custom settings and save them using the Save Settings method.

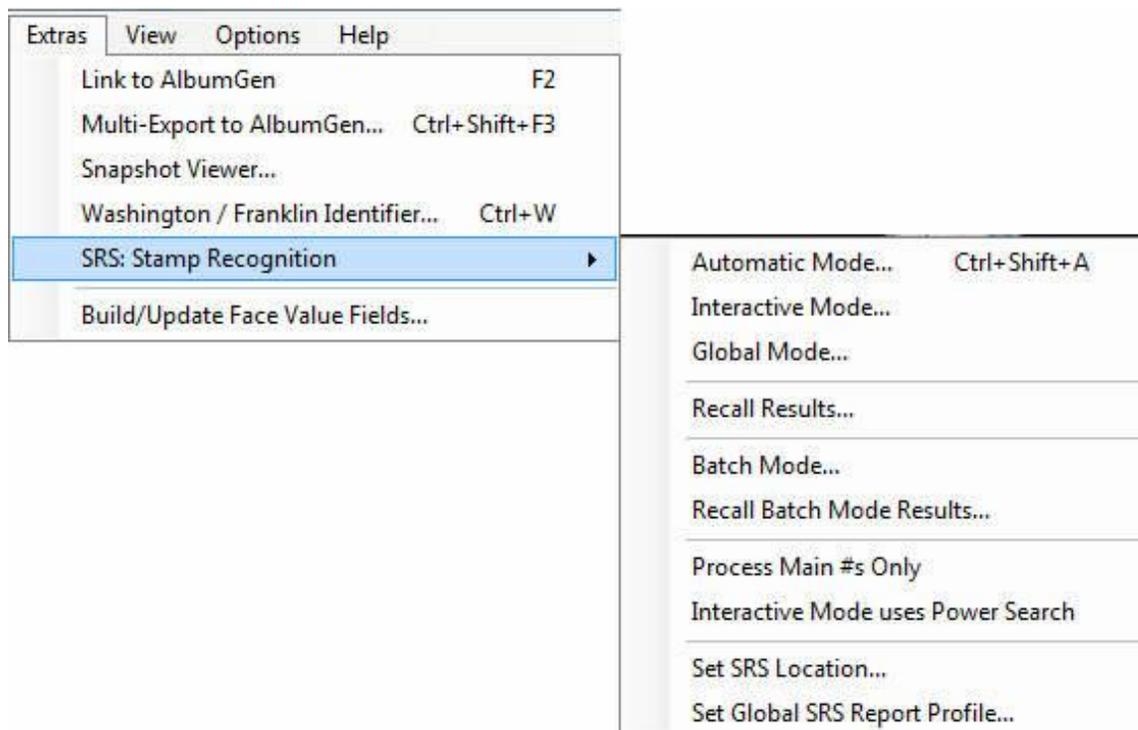
- While a search is running you can cancel it by clicking Cancel in the EzStamp Search Running window. (i.e. Taking too long or wrong image was loaded)
- While your image is being analyzed you can cancel it by clicking Cancel in the EzStamp Analyzing window. (i.e. Very large image or wrong image)
- Faded stamps, especially the early solid colors Red and Blue, may be identified faster by increasing the Color Tolerance value. To do this, first click the Intermediate/Normal settings (to preposition the settings) then click the Manual settings mode and increase the Color Tolerance value. This type of stamp usually needs only the Color Tolerance increased. You may want to try the Used Stamp settings as these have a higher Color Tolerance value.
- There are times when the Used Stamps settings work better on Mint stamps. Some examples are very light colors like yellow or orange and stamps with ripple or cross hatch designs.
- By watching the numbers above your image you can determine how your search is running and where it is in the search list (search lists are in date order early to modern). By becoming familiar with the speed and position you can decide if your stamp has been missed. You can then cancel the search and try a lower level.
- Sometimes stamps with very simple designs need lower settings.
- Stamps with very busy designs may produce several possible matches.
- Some very early stamps will produce more than one Results window.
- SRS has now been enhanced to allow for **GLOBAL** searches if you have multiple countries in EzStamp. The **GLOBAL** version allows you to very quickly find ANY stamp from any country supplied in EzStamp without having to know which country the stamp is from.

Training videos demonstrating the use of SRS & Warp Search are available here

<http://ezstamp.com/support/softpro-training-videos/>

We urge you to watch them and subscribe to our [YouTube channel](#)

Starting SRS



AUTOMATIC MODE

To Start SRS, go to the Extras Menu in EzStamp & Select Stamp Recognition. Then select one of the two modes - Automatic or Interactive.

Automatic Mode will search the entire database for the country you currently have open in EzStamp. It requires no intervention by you other than to select the image to search for & the mode/level of your search. **Using the Auto Start & Auto Search checkboxes as well as loading the Indexes is the recommended way to perform your searches.** To speed up your searches, you can elect to have SRS only search for main #'s in the database. That means that items such as 100a, 100b etc will not be looked at. In most cases, that will be OK. But, in some instances, where Scott has numbered single stamps from a sheet or pane with minor numbers, your stamp may not be found. For example, if Scott has assigned a number to a pane of 20 as #1000 & the individual stamps as 1000a – 1000t, then if you scan in a single stamp from the pane of 20 & do a search for Main #'s only, your stamp will not be found. Use the Main #'s and Varieties option in the SRS Menu to change this setting.

When scanning your stamps, keep in mind the following.

1. Scan your stamps against a solid black background
2. Keep your stamp in the proper orientation (ie not upside down or sideways)
3. Keep your stamps fairly straight. See the examples below to see what not to do.

Wrong



Inverted

Wrong



Skewed

Wrong



Selvedge

Acceptable



Minor Left Skew

Best



Perfect

Acceptable



Minor Right Skew



Wrong

Although this image may look OK, it is not. Notice the white lines at the bottom of the scan. Those lines are reflections from the gum line of the stamp mount. When scanning, you should remove your stamps from the mounts to prevent this type of artifact.



Wrong

Scan your stamps. Do not use digital cameras. Also, note the lack of a black background. Quality image scans are essential for good results with SRS.

