



out of the box PINNACLE LIQUID EDITION

Liquid Edition was designed for the prosumer. In other words, it's a program that the video amateur as well as the local video production house will find useful. As a result, Pinnacle's Liquid Edition is packed with a number of new professional features, such as advanced color correction, real-time compositing and rendering, and slow-motion control. But it also comes with some step-by-step wizards, direct-to-DVD exporting from the timeline, and a well-thought-out interface for intermediate video editors.

Editing power

Effects, transitions and titles in both 2D and 3D are limited only by your imagination. And you can trim, crop and color-

correct your movie with exquisite control. But aside from producing clips that make you feel like Steven Spielberg there are some practical features for the presenter as well.

Suppose you have some stock footage of your company's manufacturing process. Now you want to show an executive explaining this production process — and you want it all in one clip. With Liquid Edition you can easily combine these two pieces of video footage using an insert or a picture-in-picture action.

Liquid Edition also lets you create attention-getters that professionals often use. For example, you can selectively eliminate the color from a clip so that everything is in black and white except for one object (which stays in color). You can also change the colors of objects in the video using Liquid Edition's CX Color Correction tools.

The DVD-output feature is extremely handy for presenters who like to have a DVD of presentation materials as a leave-behind. There is a DVD-authoring tool accessible from the timeline. Or, to add interactivity into the clip, you can export video clips to Macromedia Flash MX, Adobe After Effects or Pinnacle Commotion Pro.

The final cut

Drawbacks to this program are its \$699 price tag and equipment requirements (512MB of RAM, up-to-date video and sound cards, and a recommended separate hard drive). But if you feel ready to expand your video horizons, Liquid Edition will add significant attention-getting power to your video clips. *harry wal dman is a technology consultant and writer. he can be reached at harry@harrywal dman.com*

rating

Pinnacle Liquid Edition 5.5

KEY POINTS: Prosumer editing program, lots of effects and new features.

EASE OF USE: Nice interface for intermediate video editors. Still a steep learning curve for beginners.

PRICE VALUE: Average for a prosumer editing program.

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Prices: Liquid Edition, \$699; Liquid Edition Pro with additional hardware (AGP and PRO breakout box with composite-video, S-video and FireWire I/O), \$999. **Contact:** Pinnacle Systems Inc., 650.526.1600, www.pinnaclesys.com/edition.

CIRCLE 300 ON READER INQUIRY CARD

you say

When you deliver a presentation, how often do you begin with a personal anecdote or story?

Data from 102 responses to a recent poll on Presentations.com (www.presentations.com).

