

An Introduction to IDVD 3.0

By Ken Gibson
kgibson@unr.edu



Courtesy of Project Learning Links



<http://www.unr.edu/learninglinks/index.html>

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Interface Introduction

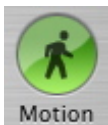
Welcome to the iDVD tutorial. By now, you've completed an iMovie file and sent it to iDVD. iDVD's main purpose is to encode your movie so that it can be burned onto DVD-R recordable media. A great deal of power is used to accomplish this. To ensure that this process goes smoothly, please heed these warnings:

1. Leave iMovie open, but make **NO** changes - iMovie is still passing information to iDVD, but if you make the slightest change the encoding process goes haywire.
2. The second warning / tip is to personalize your DVD menu as soon as you send your file from iMovie to iDVD. Making changes late in the encoding process or when the encoding process is finished will cause you pain and heartache. Do it at the beginning and then let it be.

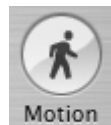
Familiarize yourself with the iDVD interface, namely:

- o **viewing window** - shows you the changes you are making to your DVD menu. The title of your file will appear as the title of your movie. We will cover customizing this and other fields in the themes, settings, audio, and photo portions of the tutorial.
- o **motion** - turning the motion for the viewing window off will allow your project to encode much faster.

This shows the motion is on

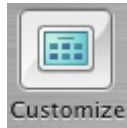


This shows the motion is off



- o **preview** - preview shows your movie itself. There really is no reason to view the actual movie during the encoding and DVD menu personalization process. You can click through your DVD menu on the viewing window, so I would stay away from the preview option as it typically does more harm than good.

- **slideshow & folder** – This option will let you create slides shows from digital photos as well as folders for organizing content.
- **customize** - the customize icon opens a drawer from the left of the interface allowing you to make changes to your DVD menu and check the encoding status of your project.



Encoding Status

The **Status** tab allows you to see where the encoding process stands. As I mentioned earlier, iDVD's main function is to encode your iMovie project for burning onto DVD-R recordable media.

Step 1:

Check that your project's time duration and file size lies within the constraints of your media.

Step 2:

Check that your project is encoding. A blue bar gives insight into how much of your project has encoded or if there is a problem encoding.

Step 3:

The encoding time for your project will depend on its length and its complexity. The more media in your project, the longer the encoding time. Typically, encoding time can be estimated to be 2 X the length of the movie, although sometimes more.

Step 4:

Only when the blue bar is gone and the word "Done" replaces it, is your project ready to burn onto a DVD-R.

Themes

iDVD Themes are the artistic template you choose for your menus. You may further customize the themes by adding your own photos and music. Remember, we turned the Motion menu off early in the process. You may want to toggle it (on and off again) to see the motion and music that accompanies your theme.

Step 1:
Select Themes tab.

Step 2:
To ensure your choice is from all the themes available, check that "all" is selected from the drop down menu.

Step 3:
Choose a theme. Once you select it, it will appear in the iDVD interface window.

Step 4:
You must choose a theme for each level of your dvd menu. This applies only if you chose to add chapters in iMovie. Click on the "Scene Selection" button on the viewing area to move to your chapter menus. If you don't add a theme at each chapter selection menu, iDVD will default to the red curtain theme. Whether you choose the same theme or different themes in the same production is entirely up to you.

Settings

The Settings tab allows you more control over your theme. Perhaps you would like to change the button design on your menu or the font, color, or size, this is where you would make those changes. Before you make changes in this area, I suggest you turn on a TV safe area through the "Advanced" menu from the main menu at the top of your computer screen. This will ensure that your changes are not cut off when displayed on a TV screen.

motion duration - this lets you choose how long you would like your motion and sound to last before it loops. iDVD will default to 30 seconds.

background - this is a bit confusing. The background image and sound are the iDVD theme background and sound. You should leave them be. I will show you how to add pictures and sound to your theme in the audio and photo sections of this tutorial.

title - this area lets you further customize the design of your title. If you are happy with the font, color, and size of the title display your theme has created, you can skip this section.

button - this area lets you further customize your buttons. The designers of the iDVD themes did a pretty good job, so if you're happy with the display of your buttons, you may skip this section as well.

