

# **DVDPlus Companion**

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1



# Getting Started



## Welcome

Ready to add a new dimension to your Web graphics projects, digital movies, presentations, or desktop publishing? DVDPlus will take you there! And no special skills are required—whether you use Wizards to create and customize instant scenes, or construct your own from scratch. DVDPlus puts all the tools and resources you'll need within easy reach. You just pick and choose, mix and match—embellish and tweak to your heart's content. The professional-quality results will amaze you!

## Registration, Upgrades, and Support

If you see the Registration Wizard when you launch DVDPlus, please take a moment to complete the registration process. Just call Serif toll-free and provide the installation number and code shown. We'll give you a personalized registration number in return. Remember, if you need technical support please contact us. We aim to provide fast, friendly service and knowledgeable help.

## Installation

### What you need to run DVDPlus

First of all, you'll need a system that runs a recent version of Windows with adequate speed. If you need help installing Windows or setting up your printer, refer to Windows documentation and help (see below).

- ◆ IBM compatible Pentium-class PC with CD-ROM drive and mouse (or other Microsoft compatible pointing device); 700MHz CPU minimum (1GHz recommended)
- ◆ Microsoft Windows® 98, 98SE, Me, 2000, or XP operating system
- ◆ 128MB RAM (256MB recommended)
- ◆ 80MB minimum free hard disk space
- ◆ SVGA graphics card (at 16-bit or higher color depth)
- ◆ Recommended accessories: CD-Writer/Re-Writer; DVD Player

Additional disk resources and memory are required when editing large or complex documents.

### What you need to know

If you're new to Windows computing, you will find it much easier if, before installing and using DVDPlus, you spend a little time becoming familiar with the operating environment. (From the Windows desktop, click the **Start** button at the lower left and choose **Help**.)

### First-time install

To install Serif DVDPlus, simply insert the CD-ROM into your CD-ROM drive. The AutoRun feature automatically starts the Setup process. (If it doesn't, follow the manual install procedure described below.)

Just answer the on-screen questions to install the program. You will be given the choice between a Recommended install (which optimizes performance by loading speed-critical files to your hard drive for best performance) or a Custom install (which lets you specify the files you want copied to your hard drive).

### Manual install/re-install

To re-install the software or to change any part of the installation at a later date, select **Settings/Control Panel** from the Windows Start menu and then click on the **Add/Remove Programs** icon. Make sure the correct CD-ROM is inserted into your CD-ROM drive and then simply follow the on-screen instructions. To install just one particular component to your hard drive, choose the Custom option and check only that component.

## Overview

DVDPlus gives you the ability to author your own DVD, VCD, or SVCD format discs. This means that you can now create discs containing all your own media and image files complete with personalized front-end menus in a style of your own choosing. Whether you're archiving all those huge files cluttering up your computer, or creating a unique “director's edition” of your own holiday videos, DVDPlus is up to the task! If you're new to this digital domain—or just a first-time DVDPlus user—here's a brief overview of how the process works.



### ◆ In A Nutshell...

Your DVDPlus **project file** serves as a sort of “middle manager” between your **content**—the video or image source files that you're working with—and your **output**: the disc you'll be burning. DVDPlus doesn't alter your original files. It just keeps track of the choices you make: what content to include on a disc, and how you want to **structure** that content. For example, you can arrange the disc files in any order, and design menus to enable viewers to navigate through the material.

### ◆ Add Your Content

After starting a project, the first step is usually selecting the media files (video and/or still images, or Serif MoviePlus projects) you want to include on the disc, and adding them as **titles** to your project. The DVDPlus Contents gallery displays the titles as a convenient list.



### ◆ Design Your Structure

Simply by rearranging the order of titles in the gallery, you can change the sequence in which they'll be played back on the disc. As you add titles, DVDPlus automatically creates navigational menus that will let your viewers access your content in any order they choose. Jumping to the start of any title will be as easy as clicking an onscreen menu button. If you're creating a DVD, you can even go further and add **chapter stops** marking the start of specific scenes. Chapters add another level to the menu structure, so that viewers can jump straight to a scene instead of having to play or search through the whole file. To simplify browsing, you can add your own meaningful menu text to identify each title and chapter—no need for cryptic file names!



### ◆ Enhance Visual Elements

Whatever your intended output, you'll probably want to enhance the viewer's experience by choosing a **visual theme** for your menus. You can pick a preset theme from the wide variety on view in the DVDPlus Studio, then customize its various attributes, such as background image, layout, buttons, and text styles.