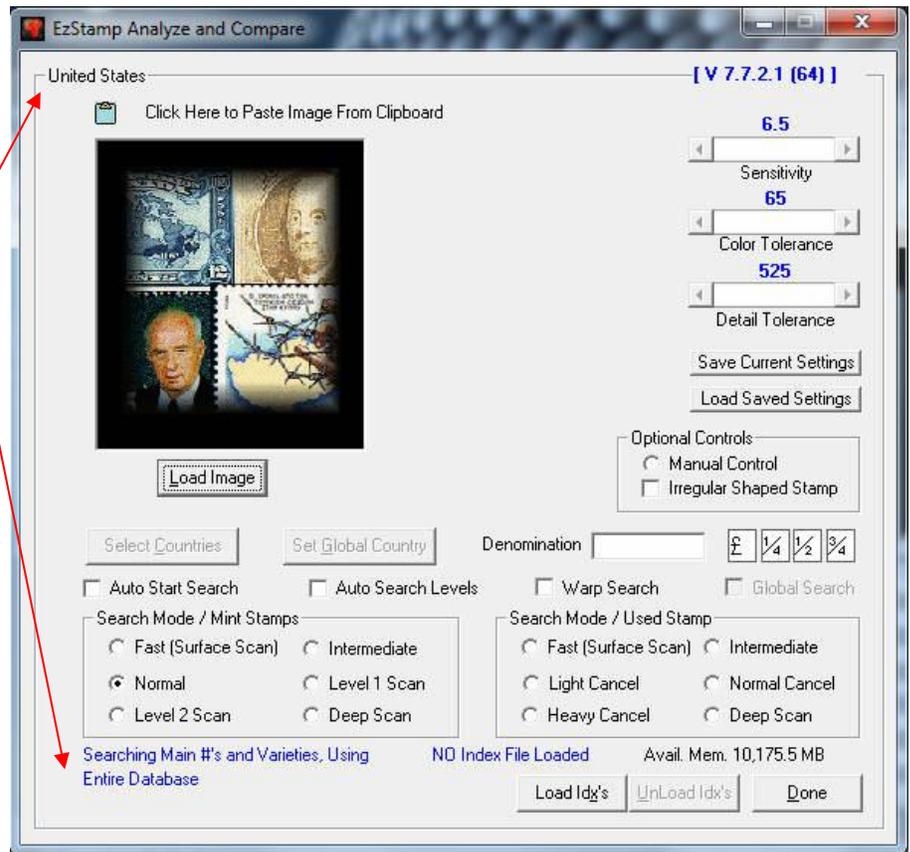


Used Stamps

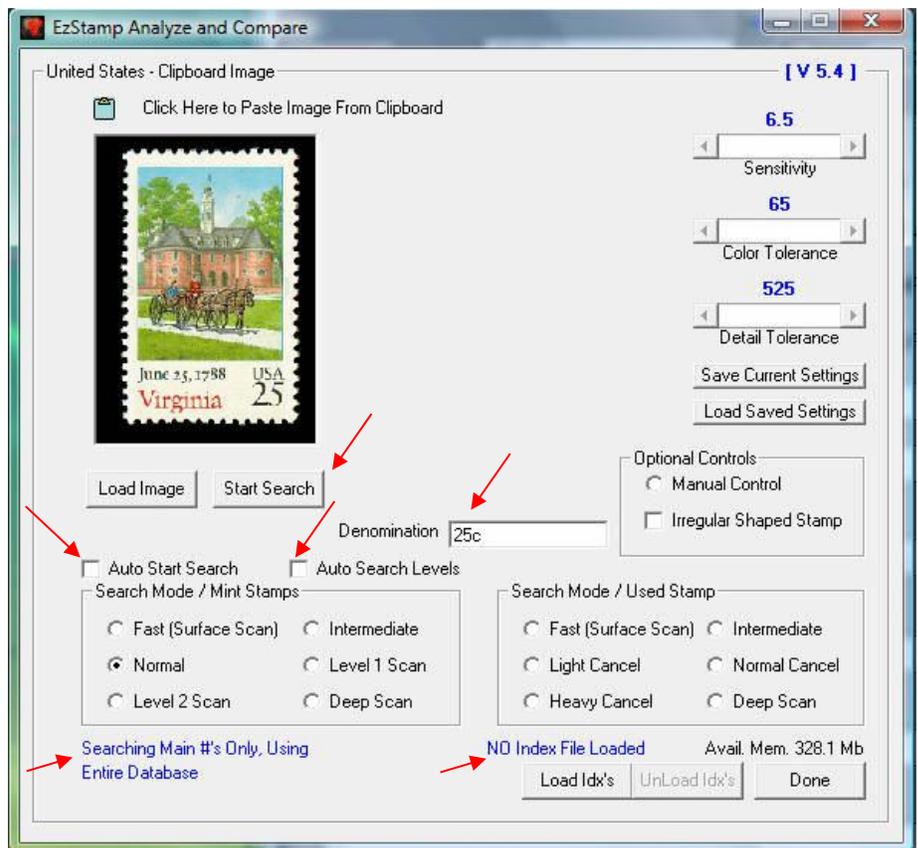
Used stamps with heavy cancels can still be found if enough of the stamp design is visible. Be sure to use the Used Stamp mode in your searches. There is no way to pre-determine if a stamp is too heavily cancelled to be found by SRS. Experience & lots of use will allow you to quickly tell.

SRS Main Window

When you start SRS in Automatic mode, you will see the following window. The top left corner shows the country you are searching and the bottom left corner shows the search criteria. You can paste images in from the clipboard, drag & drop images from other windows programs or open your saved images (bmp & jpg) from your hard drive. BMP images are much preferred over other image formats like jpg. JPG images are lossy and do not contain all the detail & resolution that a BMP image has.



After placing an image in the viewer, enter the Denomination filter (ie. 25c), click on Start Search & SRS will find the possible image matches for you. Be sure to select the proper image mode (ie Mint or Used) and the appropriate search level – Fast Surface Scan, Normal etc). We suggest a progressively deeper scan from Fast to Deep Scan until you find the stamp. Experience & repeated use will show you what works best for mint & used stamps.



Be sure to make use of the Auto Start Search, Auto Search Levels and to Load the Indexes and Cache Files. This will greatly enhance performance.

SRS Warp Search

A new feature (added June 2013) in SRS is the Warp Search. Using our unique **FLE (Fuzzy Logic Engine)**, SRS searches are almost instantaneous now. To use the warp search, just check the box labelled Warp Search. With warp, we suggest you enter a denomination value if possible & Check the Auto Search Levels box. (* Exact denomination values are not required, but suggested. If you can enter 10 or 10c for 10 cents).

With warp turned on, you will get extremely fast quick results. In most situations, you will only get one or two possible matches. The idea is to populate the results as fast as possible & let you pick from the resulting matches.

In some instances, Warp may not find your stamp or the results are too numerous. In these instances, turn warp off & start the search again. (you do not need to reload your image). The warp engine is not as rigorous as the normal SRS engine, hence its incredible speed. In our testing, Warp finds most stamps almost every time.

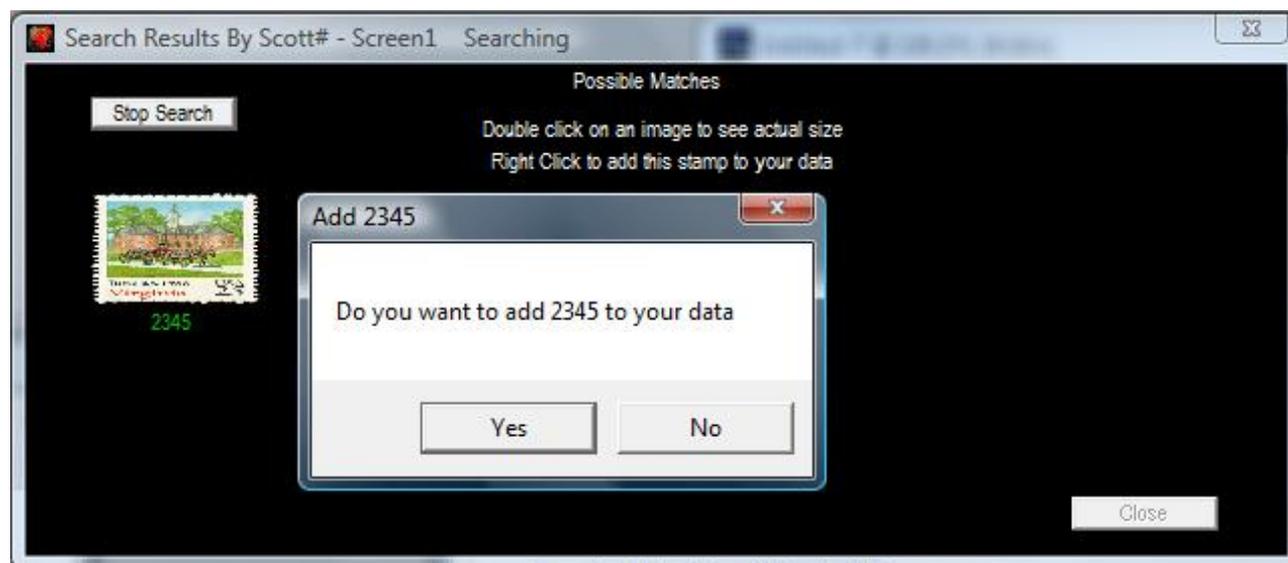
Note: You do not need to load indexes to use warp, but as stated elsewhere in this manual, it is recommended to load indexes when using SRS in non-warp mode.

