



NVM wishes all its members and guests a Merry Christmas and a Wonderful New Year



## December 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9			
13	14		16			
			23	24	25	26
			30	31		

**8th December 7.30pm  
Tuesday Committee Meeting  
With Kathy Prior**

**2nd December 7.30pm  
Wednesday Club Meeting  
'Christmas Party'  
Fancy Dress**

## January 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13			16
17	18		20			23
			27			30

**12th January 7.30pm Tuesday  
Committee Meeting  
With Ken Ross**

**6th January 7.30pm  
Wednesday Club Meeting  
"Show and Tell"**

### 2009 COMPETITIONS & FUNCTIONS

<b>December 2009</b>	Christmas Party (Fancy Dress)
<b>January 2010</b>	Show and Tell plus Non competition videos
<b>February 2010</b>	One Minute Competition plus Club Auction
<b>March 2010</b>	Novice Competition

# From the Presidents Desk



**H**ey, it's almost time for the big guy in the red suit to scurry his way down the chimney with toys for all the girls and boys around the world. We video producers have a very unique list of toys WE'D like this Christmas too Santa so PLEASE don't forget us so we can make Great HD Movies in the future. I am sure ALL of our NVM Members have been good girls and boys this year and deserve something off their wish list.

**IOTAS** Update. A 4 camera shoot took place last month and it has been edited to their satisfaction. Thanks to filming of Graham, Mark, Mike and myself I was able to edit this project within a reasonable time and not too many dramas. Through our volunteered efforts we have earned the club \$1000. This money will go into our bank account and contribute toward new equipment in the future.

**R**emember the club has equipment that Members can borrow to help with their production. Our New Rode Microphone and Mixer set-up will give your HD video project HD Sound Quality. This model Microphone is used in many TV and Cinema productions. Most smaller HD/SD cameras have a mic in socket so have a go and get some quality sound into your next project.

Along with our comprehensive library of Royalty Free Audio, Video Clips, Backgrounds and Tutorials, we have all you need to get started.

**D**ecember meeting is normally a time to show off your Christmas movies. If you have had the chance to put something together please bring it along to show. The committee thought a fancy dress theme for the night would be a great idea. Get into the spirit and wear something Christmassy.. Hat, Tie, Shirt... We will be providing a small Christmas feed for member and guests on the night.

**O**n behalf of the NVM Committee I would like to wish all members and their families a safe and wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year. If you are going on Holidays, remember to take that Video Camera and get some great footage for the New Years Comps. Please drive carefully (without camera in hand) and we hope to see you all at the next meeting in January.

Dear Santa,  
I've been a good video producer this year. I've looked far and wide, I've searched all of the websites and catalogues I could find and I've come up with a list of nice things that will help me avoid naughty video mistakes. Granted, some of them are outside of the normal dolls and bicycle budgets you normally deal with on a year to year basis, but, you see, I really, *really* want these things and if I get them, I can tell my wife *you* brought them and that I definitely didn't run down to the video supply store myself. Since I'm not sure of how much of a video expert you truly are, I'll explain my reasoning for each item. In no particular order of desirability, here's my list:

**Wayne Sexton**



# Club Photos



Col Marshall giving a demonstration of a collapsible steady cam.



Wayne Sexton pointing out the finer points of the clubs new Rode microphone.



Wayne Sexton giving us a demonstration on how the microphone is setup and can be carried on location.

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### Video Editing - The Basics ...

The members in the PC Groups range from raw beginners and up to Experts. Video Editing and computing is very much like driving a car and it's all about maintenance and navigation. You didn't learn overnight on how to drive a car and maintain it. It took practice and many long hours before you got your licence and learned how to get from 'A' to 'B'.

### Maintenance ...

As mentioned in a previous article you should have at least 2 **HDD** (Hard Disc Drives) on a **Desktop PC** (Personal Computer) and if possible the same on a **Laptop PC**. If only one **HDD** is available then it should have a minimum 2 or 3 partitions which you could configure as:

- Partition 1:** Operating System and Programs.
- Partition 2:** Data Storage and Downloads, etc.
- Partition 3:** Video Editing projects and files.

Regular **defragging** of your **HDD** is essential to maintaining smooth operation and faster loading and saving of programs and data and Video Editing.

### Program Installation:

Install all programs on drive 'C' only providing it has your operating system on it. Install only the programs that you're going to use and Un-Install the programs that you do not use and do not need.