### ◆ Playback and Preview

And at any time, you can **play back** individual titles or **preview** your disc-in-progress. In Preview mode, the Playback window simulates the operation of a DVD player, complete with an onscreen remote control handset.




### ◆ Time to Burn!

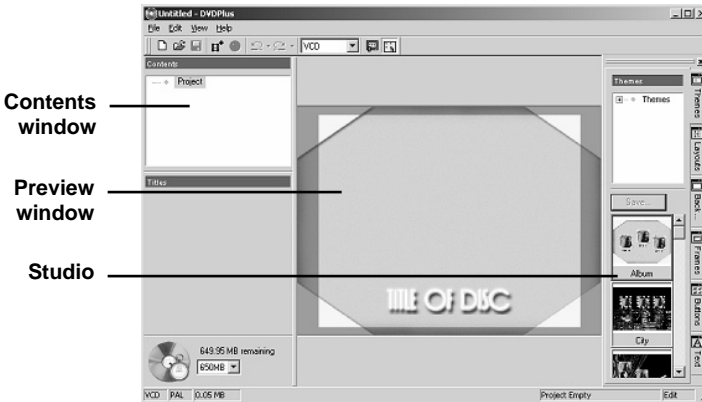
Recording an **output disc** to any format—VCD, SVCD, or DVD—is simple and straightforward. DVDPlus automatically detects the format of your files and converts them to the appropriate format for the disc that you are creating. You can even set specific output properties for each video file—for example, a lower bitrate in order to squeeze more content onto a disc, or a different screen aspect ratio for standard or letterbox display.

## Starting a Project


Once DVDPlus has been installed, you'll be ready to start. Setup adds a **Serif DVDPlus** icon to the **Programs** submenu of the Windows Start menu.

-  Use the Windows **Start** menu to start DVDPlus, or if DVDPlus is already running choose **New** from the File menu (or click the **New** button on the toolbar).

DVDPlus launches and displays an empty Untitled project.



The decks are now cleared and ready for you to bring your media and graphic files into the project. Your DVDPlus project file is basically a “decision list” that keeps track of the choices you make: what **content** to place on the output disc, and how to **structure** that content. In other words, it’s a sort of middle manager between the video or image source files that you’re working with, and the disc you’ll be burning. You can save and reopen project files as needed. Once you’ve decided on the format and size of the output disc, you can record those settings in DVDPlus (see below). As you continue to build your project, you can customize the workspace to suit your needs. We’ll cover all of these steps in the following chapters.

-  To save a project at any time, click the **Save** button on the toolbar, or choose **Save** from the File menu. (To save under a different name, choose **Save As...**) In the dialog, select a new project name and click **OK**, or click **Cancel** to close without saving. The file will be saved as a DVDPlus (.DVP) Project file.



DVDPlus works with one project file at a time. To open an existing project, click the **Open** button on the toolbar, or choose **Open...** from the File menu. In the dialog, select the project name and click **OK** to open, or click **Cancel** to close the dialog and revert to the current project. The Contents window displays the gallery of media files already imported and the Playback window shows the first page menu using the project menu theme.

### Selecting the output disc format and size

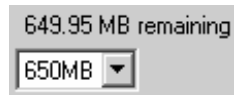
When you know the **disc format** (DVD/VCD/SVCD) and the **size** of the output disc that you will be burning, it's a good idea to enter those details into your DVDPlus project. As you continue to add content, DVDPlus can then display how much free disc space remains and provide a warning if the project size exceeds the limit. You can tell at a glance whether you'll be able to fit more files into your project before trying to import them.

**Note:** You can select or change the disc format and video standard at any time, right up until you're ready to burn a disc. For accurate onscreen feedback on the HintLine, it's a good idea to make your selection early on. For further information on disc formats and video standards, see the Technical reference.

To select the output disc format and size, select the format (DVD/SVCD/VCD) to be used from the **Disc Format** box on the toolbar. The currently selected disc format appears at the far left of the HintLine. You'll see a HintLine message if a



suitable drive is not currently online. For example, you'll need a DVD burner (not a recordable CD drive) to create a disc in the DVD format. In the **Disc Size** box below the Contents window, select the disc size. DVDPlus displays the free disc space remaining, and other data about your project, at the lower left of the workspace and on the HintLine.



You may also need to tell DVDPlus what **video standard** (PAL or NTSC) you intend to use. DVDPlus will normally burn a disc using the video standard you selected at installation, but you can change the standard if need be. Simply choose **Options...** from the View menu, select either "PAL" or "NTSC" from the Standard list, then click **OK**.



