



iDVD 4

iDVD is a relatively simple application that allows you to create video DVDs from your Final Cut Pro or iMovie project. DVDs are created by linking a number of different objects together.

iDVD Objects

The types of objects you can work with in iDVD are: Images, Video, Audio, Menus, and Slide Shows.

Movie: iDVD uses QuickTime movies, or a reference movie created in iMovie or Final Cut Pro.

Audio: You can use separate audio in menus of your DVD.

Images: You can use images for slide shows or in menus.

Menus: are what enable your DVD to be interactive, and give users the ability to choose what they want to watch. They include the following components:

Menu Backgrounds: consist of images or video. Menus may also contain separate audio that plays in the background.

Menu Drop Zones: objects of any shape that are dropped on top of the background. Drop Zones can include Images and video.

Menu Buttons: the objects that enable user control of your DVD. iDVD creates a button whenever you drag a movie file onto a menu. When a user selects a button the movie associated with it will play.

Sub-Menus: a menu that you open from another menu. A sub-menu will have a button like a movie, when the user clicks on it, it will open the sub-menu. When in a sub-menu there is a back button to go back to the menu before it.

Slide shows

This is a built in feature that allows you to create slide shows within iDVD. You can add still images and arrange them, and add audio to the slide show. You could alternately create a slide show in iMovie or Final Cut Pro, and then import it into iDVD as a movie.

Preparing Your Footage: Final Cut Pro

You can drag QuickTime or Final Cut Pro movies into iDVD, but the most efficient way to prepare your footage is to make a reference file. A reference file is a small file that points to a larger piece of footage. Creating a reference file makes your job quicker and more painless. To make one, follow these steps:

1. In **Final Cut Pro 4**, you can add chapter markers that will be available in iDVD. To do this position the play head in the timeline where you want a chapter to begin. Type MM to make a marker and in the dialog box click "Make chapter Marker". Repeat at the beginning of each chapter.
2. Export your movie **File > Export > Final Cut Pro Movie**. Make sure the box that says "Make movie self-contained" is *not* checked, and go to the "Marker" pull-down and choose "chapter markers".
3. Make sure that the saving location is correct, name your file (your-movie.REF) and click OK
4. Repeat steps 1-3 for each sequence in FCP4 you want to include on your DVD. You will only be able to fit a maximum of 2 hours on the DVD.
5. Close Final Cut Pro

