

ArcSoft DVD SlideShow™

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	2
ADDING CONTENT	3
CREATING A SLIDE SHOW	4
DESIGNING MENUS	7
"PAN & ZOOM"	9
EDITING PHOTOS	10
TRIMMING VIDEOS	11
PRODUCING YOUR MOVIE	12
PROGRAM OPTIONS	13
FAQ	14

INTRODUCTION

Now anyone can make their own fully customized movies on DVD (or VCD). *DVD SlideShow* offers you lots of cool options and a fun interface to make your movie-making experience smooth and enjoyable. In no time you'll be showing off your unique presentations to friends, family, coworkers, business associates, etc. You don't need any experience in DVD authoring or video editing. Whether for work or for home, *DVD SlideShow* helps you get it done.

Don't forget to utilize the built-in Help file. It covers the functionality of every button and screen.

OVERVIEW

You're probably already very familiar with commercial DVDs that you rent from a local or online video store. You can pop them into your player and jump to various scenes or "chapters" on the disc. There are sometimes multiple menu pages depending on how the DVDs are designed, but they're generally easy to navigate and you can jump to almost any spot fairly quickly.

Well, now you can make your own DVDs with your own content! Include videos, PowerPoint presentations, and customized photo slide shows (which you can create in the program). We've made it easy to combine your videos *and* photos together on DVD in a completely seamless way. With *DVD SlideShow*, you can:

- Use personal photos for menu backgrounds
- Create your own menu titles and chapter button captions
- Customize each chapter button with a creative frame
- Arrange menu text and chapter buttons any way you like
- Add your own music to your movie menus
- Import and trim existing video clips
- Assemble your own photo slide shows into individual movie chapters
- Create your own custom "Pan & Zoom" effects in your slide shows
- Include PowerPoint presentations as photo slide shows
- Share your creations on convenient DVD discs in either NTSC or PAL format

That's quite a number of things you can do! But don't worry, that doesn't mean that things are difficult. In fact, the program is separated into only three main screens! The first screen lets you add your content. The second lets you customize the appearance of the menu. The third lets you burn your movie to disc.

ADDING CONTENT

First thing's first: Let's add some content to your project! After all, you can't really do much else until you have all the photos and videos that you'd like to include on your DVD, right? Okay, so when you start out, you can do all of the following:

- Insert a previously saved video
- Insert an existing slide show
- Insert a PowerPoint file (each slide will be converted to a still image)
- Create a new slide show

Take a look at the main screen. The bulk is taken up by a blank movie menu. You'll add content, with each component inserted into the menu as a separate chapter. Don't worry too much about how your menu looks just yet. The first step focuses exclusively on adding content. You can completely customize the look and feel of your menu(s) later.

INSERTING A VIDEO

You have your cool DV camcorder. You've recorded some cool video. You've transferred it to your computer. And now you want to play it on your DVD player. Well, adding video clips to a *DVD SlideShow* project is as basic as it gets.

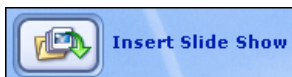
To add video clips to your project:



1. Click "Insert Video."
2. Navigate to the folder that contains the videos you want to add.
3. Select the file you want to add. Hold down the CTRL key while clicking to select multiple files.
4. Click "Open." Your files will be added to your project.

INSERTING AN EXISTING SLIDE SHOW

You can create photo slide shows that are added as individual chapters in your movie. Whenever you create a slide show, you can save it to your computer for use later (you aren't limited to creating a slide show for use in only one movie).



To insert a previously saved slide show into your project, you basically follow the same procedure as adding a video, except instead of clicking "Insert Video," you click "Insert Slide Show."

Then, search for the slide show file you want to add, and double-click it (or highlight it and click "Open"). (See the chapter "Creating A Slide Show" for details on making a slide show.)

INSERTING A POWERPOINT FILE

Add PowerPoint files in the same way that you add video clips and previously saved slide show files. Each slide in the presentation will be converted to a standard image file, and the whole thing can be edited just like slide shows that you create within the program.