**2**



# **Adding Content and Structure**



Once you've created a project file (see the previous chapter), you are ready to prepare your output disc by adding **content** and designing a **structure** that viewers can use to navigate through the material. Adding content means selecting the **media files** (video and/or still images) you want to include on the disc, and adding them as **titles** to the DVDPlus Contents gallery. If you like, you can use drag-and-drop to change the order in which titles appear in the gallery, which corresponds to the sequence in which they'll be played back on the disc.

The linear sequence in which titles appear is just one aspect of your disc's structure. DVDPlus automatically creates a navigational **menu structure** based on the content you've added. If you're creating a DVD you have the further option of adding **chapter stops** to locate specific scenes within each title. At any time, you can play back individual files as described below, or preview your disc-in-progress (see Chapter 4).

**Note:** DVDPlus does not support the creation, capture, or editing of media files—so make sure all your content is accessible on your computer before trying to add it.

## Adding Media Files as Titles



To add file(s) to your project, click the **Add Files** button on the toolbar, or choose **Add Files** from the File menu. In the dialog, click on a single file to select it, or **Ctrl**-click to select multiple files (**Shift**-click to select a range of files). Click **Open** to import, or **Cancel** to close the dialog.

The files you've added appear as separate titles in the Contents gallery, the project size readout on the HintLine updates, and the Disc Size indicator at the lower left updates to reflect the amount of free space remaining on the disc type you've selected. Note that “titles” in DVDPlus are simply pointers to the source files you've designated; the source files themselves are never altered in any way.


In the gallery, the entries for each title convey information about them and let you rearrange the title sequence. When you select a title's entry, buttons appear that let you play back the source file, access its properties, or remove the title from the project as needed.



To rearrange the title sequence, drag a title's gallery entry up or down and drop it at the desired location in the list. The order in which titles appear in the gallery corresponds to the order in which they'll be on the output disc.

### Playing Back Titles

Once you have added a media file as a title, you can play it back in the Playback window. Image files play back for a standard duration of five seconds, while MoviePlus (.MVP) projects play as single, continuous movies.

 To play back a title, double-click its entry in the Contents window gallery, or select its gallery entry and click the **Play** button. You can also right-click the entry and choose **Play**, or double-click the title's thumbnail on the menu page displayed in the Playback window. (See the next section for more on menu pages.)



The source file begins to play in the Playback window. You can use the control buttons below the playback monitor to view different portions of the file, and the thumbnail buttons at the lower right to update the menu thumbnail for a chapter or title. (For details, see the next chapter.) By the way, if you're designing a DVD with chapters, you can play a specific chapter in a similar way: by first clicking the title in the Contents tree, then double-clicking the chapter's gallery entry.





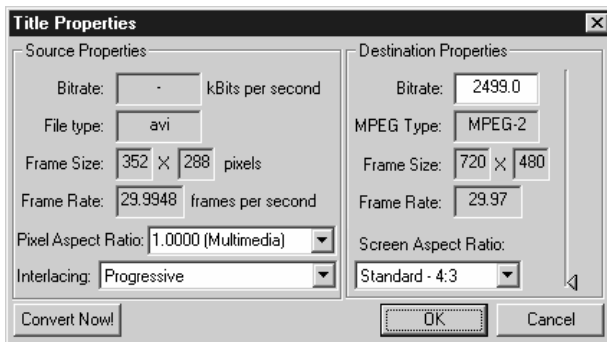
Should you decide you don't want to include a particular title on your disc, you can remove it from the project by selecting its gallery entry, then clicking the **Remove** button (or right-clicking the entry and choosing **Remove**). DVDPlus removes the title from the gallery without altering the original source file, and adjusts the menu page structure in the Contents tree as needed.

## Setting title properties

It's a good idea to check each video title's **properties** to make sure DVDPlus has correctly determined the information for the source clip. DVDPlus picks standard output settings for the disc format you'll be burning (see the previous topic), but you can change these settings on a title by title basis. For example, you might want to set a lower bitrate in order to squeeze more content onto a disc, or change the screen aspect ratio used to display a particular video clip.



To check a title's properties, select its gallery entry and click the **Title Properties** button (or right-click the entry and choose **Properties**).



In the Title Properties dialog, check that the **Source Properties** are correct for the title. Settable source properties include **Pixel aspect ratio** and **Interlacing**. If in doubt, leave the default settings; see online help for details. To specify a different output format for the source clip, enter different values under **Destination Properties**. (For details on output properties for various disc formats, see Chapter 5.)

