

Apple unveils Final Cut Express non-linear editor for DV format

Apple has just introduced a new nonlinear editing product based on its Final Cut Pro software and optimized for the DV format.

Final Cut Express, priced at US\$299 (CDN\$459), includes the same interface and workflow as Final Cut Pro, plus powerful video editing tools, hundreds of special effects and easy delivery to DVD, web or tape. It allows video editors to capture, manage and edit digital video, and apply transitions, filters and effects in real-time. It also features title production, composite layers, high-quality graphics and animations, and color correction tools.

A project can be exported for use in iDVD or DVD Studio Pro, saved back to tape, or exported to any QuickTime format, including MPEG-4—or it can be directly loaded into Final Cut Pro.

Final Cut Express requires Mac OS X 10.2 Jaguar, and for real-time effects at least a PowerPC G4 500 MHz single processor or 450 MHz dual processor with 384MB of RAM; a PowerBook 667 MHz is required for mobile real-time effects. See www.apple.com/canadastore to find out more.

Avid to support Panasonic AG-DVX100 24p mini-DV camera

Avid Technology has announced plans to support Panasonic's AG-DVX100 24 frames-per-second (24p) mini-DV camera in future Avid products, letting filmmakers seamlessly capture and edit high-sensitivity DV images at both standard 60-field-per-second interlace scan (NTSC) and 24p progressive scan.

Panasonic introduced the world's first mini-DV 24p camcorder last year. Avid originally came out with 24p editing in 1992 with its Avid Film ComposerD2 system. More information on Avid products is available at www.avid.com.

Veer adds rights-managed photography to its library

Canadian-based stock image company Veer has announced the addition of rights-managed photography to its library of royalty-free imagery, motion, and type with the recent announcement of an exclusive North American reseller agreement for SolusImages. Rights protection on the SolusImages collection is either by industry or total protection.



Veer's rights-managed imagery is searchable by keyword or through thematic galleries. Rights-managed pricing is calculated per image use based on such factors as placement, usage, region, and circulation. Complete information may be found at www.veer.com.

GretagMacbeth Eye-One Beamer first CMS for digital projectors



GretagMacbeth has just released the Eye-One Beamer, the first digital projector color management solution.

The Eye-One Beamer enables projected material in computer-based presentations to be matched to print output. In operation, the Eye-One is mounted onto the new holder, placed on top of the projector, and adjusted through software. An ICC profile is automatically generated and stored in the appropriate folder on a computer. Automatic calibration then adjusts the curves and stores them in the computer's video card.

The Eye-One Beamer is available in versions for both Mac OS X and Windows 2000 and XP platforms. See www.gretag-macbeth.com to get further information.

Transformation Docker and Symbols added in Designer 10

Corel is slated to deliver Designer 10, the latest version of its professional technical graphics software.

Designer's new Transformation Docker will allow users to precisely move, rotate, scale, flip, skew and project objects to iso-



metric views. Multiple objects can be combined into a single object with Convert to Ellipse and Join Curves options. Gravity Snapping automatically locates snap points so users can precisely add or modify geometry while using any tool.

Technical illustration tools have been enhanced to allow for creation and modification of technical graphics such as callouts with halos, dimensions, connector lines, line style sizes and custom line endings. To dramatically reduce the overall file size of illustrations and improve consistency, Designer 10 includes thousands of reusable, industry-standard Symbols that can be stored in files or linked over a network. CorelTrace 11, which allows users to import scanned legacy raster images, diagrams and schematics, is also bundled in.

Corel Designer 10, due in March, will sell for US\$469 (~CDN\$700). For more details, visit www.corel.com/designer10.

Discreet reduces price of combustion 2.1 to US\$995

Discreet has announced that it has dropped the price on combustion, its paint, animation and 3D compositing software, in conjunction with the release of the version 2.1 update.

Discreet combustion 2.1 for Macintosh or Windows is now available for US\$995 (~CDN\$1500). Visit www.discreet.com to learn more.



