

MyDVD User Guide

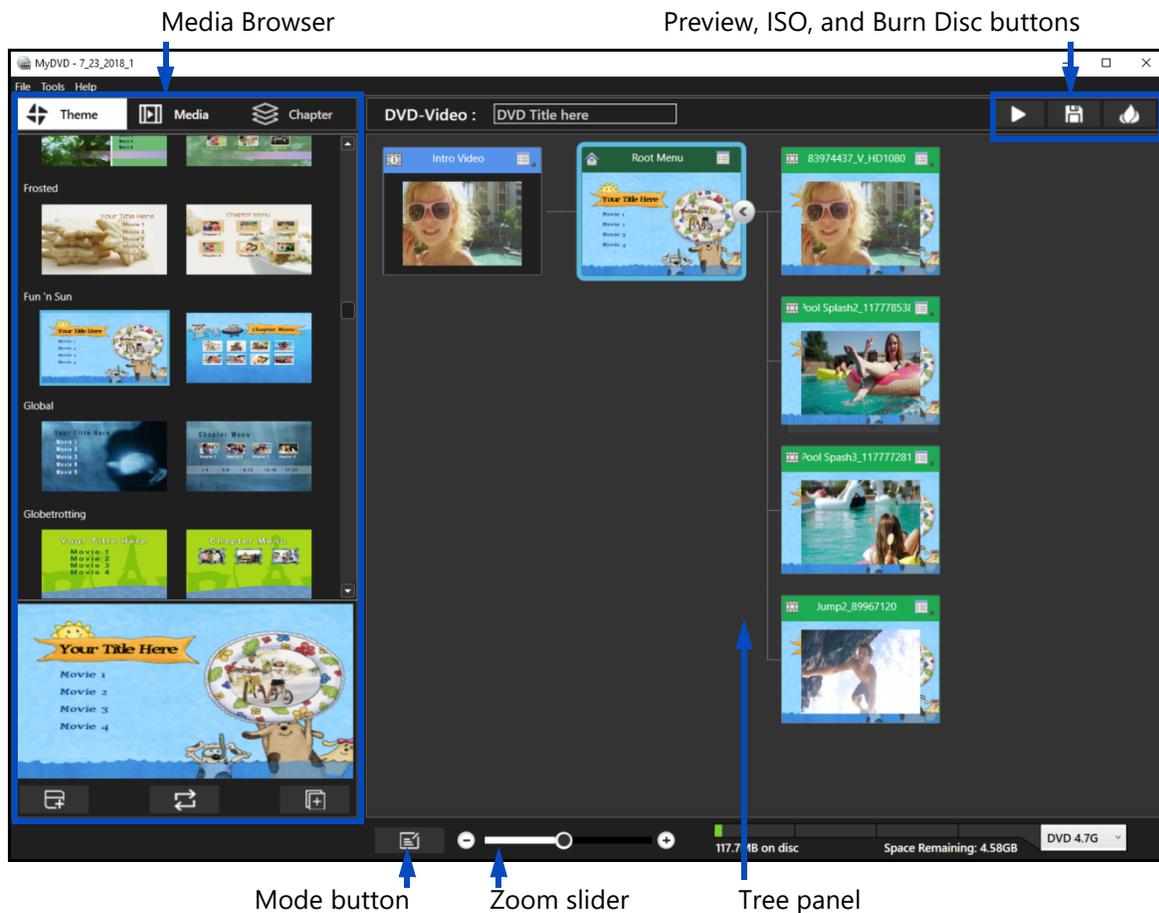
Welcome to MyDVD®, an easy disc-creation program that lets you turn your videos into professional-looking multimedia disc projects, complete with image-rich menus and music.

In this guide, you will learn about

- **MyDVD workspace**, page 1
- **How to create a project**, page 2
- **Project basics**, page 6

MyDVD workspace

MyDVD has two different modes that let you organize (**Tree Mode**) and edit (**Menu Editor**) your projects.



Tree Mode lets you choose a template (from Theme) and organize your media, and create chapters.



Menu Editor lets you reposition menu text, choose different music, and change the background imagery for the selected menu.

How to create a project

MyDVD lets you create and customize your project in a number of ways. The basic steps for creating a project are

- 1 Choose a template.
- 2 Add submenus to organize your videos.
- 3 Add media, renaming your content in the **Tree Mode** panel.

Optional customizations let you

- Add chapter points to videos (helpful for longer videos).
- Change the background picture used for the menu.
- Edit the menu layout.
- Change the menu background music.

You can save your project (.MyDVD file) so that you can work on it later or output it to a different format.

Before you start

It's a good idea to think about how you want to organize your media before you create your project. MyDVD uses a tree structure and submenus to organize projects. Let's take a look at an example project.

