

PERTH VEGAS USERS GROUP

First off I'd like to thank you all for making my first meeting as coordinator as painless as it was and in fact a great treat. I hope you found it as enjoyable as I did.

I'd like to mention now before going into the details of the meeting that the two areas we are asking you to have a go at before the next meeting are: first, using track motion to manipulate stills causing them to come and go in different ways, and second, show examples of different uses/effects when changing the relationship between a parent and child.

Please have a go and bring something to show how far you got. Even if you think you stuffed up, you may have started with an approach that no one else thought of and that is how new ideas are born!

The meeting on the 12th began with solutions for our two challenge questions.

For those who forgot, the challenges were: first to have some text which a bright light slides across the face of, while the second was for text to come onto the screen in a straight line, then curve around a wheel that is rotating in the background, the text ending up in a slowly rotating circle.

Two people, besides myself, made an attempt but unfortunately they forgot to bring their work along. Please give it a go people.

Roger showed a veg file that he had downloaded from the Internet. This first file showed large text turning around a central sun object. It wasn't made clear exactly how this was done although it did seem that some of the tracks contained only a letter or two which were then made to appear wrapped into a circle. This veg file along with the others covered and an explanation on my rotating textone will be on the web site soon.

Roger also showed how he'd used a blurred second copy of text to create a shadow behind text when using scrolling titles. This looks very affective.

I showed my solutions starting with the text being highlighted by a moving torch beam. The highlighting was done by an elliptical colour gradient, which was shaped to match the size and location of the text. Track motion was used to make the beam move from right to left. By locating this track between the text track and the text background track and using yellow text with a white highlight the highlighting seems to light up the bar while still letting the text appear backlit.

My solution to the revolving text problem was more interesting and had taken a good deal more time. It also took up a lot of the meetings time but this didn't seem to bother anyone as a lot of good points were covered. An incidental point was the use of the F11 key. For those who weren't there, this key switches the control areas of the Vegas window, on and off, which allows you to see more of the tracks for editing. The complete solution and how it works is too long to give here but is covered in detail with veg files and text explanations on the web site. The most significant feature, is that you can bend not just text into any shape you want, but virtually any piece of video footage. See details and veg files at our web site - <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~perthvug>

In pursuit of our intended goal of going back to basics, Roger went over video capture. He showed that you can run the program, vidcap, on its own and went into some of the options to check when using it. He also mentioned batch capture but it seemed that no one had ever used it before and that it might be a left over from the days when HDDs were smaller, restricting the room available.

Alf started placing video on the timeline and began editing video and sound.

Unfortunately there wasn't time enough to go into editing at this meeting, but it was decided that we would start our next meeting on June 9th, on the premise that we were doing a multi-camera shoot. This would cover all of the basic editing tasks for both video and audio.

Please don't panic when you get called to help with our demos at the next meeting, as the only real way to learn is to do. Whatever your skill level both you and the rest of the group will gain from both the good and bad points of your approach to using Vegas.

Remember the next meeting is 9th June!

All the best for now,
Walter (Coordinator)