

## Shiny Disc Export



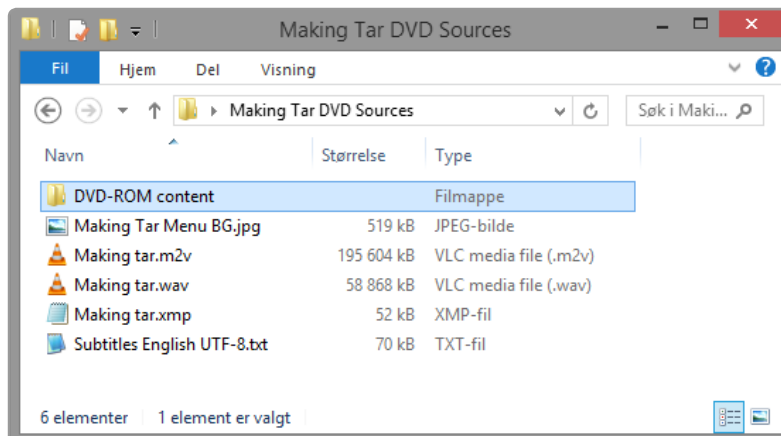
Encore looks very much like any other Adobe software. Once you get the logic, it's pretty easy to learn. Knowing the DVD format helps, of course.

Although the demand for DVDs and Blu-rays is rapidly diminishing, some customers still want a shiny disc to put in the drawer. So we need to make some. If you're creating a DVD, I recommend that you nest your HD sequences into an SD sequence, right click the nested sequence, and choose Set to Frame Size. This will give you a good preview of how the resulting video will look.

If you're going out to Blu-ray, you can follow pretty much the same steps as below, but choose MPEG2 Blu-ray instead of MPEG2-DVD.

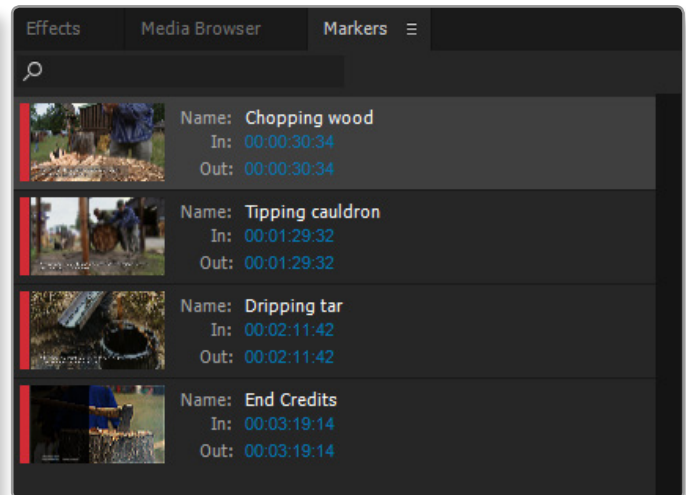
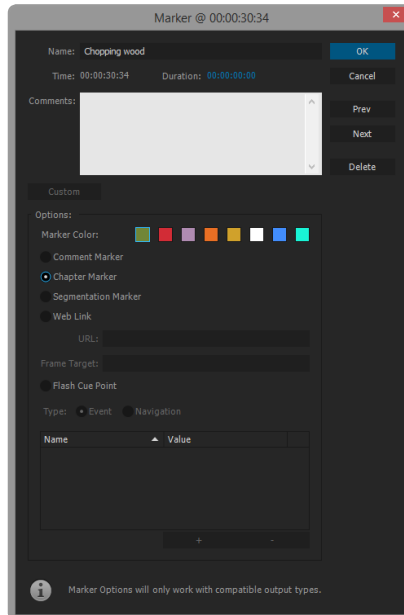
The latest version of Encore is CS6, and you have access to it if you're subscribing to Creative Cloud. This document describes how to download it: <http://helpx.adobe.com/encore/kb/encore-cs6-installed-cc.html>

Before you start building your DVD, make sure you gather all the assets into one folder, so it's easy to find everything later.



Collect all the assets before you start building your DVD or Blu-ray project.

## Add Chapter Markers



Chapter markers from Premiere will carry over to Encore if they are given a name.

