Casablanca EXPERT

The following notes and procedures were demonstrated in the Casablanca Expert Webinar on 2/26/09. You can view this webinar online at www.CasablancaExpert.com

Using Patterns in the Casablanca Image Pool
Why and How to use the 'Trailer + Menu' function in DVD Arabesk
Creating Split Screen Effects in Casablanca

Using Patterns in the Casablanca Image Pool
The Image Pool is directly and most easily accessible via the 'New' button in the Edit menu. However, the image pool and its patterns are accessible in many menus across the Casablanca interface.

To get into the Image Pool:
1. In the Edit menu, click on 'New'
2. Scroll to 'Pattern' and left click 'Select Pattern'
3. In upper left of this 'Select Pattern' menu, click 'Product' and scroll to select 'Smart Edit'. This contains the patterns, masks and images that come with the Operating System. You'll note a number of other Products – from the DVD Backgrounds that come with Arabesk DVD authoring software to the other options you may have (you'll see more if you have more add-on/optional software enabled).
4. Under 'Type' you will note there are four choices: Masks, Monochromatic, Polychromatic and Images. For now select 'Masks'. You will see 6 gradient patterns in the pattern window below.
5. Left click on the left most pattern – the checkerboard. It now appears in the preview window at right.
6. Click on the 'Mode' and change to Negative – observe how black becomes white and visa versa.
7. Click on the 'dot' to the right of Mode – this allows you to flip the image vertically and/or horizontally. Scroll down and select the '<->''. Left click. See how the pattern flips.
8. Left click to place the checkmark to the right of Colorize. You may see an immediate result (wow!).
9. To create/modify the colors left click on 'Colorize'
10. You can now adjust or add 1, 2 or 3 colors to this pattern
11. With 1 Color selected, the pattern is colored with that one selected color.
12. With '2 Colors' the colors are selected from the top (Color 1) and the bottom (Color 3) 'ink-wells'
13. While '3 Colors' pulls the colors from all 3 'ink-wells'
14. Click on one of these 'ink-wells' and select the hue and saturation of each color.

Using Patterns in the Casablanca Image Pool (continued)

15. Click 'Ok' and you have confirmed your color selection.
16. Click 'Ok' again and then adjust the length of time you want this colored pattern in your Scene Bin.   You now have a pattern that you can use for a title background, DVD background, etc.

In the Webinar I also shared how to use the 'Shift Hue' effect from Effects Pack 6 to create what is called a color-cycle animation on these patterns. Here is how you do that:
1. Select a scene in your scene bin – this works best with a colored pattern
2. Open up 'Special' and select 'Shift Hue' - I recommend opening the scene in Full Size (preview)
3. With 'Still' selected you can vary the hue and modify the scene
4. To really create a cool effect, select 'Animate' and run the slide to '360'
5. This will shift the colors in your scene 360-degrees around what is called the color wheel, starting and ending with the same original colors – providing our own custom backgrounds!

* The length of the scene determines how long the Shift occurs... so if you want a slower color cycle animation (another name for this process), make a longer still scene and then apply the Shift Hue effect to it.

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Why and How to use the 'Trailer + Menu' function in DVD Arabesk

In DVD Arabesk, when you are editing the Main menu (not the Chapter menu/s) the top most function in the Edit Menu menu (a bit redundant?) is 'Control'. This option defines how the DVD will playback for your audience.

Your choices are: Menu, Trailer only, and Trailer+Menu

1. Menu will cause the DVD to begin displaying your DVD Main menu upon loading
2. Trailer only will cause the DVD to play just the 'Trailer' of your DVD
3. Trailer+Menu will cause the DVD to boot up and play the first film (trailer), then go directly to the DVD Menu for further audience selection. I regularly use this 'Trailer+Menu' option.

Why and How to use the 'Trailer + Menu' function in DVD Arabesk (continued)

What is the 'Trailer'?

in DVD Arabesk Trailer is defined as the first film (project) you have loaded in Arabesk. By default it is the first film you load into Arabesk - but can be changed easily by doing into your 'Films/Chapter Menus' button in DVD Arabesk.