To insert a PowerPoint file, click "Insert PowerPoint," then browse for and select the file on your system.

CREATING A SLIDE SHOW

Slide shows offer a great way to present photos in a fun, flashy way. When assembling a slide show, you have lots of creative options. You can arrange photos any way you want, attach audio files to each slide, rotate and edit photos, and even create your own "Pan & Zoom" effects. In other words, you don't need to prep photos before adding them into a slide show. You can do it all here. Steps/options include:

- Adding Photos
- Arranging Photos
- Rotating Photos
- Inserting Blank Slides
- Attaching Audio
- Editing Photos
- Adding "Pan & Zoom" Effects
- Setting The Chapter Button Thumbnail
- Including Transitions
- Creating A Soundtrack
- Setting The Duration
- Naming Your Slide Show
- Previewing Your Work



Slide shows will appear as separate chapters on your DVD. By double-clicking the respective chapter button thumbnail on your menu, you can edit any slide show in your project. To create a slide show, click "Create New Slide Show." The Slide Show Creator screen will appear.



ADDING PHOTOS

The first thing you'll need to do is grab the photos that you'd like to use for the slide show. You'll notice that most of the buttons are initially dimmed; they'll become available after you add some pics.


To add photos to a slide show:

1. Click "Add Photos."
2. Browse to the directory that contains the photos you want to add.
3. Hold down the CTRL key on your keyboard and click the photos you want.
4. Click "Open." Your photos will appear on the screen.

To acquire photos from a scanner or other connected device:



1. Click the "Acquire Photos" button and choose the type of device from which you'll be capturing.
2. Follow the directions for acquiring photos from your device manufacturer.

To remove a slide, highlight it and click the "Delete" button: 

ARRANGING PHOTOS

Once your photos have been added, you'll probably want to arrange the order in which they appear. Simply click and drag a photo from one location to another.



ROTATING PHOTOS

If a photo is oriented incorrectly, click it to highlight it, and then click either of the "Rotate" buttons until the photo is oriented the way you want.



INSERTING BLANK SLIDES

You may want to include plain, blank slides at various spots in your slide show. They can be used as backgrounds for adding text for introductions, breaks, credits, etc.



To add a blank slide, click the "Add Blank Slide" button. A blank slide will appear *before* the currently selected slide (of course, you're free to click and drag it to any location). To change the color of a blank slide, right-click it and choose "Background Color." You can then select from a broad color palette.

ATTACHING AUDIO

Later you'll be able to add audio files that play over your entire slide show, just like a movie soundtrack. For now, you can attach sound files to specific slides. This is ideal for narration. You can add audio commentary to each slide, and then later add music over the entire slide show.



To attach audio to a specific slide:

1. Highlight the slide.
2. Click the "Audio Annotation" button and choose either "Attach Audio" or "Record Audio." If you would like to attach an audio file, go to step 3. If you would like to record audio (for example, voice narration), skip to step 4.
3. When attaching audio, a standard Open dialog will appear. Navigate to the directory that contains the file you want, highlight the file, and click "Open."
4. Basic record and playback controls are available so you can capture narration or other audio. Click "Format" to view and edit the audio properties. When you're finished recording, click "Save."

A speaker icon will appear on the slide once you attach audio.

To detach any audio, highlight the slide, click "Audio Annotation," and choose "Detach Audio."

EDITING PHOTOS

Highlight the photo you want to modify and click "Edit Photo." (See the "Editing Photos" chapter.)

ADDING "PAN & ZOOM" EFFECTS

You can customize a "Pan & Zoom" effect for each individual slide, or have the program automatically apply effects to your entire presentation. Pan & Zoom is only available for DVD projects; see the "Pan & Zoom" chapter for more details.