By default, Chapter Markers in Premiere are red. All of these have names, and will carry over as Chapter Markers in Encore.

Scrub your timeline, and wherever you want a chapter marker on your DVD, hit M to create a marker. Turn every marker into chapter marker and give them a name. This is important! If you don't give them names, they will not import to Encore.

You know you have a chapter marker when it's got a red icon and the name appears when you hover your cursor over it.

## Export to DVD Formats

In the Export dialog choose MPEG2-DVD, and choose Widescreen 16:9. If you want to get rid of the black pillar boxes, choose Scale To Fill in the Source Scaling drop down menu in the Output tab above the preview image.



The pillar boxes will not show when played on a DVD player connected to a TV, but may show when the DVD is played on a PC or Mac. Older versions of Premiere used to stretch the image horizontally to fit. If you absolutely want the image to fit perfectly like it used to, and destroy your aspect ratio, you can. Just choose *Stretch To Fill* instead of *Scale To Fill*.

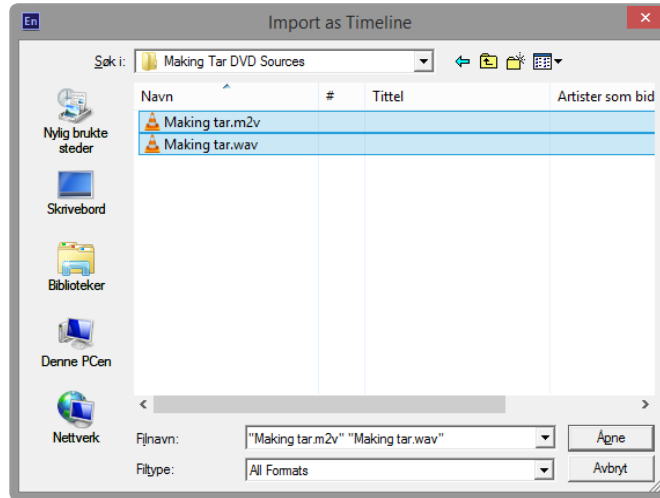
Choose MPEG-2 for DVD as your format. Meta-data like Chapter Markers are stored in an XMP XML sidecar file.



I generally choose *PCM Audio*, but you can also export Dolby Digital. Set *Multiplexer* to *None*. Now export. This results in three files; m2v video, wav audio and an XMP file. The XMP file has the markers, so *do not delete it!*

## In Encore CS6

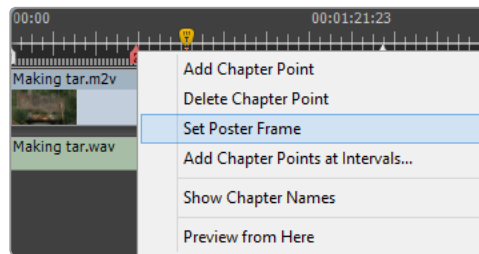
Import Audio and Video as a Timeline, and the frame rate and frame size are automatically set.



Open Encore, create a new DVD project, and choose the proper settings for your country, PAL or NTSC. If you think you know more about MPEG settings for DVD than the Adobe team, go ahead and change the default transcode settings. If not, leave them alone.

Import the exported m2v and wav files into Encore as a Timeline, and your chapter markers will import too. **File > Import As > Timeline**. Make sure you choose both the m2v and the wav file before you hit Open.

If the chapter Poster Frame doesn't suit you, change it.



Now you have a timeline with the same name as your Premiere Pro sequence had. The video and audio are in sync and your chapter markers are there too.

To save time when it's time to build the DVD, right-click the wav file in the Project panel, and choose *Transcode Now*.

If you don't like the Poster Frames for the chapters, adjust them by scrubbing to the frame you want as the new poster frame, right-click the chapter point marker, and choose *Set Poster Frame*.

If the language of your Audio is not English, change it in the drop-down menu in the Audio timeline header.