Training videos demonstrating the use of SRS & Warp/GLOBAL are available here

<http://ezstamp.com/support/softpro-training-videos/>

We urge you to watch them

The SRS Results Window



The possible matches for your search are displayed in the Results viewer window. You do not need to wait for SRS to search the entire repository of images. If you Right click on the image, you can add it to your EzStamp data. You can double click the image to see a full size version of the thumbnail. Once your image is displayed as a possible match, click on Stop Search. You can select more than one stamp to enter into your data. When done, click on Close to return you to the main SRS window. At this point you can select another image to search for or click Done to return to the main EzStamp window. If you do additional searches keep in mind that the images must be from the country you have open. Also if you are doing an interactive search be sure the image matches the search criteria in the lower left corner, otherwise it will not be found.

Finally, if you click on Done on the SRS Main window, you will return to the EzStamp Main window. If you selected one stamp to add to your data, that stamp will be retrieved & ready for you to enter into your inventory. If you selected more than one stamp, the familiar EzStamp browser will appear with your selections so that you can enter them.

EzStamp SRS Results For: UNITED STATES.

Print Printer Setup Font Scaling Off Currently Sorted by : SCOTT Exit

SCOTT_No	Year	Denom_and_Colour	Perf	W/mk	Notes
2345	1988	25c multi	11	Unwmk.	Photo; ' Old Capitol Bldg. '; TAGGED
2346	1988	25c multi	11	Unwmk.	Litho&Engr; ' Federal Hall '; TAGGED
2343	1988	25c multi	11	Unwmk.	Photo; ' Palmetto Trees '; TAGGED
2347	1989	25c multi	11	Unwmk.	Photo; ' Dogwood '; TAGGED
2348	1990	25c multi	11	Unwmk.	Litho&Engr; ' Slater Mill '; TAGGED
2410	1989	25c red, gray & blk	11	Unwmk.	Litho&Engr; ' #122, Lincoln '; TAGGED; World Sta
2442	1990	25c multi	11	Unwmk.	Photo; ' Ida B. Wells '; TAGGED

INTERACTIVE MODE

The interactive mode of SRS is a powerful way to filter the size of the image search. If you know the denomination of your stamp, then you should do a search by that Denomination. This will restrict the search to only stamps that match that denomination making it much faster. Once you have selected your criteria to search for, click on Find & when the results are shown, click Run SRS which will start the Main SRS window. The functionality is similar to the power search used elsewhere in EzStamp. The most important thing to search for is the denomination

SRS Search

Search In: Supplied Data

Types to Show: Everything

Cat ID Type: Scott #

Duplicates: Ignore Duplicates

From: 1

To: ZZZZZ99999ZZZZZ

Clear IDs

Date of Issue:

Denom. & Color: 25c

Watermark:

Perforation: 11

Notes:

Report Profile: Default Stamp Information

From Year: 1990 To Year: 2013

Location:

XRef:

Category:

1: Show in Spread Sheet Viewer
2: Show in Data Browser
3: Show in Thumbnail Viewer
4: Save as a Navigation List
5: Show in Main Window

Main numbers only
Apply Grade Filtering

£ ¼ ½ ¾

Basic... Reset Find Run SRS Cancel

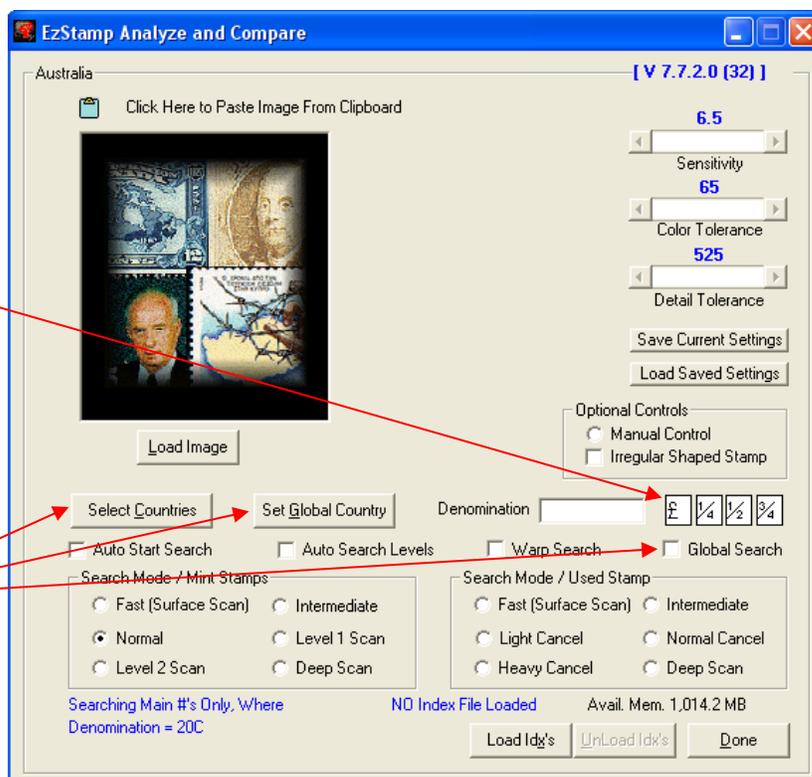
Matches: 98

SRS GLOBAL SEARCH

SRS has been modified to accommodate the GLOBAL functionality now built in to SRS. The following will point out the new changes.

This new group will allow you to enter the British Pound symbol as well as some common fractions. Just a single left mouse click on one will put that character in the denomination field.

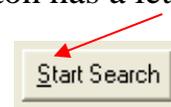
The following set of controls are for the new Global Search feature which will allow you to search all countries at once, or search selected countries or search specific groups of countries all without having to start and stop SRS.



This is a brief description of these controls. Left clicking the Global Search checkbox turns on/off the Global Search feature. Left clicking the Select Countries button will open a window that will allow you to select one or all of your available countries to search. Left clicking the Set Global Country will set any single country selected as the current country that will allow you to use the Warp Search feature.

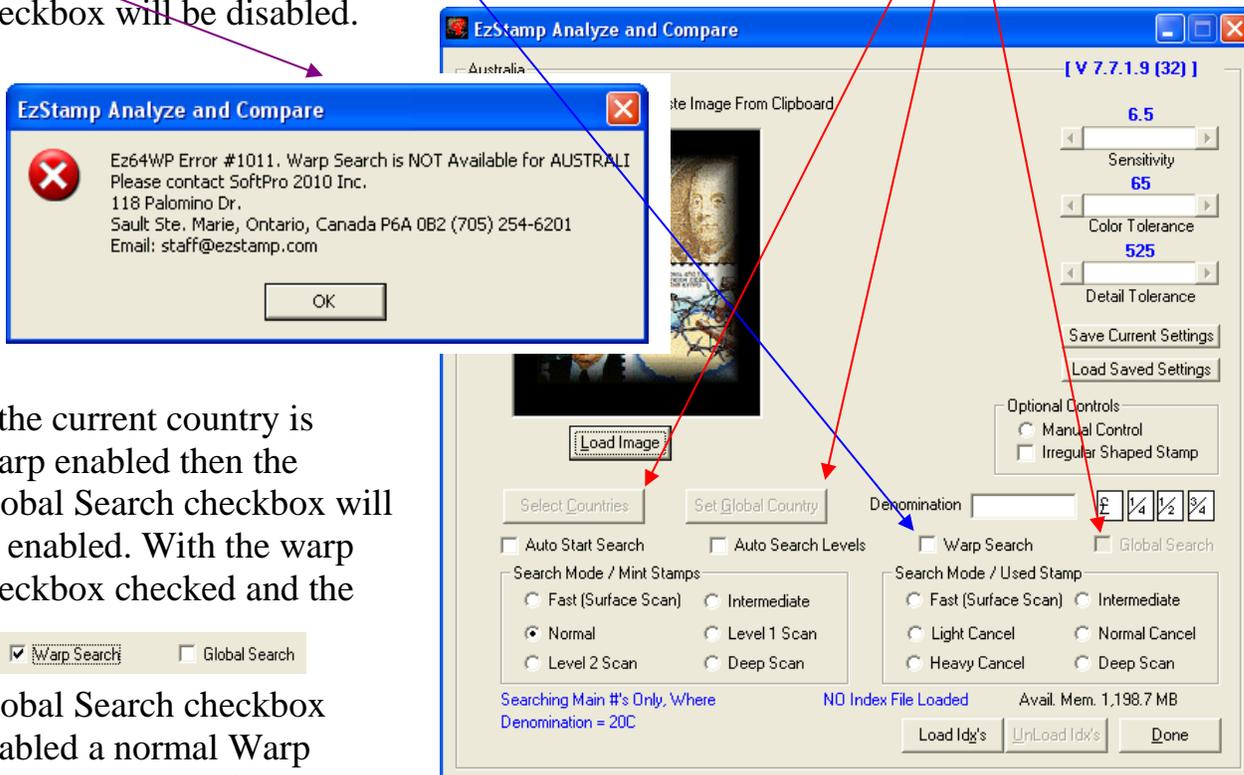
Note: Loading indexes can take some time but this is not necessary when using Global Search or Warp Search and in no way reduces the speed at which these new features respond however it improves the usability of the application when **not** using Warp or Global searches.