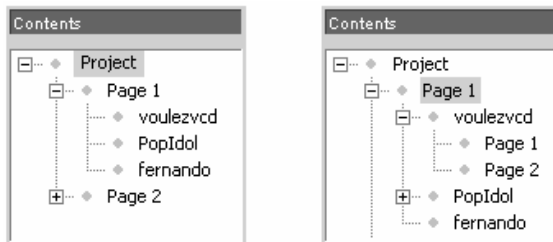
To record the new destination settings, which will be applied when you burn the output disc, click **OK**. Or, for an immediate preview of the converted clip, click **Convert Now**. Note that DVDPlus never alters your source files in any way; it generates a separate version of the original material.

## Menu Structure (Contents Tree)

As you continue to add media files as titles in the Contents gallery, DVDPlus automatically creates a navigational **menu structure** based on the content you've added. Menus let your viewers access your content in a non-linear way, as opposed to the one linear sequence in which titles are burned onto the disc. Each title gets its own menu entry, so viewers can click the menu buttons to jump to the start of each title.



As it develops, the menu structure appears in the upper panel of the Contents window—called the **Contents tree** because it resembles an upside-down tree with branches. At the top level is an entry for the **Project** itself, i.e. the main disc menu. Depending on the number of titles you've added and the theme you've selected (see the next chapter), the disc menu may have more than one page listed under it. Some themes allow more titles per menu page than others. As you add or subtract titles, DVDPlus automatically manages the menu pages for you. You have full control over the theme as well as visual elements such as the menu text for each title, the background and button styles, etc.

If you're designing a DVD and have added chapters to one or more titles, DVDPlus adds menu pages for the chapter stops you've added. These appear in the Contents tree as a sub-level under the title's entry (for example, under "voulezvcd" on the right below):



**Standard disc (titles)**

**DVD (titles and chapters)**


To expand the Contents tree, click the  symbol next to an entry; to collapse a branch, click . To display a particular menu or chapter page in the Playback window, click the its entry in the Contents tree. The gallery below the Contents tree displays entries for the titles or chapters associated with the selected page. (If the Playback window is paused, you won't see the menu. Click the **Stop** button to return to the menu.)

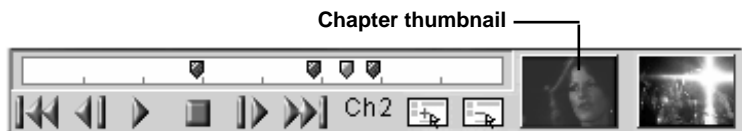
## Adding Chapter Stops (DVD Only)

We've just seen how DVDPlus adds a menu structure for the titles (media files) you add to your project. Chapters, available with DVD projects only (not for VCD or SVCD output discs), are another way of enhancing this navigation structure. You can add markers called **chapter stops** that index specific frames within a video title, so that viewers can jump straight to their favorite scenes instead of having to play or search through the whole file.

It's easy to insert chapter stops while you're previewing titles in the DVDPlus Playback window. DVDPlus automatically adds and manages menu pages for the chapters as you add them. (Before adding chapter stops, make sure you've selected "DVD" as your Disc Format on the toolbar.)

To create a chapter within a title, first select the title's gallery entry in the Contents window. Then click the **Play** button to play the file and use the playback controls to locate the first frame of the scene you want to mark as a chapter. It works better if you pause for a still frame, but you can also mark a frame as the video plays. (But don't click **Stop** or you'll cancel playback!)

 At the start of the scene you want to mark, click the **Add Chapter** button and a new chapter marker appears on the playbar, with the new chapter number displayed below it. A small image (the chapter thumbnail that will represent the chapter on the menu page) appears just to the right of the playbar.



Initially, the image shows the frame you marked as the start of the scene. If this isn't representative of the chapter's content, you can change the menu thumbnail by displaying any other frame in the same chapter and clicking the thumbnail button. The actual chapter stop (the first frame of the scene) remains the same.

When you add chapter stops to a title, the Contents tree adds a new sub-level consisting of one or more menu pages with a button for each chapter. As you continue to add (or remove) chapters, DVDPlus automatically manages the menu pages for you. The Contents gallery now does “double duty,” displaying entries for either titles or chapters depending which item you’ve selected in the Contents tree. Of course, you can’t rearrange existing chapters, since their sequence conforms to that of the movie file itself, but if you add or remove chapters you’ll see the chapter entries update in the gallery.