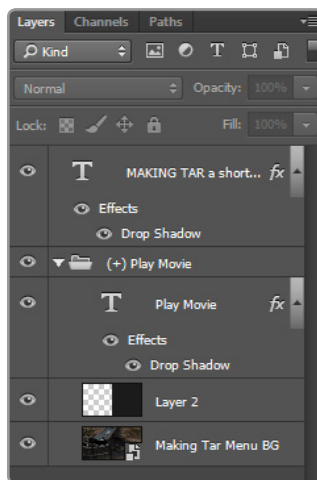
If you want to create a looping DVD, just go to the Properties panel while your timeline is active, and set *End Action* to *Return to Here*. Then build and burn.

If you want a more complex DVD, repeat the above procedure for every sequence that you want as a separate choice on your DVD: Export, import as Timeline, change poster frames and language if necessary.

## Make a DVD Menu

But most likely, you need a menu. If you've installed the Encore CS6 Library Content (see <http://helpx.adobe.com/encore/using/download-library-content.html> for details) you can create menus from templates. Since Encore Menus are PSD files, you may want to create your own from scratch in Photoshop.

To create one from scratch in Encore; hit **File > New > Menu** to get a blank menu. Make sure you set it to 16x9 in the Properties panel. Since we created this after the timeline, we also need to set the new menu (which you should also rename to Main menu) as the First Play. This is done by right-clicking the menu in the Project panel, and choosing *Set as First Play*. The little Play icon on the timeline icon tells you that this was successful.



A Menu in Encore is in fact a Photoshop PSD file and can easily be tweaked in Photoshop.

You need a button, so use the Text Tool to write the text you want to appear in the button. I wrote *Play Movie*. I'm so creative! Right-click the text and choose *Convert to Button*, then switch to the *Direct Selection Tool*.

I suggest you do the rest of the design in Photoshop, so right-click the menu, and choose *Edit Menu in Photoshop*. Add a background image, which could be an exported still frame from Premiere, logos, texts and other graphics you need. Then Save, and switch back to Premiere and watch the menu update in Encore. Nice.

Make sure you don't put anything in the Button layer group in Photoshop. That's the one which name starts with (+) – which is Encore-menu-language for Button.

With the Direct Selection Tool active, click the button in the menu and go to the Properties panel. Click the little swirly icon on the Link, and hold down the mouse button while you drag to the Timeline and let go. This is a very cool way to link your buttons.

If you don't like the Pick Whip – yes, that's the official name – you can also use the drop-down menu and choose **Main Menu > Play Movie** (presuming your menu is named Main menu, and the button is named Play Movie).

## Set your End Action

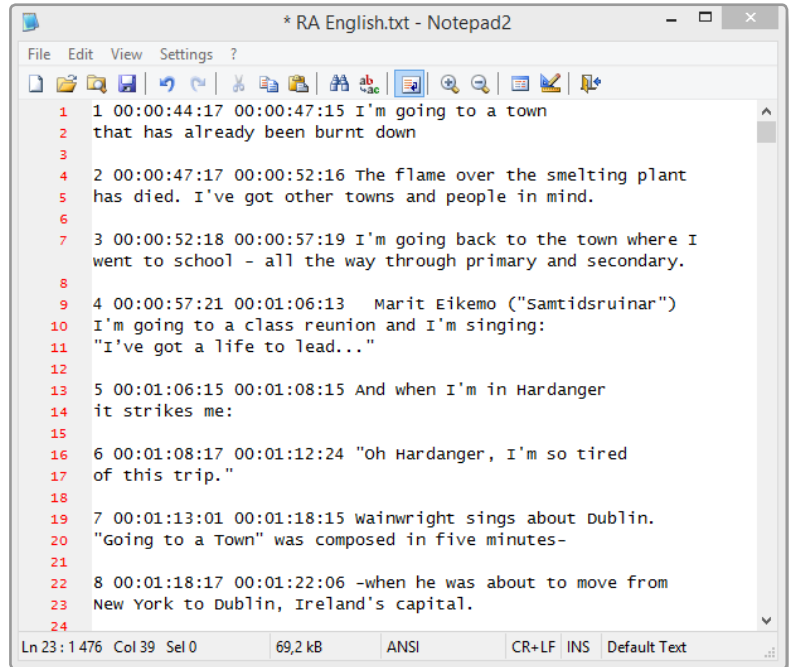
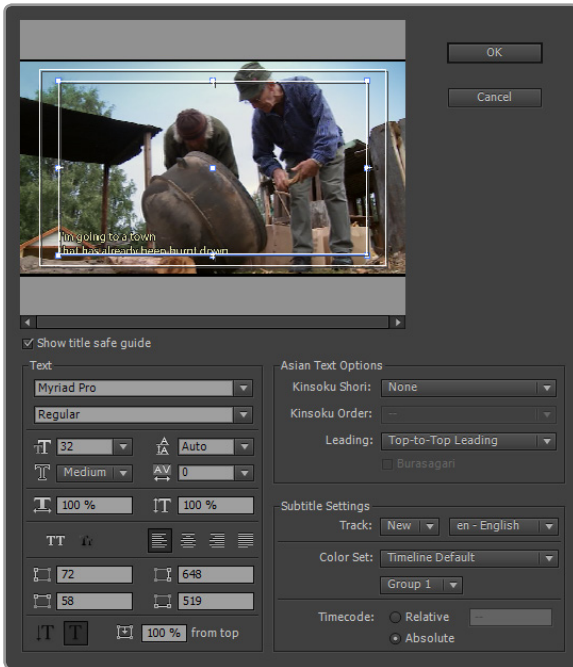
When a user clicks the Play Movie button the timeline will play, but then what? We decide what happens next by setting the End Action for the timeline. With the timeline active, go to the Properties panel and use the Pick Whip next to End Action to point to the Main menu in the Project panel.