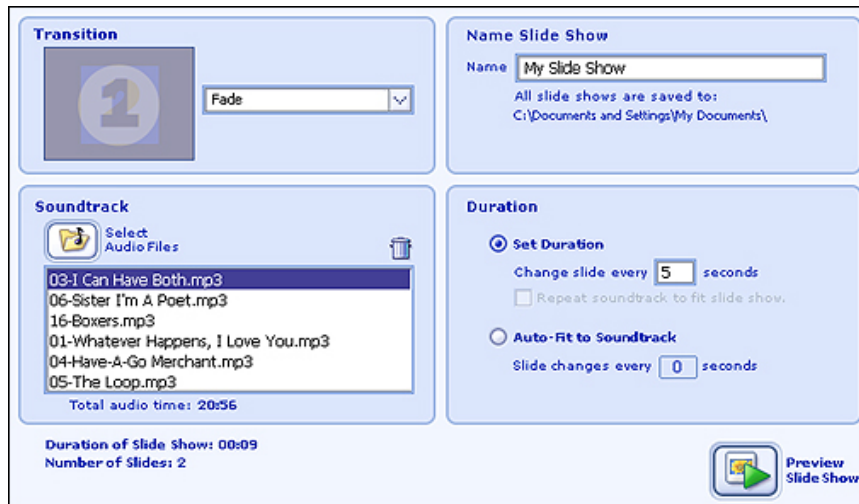


SETTING THE CHAPTER BUTTON THUMBNAIL

As you already know, your slide show will be added to your project as its own chapter. The chapter will be represented with a thumbnail image. You can set any slide as the thumbnail. To do this, simply highlight the slide you want, and then click the "Set Thumbnail" button. You will see a checkmark icon appear on the slide.



When you've completed all of the above, click "Next." You're almost finished!



INCLUDING TRANSITIONS

Instead of having your slides simply change one to another, why not include some special effects? You can have your photos fade in and out, wipe away, and more. To include transitions between each slide, simply choose the transition you want from the pull-down. (If you don't want special effects, choose "None"; if you'd like random effects, choose "All Effects.")

CREATING A SOUNDTRACK

You can include a soundtrack that consists of multiple audio files that play throughout your entire presentation. To do so, simply click "Select Audio Files" and choose the tracks you want. If you change your mind and you'd like to remove a track you've already added, simply click the track, followed by "Delete" (the trash can button).

SETTING THE DURATION

The duration of your presentation is entirely up to you. By entering a numeric value (in seconds), you set the display time for each slide. The "Repeat soundtrack..." checkbox, if checked, loops your soundtrack so that music constantly plays (assuming the presentation is longer than the combined length of the audio tracks you've added). Alternately, you can choose "Auto-Fit to Soundtrack," which sets the display time automatically to match the slide show with your soundtrack (when the last song in your soundtrack ends, the last slide ends).

NAMING YOUR SLIDE SHOW

Type in a name for your slide show. It will be saved on your computer so that you can use it later for other projects.

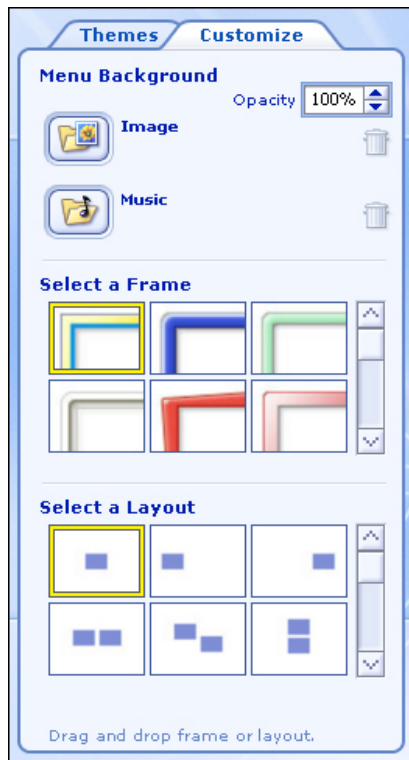
PREVIEWING YOUR WORK

Click "Preview Slide Show" to see your work in action before actually compiling it. (Remember, if you click "Finish," you can still go back at any time to edit it.)

