

Some of Chet's Favorite Casablanca Tips

Creating and Using "Bookends"

Here is a way to organize different groups of scenes you may be working on for a single project (they are all in the same project/Scene Bin). This is helpful as you can

Create a colored New Scene, 1-second duration, and add it to the end of the storyboard.

Enter Titling, select 'Pages'

Click Enter/Change Text, choose a large font (I found 'Keagan and 'Action' to work well). Select 100 and click Enter (or return). This gives you a spacing to center your title vertically.

Then select 220 and type your title. For example 'FLWR' (all caps)

Do not click RETURN at the end of this line.

Click OK

Click 'Create'.

When rendering is complete, click 'Scene'

Make a new scene of the effect, renaming it 'FLWR' (Flowers).

Using the Delete/Undelete technique described above, you can now move similar clips to a place after the bookends in the clip bin. I also recommend putting this new clip at the end of the storyboard - that way you can click on it, then click 'Search' to go right to that section of clips.

Using Scene>Sample. Sample>Scene

Scene > Sample'

You can 'strip off' the audio track from any video scene by using this cool button. You will find the Scene>Sample button in the Special menu in the Edit Screen. This will literally copy just the audio track from any scene (of any length) and send it over to the audio menus for your use there. It retains the same name of the video scene.

You can now go into Audio Mix and insert this new audio sample under still scenes:

Voila! Sound effects beneath a freeze frame - more powerful than no ambient audio.

Or you can use this to add interview/dialogue beneath cover video, etc.

'Sample > Scene'

You also have the ability to do the opposite. Go into the Audio Record/Edit window and click on a music track (or other audio sample). Then select 'Sample > Scene' and the wonderful Casablanca unit creates a new scene with your selected sample as the audio and striped with video black. The progress bar on-screen shows you when it's complete... then go to Edit window and your new scene will be the one highlighted (also retains the name of the original audio sample). Add this to the storyboard and you may insert clips onto it --- a fast and fun way to make music videos and montages!

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Pick Color in Color Palette

With Smart Edit 4 (and higher) you have more 'ink wells' in your Color Palette. You can also select or sample colors directly from a video scene by using the 'Pick Color' button). This feature is found in the New Scene; Pattern buttons in Edit Screen as well as in the other menus where you have the option of selecting color for a screen/effect. Once in the Color Palette, click on Pick Color, then Select Scene and then adjust size and position so that the color picking box icon is sampling the color you wish to select (the large color swatch indicates the color you have selected).

Font Attributes: Adding Pattern to your Titles

Select 'Pattern' under the Style button in the Title Screen (after adding to Storyboard and clicking 'Enter/edit text').

Click on the button to right of 'Product' and select from the software you have active on your Casablanca. For example, Casablanca comes with every system. Next click on the button to right of 'Type' and select from the choices available. In 'Casablanca' there are Masks, Monochromatic (black & white), Polychromatic and Images.

You can even modify /add color to many of these images. Click on the 'Colorize' button beneath the preview window. Adjust the 'Colors' to either 1, 2 or 3, depending on the number of colors you wish. Then you can click on the colors to bring up the color requester menu and make adjustments as you wish (if you select 2 colors you will modify Color 1 and Color 3). Click OK when done.

You can adjust the position of the pattern/effect by the choices under 'Mode' And you can adjust the opacity of the pattern by adjusting the Alpha slider. Click 'Ok' when done and you will see the pattern inside the title you are creating (more narrow fonts do not show patterns too well).

Use Range in Audio Mix to adjust song/audio length

In the Audio Mix screen, highlight the Audio Sample you wish to move, then click on the Range button. Select Position (not Trim) and slide the audio sample to the desired location while viewing the storyboard (you could also note the time of the sample and slide it forward or back to fit a specific time requirement).

Another application of the Range function is to place an audio sample so a key word or musical moment occurs during a specific video event. Select the audio sample and go into Range. Then trim the OUT point of the sample to the desired word, use Position and END to place that word at the precise moment on the Storyboard. Then click on Trim and roll the OUT point back out to the full length.

Hope you have fun with these tips... my suggestion is to take some of your own clips and substitute them for the ones named above and practice. Please feel free to share with my any cool tips and tricks you come across as well.

My Favorite Power Key Shortcut Commands

Getting Started with Power Key

You need to have the Power Key software loaded and activated on your Casablanca unit to use the following. Note that there is a special Power Key keyboard available from Macrosystem that has specific key icons silk-screened onto some keys.

F2

The most important key to memorize while using Power Key is 'F2' (function key f2). This key displays for you (on your interface monitor every applicable power key command/short cut for that screen!

On the bottom of you Power Key keyboard, you have two unique symbols – refer to your manual for the appearance of these keys:

- The button that represents the Storyboard (further referred to as the 'SB' key (on either side of the Space Bar)
- The button that represents the Screens or menus (to the right of the Space bar between 'Storyboard key' and 'Control')

Transport Controls

On the top row of the Power Key keyboard you have the following controls:

Record, Stop, Play and Pause

Pressing these will playback the selected Scene in the Scene Bin

To playback/pause in the Storyboard, press the 'SB' key plus Play, Pause or Stop

Halt

When playing back in the Storyboard, you can stop right where you are by pressing the 'H' key. This cool feature drops you back into the Edit screen enabling you to see exactly which scene you are in. Pressing 'SB' + 'F11' (playback button) will return begin playing back the Storyboard again right where you left off (this is valuable when doing a quality check on your work, enabling you to note the specific scene where you may a problem.

Repeat Trim

If you wish to have multiple scenes in your scene bin with the same length (they must be in order in your Scene Bin):

Trim the first scene and then press 'Ctrl' + 'T' and it will trim the next scene to the right to the same length. You can hold these two keys down and it will rapidly move through your scene bin executing this Repeat Trim.

Trimming a Scene in the Storyboard

Press 'SB' + 'T' keys to trim a scene that was already added to the Storyboard. This opens up the normal Trim menu but you are affecting the scene IN the Storyboard, not the original in the Scene Bin