

Peripherals

Snazzi III AV.DV

DVD movies are no longer the sole domain of the studios. They can be compiled in your home with Snazzi.

PRICE \$200 **CONTACT** +971 4 393 3665 **WEB** www.snazzi.com

Snazzi have been busy making DVD creation easier for the rest of us and the AV DV is the result. It is basically a DV capturing device which will allow you to create VCDs, DVDs and SVCDs from your PC.

Aimed at the growing camcorder and non-linear editing market, the Snazzi comes with Movie Mill and DV Studio software, both of which are designed to facilitate and speed up the creation process. Bundled products include Ulead Video Studio 5, MyDVD, Power Director, DVD picture show, LMSOFT Presenter studio, Flip Album, CD Maker, Cool 3D and NERO 5.

Apparently, DVD is now the fastest growing consumer format of all time, and surely it is only a matter of time now before transferring VHS (don't they look tired already) to DVD at home is the norm. The Snazzi is pretty easy to use and will probably go some way to making that vision a reality. It's not quite

plug-and-play but the people who managed to set their video recorders some 20 years ago should be able to keep pace.

One drawback, as you may expect when carrying out such intensive tasks, is that you will need a whole lot of PC. Having said that, we booted up on a 64MB RAM machine running Windows 2000 and were able to generate decent results. As a guide it is recommended that you have at least 650MHz at your disposal. However, for MPEG-1 real-time encoding you will need a computer running at just 450MHz.

It is the DV to MPEG-2 transcoding that requires real horsepower: some PIV 1.4GHz. But if you have that much power at your fingertips, you will be happy with the results. There's not too much competition in the market for this kind of kit at the moment but, even with view available alternatives, the Snazzi certainly doesn't disappoint.



Summary

SPECIFICATIONS Includes Movie Mill and DV Studio software, Ulead Video Studio 5, MyDVD, Power Director, DVD picture show, LMSOFT Presenter studio, Flip Album, CD Maker, Cool 3D and NERO 5.

PERFORMANCE	★★★★★
FEATURES	★★★★★
VALUE FOR MONEY	★★★☆☆
WARRANTY (0-3 YRS)	☆☆☆☆☆
USER SUITABILITY	★★★★★
OVERALL RATING	★★★★★

ALSO CONSIDER Also consider the high-end Matrox card.