When you're ready to go, click "Finish." The program will process all of your photos, transitions, and audio tracks and create your slide show. After, it will add it as a new chapter on your movie menu.

DESIGNING MENUS

Half the fun of making your own DVD comes from customizing the look and feel of the movie menu. Nothing's cooler than popping in a disc and hearing your favorite song play over your personalized menu background, text, and chapter buttons.



When designing your menu (make sure you click "Design" along the top of the screen), you can:

- Organize chapter buttons any way you like
- Change the menu "theme" (background, text, and chapter button frames)
- Use your own photos as backgrounds
- Customize the menu text (the title and all chapter button captions)
- Use a variety of chapter button frames
- Add music to each menu page

Note: When adding content, you may have noticed that one or more menu pages were added to your project. Use the navigation buttons (arrows along with the "home" icon [it looks like a house]) to jump from page to page. You're free to customize each and every menu page independently.

ORGANIZING CHAPTER BUTTONS

Chapter buttons jump to various clips or slide shows that you've added to your project. Your movie will play each chapter sequentially wherever you start. You can organize your chapter buttons in a variety of ways. The easiest way is to simply use a preset layout. Basically, the program contains a variety of templates that order the chapter buttons in numerous ways. If you want to be more creative, you can organize them yourself.

To use a preset layout:

1. Click the "Customize" tab.
2. Under "Select a Layout," choose the layout that best suits what you're looking for. Double-click the layout to apply it to the current menu page. Alternately, you can click and drag the layout to your menu. Note that you can apply a different layout to each different menu page in your project.

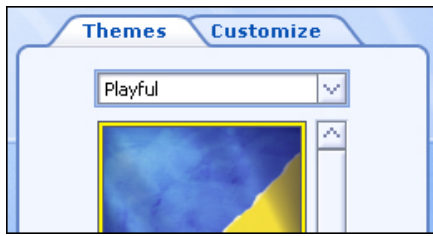
To organize your chapter buttons yourself:

Click and drag. That's it. You can move chapter buttons anywhere you want. Note that you'll probably want to keep some sense of order, since it may otherwise be difficult for people to navigate the menu.

Note: Even if you choose a preset layout, you're still free to click and drag chapter buttons around to any location.

CHANGING THE MENU "THEME"

A "theme" is simply a menu style, consisting of a particular menu background, text color, and chapter button frame. The program contains a variety of themes, and you may find using them quite advantageous over trying to match text color with a custom photo that you'd like to use for the background.



To apply a theme:

1. Click the "Themes" tab.
2. Use the pull-down to choose the appropriate category (there are multiple themes within each category).
3. Double-click the specific theme you'd like to apply to the current menu.

Note: You can apply a different theme to each menu page.

SELECTING A CUSTOM PHOTO BACKGROUND

If you'd rather not use one of the available themes, you're free to use a photo of your own as the menu background.

To do this:

1. Click the "Customize" tab.
2. Click "Image."
3. Navigate to the directory that contains the photo you'd like to use as the menu background.
4. Double-click the file. (To remove the custom background, simply click the appropriate "Delete" button.)

Note: Each menu page can have a different background.

CUSTOMIZING MENU TEXT

You're free to change any text that appears on any menu page. This includes moving text around (simply click and drag) and altering the words themselves.

To edit text:

1. Double-click the text you'd like to edit.
2. In the window that appears, type your text in the text box. You can also modify the font, size, style, alignment, and color. A drop-shadow can be added by checking the "Shadow" box.
3. Check the "Apply style and color to all text" box to update all text on the current menu page to match the font, style, and color that is currently selected.

CHANGING CHAPTER BUTTON FRAMES

Notice that each chapter button has a frame around it. If you're using a preset theme for the current menu, you'll see that all frames are the same and match the motif of the background image. However, you're free to change each frame to one that you like more. This option is particularly useful if you're using your own background and need to find a frame that more closely matches your photo.

To change a chapter button frame:

1. Click the "Customize" tab.
2. On the menu, highlight (click) the chapter button that is bordered by the frame you want to update.
3. In the "Customize" tab, double-click the new frame you'd like to use.