### Video Editing Programs:

In the top 2 PC Groups, the most used Video Editing programs in popularity are:

**Sony Vegas Pro, Cyberlink PowerDirector, Adobe Premiere and Canopus Edius.** For the rest of the article Sony Products will be featured. **Sony Vegas Pro** being top of the line Video Editing program which means it has a lot more functions and it would be harder to learn than bottom of the line Video Editing programs like **Microsoft's Movie Maker** which is a good starter for beginners to learn Video Editing.

### F1 (Function Key 1 - Help) ...

Practically all programs including Windows have a **Help** function built in and it can be accessed by pressing the **F1 Key** or going to the **Help** option on the **Menu Bar** and it should be your first option including perusing the manual. Quite often your questions can be answered there.

### Training Videos and Manuals ...

If you're using **Sony Vegas Pro** or other **Sony** products then help is at hand in the way of Commercial **Training DVDs** and **Free Training Videos** plus **PDF Manuals** which can be used to ascertain product details before purchasing program of interest.

<http://www.sonycreativesoftware.com/training>  
<http://www.sonycreativesoftware.com/download/manuals>

You can purchase the **Training DVDs** on line, download the **Manuals** and **Free Training Videos** (\*.wmf format) at the sites shown above. Most available **Sony Products** are catered for which include:

**ACID Pro, ACID Pro Looping Basics, ACID Pro MIDI Basics, Cinescore, Media Manager for PSP®, Sound Forge, Vegas Movie Studio, Vegas Pro Basics, Vegas Pro Training Series and Vegas Pro XDCAM Training.**

The **Training Videos** can be viewed on the **PC** or converted to a **DVD** with **Titles** and **Menus** using **Vegas Pro** and is a good exercise in learning **Vegas Pro** as it is a simple and basic project.

### Sony Vegas Pro 9 Training Series (399 MB):

- 01: Intro to Vegas Pro 9 - 12:41**
- 02: Cropping an Image - 9:04**
- 03: Customizing Keyboard Shortcuts - 10:36**
- 04: Experimenting with Undersample Rate - 6:36**
- 05: Multi-camera Editing Tools - 10:20**
- 06: Trimmer As Source Window - 10:41**
- 07: Working with HDV in Vegas Pro - 17:19**
- 08: Working with Track Motion - 10:11**
- 09: Working with 3D Track Motion - 7:53**
- 10: XDCAM EX Workflow - 10:15**
- 11 Digital Signage Tools - 8:43**
- 12 ProType Title Basics - 10:27**

**Total Time: 1:43:46 (1 Hour, 43 Mins & 46 Secs).**

This series is only one of 10. With **Vegas Pro Basics Tutorial, Vegas Pro Training Series**, relevant **Manuals** and built in **Help** file it shouldn't take too long to learn and use **Sony Vegas Pro**.

The same procedure could be applied for other **Sony** applications. This is how most of the experts learned by using the built **Help** file, **Manual** and **Training Videos** and putting in the time and effort on a regular basis and persevering and not afraid in asking for help from each other when they got stuck.



# Audio For Video: How To Mix Stereo

by Wayne Sexton

How to mix in extra sounds in your videos. Audio for video isn't just dialog and music. Sometimes we enhance the production with sound effects and other noises.

You could just plop effects dead centre in the mix, but what fun is that? Your video and audio editing software packages have tools to spread the sound around, placing it in convincing locations across the soundstage. Some tools are simple, while others require some practice and patience, but in the end, your projects will sound better. This translates into happy clients, more work and another nice piece for your demo reel.

## **Between the Speakers**

It's true that surround sound is where everything is headed. But until everyone plays video on surround-equipped systems, there is still a place for a nice stereo mix. Creating that mix requires several elements: voice, music and sound effects. For a good example, find your favorite television drama and play an episode on a system with a headphone jack. Plug in the headphones, sit back and listen closely. In most productions, the dialog is placed firmly in the center - with a few exceptions. This anchors the actors' vocals and draws your attention to what's being said. Music is spread across the soundstage, just like any stereo music you listen to on your car stereo or MP3 player. Instruments live in specific locations and larger items - like drums or keyboards - fill the entire sonic image, almost like you're sitting in front of them. Sound effects are where the fun happens. Helicopters fly across the screen, bullets whiz back and forth in a firefight and people walk from here to there, seamlessly. Or is it?