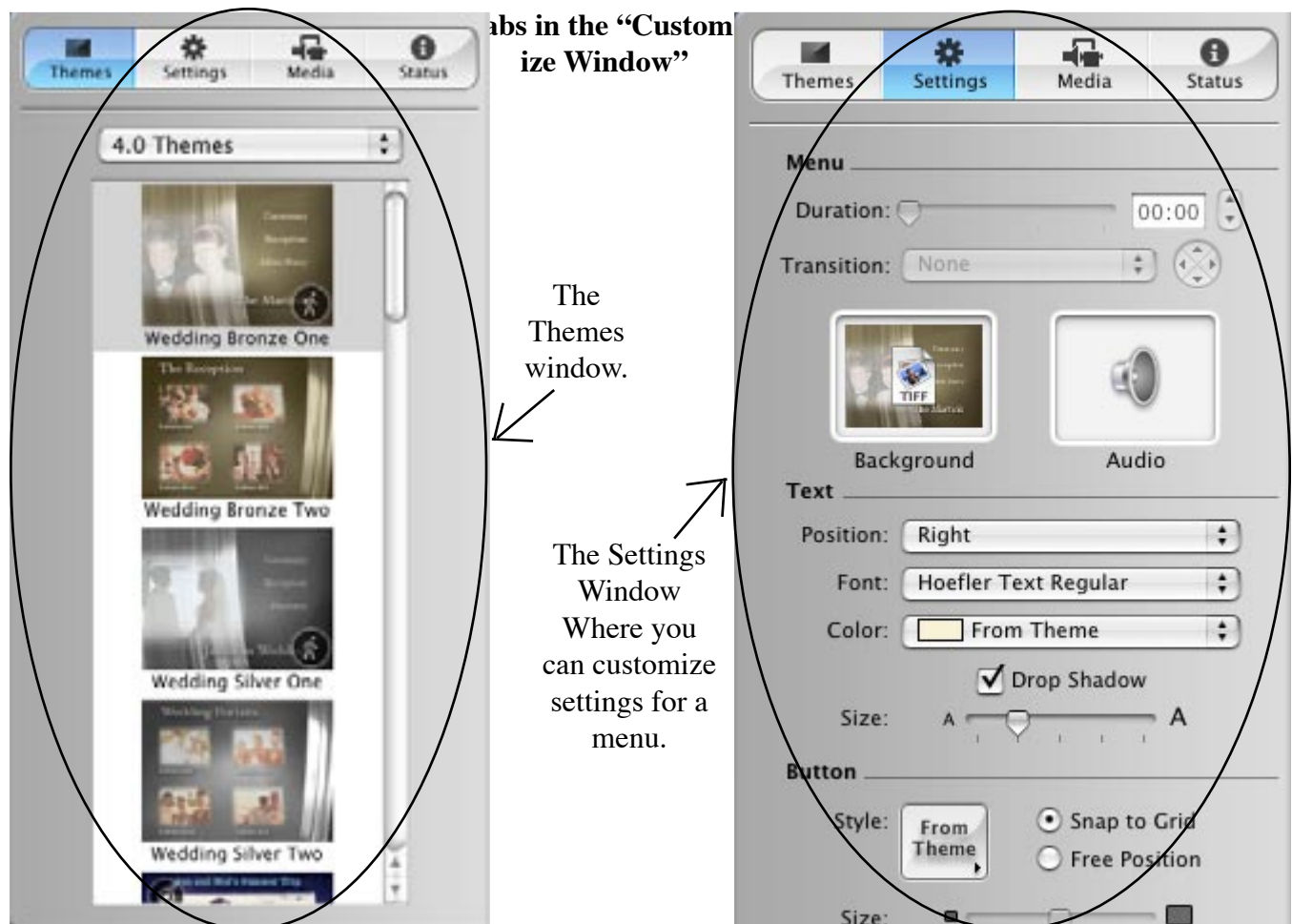
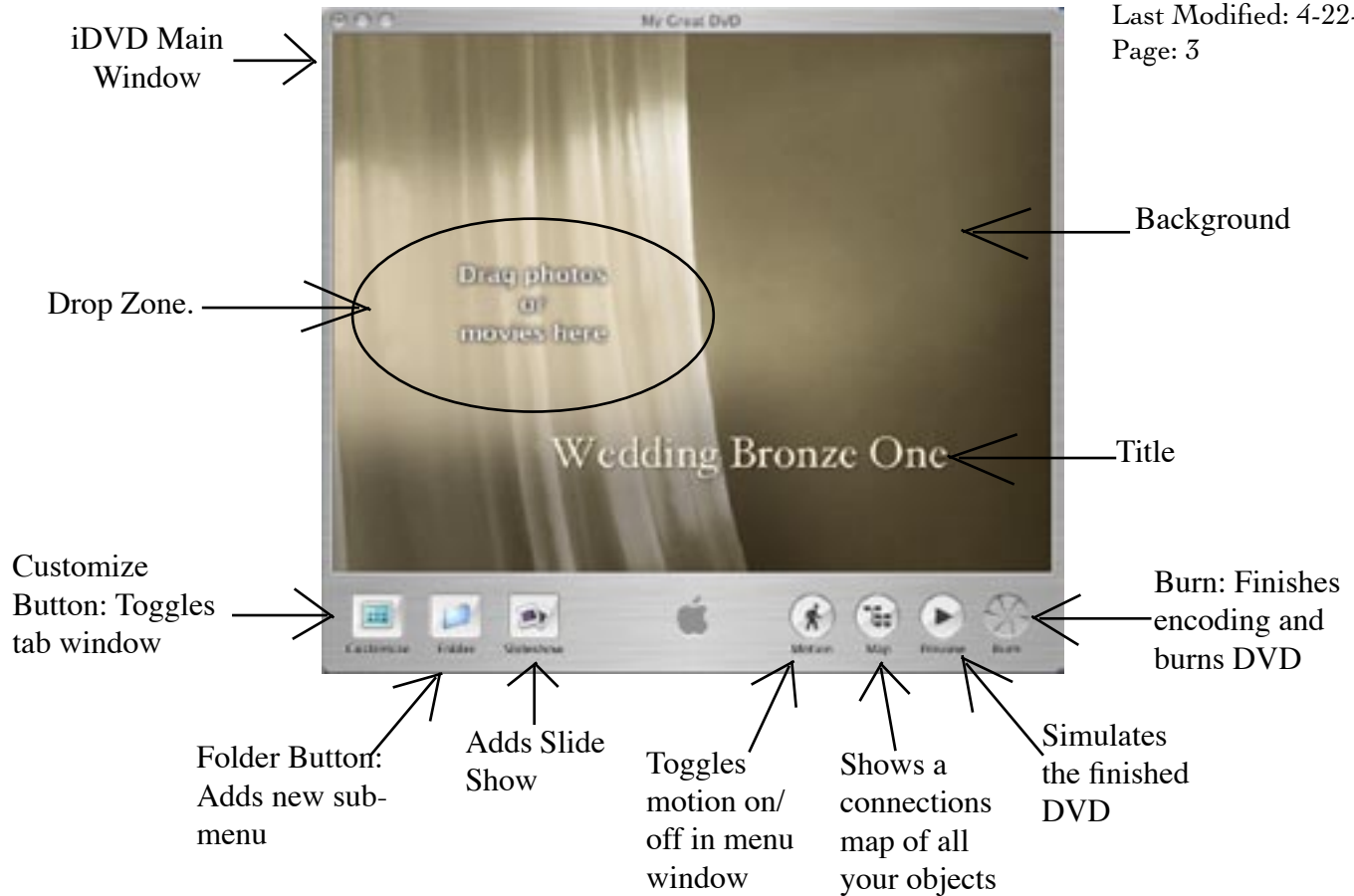
Preparing Your Footage: iMovie