ADDING MUSIC

You can add a single audio file to each menu page. Each time you navigate to that particular page, the associated audio will begin playback. Playback loops after one minute.

To add audio to a menu page:

1. Navigate to the menu page you want.
2. Click the "Customize" tab.
3. Click "Music."
4. Navigate to the directory that contains the audio track you want.
5. Double-click the file. (To remove any attached audio, simply click the appropriate "Delete" button.)

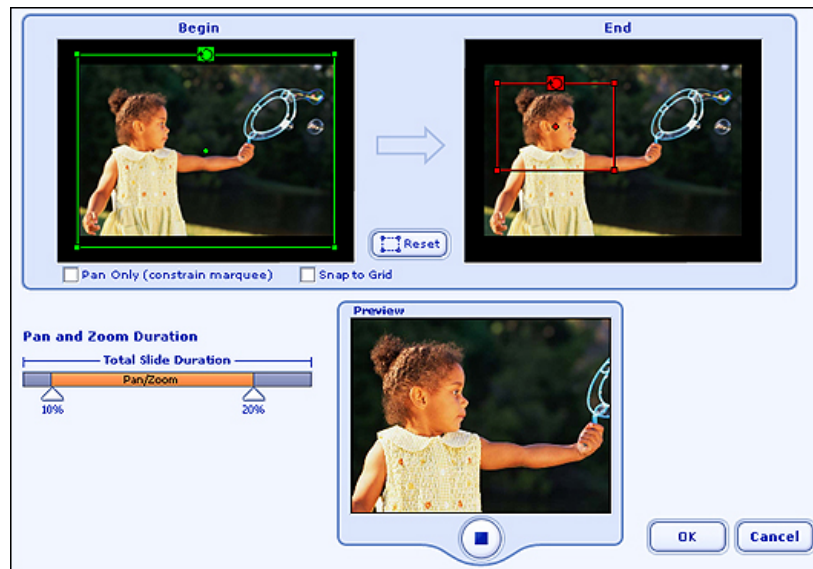
"PAN & ZOOM"

Note: "Pan & Zoom" is available for DVD projects only.

"Pan & Zoom" can be used to add some real neat effects to your slide shows. They can be used to add scrolling motion and zoom to each and every photo. You can have lots of fun with this effect because you design the movements yourself. The program can also apply random Pan & Zoom effects to every slide in your slide show automatically (check the "Auto-Pan and Zoom" box).

CUSTOM PAN & ZOOM

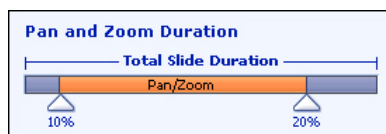
When creating a slide show, click "Custom Pan and Zoom" to create a custom Pan & Zoom effect for a specific slide. Pan & Zoom works by setting the beginning and ending focus points on a picture. When the Pan & Zoom effect runs, it simply shifts from one focus point to another.



The top portion of the screen consists of two smaller windows, "Begin" and "End." Here is where you determine the focus for the beginning and end of the slide. Notice in each window there is a box (in the "Begin" window it's green; in the "End" window it's red). These boxes set the focus of the slide and determine what is shown on the screen. The focus shifts from the "Begin" window to the "End" window. For example, if the "Begin" area is set around the entire photo and the "End" area is set around a specific spot, the resulting Pan & Zoom effect will show the entire photo, then zoom in to the selected area.

- You can modify the "Begin" and "End" boxes by clicking and dragging on various the various spots. Click and drag within a box to move it around the photo. Click and drag the rotate icon to rotate the box.
- The center points within both the "Begin" and "End" boxes represent the points around which the boxes can be revolved. For example, if you move the center point and then rotate the box, the applied effect will show the boxed area revolving around the center point.
- Check "Pan Only" to keep both the green "Begin" box and red "End" box the same size/proportion.
- Check "Snap to Grid" to make it easier to move and align the boxes. A grid will appear over the windows to serve as a guide.