You see, in most television dramas and motion pictures, the sound you hear is almost all constructed in post production. In fact, it's likely that very little of what you hear was actually recorded during the shoot. Actors often replace much of their dialog in the studio, and sound effects libraries stand in for the real thing. Why? Simply because it's easier to control. In the real world of production, a fully "natural" soundtrack requires microphones on everyone and everything, with some poor soul tucked in a corner mixing everything as it happens. If you think about it, that's not really very natural after all. So, rather than go to all that trouble, producers replace and enhance sounds in post. But that's where the fun starts.

## **Mix Your Own**

If you start thinking like a movie producer, you can use these same techniques in your productions. We'll discuss some of the other elements in future issues, but for now, let's concentrate on the stereo mix. Every stereo mixer - whether hardware or software - has a dedicated knob or slider for stereo placement, called the pan control. The pan control affects only the left/right placement of your sounds and doesn't mess with volume. In a typical NLE, simply drop your sound effect on a track and move the pan control to put the sound where you want it. This works great for one-shot sounds like slamming car doors, telephone rings and crying babies. Listen to the stereo mix and adjust the timing, volume and pan for the most realistic sound. For the next effect, drop it on another track and repeat the process. This eats up a lot of tracks, but you have complete control over each item. Plus, you can mute, solo and export individual tracks should you choose to create a surround mix in the future.

This form of stereo mixing is fairly straightforward. Of course, scores of professional audio mixers have spent entire careers perfecting their art, so don't get frustrated if your first efforts need a do-over. Mixing stereo tracks takes practice and repetition, so use this technique as often as possible. Each time will get easier, and your results will come quicker. Monitor the mix with speakers and headphones and, unless that's your goal, keep the drastic adjustments to a minimum.



# Audio For Video: How To Mix Stereo Continued....

## Keyframes Are Your Friend



Not all sound effects are one-shots. Some need time to develop on screen. For example, a car approaches, then drives past the camera. In stereo, this means your sound effect needs to start primarily in one channel and move to the other channel over time - matching the movement on the screen. For this, you need keyframes. In video terms, keyframes are simply markers you set on a clip, identifying certain events over the length of the clip. Every NLE and DAW does this differently, and you'll have to get familiar with your software. Fortunately, most applications have similar approaches. Premiere Pro has a couple of unique ways to control the pan of sounds in your project. First, enable Show

Keyframes for the audio track you want to control, and then tell the track to display the Track Panner. Move the timeline cursor to the first point you want to change, and set a keyframe there. Set more keyframes throughout the track as needed. Now you can slide the keyframe marker up or down on the track to create a channel pan to the left or right. If you right-click on the marker, you will see options for the type of transition. Linear transitions are straight moves from one position to the next. Bezier transitions provide a softer curve and create a flow to the pan. Listen to the results, and tweak your keyframes until you're happy with the results.

Another panning method is called automation. For this technique, the first step is to write-enable the audio track in the mixer. Next, play the track and move the pan knob or slider as the clip plays. The software records your movements and duplicates them on playback. Depending on how many moves you made during recording, there may be hundreds of keyframe markers on the timeline. Each is adjustable, if you need to change things. There is even a touch-up mode that allows you to correct pan automation after the first pass.

All audio editors should be familiar with stereo panning. It is a fast, simple way to create space in your projects, allowing the audio to breathe and draw the viewer into the production. It makes your sound effects more realistic and adds a professional touch to any project. Once you've mastered stereo panning in the stereo space, the next logical step is surround panning. But that's a topic for another day.

### DISCLAIMER

In regard to products, services and/or procedures which are either advertised or mentioned in this magazine, members should determine for themselves the reliability and/or suitability of these products for their own particular requirements. Newcastle Video Moviemakers inc., cannot accept responsibility for any products or service statement made herein and the opinions or comments by contributors are not necessarily the views of the club, its committee, its members or the editor.