All of the Button controls now respond to keyboard actions. Each Button has a letter underlined and when the Alt + Letter is pressed simultaneously, the button will react as if it was Left clicked. For example, to start a search using the keyboard, press the 'Alt' and the 'S' keys at the same time.



HOW AND WHEN TO USE GLOBAL SEARCH

To use Global Search your countries have to be warp enabled. When SRS is started in the Global Search mode from EzStamp, the Global controls are disabled. The first thing to do is click the Warp Search checkbox and if the current country is warp enabled the Global Search checkbox will be enabled. If it is not, the following message box will be displayed. After you click OK on the message box the Warp checkbox will be disabled.



If the current country is Warp enabled then the Global Search checkbox will be enabled. With the warp checkbox checked and the

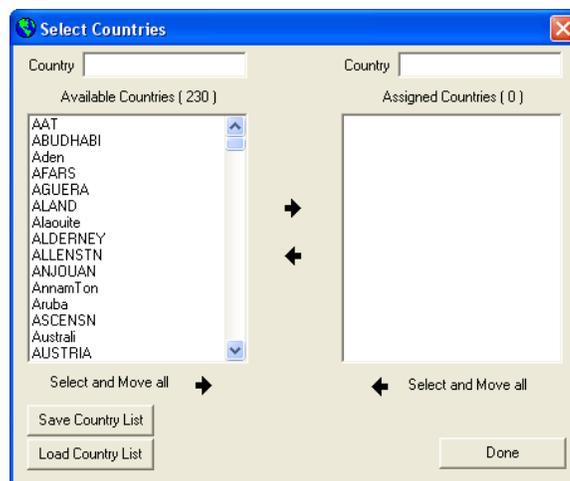


Global Search checkbox enabled a normal Warp Search can be performed or the Global Search checkbox can be checked. Left clicking on the Global Search checkbox will enable the Select Countries button and disable the Warp checkbox.



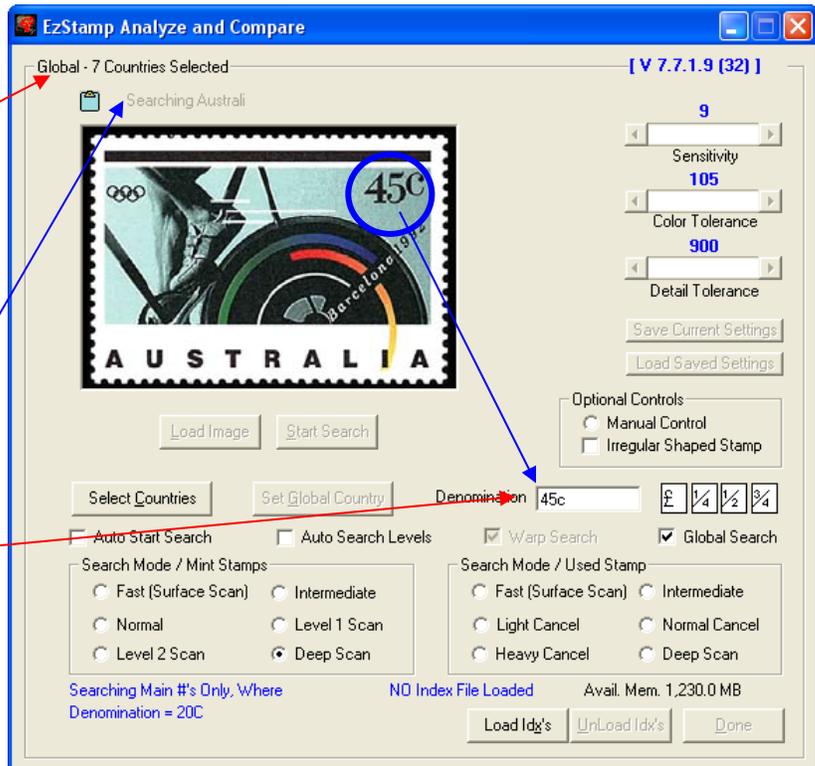
When Select Countries is clicked, it will open a window that will allow you to select any combination of countries.

A detailed description and how to use the Select Countries feature will be described later in this document. The main features are Available Countries (countries that are Warp enabled), Assigned Countries (selected countries), controls that allow moving countries from Available to Assigned, Save Country List button and Load Country List button (save and load Assigned countries). These buttons allow specific Assigned countries to be saved and recalled later without having to re-select them again.



HOW AND WHEN TO USE GLOBAL SEARCH CONTINUED

After the countries have been selected load, an image by one of the follow methods, drag and drop an image in the Image Drop Box, paste an image from the clipboard or Left click the Load Image button. Before you click the Start Search button check the information bar in the top left corner. This will become very useful as you use SRS Global. It will always show you which countries will be searched. When the search is running the paste image from clipboard will display which country is being searched. When using Global Search, a denomination is **required**. It does not need to be the complete denomination. For example, 45c and 45 will both work, however the exact denomination may speed up the search and this is the recommended method to use.



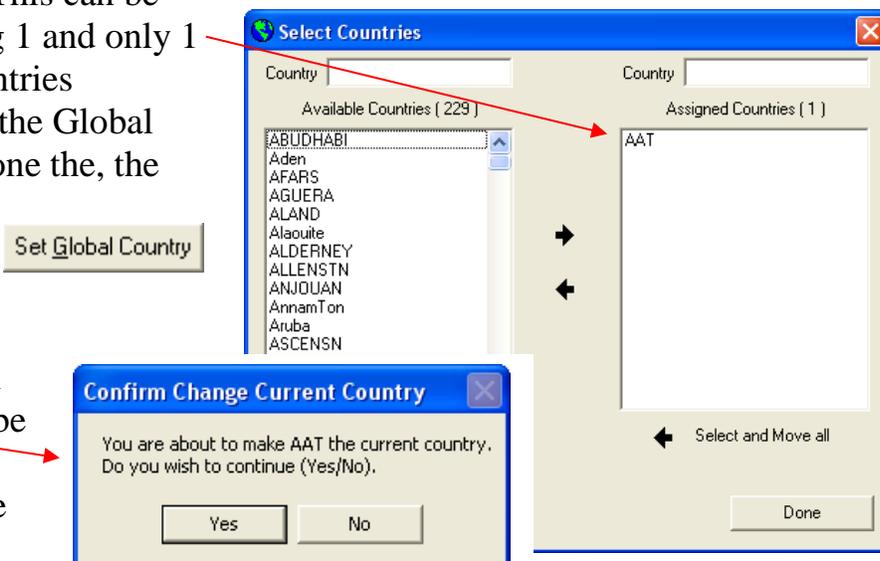
When the Start Search button is clicked, the search will start. The order of the search will be in an alphabetic order of the selected countries. As each country is being searched the information bar will display it.