Take a look at the Pan and Zoom Duration section:



There are two pointers that can be adjusted. In the sample here, the 10% indicates that for the first 10% of the slide duration, the focus will be held to the area bounded by the Begin box. After the allotted time, the Pan and Zoom effect will take place, until the remaining 20% of the slide duration is met. At that point, the focus will be held to the area bounded by the End box.

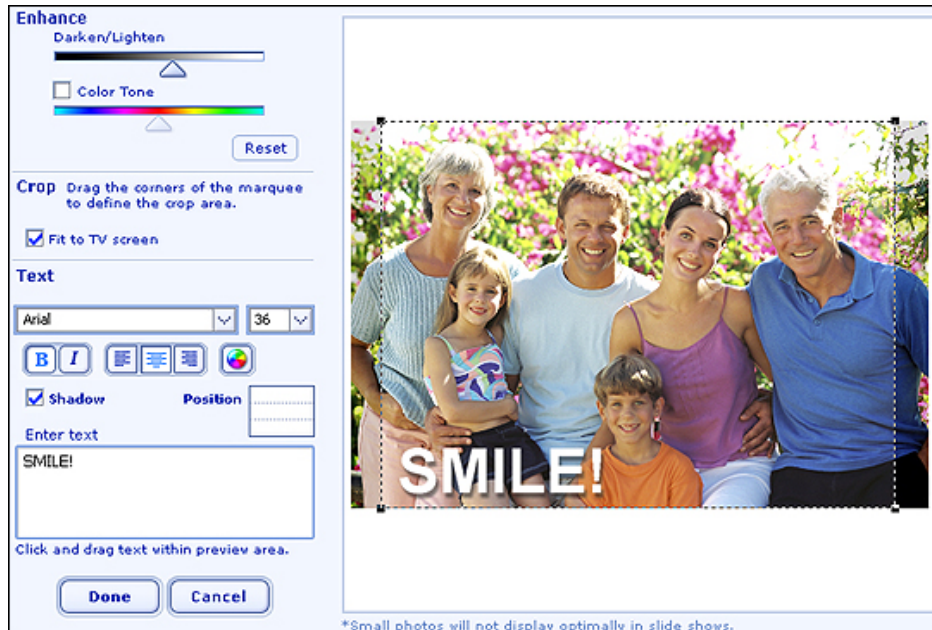
EDITING PHOTOS

When creating a slide show, you have the option of editing your photos to ensure they look perfect for your DVD. You can do all sorts of simple yet effective enhancements.

You can:

- Brighten and alter image color
- Crop
- Add Text

To edit a photo in a slide show, highlight the thumbnail you want and click "Edit Photo."



ALTERING COLOR

Enhancing a photo's color is as simple as clicking and dragging. There are two sliders: one for brightness, and another for color tone.

To brighten/darken a photo, click and drag the "Darken/Lighten" slider. You'll see the effects on your photo immediately.

To alter the color tone, check the "Color Tone" box and click and drag the slider.

CROPPING

Like brightening your photos, cropping can be done by clicking and dragging. Notice that there is a marquee around your photo. By clicking and dragging either the corners or sides, you can alter the shape of the marquee. Click and drag within the marquee to move it around. Everything outside of the marquee will be removed.

For best results, check the "Fit to TV screen" box. By doing so, the program will automatically adjust the proportion of the marquee to match that of a standard television screen. This ensures that your cropped photo will display perfectly when you play your movie.

