

Today's Lessons:

How to use QuadCam software to switch multi-camera events in your Casablanca Using the Box options in the Casablanca titler to produce creative titles

The following notes and procedures were demonstrated in the Casablanca Expert Webinar on 5/27/09. You can view this webinar online at www.CasablancaExpert.com

* How to use QuadCam software to switch multi-camera events in your Casablanca

QuadCam is an add-on software product that requires the 256 Meg RAM upgrade and the current (newest) version of QuadCam (at the time of this webinar broadcast) is Version 1.3 for Bogart SE 2.3 and Version 1.2 for Smart Edit 8.

There was, in the initial release versions of QuadCam, the ability to auto-sync your different cameras but frankly it has not worked as successfully with as many customers as it was designed to do. Most everyone I know who uses QuadCam brings the footage in, manually synchronizes the footage and then runs it in QuadCam. I import my footage in DV (Firewire) although you could use QuadCam with even analog footage (input via RCA/Phono or S-video). In fact the most recent version (update) of QuadCam no longer has this option. So, if you see 'Smart Sync' in your QuadCam, you are working with an older version of the software.

For the web lesson today I have two scenes - each scene is 03:28:12. I have manually synchronized these clips for you. In case you want to do this (as I shared in the web lesson on video), I found a point where there is a place to match either visual or audio cue precisely. I then un-trim one scene and make a note of the time (minutes, seconds, frames) back from the initial mark (where they were both set). I then un-trim the other scene/s the same amount of time so they remain synched.

Mixing in QuadCam

1. With those two clips in your Scene Bin, click on 'Special' in the Edit menu and scroll down to find QuadCam.
2. Click on Start QuadCam and up pops a new menu with 4 preview windows on the right and controls on the left.
3. Click in the first box (labeled 'Background') note how the 'Background' tab is highlighted. This is the camera where your audio is taken from and is really your primary camera. All the other cameras will be inserted (video insert edits) on 'top' of this Background camera scene.
4. Click 'Choose scene'. Your Scene Bin is now visible - scroll left/right to find the scene that will serve as your Background camera -- for our exercise here, click on 'WS2' and left click 'Ok'. The first frame of that scene is now visible in the preview window and the tab has changed to that scene name (WS2 in this case). NOTE: This tab name is a new feature and the previous versions of QuadCam would still display 'Background'.
5. Click on the 2nd box, labeled 'Insert 1'

How to use QuadCam software to switch multi-camera events (continued)

6. Click 'Choose scene'. Your Scene Bin is again visible - scroll left/right to find the scene that will serve as your Background camera -- for our exercise here, click on 'CU2' and left click 'Ok'.

The first frame of that scene is now visible in the preview window and the tab has changed to CU2.

7. If you had 3 or 4 cameras total, you would perform steps 5-6 above to add the other cameras' scenes to the QuadCam mixer at this point

8. You may wish to playback at least a portion of the video you are mixing from this QuadCam window here -- click the playback button (triangle at lower left next to 'Control'). All 2,3 or 4 boxes will show a preview of the footage with the audio coming from only your Background source (box 1). You can watch as little or as much as you like to prepare for the best places to make the transition from one camera to another. Click the stop button and get ready for the 'real time'. (if you have clicked in the preview windows or the tab, you have created a mix -- simply click on 'Cancel' and you will exit without changing the content.

9. When you are ready to begin for real, click the Playback button and this time you will want to click either on the tab or the preview window of the camera you wish to have 'live' or visible to the audience at that point in time during the performance/video. If you are planning to add transitions between scenes you should cut back to the background camera (1) each time rather than between two insert cameras (it causes timing issues to add transitions between insert shots but not between the background and an insert camera).

10. At any point during the QuadCam mix, you can click the Pause icon (to the right of the play triangle in bottom left corner). Then you can come back and complete your work when you are ready. If you press the Stop/ok button while mixing in Quad Cam and then Ok you will exit QuadCam and the prompt on-screen will inform you of the number of scenes you have created a mix with. Click ok and your Storyboard will build for you!

Modifying Your Mix/Edit Points After QuadCam Mixing

After completion of your QuadCam mix (above) you should have a storyboard with multiple scenes - actually it is one long scene (the entire footage from your Background Cam) with inserted sections/portions of the other 1,2 or 3 cameras. For the exercise in our Web Lesson you have only 1 additional source: CU2.

You have a cool capability afforded to us by QuadCam -- Click on one of the occurrences of CU2, then click on 'Range' (the Range button beneath the Storyboard). With the selector at the top left corner set to 'Trim' you will notice you have 5 seconds (3 seconds in previous QuadCam versions) of footage/time with which to modify this inserted scene. That means you can click on the In point and move the beginning of this inserted scene anywhere from 1-frame to 5-seconds earlier in the performance... this is a great option! As you mix 'on the fly' you might be a little early or a little late in your mix decision. You can clean it up right here!

Adding to Your QuadCam Mix

Now that you have a mix with timing that you are happy with, you can go about embellishing this project like any other on your Casablanca. You can add transitions between your camera cuts (as long as they occur between the background camera and an inserted camera); you can add titles, you can even insert another shot on top of the Background scene if you needed to.

How to use QuadCam software to switch multi-camera events (continued)

For Longer Events (longer than 1 tape)

Now since QuadCam pulls the footage for each of the camera/sources for the mixing, what should you do if your event is longer than 1-tape?