To play back a chapter, first click the title in the Contents tree. The lower gallery displays entries for chapters within the title. Then you can display the chapter in the same way that you displayed a title. Double-click the chapter’s gallery entry or select it and click the **Play** button; right-click the entry and choose **Play**; or (in the Playback window) display the menu page that lists the chapter and double-click its thumbnail.



Should you decide to change the chapter structure, you can remove a chapter stop just as easily as you added it. Just select its Contents gallery entry and click the **Remove** button (or right-click the entry and choose **Remove**).



You can also play the chapter to be removed and while it is playing click the **Remove Chapter** button in the Playback window. Removing the chapter stop effectively makes the following scene part of the previous chapter, if any. DVDPlus adjusts the menu page structure in the Contents tree as needed.



**3**



# Designing Visual Elements



Whatever your intended output, you'll probably want to choose a theme (menu style) and customize the visual elements that will enhance your viewers' experience.

## Choosing a Theme (Menu Style)

DVDPlus provides you with a host of menu styles known as **themes**. Each project has one customizable theme; in a new Untitled project, the default theme is "Album" from the Abstract category. Each theme consists of the following visual attributes:

- ◆ A **screen layout** that defines the spatial arrangement of menu items and buttons around the screen
- ◆ A **background** image used on the menu screen
- ◆ A **frame style** that defines the appearance of onscreen menu items
- ◆ A **button style** that defines the appearance of the buttons used to navigate around menu pages
- ◆ **Text formats** that dictate the graphic style, artistic effects, color, and size of text used on menu screens

To select a starting theme, check **Studio** on the View menu to display the Studio window, if it is not already displayed. Display the Studio's **Themes** tab and browse the gallery of Themes thumbnails. When you see a gallery item you like, click on it to apply it to your project.

The result appears in the Playback window. You can either use the theme "as is" or go on to use the DVDPlus **Studio** to customize its layout, background, frame style, button style, and/or text styles as detailed in the next section.



Should you wish to delete a style change and revert to the previous style, either click the **Undo** button on the toolbar or choose **Undo** from the Edit menu.

## Customizing Visual Elements

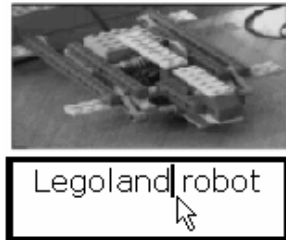
As explained in the previous chapter, DVDPlus gives each title you add to your project (and each chapter, if you've added them to a DVD) a **menu entry** that will become part of the navigation structure of your finished disc. The disc as a whole has a main menu of its own. You can customize how these entries—and the menus themselves—will appear to your viewers. The DVDPlus Studio offers a wide variety of choices to help you enhance your viewers' visual experience.

### Menu text and thumbnails

To change the disc's main menu text, first select the **Project** entry in the Contents tree. The main disc menu appears in the Playback window. In the Playback window, double-click the **Disc Title** placeholder (or current text) and retype it.

For each title and chapter, the menu entry consists of identifying **menu text** and a **thumbnail**. When you import media files, the menu text for each resulting title defaults to the name of the original file. Because certain file names may not mean much to your viewers, you can alter the menu text if you wish using either the Contents window or the Playback window.

There are two basic ways to change a title's menu text. You can either select the title's gallery entry in the Contents window, then select and retype the caption at the bottom of the entry, or (in the Playback window) double-click on the menu text and retype it. Either way, the text change will be reflected in both the Contents gallery and the actual menu item in the Playback window. (Changing the menu text won't affect the original file name, which will still appear in the gallery entry.)



Changing a chapter's menu text is equally simple. When you click the title in the Contents tree, the lower gallery displays entries for chapters within the title. Then (as for titles) you can either select the chapter's gallery entry and retype its caption, or double-click on the menu text in the Playback window and retype it.

Initially, title and chapter thumbnails show the first frame of the video segment. It's a simple matter to change either kind of thumbnail using the Playback window.



Play back the title and locate the new frame that you want to use as the thumbnail. (To pick a new chapter thumbnail, you must be within the chapter.) It's preferable to pause for a still frame, but you can also grab a frame as the video plays. When you find the frame you want, click the **Set Title Thumbnail** button (the image at the far lower right) or the **Set Chapter Thumbnail** button (at the near lower right). In either case, redefining the thumbnail doesn't change the first frame of the title or the position of the chapter stop.