ADDING TEXT

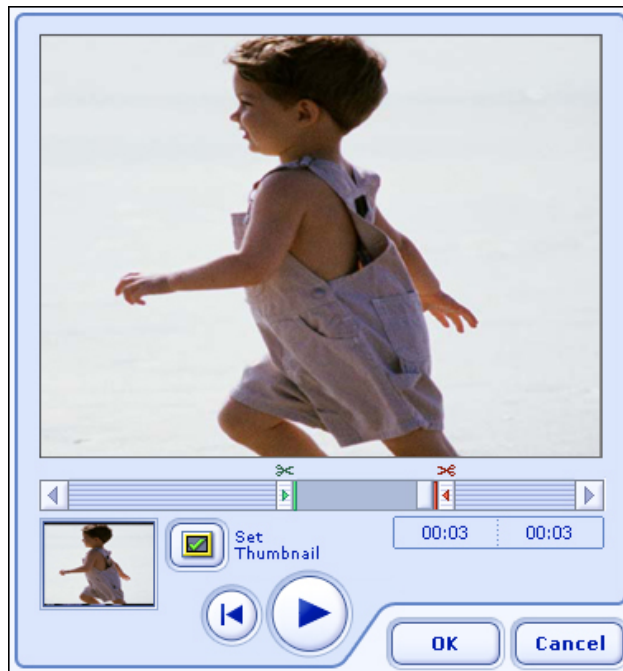
Text can be added to the top, middle, or bottom of your photo. You have full control over the font, size, style, alignment, and color. You can even add a drop shadow.

To add text:

1. Type your text in the text box.
2. Use the available buttons and pull-downs to set the text properties. By clicking the color wheel, you can choose the text color.
3. From the "Position" area, click to choose either the top, middle, or bottom.
4. Check the "Shadow" box to add a drop shadow.

TRIMMING VIDEOS

As mentioned before, you don't need to be an expert in order to not only make a DVD, but make it the way you want. If you have overly long video clips, you can quickly and easily trim them to more desirable lengths.



To trim a video:

1. Double-click the chapter button of the video you want to trim. You can do this on either the Add Media or Design screens.
2. A window will appear with basic playback controls that you can use to preview the video. Notice the timer moves across as the video plays.
3. Click and drag the green and red scissors to set new start and end points, respectively.

To change the thumbnail of the chapter button on the menu, stop the video on the frame you'd like to use, and then click "Set Thumbnail."

PRODUCING YOUR MOVIE



When you're finished adding, arranging, and customizing your movie content, go to the Produce screen (click on the big number "3" at the top of the screen). Here you can burn your DVD/VCD.

A remote control will appear on the side. The buttons will be a little different depending on the type of project you're making.

For DVDs, use the arrows to select the chapter from which you wish to begin playback, and then press "Enter." Hit "Enter" to play.

For VCDs, you can press the number that corresponds to the respective chapter button.

When you're ready to create your disc, click "Burn to DVD Disc" (or "Burn to VCD Disc"). You may be prompted to save your project before the "Write Disc" window appears:

Disc Label
OUR MOVIE

TV Standard
NTSC (U.S., Can., Japan, etc)

Write to
D:

Write Speed
Auto

Archive your original photos and audio files to the DVD/VCD disc.

- Type in a name for your disc in the "Disc Label" field.
- Choose the TV standard that you'd like to use: NTSC or PAL. If you're in the United States, choose NTSC.
- From the "Write to" pull-down, choose where you'd like to save your movie. Choose either your DVD/CD burner, or your hard drive.
 - DVD/CD burner: Choose the write speed from the pull-down. In some cases, "Auto" may be your only option.
 - Hard drive: Choose the save location.
- The bottom checkbox allows the still images used in your slide show to be burned/saved. This way, you can see the original files in addition to seeing them presented in your movie.

PROGRAM OPTIONS

You can find all of the buttons on the "Add Media" screen (Insert Slide Show, Insert Video, etc.) available under the File menu. In addition, there are also commands for starting and saving projects, closing the program, etc. Here are some important commands within the menus that you should know about:

CONVERTING PROJECTS

If you'd like to change your project from a DVD project to a VCD project--or vice versa--choose the appropriate option ("DVD" or "VCD") under "Convert Current Project To" found in the File menu.

USING MPV

If you have a PVM file that you'd like to insert into your project, choose "Insert MPV as Slide Show" from the File menu. A standard Open dialog will appear. Locate and select the file. Only photos within the PVM file will be used. You can treat these files that you import just like slide shows that you create.

