

DVD Menu Specs and Recommendations:

Menu Backgrounds:

Menu backgrounds can be either still images or video (motion backgrounds).

Still background specifications:

- Image resolution should be 720X540 pixels.
- If using Photoshop to create your background, please refer to the attached template. Make sure guides are turned on in Photoshop. Guides show the area that is cut off by the TV frame. Don't place any text outside the guides, but make sure your background fills the entire area, since computers will show the entire image.
- If background contains text, it is best to leave it on a separate layer, if using Photoshop. If text is to be modified by PSI in any way, please supply PC compatible fonts along with the file.
- Please save your file as PSD, TIFF, or JPEG (in order of preference).

Video background specifications:

- Please supply your background in the same standard as the DVD that is being created (NTSC or PAL).
- DV (720X480 pixels) is the least acceptable resolution.
- We can accept media either on tape (preferred) or as a file. If supplying a file, DV stream is a preferred format.
- Make it at least 30 seconds long, and if you want it looped make sure the first and the last frame is the same.
- If supplying audio with it, make sure it is the same length.

Menu Buttons:

Adobe Photoshop can create files with background transparencies. You can therefore create non-rectangular buttons. Photoshop also uses layers to separate parts of an image; you can use these layers to create multiple buttons in the same file, with one button on each layer.

To create a Photoshop file that contains button layers the client must:

1. In Photoshop, choose File > New. In the New dialog, select Transparent and click OK. A new file is created with a transparent background.
2. Create the artwork for a single button in Layer 1.
3. To create another button, add a new layer and create the button in the new layer. You can create as many layers and buttons as needed.
4. Choose File > Save As and save the file in the Photoshop format (.psd).
5. The client should NOT flatten or merge the layers. They must be delivered as layers or the buttons can not be used.

Images used as buttons and other graphic elements should be at least 70 x 60 pixels, 300 dpi, and all fonts must be PC based.

Button Highlights:

A menu's highlight colors determine how its buttons appear when displayed normally, selected, and activated. Button colors can also be set to an opacity percentage, thereby allowing the background image to display through the button overlay, completely or partially, or to be completely covered by the overlay. The client can choose any color for each state of a button and should specify for each button state what color they want.

Music:

Menus can play music when they are displayed on the TV. If the client wishes music to be played during the menu then there are two options.

1. Client supplies the music. The client can supply music on CD as a CDA or data file. Or the music can be pulled from the video. The music must be at least 30 seconds in length otherwise upon repeating there will be a pause or clitch on the DVD. If the selection is shorter than 30 seconds it will have to be looped in an audio program and will take longer to accomplish.
2. PSI has a large music library which ranges in musical style, length, and rhythm. The library consists of 28 CDs so samples can not be sent to the client unless they narrow down what they are looking for.