New 17-inch 1GHz PowerBook G4 includes 54Mbps AirPort Extreme

Apple has unveiled the 17-inch PowerBook G4, the world's first notebook computer with a 17-inch display.

The new PowerBook, just one inch thick and three kilograms in weight, is also the first to offer built-in AirPort Extreme 54 Mbps 802.11g wireless networking, new high-speed FireWire 800, a backlit keyboard with ambient light sensors, and built-in Bluetooth. New iSync software allows users to automatically synchronize address books and calendars between Macs and Bluetooth capable cell phones.

Other main features include:

- 17-inch 1440-by-900 pixel screen with a wide-screen 16:10 aspect ratio
 - 1GHz PowerPC G4 processor and new high-speed architecture
 - 60GB Ultra ATA/100 hard drive
 - fast NVIDIA graphics
 - two FireWire ports (400 and 800)
 - built-in 10/100/1000BASE-T
 - 1MB of level 3 cache
 - 512MB of fast DDR memory running at 333 MHz
 - a slot-loading SuperDrive for playing and burning CDs and DVDs
 - complete Apple iLife software suite.
- The aluminum alloy encased model

comes with the NVIDIA GeForce4 440 Go graphics processor and 64MB of dedi-



cated video memory capable of delivering 880 million textured pixels per second.

The new Apple 17-inch PowerBook G4 is priced at CDN\$5,299 (US\$3,499); go to www.apple.com/canadastore for more info.

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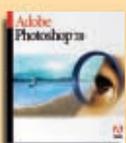
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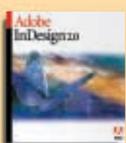
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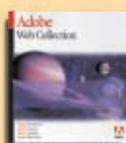
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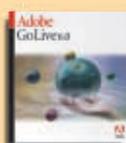
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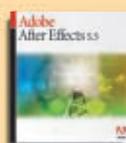
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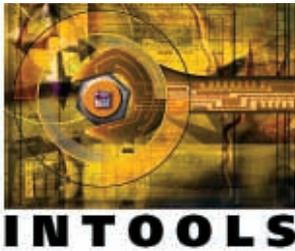
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ALAP InTools suite of InDesign plug-ins bundles six functions

ALAP (A Lowly Apprentice Production) has just released InTools, a new suite of six plug-ins for Adobe InDesign 2.0.

InTools includes InStarburst, which provides a quick method for creating and customizing completely editable star-



bursts; InPathfinder, which combines selected objects into single objects to create compound shapes, and lets you alter objects according

to the shapes of overlapping objects; InItemMarks, which provides convenient methods for making custom crop marks and registration marks for individual objects and pages; InPrint, which lets you select a portion of an InDesign page and either print or save to a disk file using one of many file formats; InNudge, which interactively adjusts the position and rotation of objects and pictures; and InModify, which provides a single dialog box for modifying all attributes of a selected object or group, including options such as size, placement, stroke, angle, and fill.

InTools is available for Mac OS 9.1 or later and Microsoft Windows 98 SE or later and requires InDesign 2.0 or later. Pricing is US\$99.99 (~CDN\$150) for a single user license. Visit <http://store.alap.com> to get full details.

Free version of Avid DV editing software to be released by Q2

Avid Technology has announced that it will be releasing a free, DV-only streamlined version of its video editing software for both Mac OS X and Windows XP before the second half of this year.

Avid Free DV will include two video tracks, four audio tracks, basic trimming and editing functionality, and up to two streams of real-time effects. For more information, visit www.avid.com/avidfreedv.

HP delivers first Mac OS X raster driver for Designjet family

Hewlett-Packard is now offering its first Mac OS X.1 and X.2 raster driver for the Designjet 10ps, HP Designjet 20ps, and HP Designjet 50ps printers.

Key enhancements include OS X support for Classic applications (such as QuarkXPress) or native applications (e.g. Adobe Photoshop). A newly added remote-proofing solution enables Designjet owners to generate remote-proofing files that include content data plus specific color profiles and print settings; these files can be printed at any location with drag-and-drop.

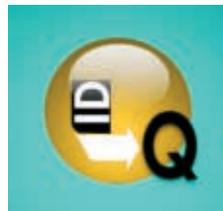
For additional information on free enhancements for the HP Designjet and downloadable Pantone tables, firmware, media profiles, ICC profiles, user's guide and other documentation, go to www.designjet.hp.com.

Markzware releases plug-in for converting InDesign to Quark

Markzware has announced the release of a new XTension called InDesign To QuarkXPress, which, as the name suggests, transforms any Adobe InDesign document into a QuarkXPress file with a single click.

The conversion process includes all elements of the document such as object positions, colors, fonts, text attributes, images, etc. ID2Q supports text runaround on all sides of an object, as well as Pantone Hexachrome colors. However, it cannot handle transparencies, outline type, drop shadows or multi-colored blends. ID2Q can be used with InDesign 1.5-2.0 to QuarkXPress 4.1-5.x and also works cross-platform, converting Windows InDesign files to XPress on Mac.

List price on InDesign to QuarkXPress is US\$199 (~CDN\$300); download a demo from www.markzware.com/id2q.



JVC announces world's first consumer high-def camcorder

According to reports, the Japanese launch of JVC's GR-HD1, the first high-definition consumer digital video camera to record and play back digital high-def images, will happen in early March. It will be announced in North America later this year.

By utilizing a newly developed 1/3 inch-type 1.18 million pixel progressive scan CCD and JVC proprietary processing, JVC's new model records and plays back 750/30p (1280x720/30p viewable) digital high-definition and 525p progressive wide images to mini DV tape. The GR-HD1 records to mini DV tapes using MPEG-2 compression, recording and playing



back digital high-definition images while maintaining conventional 525i DV standard recording times. An accessory kit sold separately includes MPEG Edit Studio Pro 1.0 LE (Windows only), the first consumer MPEG2-TS software to provide frame accurate editing capabilities. Details are available at www.jvc-victor.co.jp/english/press/2003/gr-hd1.html.

iStockPro lets photographers upload and market hi-res images

Community-based stock photography site www.iStockphoto.com has launched a new endeavor at www.iStockPro.com, with the concept of making the lucrative stock photography market more accessible to independent professional photographers. At iStockPro, royalty-free photographers have the ability to upload and sell high resolution images at any price point.

iStockPro lets photographers design their own galleries and manage their own photographs. They can add and remove work almost instantly, and view a secure account to monitor individual image views, gallery views and commissions.

256MB FujiFilm xD-Picture card for digital cameras now available

Fuji Photo Film has just introduced a 256MB version of its xD-Picture Card, a high-capacity flash memory format for digital cameras.

According to the company, under optimum conditions, the new card can store up to 444 digital images, captured at 3 megapixels and recorded at normal resolution (average file size of 590KB). The xD-Picture Card is comparable in size to a penny, measuring just 0.79" x 0.98" x 0.07" and weighing less than one-tenth of an ounce.

The xD-Picture Card also minimizes power consumption to save battery life and provides fast read/write capabilities. Capacities of 64MB and higher read at a rate of 5MB/sec and write at a speed of 3MB/sec. PCMCIA and CompactFlash adapters are also currently available, allowing the use of xD-Picture cards in a variety of cameras and other devices from multiple manufacturers.

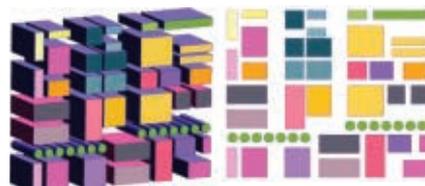
The xD-Picture Card was developed by Fujifilm and Olympus and announced last July. It is expected to reach an eventual storage limit of 8GB in a single card. FAQs and other information can be found at www.fujifilmsupport.com.