Audio

The Audio tab allows you to choose the music that will play when your DVD menu appears on your TV screen; if you are content with the music already associated with your theme or prefer no music at all, you may skip this step.

Similar to Themes, you must select audio for each level of your DVD menu (e.g., chapter menus). The Audio tab directs iDVD to the iTunes library on your machine. So, if you would like to use this function, make sure you have imported your song (or songs) into iTunes on the machine you are using.

Step 1:

Your audio tracks should appear in the Audio tab interface. Select the audio track you would like to add. Drag it into the viewing area where it reads, "Drag photos or movies here."

Step 2:

You can check that your audio has been added in two ways:

1. Turn motion on, you should be able to hear it.
2. Go to the Settings tab. In the Background section, the audio will show as an iTunes file.

Step 3:

If you changed your mind or dragged the wrong track. Simply click on another

track and drag it into the "Drag photos or movies here" section in the viewing window. It will replace the previous file.

Step 4:

Remember - adding audio will only affect the selected menu in the viewing area. If you would like to add audio to your main screen and each of your chapter screens, you must repeat this process for each.

Adding Photos to Your Menu

iDVD's themes allow you to personalize them by adding photos. Similar to Themes and Audio, you must select a photo for each level of your DVD menu (e.g., chapter menus).

The Photo tab directs iDVD to the iPhoto library on your machine. So, if you would like to use this function, make sure you have imported your photo (or photos) into iPhoto on the machine you are using.

Step 1:

Your photos should appear in the Photo tab interface. Click on the photo you would like to add and drag it into the viewing area where it reads, "Drag photos or movies here." Your photo should appear in your theme in the viewing area.

Step 2:

If you would like to add a different photo. Click on the photo you just added in the viewing area and drag it outside of the iMovie interface. A cloud will appear letting you know that it was discarded. Repeat Step 1 to add another photo.

Step 3:

Remember - adding a photo will only affect the selected menu in the viewing area. If you would like to add photos to your main screen and each of your chapter screens, you must repeat this process for each.

Saving your Raw Materials

You may have spent a great deal of time scanning photos for your iDVD project. You can burn these original image files onto the DVD-R so you can open and mutate them at a later point in time. Your movie will play normally on a DVD player and TV, but when you insert your DVD-R into a computer, you can find your saved images in a folder called DVD-Rom Contents.

Step 1:

From the main menu at the top of the computer screen, select File > Preferences > Slideshow. Select "Always add original slideshow photos to DVD-ROM. iDVD will choose the photos in your iPhoto library. So, make sure you see all of them when you select the Photo tab

SleepLess

Now that you have personalized your DVD menu, we'll set the computer such that the rest of the encoding process will run without errors. Glitches in the encoding process can happen easily, we must make sure the computer doesn't fall asleep by using a program called SleepLess.

Step 1:

Make sure your project is saved on your Firewire or Data drive.

Step 2:

Open SleepLess (see icon above) from the dock, you should see a lightbulb next to the time at the top of your computer screen.

Step 3:

Make sure the light bulb is **RED**, this means your computer will not go to sleep. If it is **YELLOW**, it will go to sleep.

Burn Your Project to DVD

Once you are finished encoding, you are ready to burn.

Step 1:

Check the Status tab to make sure your project is "Done" encoding.

Step 2:

Select Advanced > TV safe area from the menu at the top of your computer to ensure none of your menu will be cut off by the TV.

Step 3:

Turn your motion on.

Step 4:

Go to File > Burn DVD. The CD / DVD tray of your computer will automatically open. Place your DVD-R in it and close the drawer.

Step 5:

Make sure SleepLess is on as the computer falling asleep will affect the burning process. Burning will take approximately 2 X the length of

Acknowledgements

Most of the content in this paper was taken from:

<http://www.gslis.utexas.edu/technology/tutorials/graphics/idvd/intro.html>