This tells the DVD player to go to the Main menu when it has played the timeline.

## Name the DVD

Click in an empty area in the Project panel and go to the Properties panel. You'll see that our DVD is named Untitled Project. What a bad name for a DVD! Change it to something more meaningful.

## Add Subtitles

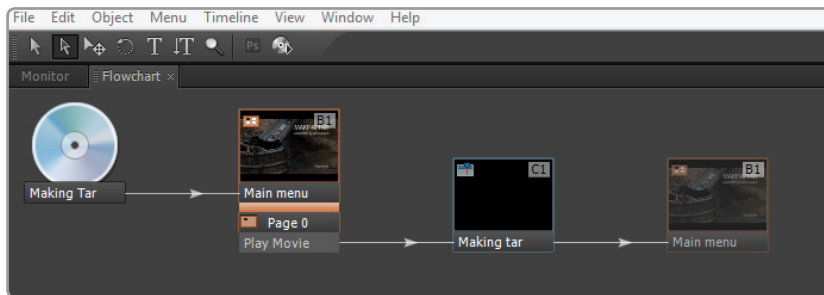


Importing a subtitle script is the easiest way to create the subtitles. It's much easier to write the text in a word processor software than in Encore.

You can import a subtitle script, or create subtitles in Encore, one by one. I always use a script. You can write this in Word or any other word processor, and save as a txt file. See the syntax in the image above. It's very simple, with In and Out time codes and manual line breaks.

In Notepad or another simple text editor, make sure it's UTF-8 or UTF-16 encoded. If not, change it and save again. Then import it to Encore. **Timeline > Import Subtitles > Text Script.**

If the language is wrong, correct it in this dialog. You can also make changes to font, font size etc. here. After the subtitles have been imported, they show up as a subtitle track in the timeline. You can add more languages if you have them. You can change the In and Out points of each individual subtitle if you want to.



The node-based Flowchart View is a very fast way to check the project.

## Check the DVD with the Flowchart

The Flowchart panel will show you a visual view of the DVD behavior. Maximize the panel to get a nice overview of your DVD. In my example, you can see that the DVD title is Making Tar, that the First Play is the Main menu, that the Play Movie button will take

you to the Making Tar timeline, and that the End Action of the timeline is to go back to the Main menu. So everything looks good here. This is a good time to save the project.

