

Belle Nuit Montage - 16mm et Avid - Place du Château - Lausanne - Suisse - e-mail:
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Belle Nuit Subtitler 1.0

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What it is

Standalone Program to edit and render subtitles or other mass titles for using in Avid Media Composer, Avid Xpress or other nonlinear editing software. Give it to your translators so they can prepare the titles themselves, without using your time on the Avid Title Tool.

Features

- Full quality antialiased titles with alpha-Channel
- Support for PAL, NTSC (nonsquare pixels), 4:3 and 16:9
- Fast batch rendering to PICT, TIFF and losless-compressed TIFF
- Straightforward title editing with unlimited undo
- Automatic or manual text wrapping
- Text importing, exporting and printing features
- Customizable fonts, styles, colors, position, opacity, alignment and shadows or underlying rectangles
- Works on quite any current Macintosh

Specifications

- Macintosh 68020 or newer (Power Macintosh 9500 or later recommended)
- Minimum 9 MB RAM for the application (12 MB recommended)
- Minimum 700 KB disc space for application and about 50 KB for every rendered title.
- MacOS 7.1 or newer (8.1 recommended)

How to get the Program

The latest version of the program is available at

<http://www.belle-nuit.com/download/index.html>

Current release version is english. A french and a german version will be available at the end of the month. Licences work with any language version.

If you have problems to get the page or to get the file downloaded, please drop a message to matti@belle-nuit.com

Terms of use

This program is commercial software. If you want to use it, you need a license.

Offline License

You can freely distribute this program and use on any numbers of computers. The offline version is fully functional for handling the title list, but the rendered titles will have the word "offline" in it. Give it to your translator, your director or your producer or whoever is responsible for the subtitle text.

Online License

You can acquire the online license at kagi. You can use the utility which comes with the application or you can buy it on the kagi website (<http://order.kagi.com/?ZSI>)

Online licene fee is 89 USD. After paying, a username and a serial number will be sent to you.

With the online license, you are allowed to use this program on one Macintosh. You may make backup copies, but you may not register the online license on more than one Macintosh.

Local broadcast stations and rental houses may opt for a site licence (449 USD), major broadcast stations for a worldwide license (2249 USD).

Owners of a online license will have the right to free support by email (matti@belle-nuit.com). Please include your username when you are writing for support.

With both licenses, Belle Nuit Montage keeps ownership of the program. The license only allows you to use the program for an unlimited duration.

If you use this program, you agree with the terms of this license.

Installation

Expand the downloaded file with Stuffit Expander. Install it wherever you want it on your harddisk. As with any installation of Macintosh software, you may want to rebuild the desktop to have the program and document icons properly displayed (holding option-command on restart).

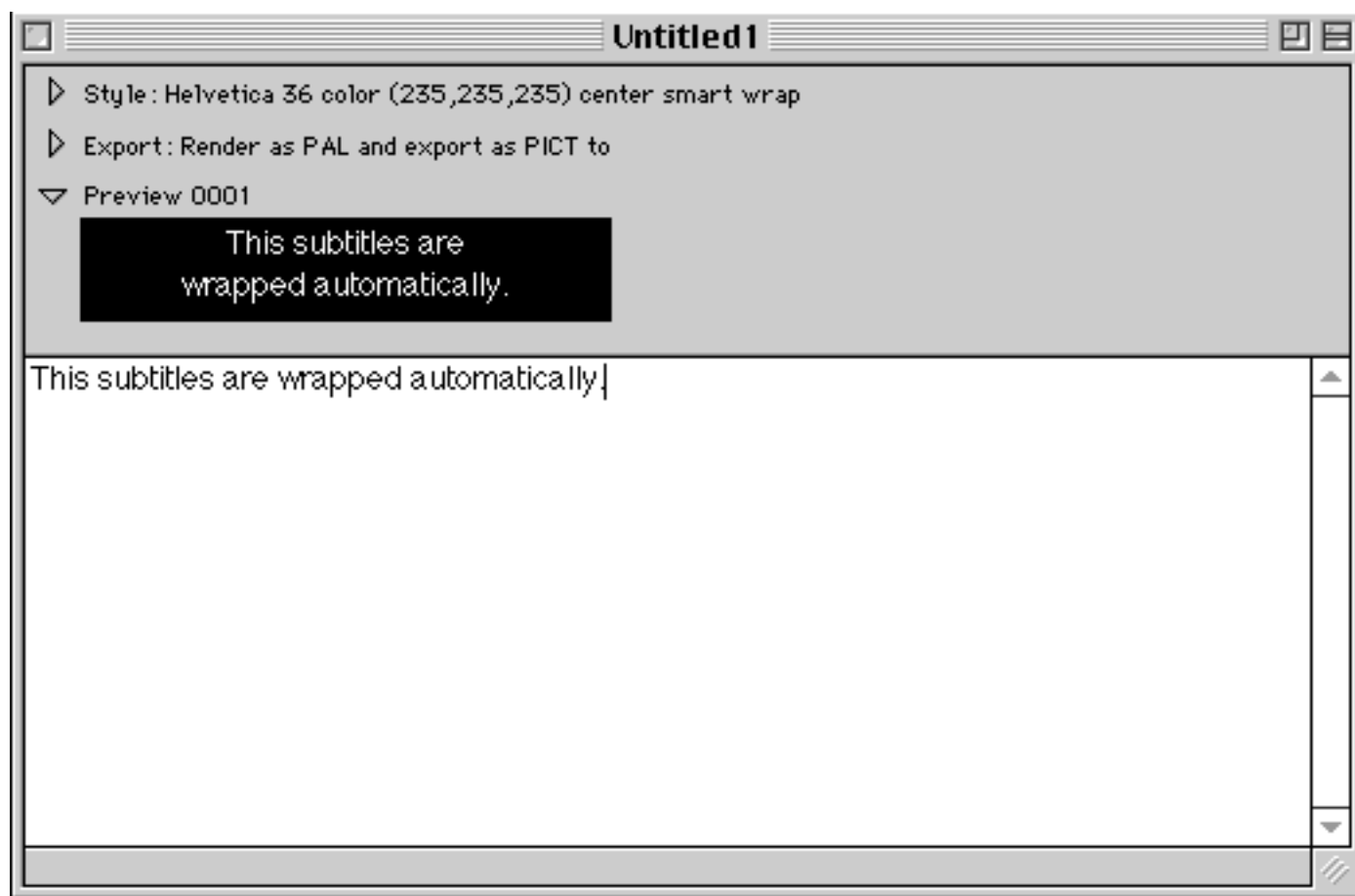
When you use Belle Nuit Subtitler for the first time on your Macintosh, the program will ask you to register. If you opt for the online license, enter **Username** and **Serial Number**. If you opt for the offline license, just push the **Offline Button**. You can always upgrade later to the online license using **Apple:About Subtitler...** menu.