When a possible match is found it will be placed in the Results Window as before, with the following change. Each possible match will have the country appended to it and when double clicked, it will also be in the title bar. This allows for easy identification of the country where the possible match was found. All of the other controls will work as before. When using Global Search, as with Warp Search, it is recommended that the Auto Search Levels checkbox be checked. These searches are very fast and letting the application change to a lower search level when needed will speed up the search results.



HOW AND WHEN TO USE GLOBAL SEARCH CONTINUED

When using the Global Search method, any country that is Warp enabled can be searched without having to stop and start SRS. You only need to select the desired country from the Available countries in the Select Countries window. Warp and Indexed searches can only be done on the current country and selecting a single country in the Select Countries window does NOT automatically make that country the current country. It allows you to search that country in Global mode but there will be times where you need to use the Indexed search or Warp search on a country other than the current country. This can be accomplished by selecting 1 and only 1 country in the Select Countries window and un-checking the Global checkbox. When this is done the, the Set Global Country button will be enabled, allowing you to make that country the current country. When this button is clicked a message will be displayed prompting you for confirmation. To make the country the current country, click Yes, or click



No to leave the current country the same. After the current country has been changed, the Information Bar will change and show the new current country and Indexed and Warp searches can be done on the new current country.

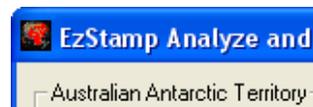
Current country is displayed.



Global Search with a single country selected is displayed.



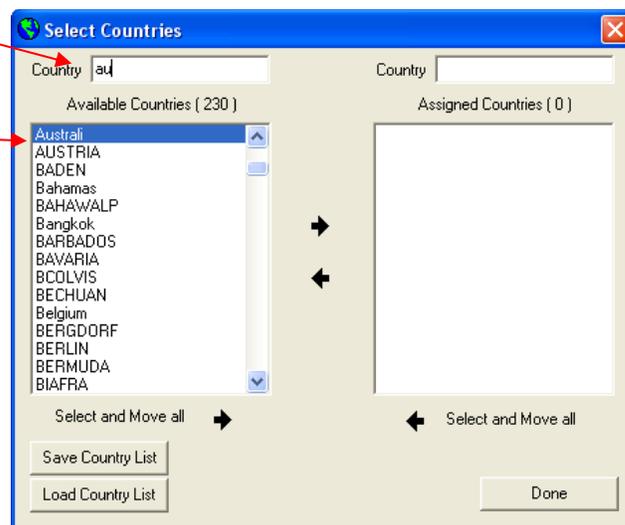
After the Set Global Country button has been clicked and the current country has been changed, it will be displayed as the new current country. Once this is done Indexed and Warp searches can be done on the new current country.



HOW AND WHEN TO USE GLOBAL SEARCH CONTINUED

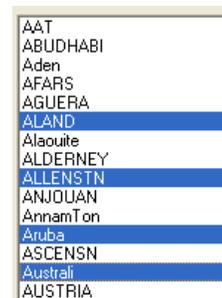
There are several ways to select countries in the Select Countries window and all of the normal window selection features can be used.

In the Country field on the Available Countries side, begin typing the name of the country and the list will automatically scroll to the first country that matches the characters you have entered. The more characters you enter the closer you get to your country. In the example 'au' has been entered and 'Australi' is the first match. If this is your desired country press the enter key and it will automatically be moved from the Available list and added to the Assigned list and the Country field will be cleared and ready for the next country.



Selecting a single country and left clicking the Right Arrow → will move the country from the Available list and put it in the Assigned list. Double clicking a single country will do the same thing.

Several individual countries can be selected by, holding down the 'Ctrl' key while clicking on a single country. When each country is clicked it will be highlighted. When done selecting countries, click the Right Arrow and the selected countries will be moved from the Available list and added to the Assigned list.



A continuous group of countries can be selected by selecting a single country (this will be the first of the continuous list) and holding down the 'Shift' key and selecting another single country (the last of the continuous list) and all countries between the first and last will be highlighted. To move the selected countries from the Available list to the Assigned list click the Right Arrow. →



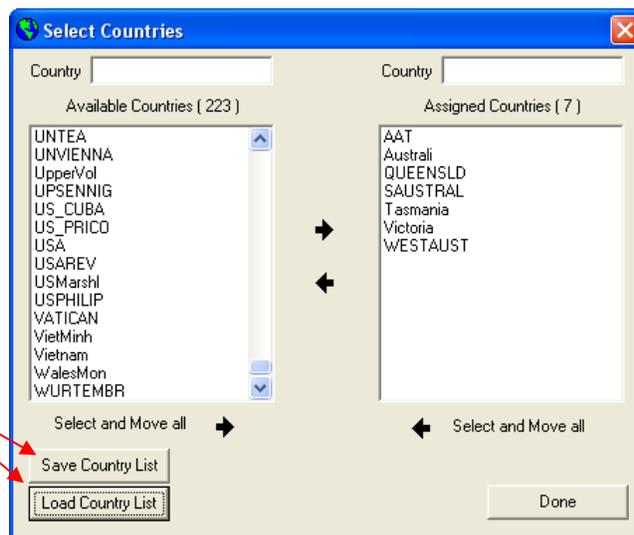
HOW AND WHEN TO USE GLOBAL SEARCH CONTINUED

To select and move all of the countries from the Available list to the Assigned list click the Select and Move all Right arrow.

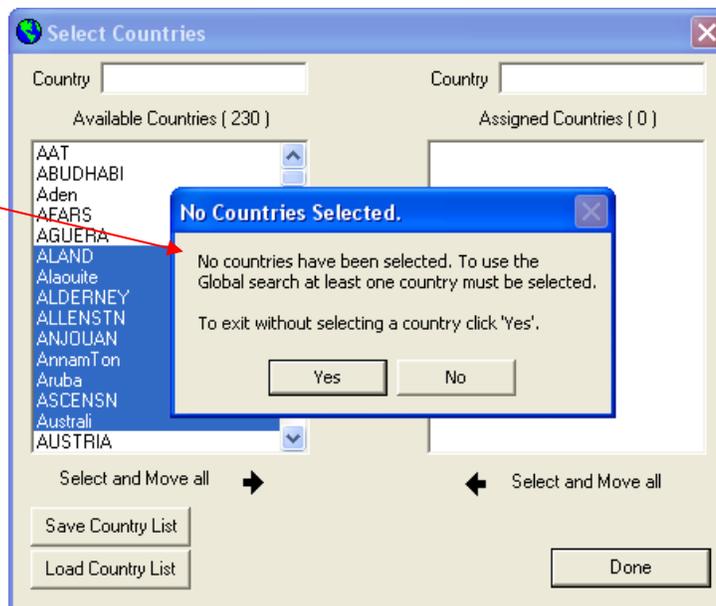
Select and Move all →

All the above methods work the same when moving from Assigned to Available

The Global Search feature can be used on a specific set of countries also. To accomplish this, select the group of countries to be searched in the Select Countries window. This group can be saved and recalled at a later time without having to re-select the countries in the group by using the Save Country List and Load Country List. Using a country group list is faster than re-selecting all of the countries to search.



If you select countries and then click the 'Done' button without moving them from the Available list to the Assigned list a dialog box will be displayed indicating that no countries have been selected. To close the Select Countries window without selecting the countries click the Yes button. To go back and select the countries click the No button and then select the countries.



