

EXPECT TO PAY
£60

■ **PUBLISHER:** Ulead ■ **WEBSITE:** www.ulead.co.uk
 ■ **SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS:** Pentium 4 or Athlon 64, 512MB memory or more, 1GB HD for program, 4GB+ HD for video, Windows 2000 or newer, monitor with 1,024 x 768 minimum resolution



Video Studio 10 Plus

Ulead brings video editing bang up to date with hi-def and Dolby 5.1 support

Version 10 of *VideoStudio* comes in two feature levels and the fully equipped *Video Studio 10 Plus* is reviewed here. It now includes support for High Definition (HD) video. The other system-wide improvements are support for Dolby Digital 5.1 surround sound and full input and output support for MPEG-4. The latter is necessary for creating videos on handheld devices or consoles.

The program can capture from a wide variety of sources, including camcorders with USB connections and DVB-T. The DVB-T option is a welcome addition: it increases the range of recordable TV channels from four or five to well over 30. The program can now perform a quick scan on a DV tape, too, cataloguing all the clips on it and producing a digest that can be printed out for reference.

VideoStudio 10 Plus includes two features that make trimming video

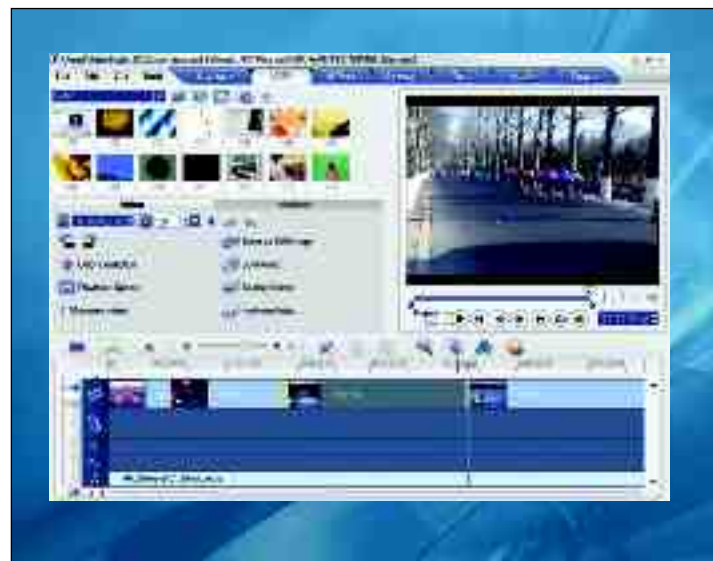
VideoStudio supports six overlay tracks. It can make the storyboard crowded, but gives scope for montage effects

New look

VideoStudio 10 Plus's interface has improved. The preview screen no longer hogs the centre of the display, but can be positioned to left or right, giving more room for controls and browsers. Elsewhere, seven tabs along the top of the screen follow the progression of a video project, from Capture, through Edit, Effect, Overlay, Title and Audio, to Share.

clips easier. The first is AccuCut, a strip of frame thumbnails in the Multi-Trim Editor that you can shuttle through using an on-screen wheel. Combine that with a slider on the left, which zooms from a whole sequence down to half a dozen frames, and you can zero in on cuts quickly and accurately.

The second is Ad Zapper. It scans a piece of video recorded off TV and spots gaps, ideally those between



▲ The fresh design of the editing screen moves the preview display to one side, giving more room for other controls.

programme content and adverts, stripping them out. If the recording has fairly clean-cut ad breaks, it works well, but with sponsor headers and footers to programme segments, it can get confused. Also, if the programme itself has sharply cut scenes, it can mistake these for breaks. However, you can vary the sensitivity of the scan.

The new program supports six overlay tracks. It can make the storyboard or timeline crowded, but gives scope for montage and picture-in-picture effects.

Introducing Smart Proxy

In the early days of home video editing, PC's were often too low powered to handle real-time rendering of things such as scene transitions. What you saw on screen was a like a large thumbnail of your finished video, which was only rendered at the end of editing.

VideoStudio 10 Plus uses a similar system, called Smart Proxy, to handle HD video on lower-spec PCs. It uses lower resolution 'proxy' files to display and edit and then incorporates the HD footage when you come to make your DVD. It really looks like you're editing your

HD video. It does increase final compile times, though.

Surround sound

The soundtrack can sometimes be the poor relation in a video, but Ulead has introduced Dolby 5.1 Creator, and provided a diagrammatic control for positioning sound left, right, back and forward within a 2D sound space. You can still control channel volume envelopes in the timeline, to balance a music soundtrack with the video's recorded soundtrack and any narration.

Video Studio 10 Plus takes one of the best home video editors and improves on it in practical and useful ways. It keeps up with new video developments and plays catch-up with professional-quality Dolby sound. For anybody wanting to create home or even semi-pro videos, it's an excellent tool. **SW**



▲ Run recorded TV footage through Ad Zapper to remove ads from programmes. Tidy up with the AccuCut shuttle wheel

PCAnswers VERDICT

Ease of use	●●●●●
Features	●●●●●
Performance	●●●●●
Value for money	●●●●●

An top-notch editing tool for home use

90%