

Xpress-Maps

1. Introduction

This product consists of two effects and a collection of over 80 maps available in two versions.

Xpress-Maps produces easily readable maps of the most densely populated and most frequently visited regions of the world.

These maps are so designed that you can add in towns, names and boundaries as required. We have already marked the largest or most important cities with dots of varying size.

These brief instructions explain how to use the product and are rounded off with tips for optimal use and solutions to problems which may arise.

2. The effects

The effect for producing a map scene is listed in alphabetical order under the name Xpress-Maps in the Edit menu under "New". Click the "Select map" button to open the image pool from which you can select the desired map.

After selecting the map and the required options, click "OK" to return to "New" in the menu. There you enter the desired length of the map scene and confirm it by clicking "OK". The map will then be produced in this set length.

The transitional effects also include an effect named "Xpress-Maps" which functions in a different way. This involves a mask (two-color map) on which two scenes are combined - but more of that later.

Both these effects enable you to add in towns, names and boundaries as required. In each case, there is a choice of three inscriptions that can be switched on and off in all possible combinations.

For more details of how to produce new scenes and how to use transitional effects please refer to your Casablanca Handbook.

3. The Image Pool

This section explains how to use the Casablanca Image Pool to access the maps. Please refer to your Casablanca Handbook for general information on the image pool.

3.1 The Maps

All the maps are available in both a multicolored physical version and a simple two-color version (sea black, land white). The latter can be re-colored according to the user's requirements - more about that later as well.

Both versions are filed under the product "Xpress-Maps" in the Casablanca Image Pool - the multicolored versions under the classification "Images", the two-colored versions under the classification "Masks". This enables them to be used from other programs as well.

To select a map, click on the "Select map" button in the relevant mode (Transitional effect or "New" in the menu). If you first want to view the selection of maps available, switch to the product "Xpress-Maps".

Please note that, in cases where there is no sea (for example, Southern Germany or Switzerland), the normally two-colored masks are all white. They are only included in this classification in order to ensure that a complete selection is available.

3.2 Map Filing System

The maps are filed by continent. The general map of each continent is followed by the countries located in that continent, arranged in north-south order. The country maps are followed, where applicable, by maps of regions or islands belonging to that country.

The Xpress-Maps include:

Africa with Egypt and South Africa

Antarctica

Asia with China, India, Israel / Jordan, Japan / Korea

Australia with New Zealand

Europe with Iceland - Scandinavia - the Baltic - Great Britain - Ireland - Denmark - Germany with Northern Germany, Central Germany, Southern Germany, Germany North Sea Coast, Germany Baltic Coast, Germany - the Ruhr Region - Poland - the Netherlands - Belgium - France with Provence, Corsica - Austria - Switzerland - the Alps - Italy with Tuscany, Sardinia, Sicily - the Balkans - Spain with the Pyrenees - Balearic Islands with Ibiza, Majorca, Minorca - Portugal - Greece with Crete - Turkey - Cyprus - Canary Islands with Fuerteventura, Gomera, Gran Canaria, Hierro, Lanzerote, La Palma, Tenerife

North America with Alaska - Canada - USA with North-western USA, North Central USA, North-eastern USA, South-western USA, South Central USA, South-eastern USA, Florida, Hawaii - Central America - Central Mexico - the Caribbean - Cuba - Jamaica - Haiti - Puerto Rico - the Antilles

South America with Northern South America - Southern South America

3.3 Colorizing

The two-colored maps filed under "Masks" can be colorized to the user's requirements. First open the window "Select pattern" and click the option "Colorize". Then set the number of "colors" at "2". "Color no. 1" is the color of the sea areas on the map, "color no. 3" is that of the land masses.

With the two-color maps it is advisable to use the frontier lines to distinguish between the individual countries.

4. Transitional Effects - Applications

The "Xpress-Maps" transitional effect uses a two-color map as a mask to depict two scenes simultaneously.

The scene listed on the left of the storyboard is displayed on those parts of the map covered by sea (the black areas of the mask), the scene on the right on those parts covered by land (the white areas of the mask).

There are several ways of using this effect. Some of these are described below.

It is normally advisable to give both scenes the same length and to apply the effect itself over this length.

4.1 Combinations of two-colored and multicolored maps

Combinations of this kind can be useful in cases where the aim is to focus the map-reader's attention on a specific section of the map or where it is planned to use other Casablanca tools to insert texts or graphics in a monochrome section of the map.

Click on "New" in the menu to create a multi-colored and a two-colored version of the same map, switching off all options. After placing the two maps side by side on the storyboard, select the same map again in the "Xpress-Maps" transitional effect and add in the effect, which should be of the same length as the two scenes already produced.