Training videos demonstrating the use of SRS & Warp/GLOBAL are available here

<http://ezstamp.com/support/softpro-training-videos/>

Recalling Manual & Interactive & Global SRS Results:

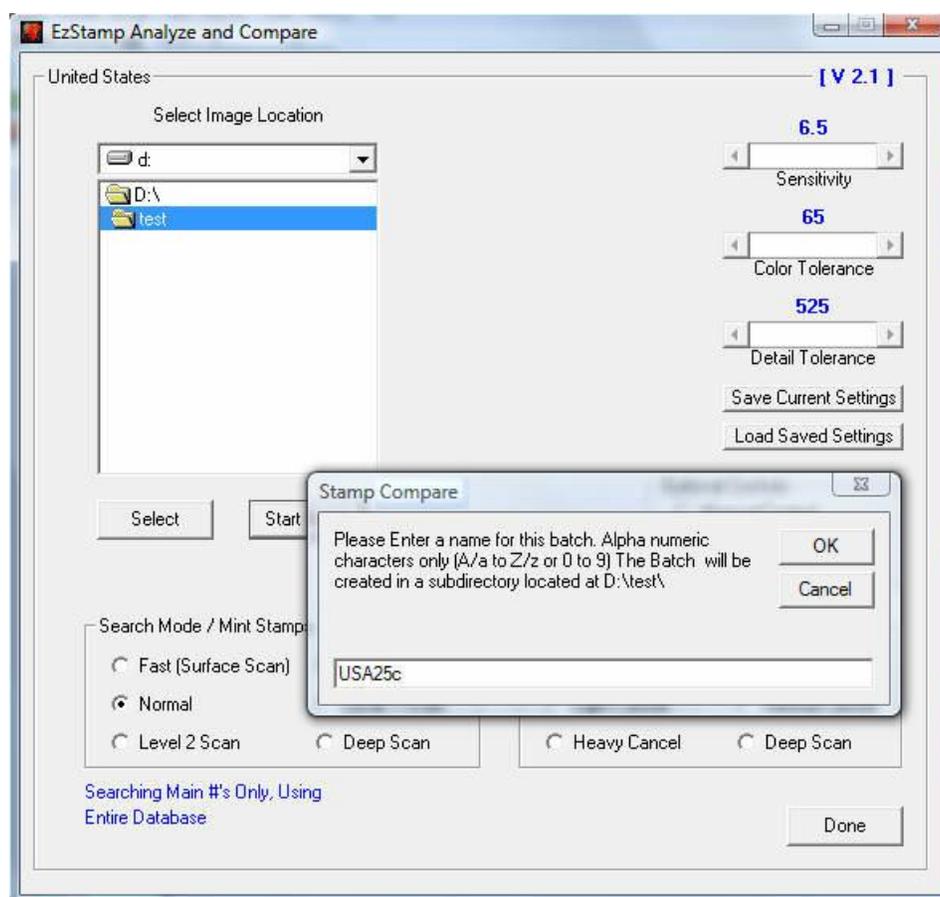
If you have performed an SRS search & you have added more than one stamp, you can recall the results as long as you have not performed another SRS search. The recall will load the last SRS search you performed in EzStamp browser so you can select from the stamps you added to your data. While in the browser, you can sort the list by Right clicking & selecting the appropriate sort. You can also Left click on any cell to view the associated image for that listing. If you Double click on any item, that record will be loaded so you can inventory it.

SRS in BATCH Mode:

A very convenient & time saving feature of SRS, is the ability to run in Batch mode. An example will help clarify this.

If you had scanned in say 100 stamps from the USA & wanted to identify them, you could load each one into SRS manually & search for them individually. Or another way to do this is to place all the images into a folder on your hard drive and then have SRS automatically load each image, search for it & save the results for you to review later.

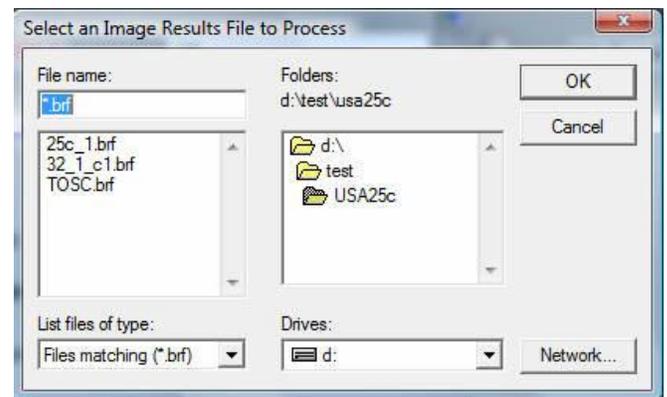
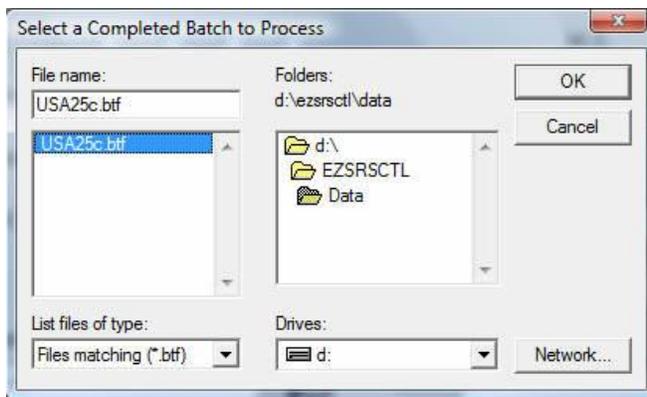
Once you select the folder where you have placed your images, you will be prompted for a name for the batch file so you can retrieve the results later (see image below).



Be sure to set the Search mode BEFORE you start the batch (ie mint, used). Once the batch file name has been entered, click on Start SRS will process all of the images in the folder. You can stop the batch at any time by clicking the Stop Batch button. While a batch is running, you can continue to inventory & use EzStamp as normal, unlike in Automatic or Interactive mode where you must wait for SRS to finish before you can perform other functions in EzStamp. When the batch is done, you can recall the batch to and view the results. Simply open the batch file & then select the results for each of the processed images. As with the other modes (Automatic or Interactive), if multiple matches are found, a browser will appear to show you the results which you can then select from. If only a single match was found, that stamp will be recalled into EzStamp so you can add it to your inventory.

Batch File Selection

Batch Image Results Selection



Delete SRS BATCH Results Files:

Once a batch has completed, the Results File can be recalled at any time. After some time, you may want to delete old batch files to save on disk space and keep your files organized.

What is the SRS Auto Separate option and how to use it

What SRS Auto Separate Does:

The SRS Auto Separate option will allow you to quickly process a full-page scan of multiple stamps (scanned against a black background). You will load the scan and then SRS will AUTOMATICALLY separate all of the images. When the SRS Auto Separate icon is clicked (with a page scan loaded) the application will separate each image one at a time and you will have the option to identify the image or skip to the next image. While the Auto Separate process is running all of the other normal functions of SRS can still be performed without having to cancel the current Auto Separate operation. The Auto Separate function is a great way to search page scans with multiple countries (see "HOW AND WHEN TO USE GLOBAL SEARCH" in the Manual pg. 12).

Note: The SRS Auto Separate is similar to the EzPerf Auto Separate.

Some important things to know:

- For best results all page scans should be 150 or 300 dpi.
- All page scan must have a clean BLACK background.
- For best results the images should be at least one quarter (¼) of an inch apart on all sides.
- Do NOT use the 'Load Image', 'Drag and Drop' or 'Paste Image From Clipboard' to load a page scan without the 'Auto Separate' option selected as these all have a size restriction and will not allow a page scan to be loaded.