You can export directly from iMovie to iDVD.

1. In **iMovie** click the iDVD button.
2. Create your chapter markers if desired.
3. Click "Create iDVD Project". This will take a few moments to open iDVD and place your movie in the main menu.

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Creating an iDVD project

1. Close all application, and then open iDVD.
2. Click create a new project and save it to your folder on the User Drive. If a project opens, close it, and open a new one **File > New Project**
3. Click the “Customize” button at the bottom of the window. Select a theme from the Theme Tab. What theme you select will determine what menu options are available to you.
4. Drag and drop an image you want to use as a background into the main window, which is your main menu. You can also import backgrounds **File > Import > Image** or choose **File > Import > Video Background** for a video background.
5. Double click the title in the main window and type your title.
6. If there is a “Drop Zone” that says “drag photos or movies here” you can do what it says, or double click it if you want it to be a slide show, etc. (If you used iMovie skip 7 & 8)
7. Open the folder on your drive that contains your reference files (your-movie.REF)
8. Drag & drop each file separately into the iDVD project window

At this point you have a few creative choices: Play with the options in the “Settings Tab”. Here you can decide whether to let the clips position themselves (snap to grid), or to place them manually (free position). You can set the background color, font size, use audio in your menu, etc.

In the project window, you can set whether the clip icons play or appear as still images in your menu. I recommend still images.

1. At the bottom of you project window, turn the motion button to OFF (Green is ON).
2. Click the movie image or text. If the check box is checked it will play the movie in the menu. If it is unchecked it will just show a still image.
3. Drag the play head until you see an image that represents that clip.
4. Now repeat these steps on the rest of your clips!

*If you drag a movie into the main window and only text appears, then you are using a text only theme. Different themes have different options.

Createing submenus.

