

Preparing the Slideshow

Choice of application

We purposely chose to make up the slideshow using MS **Movie Maker**, on the basis that anyone using Windows XP will have this available, as a 'freebie'.

The source images

We obtained the 'Heartbeat' themed images to be used in the slideshow from a digital camera or snapshots grabbed from TV programmes (see the listing for details).

They all had an aspect ratio of 4:3 (including ones taken in 'portrait' mode; i.e. with the camera turned through 90°), were in a format suitable for dropping into *Movie Maker* (all JPEG) and were arranged in the desired order.

We prefer to retain slide titles but simply renamed them all by adding a preceding 01, 02, 03 and so on. (Note the leading zeros to ensure they were sorted into their correct, alpha-numerical order).

Pre-processing the images

Assuming the eventual destination would be for viewing on TV, via either a data CD or VCD/SVCD/DVD, we would normally need to go through the rigmarole of pre-processing all the images to rescale them and rotate the 'portrait' batch, as we've discussed *ad nauseam* in various places.

However, for this demo, you'll be viewing the slideshow on a computer monitor, whose display circuitry is quite different from a TV. So other than pre-rotating the portrait-format images through 90° for viewing 'right way up', no other pre-processing was required. Hurrah!

Loading the images

Once we had the source images sorted out, loading them into *Movie Maker* was simply a case of selecting them all and drag-and-dropping the batch into the Collections pane, and thence to the timeline.

We'd already configured *Movie Maker* to display each image for 12 secs, with a transition duration of 2 secs, so *Movie Maker* made up the 'slideshow' to these parameters, automatically, and in a matter of seconds.

Finally we inserted a blank (black), 5-second leader before the opening slide.

Transitions

Cross-fades etc need to be added manually in *Movie Maker* but this simply entailed selecting the Transitions repertoire and Show Storyboard, and drag-and-dropping the choice of transition into the empty box between each pair of slides.

For this demo, the first ten (including from the leader to the first slide to give a 'fade-in') are simple **Fade** transitions but, thereafter, we've given you a notional selection from the wide range; some rather neat – others a little naff!

Titles

As discussed in *Video to DVD*, Part 2, pp5-6, the majority of *Movie Maker*'s built-in repertoire of titles often suffer from lack of readability when superimposed over complex images, but for this demo we chose one which does quite a nice job – **News Banner**. The title fade-in/fade-out is automatic.

Video effects

The only effect we used was to add **Fade out, to black** to the final slide, to finish off the demo. In our view, this simple effect is quite elegant.

Soundtrack

The WAV file was simply dragged-and-dropped onto the Audio/Music track and dragged L–R to suit.

Saving the 'movie'

The slideshow was saved, at best resolution and in WMV format, by selecting **High Quality Video (PAL)**.

Viewing the slideshow

Double-click on the file to run the slideshow. Although you may have another favourite viewing application, we like *Windows Media Player*, primarily for its ability to run the slideshow either in a window or, rather effectively, at full-screen size (toggle <alt-enter>).

However, bear in mind that this is emulating a TV so, if you view it from the normal distance, the full-screen display may appear a little coarse.

So move back a tad – and (hopefully) enjoy.

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