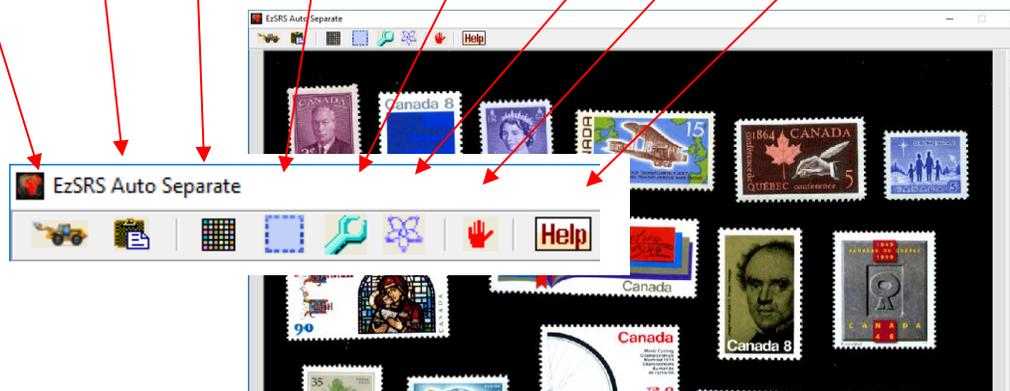
Auto Separate Window:

The Auto Separate Window has the following controls:

Load A Page Scan, Paste A Page Scan From Clipboard,

Auto Separate, Crop An Area, Auto Separate Toolbox,

Return to Auto Separate Display,
Close and Help.



Examples of Page Scans:

Incorrect



Correct

Irregular shaped stamps should be as close to the correct orientation as possible. Be sure that the Irregular Shaped Stamp check box is checked in the Optional Controls on the Main SRS window before the  Search Icon is clicked. **Note:** It will save time to have page scans with stamps properly orientated and well-spaced which will avoid having to correct poorly orientated and insufficient space between stamps.



Auto Separate Window Controls:

 **Load A Page Scan:** Left clicking this icon will open a new window that will allow you to load a page scan (bmp or jpg format only). To clear the current page scan and load a new one, just Left Click the tractor icon again.

 **Paste A Page Scan From Clipboard:** Left Clicking this icon will paste a page scan from the clipboard to the main display area (bmp or jpg format only). If a page scan is already loaded it will overwrite the current loaded image. If a valid image is not in the clipboard a warning message will be displayed 'Nothing Loaded'.

 **Return to Auto Separate Display:** If the Auto Separate **Display** window is open then Left Clicking this icon (in the Auto Separate Window, **not** the Display Window) will close the Auto Separate Window and return control to the Auto Separate **Display** window.

 Left Clicking this icon will end the Auto Separate session and close the Auto Separate Window.

 Left Clicking this icon will open the User Manual.

 **Crop An Area:** Left clicking this icon will set the 'Select Area mode ON' (this icon acts like a toggle switch). This icon will change color as a visual indicator to show which state it is in, (blue 'Select Area OFF' and green 'Select Area On'). After the select area mode is set hold down the **Left** mouse button and **drag** a rectangle around the area to be cropped. When the left mouse button is released you can resize or move the selected area. When finished, move the mouse inside the selected area and double click the left mouse button and the selected area will automatically be copied to the main window and the page scan window will be closed.

☞ Below is a step by step process of how to select & crop a single image from a page scan.

1. First click the 'Crop Icon'. It will turn green indicating 'Crop Mode' is turned on. When you move your mouse over the image the cursor will become a cross-shaped cursor.
2. Hold down the left mouse button and drag a box around the desired area.



3. When you release the left mouse button, the selected area will become animated. You can resize the selected area by moving the mouse over one of the 4 edges or corners. The cursor will change to indicate which way the resize can be done.



4. When satisfied, move the cursor inside the selected area and double click (two quick left mouse clicks) and the image will be cropped according to the selected area and the 'Crop Mode' is turned off. Note: The selected area can also be moved by moving the cursor inside the selected area and holding down the left mouse button (the animation will stop), and moving to a new position. When the left mouse button is released, the animation will resume, displaying the area to be cropped.



Auto Separate: Left Clicking this icon will start the Auto Separate procedure, which will endeavor to separate each stamp into individual images so they can be searched by SRS. If a page scan is not loaded, then a warning message will be displayed 'Nothing Loaded'.



Open The SRS Auto Separate Toolbox: Left Click this icon to open the SRS Auto Separate Toolbox. NOTE: Most page scans can be processed without having to use any tools from the toolbox. However, some scans with dark cancels or dirty backgrounds, may require one or more tools to be used to clean up the background. The tools available are a Magic Wand, Select Area, Paint Brush and Brush Size.

Auto Separate Toolbox:



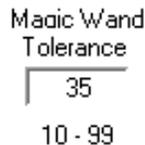
Left or Right Clicking this icon will close the SRS Auto Separate Toolbox.



This icon shows the Magic Wand option is **OFF**. Left Clicking will turn **ON** the Magic Wand option.



When Left Clicked, it will change to show the Magic Wand Option is **ON**. Left Clicking will turn **OFF** the Magic Wand Option.



The Magic Wand Tolerance default is set to 35 and can be changed by typing a new value in the textbox; valid values are 10-99. The higher the value the more

aggressively the process works. Caution is needed when the stamps are used and have heavy cancellations.

Magic Wand:



Before using the Magic Wand, a Magic Wand Tolerance must be set. The default tolerance works best for most page scans, but if the separated images are being trimmed or cut into, then the tolerance may be lowered. To use this tool, Left Click and move the cursor over the image. The cursor will change to a Magic Wand. Left Click on the background. The images will be outlined by animated boxes. Now go back to the toolbox and Left Click the Magic Wand icon again and the cleanup process will start and the cursor will turn to an Hourglass. When the process is finished it will turn back to normal. By Right Clicking with the cursor on the page scan with the animated boxes showing the process will be canceled and the original scan will be restored. If the toolbox is closed before the process has finished it will be canceled but once it has finished it can NOT be undone, UNLESS you reload the original image.

Select Area:



This icon indicates that the Select Area option is **OFF**. Left Clicking this icon will turn **ON** the Select Area option.



When Left Clicked it will change to show the Select Area option is **ON**. Left Clicking will turn **OFF** the Select Area option.

The Select Area tool will allow a large area to be cleaned. To use this tool Left Click the Select Area Icon and move the cursor over the page scan and the cursor will

change to a Cross Hair shaped cursor with a small Box underneath. Hold down the Left Mouse button and drag to create a rectangle around the area to be cleaned. When the Left Mouse button is released the area will be cleaned. Be careful not to cut into the images. If it does happen, immediately Right Click and the area will be restored (Right Clicking will restore one level up). The Select Area tool is not designed to clean small areas. For small areas, the Paint Brush tool should be used. If the toolbox is closed before the process has finished it will be canceled but once it has finished it can NOT be undone, UNLESS you reload the original image.

Paint Brush:



This icon shows the Paint option is **OFF**. Left Clicking this icon will turn **ON** the paint option.



When Left Clicked it will change to show the Paint option is **ON**. Left Clicking will turn **OFF** the Paint option.

Brush Size:

Brush Size

The Paint Brush size can be changed by Left Clicking the '<' (Left) or '>' (Right) buttons. The value above the buttons and the graphic image to the left will change as the buttons are clicked to show the current size; the default is 5 and the max. size is 25

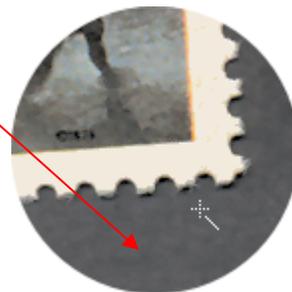
The Paint Brush tool will allow small areas to be cleaned. Clicking the Increase Brush Size or Decrease Brush Size will change the size of the brush; the actual size will be displayed. To use the Paint Brush tool Left Click the Paint Brush Icon and move the cursor over the page scan and hold down the Left Mouse button and drag to clean an area determined by the Brush size. Right Clicking on the page scan while it is still active will restore up one level. If the toolbox is closed before the process has finished it will be canceled but once it has finished it can NOT be undone, UNLESS you reload the original image.