SETTING THE DEFAULT TV STANDARD

Depending on your country, you may need to modify the standard by which your movie is compiled (NTSC or PAL). Go to the Options menu, choose "TV Standard," and make your selection. If you're in the United States, choose "NTSC."

CHOOSING THE BACKUP FOLDERS

Lots of temporary and backup files are written when you create and compile your project. Because your movies may be extremely large, you may find yourself running a little short on hard drive space. Or, if you have a separate drive that you use exclusively for videos and such, you may want to set these folders to ones on the other drive. Go to the Options menu and choose "Temporary Folder..." Here you can specify which folders (on any drive) you'd like to use for both backup and temporary files.

CHOOSING THE SLIDE SHOW FOLDER

When you create a slide show, separate slide show files are stored on your computer. This way, slide shows that you create in one project can be used in any other project. To change the default location where these files are stored, go to the Options menu and choose "Slide Show Folder."

TOGGLING THE STARTUP WIZARD

When you start the program, a wizard appears and helps you start your project. You can toggle this wizard on and off by choosing "Startup Wizard" from the Options menu.

FAQ

What's the "Pan & Zoom" feature all about?

"Pan & Zoom" offers you a cool new way of presenting your photos in a slide show. Instead of having plain slide shows, you can virtually animate each still image by causing the zoom and focus to shift around the photo. As a result, your slides look animated.

Can you tell me about the available transitions?

It's much better to actually see them, actually. When you create a slide show, you can choose which transition you'd like to use as one slide changes to the next. An animation shows each transition after you select it. The one transition you select will be used throughout your slide show, so make sure you really like it! There's also an option to use random transitions.

What kind of multimedia files can I add to my projects?

You can add virtually any standard image file to slide shows. For your slide show soundtracks, you can add WAV, MP3, and WMA files. Your project can also contain MPEG, M1V, M2V, MP2, AVI, DAT, MOV, and QT video files. PowerPoint (PPT) files can be inserted as well, in addition to PVM files.

What kind of video/photo editing can I do?

You can brighten, darken, and modify the overall color tone of photos in your slide shows. You can also crop them and add text to the top, middle, or bottom of any image. When you insert PVM or PPT files, you can treat them just like slide shows. You can trim video clips (either at the beginning, end, or both).

What's the "TV safe" area?

It's always a good idea to enable this option whenever possible. Because your photos and videos may have dimensions that differ from that of a standard television, using the "TV safe" area gives you a real good indication of what you'll see when you play your movie on TV. If all your text and chapter buttons can be seen within this area, all's well.

NTSC? PAL? Huh?

NTSC and PAL are two standards in television broadcast. Depending on where you are in the world, you'll likely be in a region that uses one of these. The United States and many countries in Asia use NTSC. PAL is used in several European countries.

Can I preview my slide shows/movies before burning them to disc?

You can preview both slide shows as well as your complete movie before you burn your disc. On the second slide show creation screen, there's a button called "Preview Slide Show." To view your entire movie, go to the "Produce" screen and use the virtual remote control just like you would on your actual DVD player.

Can I import PowerPoint files?

You can. From the "Add Media" screen, click "Insert PowerPoint." Then, browse for the file you want to add. Each slide in your presentation will be converted to a standard image, so your presentations can then be edited just like slide shows you create within the program.

What are "themes" exactly?

Themes are basically backgrounds that have been designed by our creative team that also include specific chapter button frame designs and text styles.

Can I use my own images as menu backgrounds?

Sure. From the "Design" screen, click on the "Customize" tab. Then, click on the "Image" button. Browse for and select the image you'd like to use for the menu background (you're free to use a different image on each menu page, by the way). If the image you select is too overpowering and drowns out the chapter buttons and text, you can lower the opacity to make it translucent, making the chapter buttons and menu title stand out a bit more. There's a field called "Opacity"; simply lower this value until you menu looks the way you want.

Can I edit DVDs that I create?

Yes you can, assuming you used rewritable media (DVD-RW/+RW). Insert the disc, and then choose "Edit ArcSoft DVD Disc." You can then edit your project.