

For a DVD authoring quote, we will require the following things:

1. All video footage intended for DVD.
2. Any text for video titles in menus to be created.
3. Any images for backgrounds in the menu screens.
4. Detailed timecode info for chapter split points (If needed to be inserted onto single file videos).
5. Any subtitle .SRT files or text and clear instructions where to embed subtitles across videos supplied.
6. What the disc label will need to be (name that shows on a PC for the name of the disc inserted).

Accepted file formats

.mp4 and .MOV are fine.

Dimensions of all images/video/artwork

The maximum resolution of the DVD format is 576 x 720 pixel ratio, so please aim to supply your assets in this size. If not supplied in this size it will likely cause aliasing, which is when pictures and video are forced into resolutions that do not divide equally into screen proportions, resulting in a squashed or stretched picture.

Menu structure/elements

This is up to you how you would like your menus to appear, however it is best to think of it in terms of layers or windows, with each layer having its own navigational controls. Please send us an image for each menu layer in 576 x 720 pixel ratio. If you would like us to design the menu layers for you, please send over all of the images & text you would like us to use, along with an idea for the layout (you can send over images of other DVD menu's you like to base the designs on).

An example would be a MAIN MENU with an options to PLAY MOVIE and for SCENE SELECTION. The PLAY MOVIE button will start the film from the beginning, whereas the SCENE SELECTION button would take you to a new sub-menu, with a grid of selectable scenes to jump to. This sub-menu could encompass a few pages/sub-menus if you have a large number of chapters, and include PREVIOUS and NEXT buttons to navigate through the menus, as well as a HOME button to go back to the MAIN MENU.

Menu backgrounds can feature either still images or small video loops, it really is up to you to plan out how you want the navigation and structure of your menus to be, and we will work with you to utilise the DVD functions and get what you need made to suit the individual project.

A DVD doesn't "have to" have any type of menus at all and can just "autoplay" a single video file upon insertion to a DVD player so let us know if this is the style of DVD you want us to make for you and you don't want it to be structured with menus and scene selection features etc. DVDs made this way can still have skip to the next scene and skip back features to go to specific scenes as required.

If you have any queries that haven't been covered here or reading this has generated lots of new questions for you, then don't hesitate to get in touch with us and discuss the project requirements in further detail and we would be more than happy to help you work out what it is you will need to achieve your desired results on your DVD master.

Any other considerations?

Supplying huge 1080p or 4k video is redundant, as it will have to be compressed down to the DVD format mentioned of 576x720. Compressing the video file may cause unexpected degradation of the video clarity, or make it look "blocky" and pixelated in some cases.

Secondary audio may be used and subtitles may be added if required, with an option to enable and disable the subtitles (or select between languages).

Continue to the next page

HELPFUL INFO

DVD maximum quality for video resolution is:

576p x 720 at 25/50fps for PAL – UK, Australia and Europe

480p x 720 at 30/60fps for NTSC format - USA and Japan

Any files larger than this resolution will need to be reduced to one of these resolutions as a standard part of the authoring process.

PAL and NTSC

It makes no difference whether a DVD is PAL or NTSC when played back on a computer because the computer does not look for a television signal.

It is not possible to directly convert a PAL DVD to an NTSC DVD, or vice versa.

An international DVD could be made solely in NTSC format. Nearly all DVD players in the UK are dual standard (play both PAL and NTSC) whereas in the USA and Japan the majority only play NTSC.

Most televisions in the UK can interpret both PAL and NTSC signals, which is not the case in the USA or Japan. It should be noted, however, that televisions need to be colour adjusted for the NTSC signal to get an accurate colour balance. Though one could argue that most TVs in people's homes need to be colour adjusted to get an accurate colour balance - PAL or NTSC!

Aspect Ratio

Should be 16:9 not 4:3 typically.

Encoding

The point of encoding is to compress video and audio so that it will fit onto a DVD. Essentially encoding works by removing redundant information from the video and audio signals. Video is encoded into MPEG-2, audio is generally encoded to Dolby Stereo, Dolby 5.1 Surround Sound or DTS.

It is important to know the total duration of all the video and audio elements as this will help to determine the level of compression applied and the size of DVD used.

DVD Disc Types

There are four physical types of DVD disc, each with a different data capacity:

1. DVD-5 (4.7 GB) single sided/single layer. The pressed equivalent of a standard recordable DVD – 120 Mins
2. DVD-9 (8.54 GB) single sided/dual layer. The second layer allows nearly double the amount of data to be stored – 240 Mins
3. DVD-10 (9.4 GB) double sided/single layer. Double sided discs have to be turned over to play the second side. – 2 x 120 Mins
4. DVD-18 (17.08 GB) double sided/dual layer. The largest capacity possible, twice the size of a DVD-9. – 2 x 240 Mins

Regional Coding

To ensure that entertainment companies have control over the international distribution and timing of their DVD releases, the DVD specification divides the world into eight regions:

- 1: U.S., Canada, U.S. Territories
- 2: Japan, Europe, South Africa, and Middle East (including Egypt)
- 3: Southeast Asia and East Asia (including Hong Kong)
- 4: Australia, New Zealand, Pacific Islands, Central America, Mexico, South America, and the Caribbean
- 5: Eastern Europe, Indian subcontinent, Africa, North Korea, and Mongolia
- 6: China
- 7: Reserved
- 8: Special international venues (airplanes, cruise ships, etc.)

For a regionally coded DVD disc to play, the regions of the title and DVD player must match. Region coding is only possible on pressed DVDs and not on DVD recordables. This means that all DVD recordables are "All Region" DVDs.