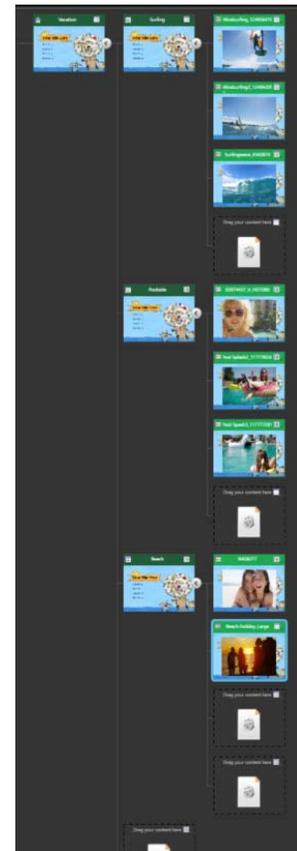
Example: I have a quite a few video clips from a weekend trip. For my project, I decide to include the best clips from three different activities. My main menu title will be "Summer Vacation", and I will create submenus for each activity:

- *Surfing (3 video clips)*
- *Poolside (3 video clips)*
- *Beach (2 video clips)*

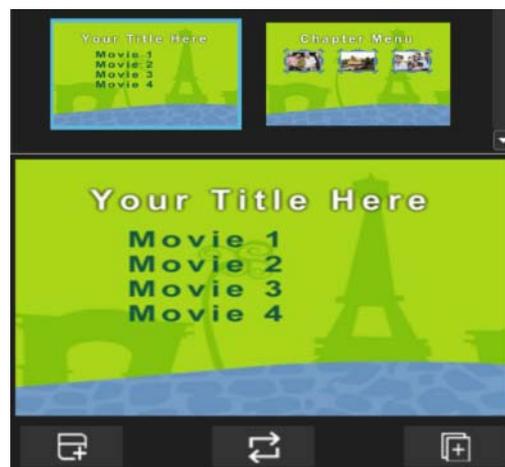
In the example, the main menu template I chose from the **Theme** tab of the **Media Browser** can accommodate up to four items per menu and submenus follow the same structure. If you have more than four videos for any one group, you can create a substructure that suits the project. In the example described, if there were nine surfing videos, another submenu based on participants could be created: Mom (3 videos), Dad (2 videos) and Kids (4 videos).



Note: Some templates accommodate a maximum of two items per menu, others accommodate three or four items. The number is predetermined, so choose a template that works for your content needs.



Example project in Tree Mode

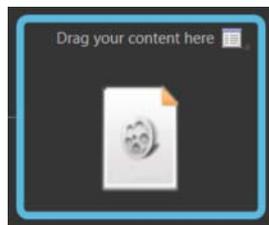


On Theme tab, the thumbnail for main and sub menus displays on the left. The thumbnail on the right is a chapter menu (chapters are often used in longer videos). If you click a thumbnail, a blue outline appears around the selected thumbnail, and the selected menu can be previewed at the bottom of the panel. The template shown above can accommodate up to four items per menu (indicated by Movie 1, Movie 2, Movie 3, Movie 4).

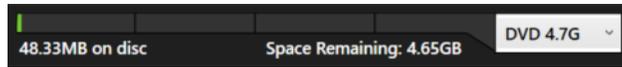
To create a disc project

- 1 Start **MyDVD**.
- 2 In the **New Project** dialog box, do one of the following:
 - Start a new project by clicking one of the following disc types, typing a name, and choosing a location:
 - **DVD**
 - **AVCHD**
 - **Blu-ray** (not available in all versions)
 - Click **Open Existing Project**.
 - Click **Open Last Project**.
- 3 In the Media Browser, click the **Theme** tab, and choose a template.
- 4 Click the **Apply theme to current menu** button  to apply the template to the **Root Menu** thumbnail (selected by default) in the **Tree Mode** panel.
- 5 In the Media Browser, click the **Media** tab, and navigate to the video files you want.
- 6 In the **Tree Mode** panel, decide how to organize your project to accommodate your media. Do any of the following:
 - To rename a menu, click the **Menu** icon  in the upper-right corner of a menu thumbnail, click **Rename**, and type a new name.
 - To add a submenu, click the **Menu** icon  in the upper-right corner of a menu thumbnail, click **Add Menu**, and double-click **Sub Menu** to type a new name.
 - To remove a menu, click the **Menu** icon  in the upper-right corner of the thumbnail, and click **Remove**.

Note: You can drag the **Zoom** slider below the **Tree Mode** panel to change the zoom level for the tree view.
- 7 When your structure is set, drag your media from the Media Browser to a media placeholder.



- 8 Complete any additional editing. For more information, see “To add chapters to a video” on page 5 and “To edit menu layout, background imagery, or music” on page 6.
- 9 Verify the disc capacity for the project by checking the **Project size** bar at the bottom of the window and checking the **Disc size** drop-down menu to the right of the bar.