When and How To Use The SRS Auto Separate Tools:

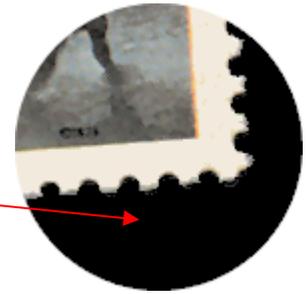


When the background is cloudy or dirty, using the Magic Wand can clear most of it up. From the toolbox, Left Click the Magic Wand icon. Move the mouse cursor over the page scan and the cursor will change to a wand.

When the background is Left Clicked, all of the images will be enclosed in an animated border. If the border is cutting into the images, Right Click to undo and select a different background area. If the border is still cutting into the images, Right Click to undo and decrease the Magic



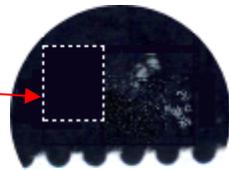
Wand Tolerance. This may be a trial and error process to get the correct tolerance. When the Magic Wand icon is Left Clicked (turned off) the areas outside of the animated borders will be cleaned. Once the process has finished the change is permanent and CANNOT be undone, UNLESS you reload the original image.



When there are areas of background noise, the Select Area tool can be used to clean it up. Left Click on the Select Area icon to activate the Select Area process and move the mouse over the page scan. The cursor changes to a crosshair shaped cursor with a small Box underneath.

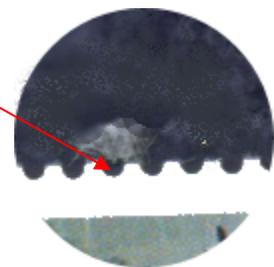
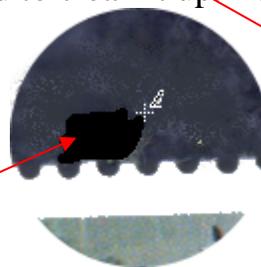
Hold the Left mouse button down and drag across the area to be cleaned. While dragging the cursor, a dotted rectangle will be drawn to show the position of the cursor. As the cursor is being moved the area inside the rectangle is being cleaned and when the mouse button is released the rectangle is removed and the cursor returns to a crosshair shaped cursor with a small Box underneath. This

tool has one level of undo, so if an area has been cleaned that shouldn't have been (part of an image), Right Click and the page scan is restored one level. However, if the Left mouse button is clicked again (starting a new clean) or the Select Area icon is Left Clicked (turned off) before the level is restored the clean is permanent **and CANNOT** be undone, UNLESS you reload the original image.



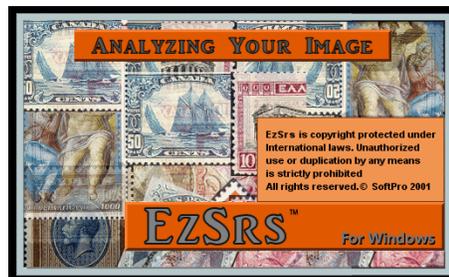
When there are small areas next to an image the Paint tool can be used to clean it up. Left Click on the Paint Brush icon to activate the Paint process.

Move the cursor over the page scan and the cursor changes to a paintbrush. Hold down the Left mouse button and drag the cursor across the area to be cleaned. The brush size can be changed to cover large areas or changed to fit inside the perforations. This tool has one level of undo, so if an area has been cleaned that shouldn't have been (part of an image), Right Click and the page scan is restored one level. However, if the Left mouse button is clicked again (moving to a new area) or the Paint Brush icon is Left Clicked (turned off) the change is permanent and CANNOT be undone, UNLESS you reload the original image.



Auto Separate Process:

When finished manually cleaning the background or if the background doesn't need cleaning, Left Click the Auto Separate icon  on the main toolbar to start the Auto Separate process. When the process starts, a Splash Screen is displayed showing that the page scan is being analyzed. The length of time it takes to analyze a page scan will vary depending on the page scan size and how many images are on it.

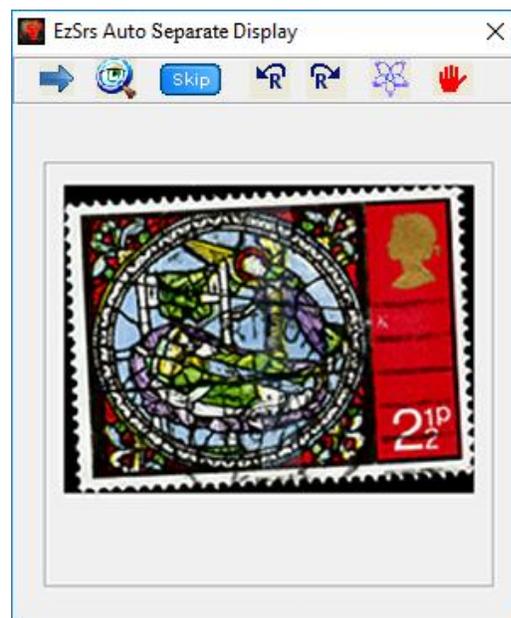


When the Analyzing process is completed, the Auto Separate Display window is opened and the first image separated by the process is displayed (note: this may not be the first image on the page scan.). This is normal, as the images may or may not be displayed in the order they are on the page scan, it is a random process depending on many criteria.

Auto Separate Display Window Controls:



Left or Right Clicking this control will move to the next separated image on the page scan. Left or Right Clicking this control a second time will display the next separated image on the page scan without identifying the previous image; there is no back button. However, there is a way to process skipped or incorrectly identified images (see "Crop An Area").



 Left or Right Clicking this control will move the current image in the EzSrs Auto Separate Display window to the Main SRS window where it can be analyzed and identified.

 Left or Right Clicking this control will skip to the next separated image on the page scan without identifying. This control is used to skip images that have been separated incorrectly, usually because of background clutter or images placed too close to one another.

 Left or Right Clicking this control will reload the page scan and allow incorrectly separated images to be identified. To do this, Left Click the Select 'Area to Crop' icon on the Main Toolbar and drag a rectangle around one of the images. Move the cursor inside the rectangle and double click. The image will be copied out of the



page scan and the Auto Separate Display window will close; the cropped image can now be identified. The Auto Separate Display window will remain in the exact spot it was prior to clicking this control. Note: If nothing was done and you wish to continue, click the same icon  on the Page Scan window and it will close.

 Left or Right Clicking this control will rotate the current image in the 'EzSrs Auto Separate Display' window 90 degrees counter clockwise. This will allow the correction of images that have an incorrect orientation. Each time this control is clicked the image will be rotated a further 90 degrees in the same direction.

 Left or Right Clicking this control will rotate the current image in the 'EzSrs Auto Separate Display' window 90 degrees clockwise. This will allow the correction of images that have incorrect orientation. Each time this control is clicked the image will be rotated a further 90 degrees in the same direction.

 Left Clicking this icon will end the Auto Separate session and close the Auto Separate Window.

When the last image has been processed clicking the Next  control will display a message 'No More Images' and when the OK button is clicked the Auto Separate session is ended and the Auto Separate Display window will close.

Future Enhancements:

We plan to further improve upon and add to the capabilities of SRS in the coming years. For SRS to be 100% accurate, we must acquire any images we are missing from the countries we provide in EzStamp. If you happen to scan an image that is missing from EzStamp, or is better than the one we provide, we ask that you forward those images so that we may incorporate those images into SRS & EzStamp. Please ensure that these are **YOUR** images & that you have scanned them yourself. We require images to be scanned against a black background and at 300 dpi. You can submit the images to us at mariost@shaw.ca

At present, SRS cannot determine the minor differences in stamps (ie perf , minor color shades, minor type varieties, watermark varieties). These may be resolved in later releases of SRS.

Stamp Recognition Software™

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The SoftPro development team wish to credit this work to the Lord our God, for without His guidance , SRS would not have been possible.

Matthew 21:22 And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

Mark 9:23 Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth