

Examples for Personal AVI Editor

All references to the Motorsports Action! CD-ROM in this document, is a reference to the CD-ROM that is a part of the registered version of Personal AVI Editor/Motorsports Action!

This document describes the example files included with Personal AVI Editor. The purpose of the examples is to teach you the basics of Personal AVI Editor. Try to create the projects from the description and watch the results.

If you just want to see the projects, you can load a finished version of every project from the directory where you installed Personal AVI Editor (the files are named example1.pae, example2.pae, example3.pae, and example4.pae). The resulting AVI files from the projects are stored in the directory **examples** on the Motorsports Action! CD-ROM (example1.avi, example2.avi, example3.avi, and example4.avi).

Example 1 - Creating a simple project.

This example demonstrates how to create a new project, and how to add files to the project.

For the first example we use just two files - a BMP file (still image) and a WAV file (sound). The resulting AVI file simply shows the picture while playing the sound. Here is how it was done:

- * Start Personal AVI Editor.
- * Choose "Construction window" from the "Options" menu.
 - Select "Drop file at end"
 - Check the "Always prompt for still image duration" box. (note 1)
- * Create a new project:
 - Choose "New" from the "File" menu.
- * Import the files needed for this project:
 - Choose "Import file" from the "File" menu and select the file "ex1bmp.bmp".
 - Choose "Import file" from the "File" menu and select the file "ex1sound.wav".
- * Drag the sound file "ex1sound.wav" from the project window to the audio track (the bottom track) in the construction window.
- * Drag the picture file "ex1bmp.bmp" from the project window to the video track (the top track) in the construction window.
- * Enter "10.61" (the length of the sound file) in the "Still duration" box. (note 2)
- * Choose "Project" from the "Options" menu.
 - Set the size to 120x120
 - Set the frame rate to 5 fps. (note 3)
- * Choose "Save as" from the "File" menu, and name the project "ex1.pae".
- * Choose "Make movie" from the "Project" menu and click on the "OK" button to make the movie. Be patient - this takes some time.
- * When the movie is complete choose "Yes" to see the movie.

Note 1: The "Drop file at end" setting is the common setting when creating a new project or when you are working with simple projects. Use this setting whenever you can.

Note 2: By entering the length of the sound we ensure that picture and sound both has the same length in the final AVI file. The length of the sound is displayed in the project window next to the picture.

Note 3: The purpose of lowering the frame rate is to obtain as low a data rate as possible. The reason that we don't set the frame rate to "1 fps" is that the sound then will be resized to 10 seconds and we will lose the end of the file. By using "5 fps" we only lose 0.01 second (10.61 seconds is resized to 10.6 seconds). You should always pay attention to the individual sound files before altering the frame rate, as some resizing of the sound files almost always is necessary to match the frame rate.

This example is nothing more than a sound file with a picture. Now on to moving pictures...

Example 2 - Animation and effects.

This example demonstrates how to use Personal AVI Editor to create simple animations, and how to use an effect. Further it demonstrates how to alter the length of a file in the construction window.

In this example we use the files "ex2bmp1.bmp", "ex2bmp2.bmp", "ex2bmp3.bmp", and "ex2sound.wav". The final AVI file shows a little animation and plays a little Cicada song.

- * Start Personal AVI Editor.
- * Create a new project.
- * Import the files needed for this example:
 - ex2bmp1.bmp
 - ex2bmp2.bmp
 - ex2bmp3.bmp
 - ex2sound.wav
- * Choose "Project" from the "Options" menu.
 - Set the size to 160x120
 - Set the frame rate to 15 fps. (note 1)
 - Set the compression method to "Cinepak Codec..."
- * Drag the sound file "ex2sound.wav" from the project window to the audio track in the construction window.
- * Choose "Construction window" from the "Options" menu.
 - Select "Drop file at end".
 - Un-check the "Always prompt for still image duration" box.
 - Enter "0:4" in the "Default duration for stills" field. (note 2)
- * Build the animation in the video track by dragging the picture files to the construction window.
 - First drag ex2bmp1.bmp to the construction window,
 - then ex2bmp2.bmp,
 - then ex2bmp3.bmp
 - and repeat this 4 more times.
- * If you have followed the above steps, the last file in the video track should now end at the 4 seconds mark, and the audio track ends just past the 4 seconds mark.
To make the video track and audio track the same length, we have to alter the length of the last file in the video track.
- * Select the file in the audio track by clicking on the file. The information window now displays the information for the selected file.
 - We note that the "Stop (lead out)" time is "00:00:04:01". (note 3)
- * Select the last file in the video track by clicking on the file. In the information window we can see, that this file ends at "00:00:03:14". (note 3)
- * Alter the length of the file by selecting the "Stop (lead out)" field in the information window and change the value in the field to "00:00:04:01". (note 4)
- * Finally we want to fade the sound away at the end of the AVI file. Drag the "Fade" effect from the "Plug-in modules" window and drop it at the 3 second mark in the audio track.
- * The plug-in effect displays a configuration box and suggests a "fade out" effect. Click the "OK" button to accept. (note 5)
- * Choose "Save as" from the "File" menu, and name the project "ex2.pae".
- * Choose "Make movie" from the "Project" menu and click on the "OK" button to make the movie. Be patient - this takes some time.
- * When the movie is complete choose "Yes" to see the movie.

Note 1: Normally you would choose a frame rate for an animation that matches the length of the pictures (eg. using "5 fps" and a picture duration of 1 frame instead of "15 fps" and a picture duration of 3 frames). In this example we use the setting of "15 fps" to demonstrate how to set the length of a file to match the length of the two tracks. REMARK: The size of the resulting AVI file is almost the same no matter what frame rate you use, as Personal AVI editor optimizes the size used by still images. The use of a lower frame rate does lower the request for system performance, however.

Note 2: The "Default duration for stills" field asks you to enter the duration in seconds. You can however enter the duration in frames as well - this is done using the colon (as in "0:4" which is 0 seconds and 4 frames). REMARK: When entering time in second:frames the frames are always based on the current project frame rate. If you enter "0:10" when the frame rate is "15 fps" you get 2/3 of a second. If you enter "0:10" when the frame rate is "5 fps" you get 2 seconds (10 frames = 2 seconds at 10 Frames Per Second").

Note 3: The time in the information window is shown in "h:m:s:f" format (that is hours:minutes:seconds:frames).

Note 4: You can use the mouse to set the length (the start and position as well) of a file. See the help file for a complete description (search for the term "mouse editing").

Note 5: When you use "fade out" the effect is placed at the end of the file on which you dropped the effect. When you use "fade in" the effect is placed at the start of the file. You can try to experiment with this yourself (if you lose track of a file or an effect because it becomes too small then you can use the "Select file" from the "Edit" menu to select it and then delete it).

In this example we used 3 pictures for the animation but you can use as many pictures as you want to build a cartoon or a more exciting animation.

Something you should note (and a nice feature of Personal AVI Editor) is the automatic conversion and scaling it does for you. If you check the "project window" you can see that the pictures have a size of 80x80 and the sound is sampled at 22050 Hz. In the final AVI file the pictures have been scaled to a size of 160x120 and the sound has been converted to a sample rate of 11025 Hz.

Now on to working with AVI files...

Example 3 - Using AVI files

This example demonstrates how to use just a part of an AVI file to create a new AVI file.

In this example we use the file "ex3avi.avi".

- * Start Personal AVI Editor.
- * Choose "Project" from the "Options" menu.
 - Set the size to 160x120.
 - Set the frame rate to 15 fps.
- * Create a new project.
- * Import the file needed for this example:
 - ex3avi.avi
- * Double-click the file in the project window to view the AVI-file. You'll see a short introduction (Get ready) followed by some ostriches.
In the previous example we altered the length of a file (by altering the value in the "Stop (lead-out)" field). In this example we want to get rid of the introduction.
- * Drag the "ex3avi.avi" file to the construction window. Both the pictures and the sound will be added to the construction window.
- * Select the file in the video track.
- * Move the cursor to the start of the selected file (until the cursor changes shape) and set the starting frame of the file by dragging the start of the file. Watch the information window and drag

until the field "Start (lead in)" is "00:00:01:00". When you release the mouse button the information window should read "00:00:01:00" in the start field and "00:00:03:07" in the stop field (if this is not the case the use "Undo" from the edit menu, and try again - the cursor must be very near the start of the selected file).

