

Diaporama AV Group

Essential Notes for Audio-Visual Workers

Slides

- It is best if all the slides in your show are either Portrait or Landscape format – as there is no easy way to blend the change from one to the other.
- Now and again you can make this change using either a square mount or a circular one – but eventually the audience will see through your effect.
- Try to use the same film type throughout a show as this has a significant effect in some dissolves.
- In the diaporama group we use Fujichrome Sensia 100 processed paid slide film – we even buy it in bulk for distribution to the members.

Slide Mounts

- In general all our public shows are made with slides that are mounted in glass mounts.
- The reason for this is simple... to prevent a slide 'popping' during a dissolve.
- Our projectors have their 'autofocus' switched off too.
- Before a show is accepted for public showings they can remain in their original mounts.
- There are available from some suppliers (GePe) slide mounts that have registration holes and pins in them – these help to ensure that some images do not move with respect to each other and some quite impressive dissolves can be made.

Projectors

- Most automatic projectors can be adapted for AV work – by simply adding a device to the bulb circuit. This device is called a triac.
- Most AV groups will know of someone who can do this.
- A preferred way to enter AV will be to buy a pair of projectors that are AV ready and have this device fitted at the factory.
- A switchable AF is desirable – or if you know what to do remove the fuse from the AF system.
- A set of longer lenses can help place the projectors much further back from the screen.

Screens

- A good screen is required – a 6 foot one (1.5 – 2 metres) will be fine.
- Use the same screen all the time – then you will know where to place the projectors.
- Remember that you may have to take the screen in your car when you purchase it.

Dissolve Equipment

The SX2000 computer

- There are many dissolve equipment suppliers.
- Diaporama use Imatronic control equipment.
- The Imatronic SX2000 Digital is our workhorse – and is used for all our presentations. It is the same unit that is fitted to the Royale system and is usually available at most events.
- The SX2000 operates this way.
- When in record mode – it writes - digitally - all the moves you make with the hand controller to track four of a suitable cassette recorder (or computer).
- When in replay mode – it plays - all the moves you made with the hand controller from track four of a suitable cassette recorder (or computer).
- There is also a setting which allows you to do a line up on a screen when setting up.
- It also has buttons on the top for pre-defined dissolves that can be at the press of the appropriate button.
- There is also an anti-snatch control setting – this delays the slide change for 1 or two seconds to prevent the slide that is fading being driven out of the gate before it has fully faded.

Hand controller

- This is a simple slider control which allows the operator to control the rate of change between slides.
- At each end of the slide there is (inside) a microswitch which advances the projector that is not projecting an image at that time.

The Light Box

- AV work usually involves 100s of slides initially being selected down to 50 – 60 for the show.
- It is ambitious to do a show with 100 slides.
- Keep the length to 6 – 8 minutes maximum.
- In general slides are passed through about 5 or 6 per minute.
- A large light box is very useful for this.
- Ensure that the surface is clean and dry!
- Ensure that it is quite level – as some glass units when covered with plastic mounts seem to allow them to slide freely about.
- A box with fluorescent tubes is better due to the lower temperatures.
- Have a high quality eyeglass for examining images.
- Some effects can be imagined before projection by holding two slides together and viewing the image.
- Most effects are produced when projecting and fading.

Music Selection

- This is one of the most challenging aspects of the AV work.
- In Diaporama we tend to use music which is searched out for specific projects.
- Ideally it will not have been on general release.
- The music is selected for the overall sound and also the beat.
- You would tend not to make a show on flowers to a rock tune!
- Try to make your show to one piece of music (two at the most).
- Try to get the show to finish at the end of the track of music.

MUSIC COPYRIGHT INFORMATION.

Unless you have written and played the music in your show – and some of us do – you will need copyright clearance for all the aspects of the preparation.

1. To initially copy the music.
2. To mix the music
3. To play the music in public.

To overcome this the simplest way (and the lowest cost way) is to join the Film and Video Institute (FVI) through whom you can get all the licences for quite a modest sum. (Contact Diaporama for details).

The Recorder / Play back unit.

In general to record your show and play it back you need a four track recorder.

It is possible to do this with a normal home stereo recorder but there are issues with cross talk between the two tracks and in most cases the control 'digital' signal can be heard on the audio.

Initial projection of slides

Is sometimes quite successfully done in a single projector to evaluate timings.

This allows an easier way to adjust the timings when adding or removing slides.

Once into the two magazines then do an initial pass through to see if there are any 'great' or 'jarring' dissolve.

Run them through with the music – just to see if they fit initially.

Audio Recording - A Digital approach.

An alternative to using a four track for audio recording, is to use digital recording techniques through a standard PC .

There are various software titles available which will allow you to set up your PC as a virtual recording studio.

DataBaker's ' Music Centre Pro' has been used by various members of the Diaporama group. One of the nice things about this method over four track is that mixing and layering can be done posts recording.

Music or sound effects can be input through the CD-ROM drive or directly through the line in socket of your sound card.

Once all of your sound sources have been recorded on to the tracks, the real versatility comes into play.

If for example you wanted to fade to background music such that a narrative could begin, this can be set up as a click and drag routine.

If when you play it back, you find that the narrative track comes in too soon, then it's easily fixed .Select the track, click and drag it to the position you want.

Most modern studio effects can be implemented, e.g. cross fades, equalisation, reverb etc etc.

Once you are happy with your mix, this can be saved as a sequence file and exported as a wave file either to audio cassette or written to a CD. As with most sound systems, sampling can be done at 44khz (CD quality) and what you can end up with is a complex CD quality soundtrack.