Depending on how the maps are arranged, the land will now be multi-colored and the sea monochrome or vice-versa. You can also modify the display by changing the mode in the mask selection window from positive to negative.

You can activate the desired additions here in the transitional effect, as required. This ensures that the display corresponds in both parts of the map.

4.2 Continent with Video Sequence

Select any video sequence as the scene in the left section and then place an already produced multi-colored map (e.g. Majorca) in the right section of the storyboard. Then add in the "Xpress-Maps" transitional effect and select the same map as mask.

The land alone is then displayed in front of the video sequence. Instead of seeing water, you see your video.

N.B. Never try to insert additions when you are creating the scene, otherwise names of towns would be simply cut off over the water. Create the scene first and then use the transitional effect to insert the additions.

5. Tips, Tricks, Problems and their Solution

This section gives some useful tips and contains advice on problem-shooting.

5.1 Preview

Problem: The maps are not displayed optimally in the preview.

Solution: You only get to see final, high-quality map after you have completed the scene. Create the maps first and then assess their quality.

5.2 Color changes

Problem: The colors on the map are too loud or too pale for your taste.

Solution: First create the map with "Xpress-Maps" from the image pool, then open the map scene in the scene bin and click "Special" in the menu. Then click either "Control Image" or "Control Color" (serial effects), "Dye" (Effect package 7), "Control Image 2" or "Dye 2" (Magic Lights) and change the color shades on the map to suit your taste.

Remember that the colors red and blue tend to "fray" in the VHS video signal if they are too strong. Consequently, it is advisable to be especially cautious with the intensity of these two colors. Less can sometimes be more!

Tip: You can also use the method described above to transform or manipulate the maps. This can produce some very attractive presentations. You can use effects like "Binarizer", "Dynamic range", "Color depth", "LineArt", "Negative", "Relief", "Color to Grey" and "Out of Focus".

5.3 Too Many Towns

Problem: There are too many towns on the map for your liking.

Solution: First use "Xpress-Maps" to create the map complete with all the dots for towns - for orientation purposes. Then load them into Columbus, and mark and name the towns you want to keep as key points. Store your route in the Columbus "Archives", leave the program (without any further input) and now use "Xpress-Maps" to create the maps without the unnecessary towns. Open the new map and start up Columbus again. Now load the route stored in the "Archives" (or you can still find it directly in the program) and input the route with only those towns required or created by you.

Tip: If you want to add in additional town names, we recommend using size 55 of the "Albany AMT" font (contained in the "font pack pro"). This corresponds almost exactly to the font used on the maps.

5.4 Other Towns / Names

Problem: You would prefer to have less or other dots representing towns or other town names on the map. You can use the Columbus program to make the necessary changes.

Solution: First use "Xpress-Maps" to create the map complete with all the dots for towns - for orientation purposes. Then load them into Columbus, where you can plot an itinerary through all the towns you want to show or rename, making each of these towns a "key point".

This route is NOT a later itinerary. You use it only to change the dots representing the towns or the names of the towns.

Use the font selected by you to name the towns at each key point.

Then switch to "Global Settings" in Columbus. Here you can click "Select key object" and make any desired changes like altering the size of the town dot or deleting it completely. Then deactivate "head object" (deactivate the "Show head object" box) and "Line" (deactivate the "Draw line" box). The line will become completely transparent because it is not traced when you enter the route. Now store your "Route" in the Archives and leave Columbus (without any further input).

Now use "Xpress-Maps" to create the desired map without any dots for towns. Open the new map and start up Columbus again. Now load the route stored in the "Archives" (or you can still find it directly in the program) and input the route.

The result is a map showing the names and the dots of the towns required by you with an invisible vehicle driving along an invisible route.

The "Timing" for covering the "Route" in Columbus can be set very short. In theory, you only need one image. You can now use this map (now showing the towns and names required by YOU) to plan your itinerary.

Tip: Names of towns are shown on the maps in the language of the relevant country, e.g. on the map of Italy you will find "Roma" instead of "Rome". Use the method described above if you want to change them to the English version.

5.5 Combinations with Other Effects

Tip: Start being creative and use the maps together with other effects. Use Bluebox-World to change or delete individual colors or create interesting combinations with effects like "Pattern fade" (serially available) or "Lumafade" (Magic Lights).

5.6 Missing Maps

Problem: You would like to have more or other maps.

Solution: Write, fax or mail us. We note down customers' wishes and produce additional maps if the demand is strong enough.

Tip: If you want a map not included in our standard selection, why not scan it in from an atlas.