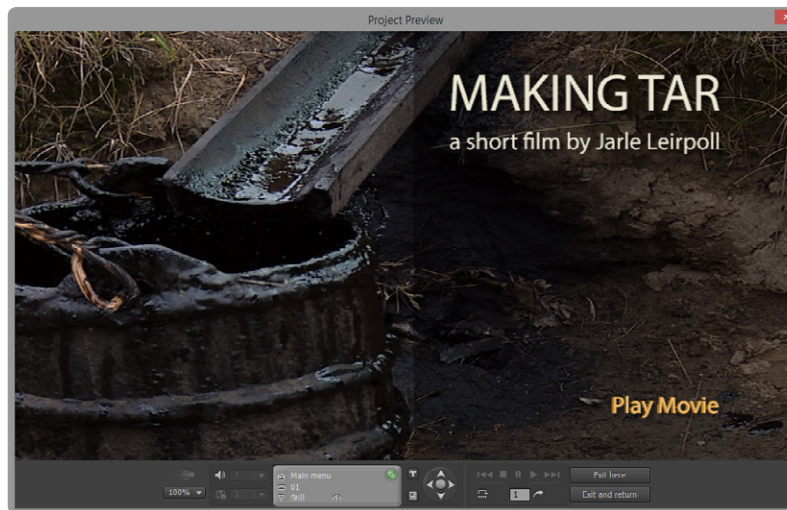


If you spot any errors you can use drag-n-drop to move links and timelines around. Any timelines or menus you've forgotten to link to will show at the bottom of the flowchart view as orphans. You can add them to the DVD by dragging them up into the main area in the panel. I love the Flowchart view!

## Preview the DVD

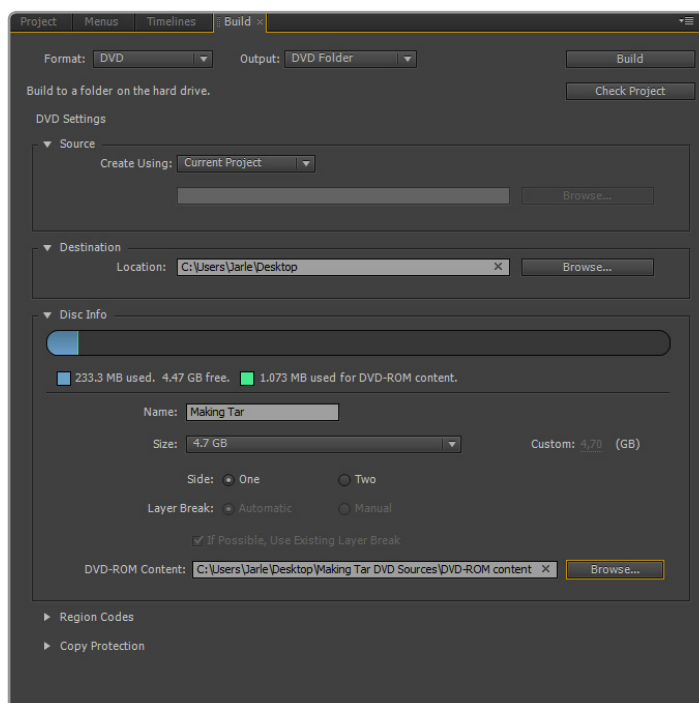
The built-in DVD Player simulator is a nice way to check if everything works.

'The image quality isn't stellar, but you can at least see if the links work.



**File > Preview** gives you a nice little DVD player preview, with buttons you can press, like on a remote control. If everything works OK here, you should be ready to build a DVD.

## ADD DVD-ROM Content



Content you add here can only be accessed on a PC or Mac. Point Encore to the folder that contains the files you want to add.

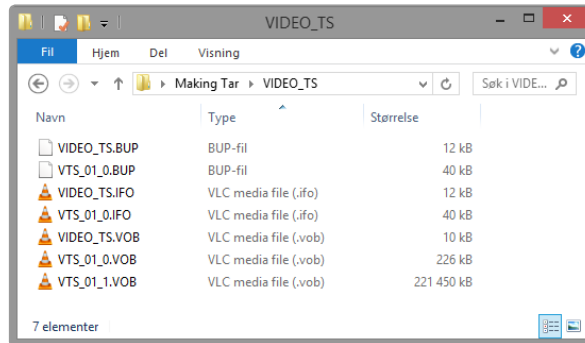
You can put content on your DVD or Blu-ray disc that will not be visible to your DVD or Blu-ray player, but still is available to PCs and Macs.

Even though this is not an option under Blu-ray, the folder you specify under DVD-ROM Content will also be put on a Blu-ray Disc.

In the Build panel, point to the folder where you've gathered your DVD-ROM assets.

