

Creating DVDs

How to make a presentable DVD
without paying a motza!

Step 1: The Computer

- **CPU** As fast as you can get.
- **Memory** as much as you can put in.
- **HDD** as big as you can afford.
- **Monitor** as wide as you can fit.
- O/S assumed to **NOT** be Win-V....
- (None of the above is really critical!!!)

Step 2: Getting the Video

- Install a video digitising card.
- The more you pay, the better?
 - I use WinFast DTV2000H PCI hybrid with WinFast PVR2 digitising software (\$58).
- Set digitising to MPEG-2 “good” quality
 - 720 x 576 pixels
 - 4000kbps @ 25fps
- This will accommodate up to 1hr50mins.*

** Depends on how menus are structured*

Step 3a: Editing the MPG files

- Aim-point is a 4.7GB (4.4GB) DVD.
- Hopefully your audience is not “critical”.
- Something better than SE edition software often supplied with Video Capture Card.
- Need something **EASY** to manipulate files.
- Create complex movie+slideshow.
- Adaptable menu options.

Step 3b: What is Available?

- Packages start at “free” and can go up to much, much more than I could justify.
- I use Corel DVD MovieFactory 7 (MF7)
- MF7pro version for HD available.
- Also VideoStudio (various) and WinDVD:
 - Look at www.corel.com
- Several other packages available:
 - See www.citysoftware.com.au

Step 4: Creating the DVD

- Most software can create DVD image directly. However ...
- I ***always*** create an ISO image and check it using VLC Media Player to make sure there is no “lip-sync” problem. (Saves ruined disks)
- ***Then*** burn as many times as required from the single ISO image. (Switch verification ON if you can)

Sample Exercise (1)

- Two 30-minute episodes of a series called “How It’s Made” on Discovery Science.
- Each episode is self-contained:
 - Same lead-in
 - 4 items each ~5 minutes
- We want a DVD with initial lead-in plus:
 - Top level menu: 2-episode selection
 - Second level menu: 2 x 4-item selection

Sample Exercise (2)

- Original digitising has material before, during and after which will be edited out.
- Use MF7 for all editing, including JPEG background image sample.
- Use lead-in as a separate pre-menu introductory clip.