Thin-frame 20" NEC Multisync boasts 176° wide-angle view

NEC has just introduced the new MultiSync LCD2080UX 20.1-inch viewable LCD monitor, which supports resolutions up to 1600 x 1200. A thin-frame bezel measuring 16 mm on all sides reduces horizontal width by almost 70 percent, and a 25 ms response time virtually eliminates image trailing from video applications. XtraView+ wide-angle viewing technology lets multiple users see the screen from 176 degrees horizontally and vertically, 88 degrees from the center of the monitor.

NEC's MultiSync LCD2080UX sells for CDN\$2,689 (US\$1,599). For additional details visit www.necmitsubishi.com.

Improved Vertigo PopArt 2 adds 3D tools to Illustrator for OS X



PopArt 2's 3D controls transform any selected path, including text, into a 3D object, complete with highlights and shadows.

Vertigo, developer of Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop plug-ins, has released its first Mac OS X product.

Vertigo's PopArt 2.0 is a plug-in that adds 3D capabilities to Adobe Illustrator. The Show 3D PopArt command opens a palette with x, y and z axis controls, extrusion depth, perspective and light source position. Full z-axis rotation, perspective control, light source location and saving and restoring settings are all new features of version 2.0. Controls are quite straightforward and settings can be previewed by using the Apply button at the bottom of the palette.

Pricing on Vertigo PopArt 2.0 is US\$69 (~CDN\$110). It is available for purchase from www.vertigo3d.com.

Parker Software releases update for free OS X viewer

Parker Software Development has released version 2.3.2 of Archer, its free multimedia viewer for OS X. This update fixes a minor viewing bug and adds three ways to change the color of window backgrounds.

Archer is a small, fast slide show player that supports audio and video as well as still images. It can run multiple players at the same time, each with their own set of images, speed setting, and size. All commands can be executed using menus and command keys, although many shortcuts are also provided.

Download Archer from www.parkersoftware.com.

Virtix releases 30 plug-ins for Adobe AfterEffects

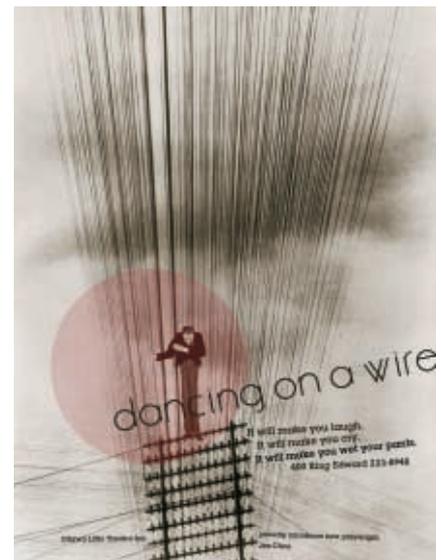
Virtix has just released a package called Virtix Effects for Final Cut Pro and AfterEffects, an update of the Virtix Effects for Final Cut Pro package which was not previously AfterEffects-compatible. Virtix Effects contains 30 special effects in total.

Customers who purchased the original version can update to this new Adobe AfterEffects-compatible version for free by going to www.virtix.com/support. Virtix Effects is available via download from www.virtix.com for US\$125 (~CDN\$195).

Xerox Graphic Design Services launches Creative Print Awards

In December 2002, Xerox National Graphic Design Services, one of Canada's largest providers of graphic design services, held its own internal design competition. Winners of the inaugural annual Xerox Creative Print Awards were chosen from work submitted by over 75 designers employed by the company across Canada.

This year's cash prizes (in two divisions), provided by the Xerox Supplies Business Group, went to designers Jen Chou (for "Dancing on a Wire", below), Juliana Kolesova, and Brandon O'Connor and Henry Lok (tie); and to Juliana Kolesova, Dave Brown and Holly McKay.