1. Click “Folder” at the bottom of the project window
2. A generic blue folder will appear in your project. You can change this later.
3. Double click on the folder and it will take you to a brand new menu page.
4. Select a theme of your choice.
5. Drag and drop clips onto your new page just like you did for the first one
6. Repeat these steps as many times as necessary to get all your footage on there, but keep in

mind that the quality of the DVD will drop if you surpass 60 minutes, and the maximum is 120 minutes.

7. If you want to change the appearance of the folders when you're done, go back a page and you'll see that the folder now has the option to become a still image. You can choose from any of the images that you selected for footage on the following page. It is most intuitive to simply use the image of the very next clip.

iDVD Encoding/Compressing

You will notice a list of your clips in the status tab, and they have progress bars to the right of them. In order to write your media to a DVD, iDVD must encode (compress) your footage to MPEG-2. It will do this while you are working, and/or before it burns your DVD. Keep in mind that once a clip is finished encoding, it will not need to be encoded when you burn the DVD. iDVD will encode any clips that have not yet been encoded when you burn the DVD.

If you save and close your project at this point, the clips with completed blue progress bars will not have to render next time you open it.

However, if a clip is only partially rendered, iDVD will start rendering all over again that clip the next time you open the project. So if a clip is mostly rendered, it is worth waiting the extra few minutes for it to finish up before saving and quitting.



Compressing, Encoding, and MPEG-2

DV video is a high quality high bit rate format, so it takes up a lot of space. You could burn a data DVD and fit 20 minutes of DV video on it. In order to fit 1 to 2 hours of video on a video DVD it must be compressed, just as video for the web must be compressed. DVDs have a standard compression codec called MPEG-2 for the video. This is a high quality low bit rate format. Depending on what computer you are using, it will take about twice the length of your movie to encode it into MPEG-2.

DVD-R, DVD+R, Pressed, Burned-What's the difference?

So pressed, stamped, commercial, and replication all refer to DVDs that are physically imprinted with the data they contain, and are only created on larger scales.

DVDRs, Burning, and Duplication all refer to DVDs that have the data burned into them, similar to a CDR, and is what personal computers are capable of. They do not work in all DVD players. They work in many home DVD players, all Apple computers (with DVD players), and some PC computers. The compatibility is dependent on the DVD burner (Drive) you're using, the DVDR Media you're using, and the capabilities of the DVD player to play DVDRs.

DVD-R and DVD+R are two different types of recordable DVD Media (Blank Disks). Some burners support one or the other and some support both. ALL THE COMPUTERS IN THE MULTI-MEDIA LAB ONLY BURN DVD-Rs. DVD-RWs are used for data, just as CD-RW are.

1x/2x/4x DVD Media

There are different speeds that DVD-Rs can be burned. This is similar to the different speeds CDRs are capable of. On a DVD 2x is equivalent to 16x on a CDR. This depends on the Media which will say on it what speed it is rated for.

It also depends on the DVD burner you are using. The MML has both 2x and 4x DVD burners. The 2x burners will burn 2x media at 2x, but will burn 4x media at 1x. The 4x burners will burn at the rate of the media up to 4x.

Burning your DVD

1. Click the "Burn DVD" button at the bottom of your project window
2. Insert a blank DVD-R into the DVD drive on your mac.
3. Wait for it to burn *AND TO VERIFY!*

If your clips have not been encoded during the time it took you to create the DVD, iDVD will encode them now. This could take several hours. Make sure you have the time you need scheduled on the computer you are on. As a rough estimate for how long it will take, use 3 times your project length.

Making Additional Copies of Your DVD Using Toast

If you want to make additional copies of your DVD at a later date, you can use Toast to copy your DVD.

1. Close all other applications.
2. Open Toast Titanium.
3. Click on the "copy" tab.
4. Click "Record" and wait for it to copy the DVD.
5. When prompted remove your original DVD, and insert your blank DVD-R in the CD/DVD drive.
6. Check buffer under run if it is an option, and click burn disk.
6. Wait for it to record and verify.