## Theme

Once you've selected a theme, you can use the DVDPlus **Studio** to customize its **layout, background, frame style, button style, and/or text style**. Pick and mix from the galleries to design a menu style of your liking, then save it as a new theme under a name of your own choosing for use in a later project. You can even import your own graphics and save them as background files with which to further personalize your menus!



To change the layout, frame style, or button style, display the appropriate Studio tab and browse the gallery of thumbnails. Click on a gallery item to apply it to your project. The result appears in the Playback window.

When changing the background, use the Backgrounds tab in the same way. If you want to bring in a new background of your own, click the **New...** button. Use the dialog to select an image file and click **OK**, or click **Cancel** to close without saving.

If you change your mind about a style change, you can revert to the previous style by clicking the **Undo** button on the toolbar or choosing **Undo** from the Edit menu.

At any time you can save the current combination of style attributes as a theme on the Themes tab, for use in a later project. Display the **Themes** tab gallery where you want to save the theme, and click the **Save...** button. In the dialog, select a new theme name and click **OK**. A thumbnail for the theme appears in the current Themes tab gallery. (Should you want to remove a custom theme you've added, simply right-click its thumbnail and choose **Remove**.)

### Changing text styles

Above, we explained how to alter the actual menu text that appears for the disc and for each title/chapter menu entry. You can also customize the appearance of these items by choosing a different **text style**. Each theme actually incorporates two text styles: one for the disc title (i.e. the disc's menu text) and one for all menu items. Using the Studio's Text tab, you can pick a preset text style or define a new one of your own.

- ◆ The **Text Styles** category provides a gallery of preset text styles, each with a specific font, color, point size, and artistic effect.
- ◆ The **Text Effects** category lets you apply a different effect to the selected text.
- ◆ The **Fonts** category lets you change the font, point size, and/or text color.

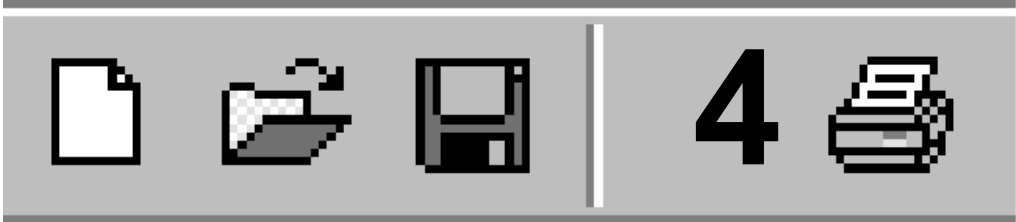
To change the text style, first select the text you want to reformat in the Playback window (either the disc title itself or any menu entry). A box appears around the selected item. Use the Studio's Text tab to apply your changes. Applying a preset text style is simply a matter of opening the **Text Styles** category and clicking a gallery sample.



To update an attribute, select the **Text Effects** or **Fonts** category and make your choices. To remove the text effect, select **None** from the Text Effects list. When you select Fonts, besides changing the font you can also change the **point size** by clicking in the **Size** box at the top of the gallery and either selecting or typing a new size, or choose a new **text color** by clicking in the **Color** box to the right of the Size box. (Use the dropper or numeric controls to define a new color in the Select text color dialog.) You'll see the updated text in the Playback window.

Any changes you make to the current text style become part of the project's theme and will be saved along with your project, but at any time you can also save the text style separately on the Text tab, for use in a later project. To do so, click the **Save...** button on the Text tab and use the dialog to pick a new style name. You'll see a new thumbnail for your theme in the Text Styles category. To remove a custom text style later, right-click its thumbnail and choose **Remove**.





# Direct to Disc!



Burning (recording) an output disc to any format—VCD, SVCD, or DVD—is simple and straightforward. But before you use up a perfectly good recordable disc, you can double-check your project’s content and structure using **Preview mode**. So far, we’ve only considered using the Playback window in **Edit mode**: using its control buttons to review single titles, mark menu thumbnails, etc. as you are assembling content and developing the structure for your disc. But at any point in the process you can use the Playback window to simulate the operation of a DVD player, complete with an onscreen remote control handset. You can actually navigate the menus and use any of the handset buttons to check out the operation of the project.