The Shadow Knows



Rumours are swirling about Adobe's massive launch of upgrades this year -- Photoshop 8 in Q4, InDesign 3 likely by September, Acrobat 6 and AfterEffects 6 sometime in Q3 -- all reportedly for OS X only. Only Illustrator 11, also set for release later this year, may still retain OS 9 support...New features in Photoshop 8 will apparently include "filter layers", similar to AfterEffects' adjustment layers, as well as NTSC, PAL and HD previews for the video crowd, a Histogram palette, nested layer sets, better 16-bit support, and text on a path... Meanwhile, leaks out of Denver say that QuarkXPress 6 for OS X may surface by June or July, and that the final new feature list will include multiple undos (as many as 30), undos for some previously irreversible actions, full resolution image previews, improved table creation tools, multiple layout spaces for simultaneous creation of print and web pages, and a major overhaul of printing functionality, including more control over printing layers, PostScript 3 smooth shading support, and an "As Is" color option...A University of Texas report says that for the first time, scientists have been able to demonstrate how the brain perceives color, through experiments on "thin stripe" cells in the brains of macaque monkeys...Did you know that the record-breaking SQL Slammer worm that brought down most of the Internet in just ten minutes on January 24th was only 376 bytes of code?...And it's official: Steve Jobs is NOT running for President of the United States -- a website set up in late January to launch a grassroots campaign to draft Jobs for the 2004 Democratic nomination got 10,000 hits in ten minutes before it crashed, but Jobs himself killed the idea almost as soon as it took off, citing family and business obligations (not to mention a hefty cut in pay)...

Faster Power Macs and optical drives, 180GB drive option, new 20" Cinema Display and lower prices

Apple has just introduced a new member to its Power Mac lineup and the fastest Mac ever, the dual 1.42GHz PowerPC G4. The new product adds a new high-speed FireWire 800 port in addition to two FireWire 400 ports and four USB 1.1 ports.

The Power Mac G4 line, which also includes single 1GHz and dual 1.25GHz G4 models, offers four expansion slots and two external drive bays for optical drives plus a new 180GB drive option. Apple says that its new SuperDrive (DVD-R/CD-RW) optical drive for burning and playing DVDs and CDs, standard on the top configuration, now lets customers record DVDs, CD-R and CD-RW discs up to twice as fast as before. As well, a new faster Combo (DVD-ROM/CD-RW) optical drive for watching DVDs and burning CDs lets customers record CD-R discs twice as fast. The new line also features FireWire 800 and has internal support for 54Mbps AirPort Extreme and Bluetooth wireless networking.



The dual 1.42 GHz Power Mac G4 lists for CDN\$4,299, while the dual 1.25GHz and single 1GHz versions are available at CDN\$3,199 and CDN\$2,399 respectively.



In addition, Apple unveiled the new 20-inch 1680x1050 wide-format Apple Cinema Display at a price of CDN\$2,049, while lowering prices on the 23-inch Cinema HD Display to CDN\$3,199 and the 17-inch Studio Display to CDN\$1,099.

Visit www.apple.com to get full details.

Sophisticated Photoshop auto-correction for image color, contrast and exposure at under US\$50

ColorWasher, a Windows-only Photoshop plug-in (Macintosh version currently in development) for correcting colors, contrast and exposure in photos has just been released.

Developed by German-based The Plug-in Site, ColorWasher contains six "Cast Types" for reconstructing lost colors and details. It has four different automatic color correction methods as well as a semi-automatic sample area feature which lets the user select a white or gray image area for correcting the color cast.

Twelve different Split View modes let users perform visual corrections; manual controls include source and target color boxes for five different color models, a color picker, a color dialog and a lightness balance button. ColorWasher also features Auto Contrast and Exposure Fix and a Cloak mode for batch processing.

ColorWasher sells for US\$49.95 (~CDN\$75). A demo version can be downloaded from www.thepluginsite.com.