Here is what I do for my youngest son's school drama performances:

I run two cameras, 1 wide shot and 1 Close-up (also known as cut-aways). Near the 55-minute mark I lock the 2nd camera on a WS (in a passage of the play where there is mainly action appropriate for a Wide Shot)

I then change the tape in camera 1, get it back to a WS, get it in record

Back to camera 2, change it's tape and then both cameras roll until the end of the show.

The cameras are manually synched (which I do anyway), I split out the end of Camera 2 where it is just rolling by itself as well as the beginning of Camera 1, tape 2 those two sequences roll by themselves. Everything else is synched and mixed in QuadCam.

QuadCam: using Color Balance to adjust different cameras

The feature Compare is found under the 'Special' button in the Edit screen. Many use this function to color balance single scenes and it can also be used to balance different cameras used with QuadCam, the Casablanca multi-camera switching software.

Switch your event using 2, 3 or 4 cameras in the QuadCam interface which provides you with a storyboard complete with your selected scenes. You may then use the Range button beneath the SB to fine-tune your switching (making adjustments to the In and Out points of the inserted scenes).

If you have scenes that need have their picture adjusted to better match the other footage, here is what you do:

1. In the Edit menu - select the first scene in the Storyboard that you wish to adjust.
2. Left click on 'Search' just beneath the Storyboard - this will find the same scene for you in the Scene Bin
3. With the scene you wish to affect still selected, left click on 'Special'
4. Scroll down to either Color Control or Control Image
5. Left click on Full Size (preview)
6. Left click on 'Effect' and scroll down to select 'Compare' in the Display Settings
7. This will give you the selected scene on the right side

Now you need to select your other scene we will use as the reference to balance this new scene to. Left click on 'Choose Scene' which brings up the Scene Bin from this project.

Scroll the Scene Bin until you find your desired reference scene - Left click 'ok' and you should now see the reference scene on the left screen.

You can now make adjustments and see the results, comparing the effect to ensure success.

NOTE: You cannot change the scene on the right in this menu - this only allows you to modify or affect the scene on the right side. Make a note as to your settings so you can replicate this adjustment on any other scenes from that source.

Using the Box options in the Casablanca titler to produce creative titles

Adding a transparent background to your text or title box creates a professional

looking title, especially useful when adding lower thirds titles - identifying onscreen interviews, etc.

1. First type your title and adjust the Title Box to the size you wish to have a shaded box appear. For example, when I am adding lower 3rds titles - I size the box to stretch from screen left to screen right and just a little taller (top and bottom) than the letters.
2. Click again on 'Graphics'. Normally, there is a '-' next to the word Choose Background (this means no background/shading on the title box). Click on that button and it will change to a check mark. You may also notice the box now has a background
3. We will add two different backgrounds for you to learn the variations possible:

Adding a Color Background

- A. Click on Choose background, click next to 'Product', select 'Casablanca' and left click to confirm your choice
- B. Next to 'Type' select 'Monochromatic' and left click to confirm your choice
- C. Click in the top left choice in the menu below (with the artist color palette) and click on 'Colorize' on the right.
- D. Select the color you prefer (and adjust the Alpha/Transparency to 70% if you wish a real artistic appearance).
- E. Click 'OK' and you will see your finished box background (modify the Color/Transparency to suit your preferences).

Adding a Gradient Filled Background

- A. Click on Choose background, click next to 'Product', select 'Casablanca' and left click to confirm your choice
- B. Next to 'Type' select 'Masks' and left click to confirm your choice
- C. Click in the box that is 3rd from the left ('Linear H') - this will give you a darker color on the left side of the box moving to a more transparent color to the right side of the box.
- D. Click to place a check mark to the right of Colorize and then click on the 'Colorize' button
- D. Select '1 Color' and click on the Color 1 color swatch - select the color you prefer (and adjust the Alpha/Transparency to 70% if you wish a real artistic appearance).
- E. Click 'OK' and you will see your finished box background (modify the Color/Transparency and the Patterns to suit your preference).

In the web lesson video, I start with a cool pattern called 'Frequency 2' which is part of the Ultimate Spice Box software collection. I then selected 'Linear D' from the Smart Edit (or Bogart SE for those of you using that OS) which is a simple graduated fill from upper left to bottom right. I used green as my color with a 60% Alpha setting (transparency).

*** Using the Box options in the Casablanca titler to produce creative titles (continued)**

I also demonstrated the use of the 'Heart 16:9' pattern from Ultimate Spice Box as well as the use of the 239 colors from the Candy Factory Polychromatic options, and the use of TitleBox masks/graphics. I chose the TitleBax23 mask (graphic).

Double Background Title Box

Lastly, for the last effect -- a double box behind the title, I selected the Mono-chromatic box under Product>Smart Edit (Product>Bogart for those on the Bogart OS) and picked the color green. I then went to Box Options, selected size and modified the size of this box to 648x152. And used 'Move' to place that green box in the lower third of the screen (32, 296 to be precise).

Then, back in Box Options I clicked on 'Add' which gave me a 2nd box. I used 'Size' to modify it to fit inside the first box, with a resulting size of 592x112. It's position when set was 40,328. I then went into the Graphics button (with 2nd box highlighted) and changed the pattern to Ultimate Spice Box 'Snake 1'.

With that 2nd box still selected, click 'text' and type your title (in the web lesson I typed 'Yellowstone'). I chose the Comic Sans font (I imported) and set the size to '80'. After preview, I determined the initial (1st) box was too big for the effect I wanted so I selected box 1 of 2 and adjusted the SIZE down to 624x136 and a new position of 32, 312.

I then archived this font -- click on Archives, Save, type name for the double title box and you have it on your Hard Drive for future titling fun



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