## Previewing Your Project

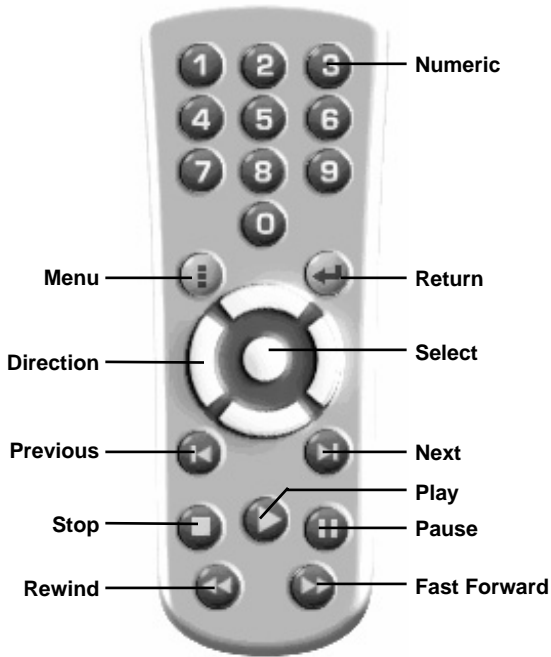
Preview mode lets you verify that the project displays exactly as you intended when viewed on your TV or computer, titles play in the expected order, visual elements appear as desired, and menu navigation works correctly.



To preview your project, click the **Preview** button on the toolbar. The Playback window switches to Preview mode (hiding the Contents window and Studio) and displays the main disc menu, with a virtual DVD player handset to the left of the screen. The word “Preview” appears at the far right of the HintLine to denote the current mode. If you want to frame edge regions that may not be displayed on a standard television, first check **TV Safe Zone** on the View menu (more about this below).



Click the handset buttons to simulate disc playback:



Button	Function
<b>Numeric</b>	Plays associated item on menu page (either title or chapter)
<b>Direction</b>	For VCDs and SVCDs, selects next item on a page For DVDs, selects next menu item in each direction
<b>Select</b>	Selects next menu level down, or (bottom level) plays item
<b>Next, Previous</b>	Selects next or previous menu page
<b>Stop</b>	Stops playback
<b>Play</b>	Starts playback of selected or highlighted item
<b>Pause</b>	Pauses/resumes playback
<b>Rewind</b>	Scans backward to start of title, then returns to menu
<b>Fast Forward</b>	Scans forward to end of title, then returns to menu
<b>Return</b>	Reverts to previous selection
<b>Menu</b>	Stops playback and redisplayes the previous menu



To close Preview mode and return to Edit mode, click the **Edit** button on the toolbar. The Playback window switches to Edit mode, displaying the Contents and Studio windows. The screen appears exactly as before, for example keeping the same Studio tab settings. The word “Edit” appears at the far right of the HintLine to denote the current mode.

## The television safe zone

Standard televisions may not display the full-frame DVDPlus image that appears in the Playback window—portions of the image may “fall off” the edges of the TV screen and disappear from view. The portion of the image that is guaranteed to be visible when viewed on a television is known as the television safe zone. You can set the Playback window to frame this region by highlighting, with a transparent color of your choice, the portions of the screen that may not be visible when viewed on television.

To show or hide the TV Safe Zone, check or uncheck **TV Safe Zone** on the View menu. With the option checked, a transparent color frame around the edge of the Playback window indicates portions that may not be visible on a TV screen.

You can change the color of the TV Safe Zone via **View/Options...** Click the color box and use the color selection dialog to define a new color by clicking in the spectrum regions or entering color values. The new color is applied around the edges of the Playback window.

## Burning a Disc

Before clicking that “big red button,” step through this checklist to make sure you’ve covered all the bases:

- Have you set the disc format, disc size, and video standard correctly?
- Have you added all the titles you want, without exceeding the limits of your disc media?
- If creating a DVD, have you added chapter stops to enhance navigation?
- Have you checked each video title’s properties to make sure that DVDPlus has correctly determined the information for each source clip? Do you need to set destination properties for one or more titles, for example to conserve disc space?
- Have you previewed your project to make sure that your content and structure are as you intended, and that your chosen theme and customized visual elements look satisfactory?
- Have you saved your project?



If you’ve got this far, then you’re ready to burn! Insert a suitable recordable disc into the recorder and click the **Burn Disc** button on the toolbar (or choose **Burn Disc** from the File menu).

And that’s it! Prior to writing your source files to disc, DVDPlus copies and converts them to the format required by the destination media, taking into account any property settings you’ve changed for specific titles as detailed below..



**5**



# Technical Reference



This chapter gives background information on disc formats and television standards.