## NEWCASTLE NATIONAL VIDEO FESTIVAL 2009 WINNERS

Place or Prize	Documentary	Name of Entrant
1st Place	Carnevale	Juan Maravillas
2nd Place	The Hexham Bridge Story	Phillip Reynolds (NVM)
	<b>Drama – Fiction</b>	
1st Place	Socceroo	Geoff Peel (NVM)
2nd Place	Demons	Nathan Daymond
3rd Place	Judgement	Ken Ross (NVM)
	<b>Drama – Comedy</b>	
1st Place	The Double Dealer	Bruce McDonald
	<b>Experimental/Animation</b>	
1st Place	Squib	Josh Garroway (NVM)
	<b>International</b>	
1st Place	Fallen Leaves	Partners
	<b>Schools</b>	
1st Place	Kingdom	Belair Public School
<b>Best Sound</b>	Demons	Nathan Daymond
<b>Camera Craft</b>	Guitar Hero	Geoff Peel (NVM)
<b>Best Editing</b>	Demons	Nathan Daymond
<b>Nova Award</b>	Squib	Josh Garroway (NVM)
<b>Ernie Potts Memorial Trophy</b>	Movie Maker of the Year	Phillip Reynolds (NVM)
<b>Best of the Festival</b>	Squib	Josh Garroway (NVM)
<b>Audience Choice Award</b>	Demons	Nathan Daymond

Note: This year we had a lot of Comedy videos, so we divided Drama into two sections, Drama — Fiction and Drama — Comedy. (NVM) means the entrant is a member of Newcastle Video Moviemakers Inc. The number of place getters and the award itself is determined and finalized by the judges and the NVM Festival committee. The judges results are posted or emailed to the entrant. The results are not allowed to be made available to other entrants.

**Fridge Magnets** **Accolades** **AWARDS & TROPHIES** **Pens** **Coffee Cups**

**Beer coolers** **Deliver all Over** **Name badges**

**Trophies** **www.maitland.bmr.com.au/accolades**

**AWARDS & TROPHIES** **Unit 5/6 Johnson St Maitland 2320**  
**mike@maitland.bmr.com.au**  
**Ph/Fax (02) 49324982**

**Patrick Gibbons**  
*(Chair of Lions Club)*

**PGJC**  
**Mourmelon**

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**"The Cassie Carers"!**

Barry and John of Digital Video Systems (DVS) are Casablanca dealers and are passionate about all things video. We don't observe standard business hours so contact us any time, 24/7.

We are happy to discuss any aspect of video with you and are not in it merely for the "dollar". If we can't answer your question "off the cuff" we will as sure as hell make every effort to find out and get back to you.

**The Casablanca II range - Solitaire, Prestige, AVIO and the Claro.**

The **Claro** is the latest system to be released and the first to be priced under \$2,000 (incl. GST). For Video Club members, DVS will be absorbing freight costs on Casablanca systems until further notice. The specifications will astound you. 120 gb hard-drive means around 7 hours of native DV quality video. 256 mb of RAM enabling the use of the largest hard drives available (commonly 300 gb at the moment). Comes loaded with the latest SmartEdit software (currently V. 4.2c) and the latest DVD authoring software (DVD Arabesk V2.3a).

Ask about the special software offer available with the Claro - packs normally retailing for around \$1,074.00 can be bundled with the Claro for an additional \$499.

Claro Pro-Pack - normally priced at \$526.00  
 Font Pack 1 and 2 - normally \$81.38 each (\$162.76)  
 Motion 3d effects - normally \$192.69  
 Title Effect Pack 1 - normally \$192.69  
 Total value \$1,074.00 (for the special price of \$499)

**Brochures are with your Librarian so please check it out. Alternatively, email or phone us for full details.**

Like a demo? Contact us and we will see what we can arrange!

Barry Hugg - telephone 02 61614512 - mob. 0417 044613 or  
 email [bhugg@netspeed.com.au](mailto:bhugg@netspeed.com.au)

John Johanson - telephone 02 62350145 - mob. 0408 350145 or  
 email [john@dvs.com.au](mailto:john@dvs.com.au)

 **Casablanca II Claro**

**CLUB MEETINGS**

**WHEN:** The first Wednesday of each month except October at 7.30pm  
**WHERE:** Wallsend Community Health Centre Meeting Room.  
 Behind Wallsend Hospital, Nash Street Wallsend.  
 (Map ref: UBD 17-L9)

**CORRESPONDENCE TO:**  
 The Secretary,  
 NEWCASTLE VIDEO MOVIE MAKERS Inc  
 PO Box 759 CHARLESTOWN NSW 2290

**Committee meetings:** These are held on the Tuesday following the club meeting each month at a committee member's home in rotation. All members are welcome to attend, however a courtesy call to the committee member concerned would be appreciated.

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