You will see the film/s you have already loaded here in order of their addition. Click on the Film you wish to become the Trailer and click on the up/down arrows (to the right of 'Remove Film'). These buttons will move your selected Film - putting it at the top of the list makes it the Trailer!

The 'Trailer' function is useful for introduction with your company logo, copyright warning, contact information, etc. I have used it for an introduction to the class on a school video yearbook, showing a brief slow-motion clip of each student and then dissolving into class picture. I included two specific samples of my use of the Trailer+Menu function in our webinar which you can view online at my website – www.CasablancaExpert.com . Click on the 'Public Webinars' link on the left menu and then on the 'Webinar Archives' button.

Creating Split Screen Effects in Casablanca

This was a lot of fun to create and put this lesson together. I knew I wanted to demonstrate clearly and fully the capabilities of this effect so I videotaped myself in my backyard in a couple of different scenarios. I first dressed in black pants with a white shirt and videotaped myself both center frame and then frame left. And then I changed my clothes wearing a black shirt with white pants, taped myself both center frame and screen right (all the while leaving the camera in the same spot on a tripod).

Then I used the two different Split Screen effects found in the Casablanca Transition menu: Split Screen (Split Screen1) and Split Screen 2.

Split Screen (Split Screen1) – Is included with the Bonus Effects software (most distributors provide this free and/or as a result of registering your Casablanca unit).

I found that this was the most useful and successful of the two options. What is important to note is that when you create a Split-screen effect it is best (and easiest) to shoot the footage with the split in mind, which is to have one subject screen left and the other subject videotaped screen right. If you have something other than this you will need to use Split Screen 2 to attempt a good effect.

<u>Simple Split Screen</u>
1. After inserting two scenes into the Storyboard (I had mine trimmed to similar length)
2. Go to Transitions menu
3. Insert Split Screen into the Storyboard
4. Adjust length (time) to length of the scene
5. I recommend launching the Full Size preview window – click 'Full Size'
6. You can now see the resulting effect with the menu variables on your right (if you do not see the effect – check to ensure the 'Display' button is set to 'Effect'.
7. If your first scene (in the storyboard) has subject on the left side – select '->' for the 'Direction' setting
8. If your first scene has the subject on the right side – select '←'for the 'Direction' setting
9. Next, set the 'Fade Time' to '0' (all the way left) – this sets up a Split-screen effect that lasts the whole time. If you want this effect to slide in, you would select a specific time for this to occur.
10. Now click on the 'Split' sliding control and scroll left/right to arrange the split point so it looks best given your footage (I suggest selecting a point where there are the fewest horizontal lines which can reveal the split point more readily. In my demonstration I placed my split point in the ivy climbing the fence to mask the effect)
11. Click 'Ok' – because Split Screen is considered a real-time effect it is rendered and ready for full screen playback. Click the Playback button beneath the Storyboard (upper right) and enjoy your effect!

UP/DOWN
If you are creating a split-screen effect with subject up and down:
If your first scene (in the storyboard) has subject on the top side – select 'arrow up' for the 'Direction' setting
If your first scene has the subject on the bottom side – select 'arrow down' for the 'Direction' setting

Split Screen 2 – Is part of the Effects Pack 5
I found that this software while providing more options than the basic Split Screen was much less intuitive and frankly a bit confusing. The nice thing is that you under the 'mode' selection of this effect you have the choice between shift (same option in Split Screen 1) but you also have the option to stretch your two scenes to incorporate more information/subject detail from either scene if you really have to/want to use a split effect with footage that was not shot with this in mind. It takes a bit of playing/adjusting in the Full Size preview window to get the right look. Remember to set the duration to '0' if you want it to remain an effect the whole length of the scenes. The shift does look cool with a timed effect though. For fun, place your screen left subject in the 2nd position and your screen right subject in the storyboard first and play with the results. I think you will enjoy them!