## Disc Formats

- ◆ **VCD** stands for Video Compact Disc and basically it is a CD that contains moving pictures and sound. A VCD has the capacity to hold up to 74/80 minutes on 650MB/700MB CDs respectively of full-motion video along with quality stereo sound. VCD uses a compression standard called MPEG-1 to store the video and audio. A VCD can be played on almost all standalone DVD Players and of course on all computers with a DVD-ROM or CD-ROM drive with the help of a software-based decoder/player. It is also possible to use menus and chapters, similar to DVDs, on a VCD and also simple photo album/slide shows with background audio. The quality of a very good VCD is about the same as a VHS tape-based movie but VCD is usually a bit more blurry.
- ◆ **SVCD** stands for Super VideoCD. SVCD is very similar to VCD, with the capacity to hold about 35-60 minutes on 74/80 min CDs of very good quality full-motion video (using MPEG-2 compression), along with up to two stereo audio tracks and four selectable subtitles. An SVCD can be played on many standalone DVD Players and of course on all computers with a DVD-ROM or CD-ROM drive with the help of a software based decoder/player. It is also possible to use menus and chapters, similar to DVDs, on an SVCD and also simple photo album/slide shows with background audio. SVCD quality is much better than that of VCD, with a sharper picture because of higher resolution. But the quality depends how many minutes you choose to store on a CD: fewer minutes per CD generally means higher quality.
- ◆ **DVD** stands for Digital Versatile (or Video) Disc. DVDR stands for DVD Recordable and DVDRW for DVD ReWriteable. A single layer (DVD-5) DVD stores up to two hours of very good quality DVD-Video, including several audio tracks in formats like stereo, Dolby Digital, or DTS plus advanced menu systems, subtitles and still pictures that can be played by standalone DVD Players and computer DVD-ROMs. DVD-R/W and DVD+R/W support single-sided 4.7GB DVDs (called DVD-5) and double-sided 9.4GB DVDs (called DVD-10).

**File Comparison**

	VCD	SVCD	DVD
<b>Resolution</b>	352x240 352x288	480x480 480x576	720x480 720x576
<b>Video compression</b>	MPEG-1	MPEG-2	MPEG-2
<b>Video bitrate (kbit/s)</b>	1150	1500-2500	3000-8000
<b>Audio compression</b>	MPEG1	MPEG1	MPEG1, MPEG2, AC3, DTS, PCM
<b>Audio bitrate (kbit/s)</b>	192-448	128-384	192-448

**Television Standards**

Different countries use different television broadcast standards. The United States, Japan, and a few other countries use the **NTSC** standard; the rest of the world uses **PAL** (or **SECAM**, which is similar to PAL). NTSC video uses 525 scan lines at 29.97 frames (59.94 fields) per second; PAL video uses 625 scan lines at 25 frames (50 fields) per second.

Most NTSC set-top DVD players cannot play PAL-format discs, whereas most PAL DVD players and all software players can play both formats. DVD, VCD, and SVCD discs can contain video of either NTSC or PAL standard, but not both.

When you install DVDPlus, it uses your Windows country code to decide whether you are in an NTSC or PAL country. It will create discs in that format unless you specify the other, as described in Chapter 1.

- ◆ NTSC is used in the following territories:  
 Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, Bolivia, Brazil, British Indian Ocean Territory, Canada, Cayman Islands, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Greenland\*, Grenada, Guam, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Japan, Korea (South), Laos, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Micronesia, Myanmar (Burma), Netherlands Antilles, Nicaragua, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau (Belau), Panama, Peru, Philippines, Puerto Rico, Samoa (American), St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Taiwan, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands, United States, Venezuela, Virgin Islands (American and British).

- ◆ PAL is used in the following territories:  
Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia, Botswana, Brunei, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, China, People's Republic of, Comoros, Congo, Democratic Republic of (formerly Zaire), Congo, Republic of, Cook Islands, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, East Timor, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Falkland Islands (Malvinas), Faroe Islands, Fiji, Finland, France, France (Metropolitan), Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Gibraltar, Greece, Greenland\*, Guadeloupe, Guiana (French), Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Hong Kong, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast (Côte d'Ivoire), Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Korea (North), Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Macau, Macedonia, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Martinique, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mayotte, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montserrat, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands (Holland), New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Niue, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Pitcairn Island, Poland, Polynesia (French), Portugal, Qatar, Réunion, Romania, Russia, Rwanda, Samoa (Western), San Marino, São Tomé and Príncipe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, St. Helena, St. Pierre and Miquelon, Sudan, Svalbard (Spitzbergen), Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Tokelau, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Vietnam, Wallis and Futuna Islands, Western Sahara, Yemen, Yugoslavia (Serbia, Montenegro, Kosovo), Zambia, Zimbabwe.