10 Click the **Preview Project** button  (upper-right corner) to view and test the menu setup and video playback.

11 When you are happy with your project, click one of the following:

- **Save Project to an ISO Image** button  — saves your project to a single file that functions like a disc
- **Burn Project** button  — burns your project to disc. Ensure that there is a writable disc in your disc drive.



Tip: You can mix-and-match or change a menu theme in your project by dragging a new menu theme from the **Theme** tab to the menu you want to change in the **Tree Mode** panel. To apply a selected template to the entire project, click the **Apply theme to all menus** button .

Tip: You can also add media to your project by right-clicking an empty placeholder thumbnail in **Tree Mode**, clicking **Add Title**, and navigating the to media you want.

To add chapters to a video

1 In the **Tree Mode** panel, click the **Menu** icon  in the upper-right corner of thumbnail for the video to which you want to add chapters.

2 Click **Add Chapters**.

The **Chapter** tab opens in the Media Browser.

3 On the **Chapter** page, do one of the following:

- Below the video preview, drag the scrubber along the time bar or use the playback controls to set the chapter position, and click the **Add chapter** button .

Note: The button is unavailable if you have less than 10 secs between chapter points or between the start and end of the video.

- In the **Automatically create chapters** area, set time intervals for chapters by entering values for the minutes (**Min**) and seconds (**Sec**), and click the **Create Chapters** button .

4 If you want to customize the name for your chapters, in the **Tree Mode** panel, double-click the chapter name at the top of a chapter thumbnail (by default, it will be a number), and type a name.



Chapter points appear as orange markers along the time bar in the video playback area of the Chapter page.

A chapter menu and the chapter points are added to the tree.

To edit menu layout, background imagery, or music

- 1 In the **Tree Mode** panel, click the thumbnail of the menu that you want to edit.
- 2 Click the **Menu Editor** button .
- 3 Do any of the following:
 - To change the menu layout, click an object in the **Edit** panel, and drag the object to a new position or drag a corner of the selected object to resize it.
 - To change the menu music, click the **Add background music** button  and navigate to the audio file that you want to use.
 - To change the background image, click the **Add background photo** button , and navigate to the image file you want to use.
- 4 To review your changes, click the **Preview Theme** button .
- 5 When you are finished, click the **Tree Mode** button  to return to the tree.

Project basics

There are a number of basic tasks that you can perform.

Saving

By default, MyDVD auto-saves your projects, so your work is protected in the event of a program or system interruption. Your project files are saved to the location you specified when you created the project. Project files can be identified by the .MyDVD file extension.

To create a variation of an existing project, you can use **File > Save Project As** to save a version of the current project to a new name.

Intro videos

You can add an intro video to your project (for example, a bumper video or opening narrative). Note that the AVCHD format does not support intro videos.

Project Settings

You can set NTSC or PAL as the default video standard for all DVD projects (does not apply to AVCHD or BD projects), or set it for the current DVD project only.

You can also choose to lock the aspect ratio for template buttons so that they can be repositioned and resized without distortion.

Erasing a disc

You can erase existing content from a disc before you burn.

Render Mode settings

You can choose between hardware and software rendering. Hardware rendering is optimal in most cases, but if you encounter issues creating an ISO file or burning to disk, you can change your render mode setting.

To save a project to a new file name or location

- 1 Click **File** menu > **Save Project As**.
- 2 In the **Save As** dialog box, choose a location and type a new file name.
- 3 Click **Save**.

The file is saved in the **.MyDVD** format.

To open a saved project

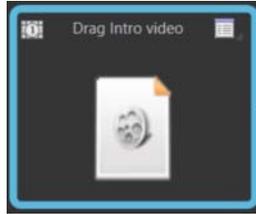
- In **MyDVD**, click **File** menu > **Open Project**.



Tip: You can also open a project from the **New Project** dialog box by clicking **Open Existing Project**.

To add an intro video to your project

- Drag the video that you want to use as an intro from the **Media** tab of the Media Browser to the **Drag Intro video** thumbnail (to the left of the **Root Menu** in the **Tree Mode** panel).



To set NTSC or PAL for your project (DVD only)

- 1 In the **MyDVD** menu, choose **Project Settings**.
- 2 In the **Project Settings** dialog box, click **NTSC** or **PAL**.
If you want to use this setting for all projects, mark the **Set as default for new productions** check box.

To erase a disc

- 1 Ensure the disc you want to erase is in your disc drive.
- 2 Click **Tools** menu > **Erase Disc**.

To change the render mode

- 1 Choose **Tools** menu > **Settings**.
- 2 In the **Settings** dialog box, choose one of the following options:
 - **Hardware rendering** (default)
 - **Software rendering**

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MyDVD® User Guide

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