- * Repeat the above action for the audio track.

Both tracks now starts with a 1 second pause, followed by the "ex3avi.avi" file.

- * Select the pause in front of the file in the video track. Remove it by using "Delete" from the edit menu. Repeat this action for the audio track.

Check both tracks: The times in the information window should be "00:00:00:00" in the start field and

"00:00:02:07" in the stop field.

- * Add a "fade in" effect to the video track by dragging the "fade" effect to the construction window, releasing it at the 1 second mark and selecting "Fade in". The effect will be added to the start of the window. Select the effect and set the stop (lead-out) time to "00:00:00:10" (use the information window).

- * Add a "fade out" effect to the video track - release it just before the 2 seconds mark.

- * Add similar effects to the audio track.

- * Choose "Save as" from the "File" menu, and name the project "ex3.pae".

- * Choose "Make movie" from the "Project" menu and click on the "OK" button to make the movie. Be patient - this takes some time.

- * When the movie is complete choose "Yes" to see the movie.

Example 4 - Effects that uses two files

In this final example we look at plug-in effects that use two files.

In this example we use the files "ex4bmp1.bmp", "ex4avi1.avi", and "ex1sound.wav".

- * Start Personal AVI Editor.

- * Choose "Project" from the "Options" menu.

- * Set the size to 160x120 and the frame rate to 15 fps.

- * Choose "Construction window" from the "Options" menu.

 - Select "Drop file at end"

 - Check the "Always prompt for still image duration" box.

- * Create a new project.

- * Import the following files:

 - ex4bmp1.bmp

 - ex1sound.wav

- * Drag the "ex4bmp1.bmp" file to the video track in the construction window, and give it a duration of 2 seconds.

- * Drag the "Wipe" effect from the plug-in window, and drop it on the video track at the 1 second mark.

 - Select "0" and "OK".

- * Personal AVI Editor prompts you for the name of the second file to be used for this effect. Select the "ex4avi1.avi" file.

- * Drag the "Fade" effect from the plug-in window, and drop it on the video track at 2.5 seconds.

 - Select "Cross fade" and "OK".

- * Personal AVI Editor prompts you for the name of the second file to be used for this effect.

 - Select the "ex4avi2.avi" file.

- * Drag the "ex1sound.wav" file to the audio track, and adjust the length to match the total length of the video track.

- * Add a "Fade out" effect to the audio track at 4 seconds.

- * Choose "Save as" from the "File" menu, and name the project "ex4.pae".

- * Choose "Make movie" from the "Project" menu and click on the "OK" button to make the movie. Be patient - this takes some time.

* When the movie is complete choose "Yes" to see the movie.

Tips and tricks for Personal AVI editor

* In the examples we used a lot of BMP files (to avoid using a lot of harddisk space), but Personal AVI Editor works just as easy with AVI files.

* You can use the preview function (P_r_o_j_e_c_t menu, P_r_e_v_i_e_w) to see how the movie is progressing (very small effects will not always be played!).

* The "Mix" effect (not demonstrated in the examples) can be used to mix two audio files together.

* The "Blue-Screen" effect (not demonstrated in the examples) can be used to superimpose a picture or AVI on top of another (like the "Weather-man").

* The "Title" effect (not demonstrated in the examples) can be used to create centered or scrolling titles.

* As demonstrated in example 4, you can also use a bitmap file (BMP file) to make simple title screens. By combining the "Blue-Screen" effect with a bitmap file (or maybe even a little AVI made up of BMPs), you can create almost any type of titles imaginable.

* It is possible to stack effects (use 2 or more effects on the same time) to make interesting combination effects.

* You can use Personal AVI editor to record sound (requires a sound card) and video (requires a video grabber).

Other video products from FlickerFree Multimedia Products

MegaPlug

The MegaPlug plug-in package has more than 50 additional plug-ins for use with Personal AVI editor. More information on this product is available from <http://www.flickerfree.com> (select "Products" from the main menu).

VideoFramer

Advanced video editing made simple. More information on this product is available from <http://www.flickerfree.com> (select "Products" from the main menu).

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