## Build a DVD Folder

This is what a Video-DVD folder looks like. It contains Video Objects, Info files and Back-ups of the Info files.



Before you start the building process, click the *Check Project* button and then click *Start*. Any problems with the DVD will be reported, and need to be addressed before you can build a proper DVD.

Although you can build a DVD disc straight out of Encore, I do not recommend it. If you're going to make several copies, the process will be

repeated every time, and that's a waste of time. So build a DVD Folder or Image instead.

When the project has no problems to fix, click the *Build* button when *DVD Folder* is chosen in the Output drop-down menu, and your DVD folder will be created. The result is a VIDEO\_TS folder, and if you've added DVD-ROM content, a few files outside of that folder.

This folder can be played back in VLC Player and other players, to see if everything works OK if you want a final check.

## Save DVD Image and burn DVD

You can burn the folder you created in the previous step onto a DVD, and it will be a fully compatible Video-DVD. Some very, very old DVD players may even require an AUDIO\_TS folder – although it can be empty. Create one if you wish.

You can also create a DVD Image that you can burn to a DVD later. This creates on single file, which helps to keep you organized. The process is the same as for a DVD Folder – just choose *DVD Image* in the Output drop-down menu before you click on *Build*.

Now you can burn the image to disc. You'll need a DVD or Blu-ray burner and writeable discs of course. I recommend that you don't burn directly from Encore, even though you could. There is better burning software out there for free.

## No Guarantees for Playback

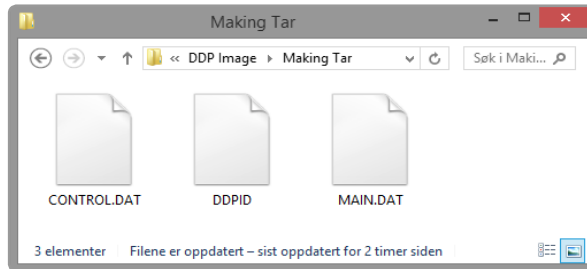
There is no way you can guarantee that a home burnt disk will play in all DVD players. There are different types of writeable DVDs; DVD+R, DVD-R, single sided, double-sided, dual layer, single layer and re-writeable discs. Some DVD players can play most of these, while other players can only play some of them. And some can play a particular brand of one type, but not another brand with the same specs.

You can increase your chances of success if you buy good discs and make sure you have the latest firmware for your burner. But the only way to make sure a DVD plays on all players is to make a Glass Master, and mold the DVDs from that. Very few companies do this now, but there should be at least one on each continent.

## DDP Image output

If the DVD is destined to be sent to a replication facility, I recommend that you create a DDP Image.

This is the content of a DDP Image folder.



The DVD Replication Facility will need a DDP Image or a DLT Tape to create the glass master from. I've always used DDP image. This has the advantage of being file based, so you can just transfer files online to the facility. DLT tape requires a DLT Tape Drive and snail mail shipping. A DDP Image export result in a folder with a three files; CONTROL.DAT, DDPID and MAIN.DAT.

## Dual Layer DVDs

A dual layer DDP image would have two folders named Layer1 and Layer2, and just a DDPID and MAIN.DAT in the Layer2 folder, while the Layer1 folder also has a CONTROL.DAT file.

When you build a dual layer disk, Encore will ask you where you want to set the layer break, but some problems have been reported.

Some replication facilities are picky about the DDP layer breaks, and you should make absolutely sure that your DDP image is approved. If not, you can use the **GEAR PRO Mastering Edition** software to move the layer break. They have a trial version that's fully functional for a few days. An alternative is what's called "The Swiss Army knife of DVD editing", **PgcEdit**.

## Encore Video Tutorials

Encore is a very good DVD authoring program, and it has capabilities far beyond what normal users will ever need. There are lots of features and techniques we haven't covered here, like playlists, slide shows, pop-up menus, menu transitions, multiple languages, audio and subtitle set-up menus, buttons, sub pictures, button routing, region codes copy protection, bit budgeting, etc. Combine these with all the things you can create in Photoshop, After Effects and Premiere, and the possibilities are endless.

I plan to make a series of tutorials for building beautiful and complex Blu-rays and DVDs in Encore, so look out for this on <http://premierepro.net>.



