



TRANSPARENT TEXT

1. INTRODUCTION

When the editor was a kid, "Dynasty" was a major TV-series. One thing the editor remembers (or think he remembers), was the cool intro where the text was invisible revealing a movie clip underneath. The letters was carved out in a way. Other films and series have used this during the years the editor has watched series and films.

In this tutorial VE will show you some of the basic principles in order to make this effect on your own films.

2. STARTING

There are of course a couple of factors you have to consider. First of all your software need two timelines – one background and one timeline for the text with layer. Accordingly you need a chroma key effect – unless this option is available directly (like in Adobe Premiere Pro).

In this tutorial VE will use Pinnacle Studio. VE has started a new project and added video as background. If you like you can of course use anything for this purpose. You can have changing video, several videos showing or whatever you fancy.

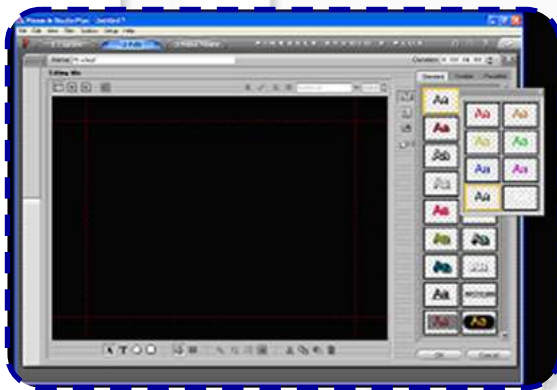


Fig. 1

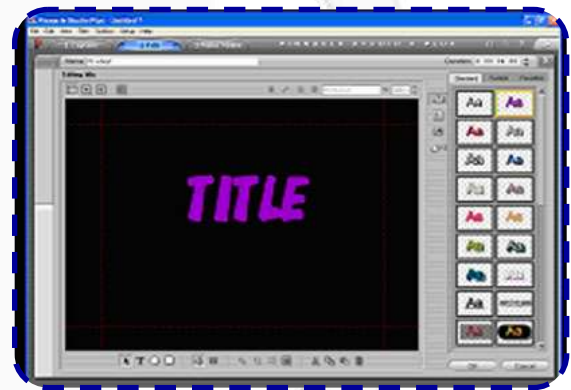


Fig. 2

3. SETTING TEXT OPTIONS

In Fig. 1 VE has opened the title editor in order to make the text effect. The first thing to do is to apply a layer that will cover the entire window. This layer will work as a blocking screen concealing the movie clip. If you please you can of course have other colors as layer, but keep in mind that you should select a very different color when applying text so that the chroma key effect will work well.

Now that you have the layer in place, it's time to add the text. In Fig. 2, VE has selected the text option, found the right size, font type and style. One good principle is to use solid fonts since the color you apply will later be removed. Purple as color for the font is for instance a good choice. And when you have found your formula, copy this title and make the proper changes to what the text reads so that you have all you intro titles – if you have multiple titles that is.

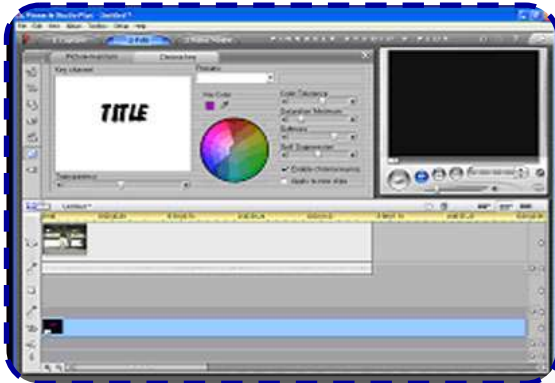


Fig. 3



Fig. 4

3. USING THE CHROMA KEY

Unless you remove the font color, you just have created a general title that looks rather dull. But if you do as shown in Fig. 3 and remove the font color, the result is quite different. Select the correct color to remove and make the proper adjustments.

In Fig. 4, you can see the result. The background is visible and the text is “invisible” – that is transparent. You can tune this any way you want. Change the background; apply effects to the title, transitions between the titles and so forth.

4. CONCLUSION

Sounds a bit tricky perhaps, but if you have followed the simple steps outlined, you’ll discover that the effect is very easy to create. And the result is a very professional intro effect. ■■