Quickstart

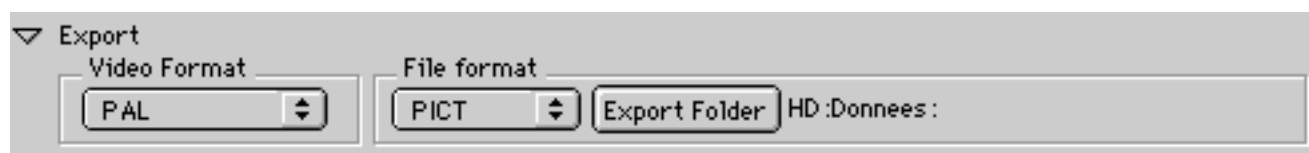
Working in Belle Nuit Subtitler is straightforward. The Subtitler documents window is a texteditor where you can type your titles. Pages are separated by two returns. Text is wrapped automatically to two lines, but you can also wrap the text manually. The style of the titles applies to the whole document. For proper subtitle editing which is often critical in space, you may want to define your title style before editing.

Open the Belle Nuit Subtitler application. An empty document window with the title "Untitled1" appears.

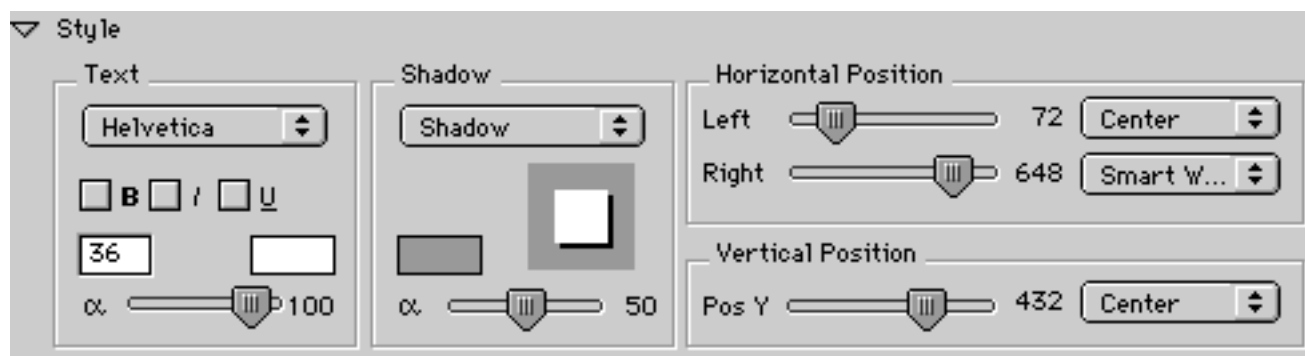
The subtitler document window has four sections: Style, Export, Preview and Text editing. While text editing is always visible, you can open the other three sections with the disclosure triangle when you need them.



Open the **Export** section. Choose your video format. Choose **TIFF-RLE** as the file format (most efficient with Avid) and click on the **Export Folder** button to choose the folder where you want your titles to be exported to. Close the Export section.

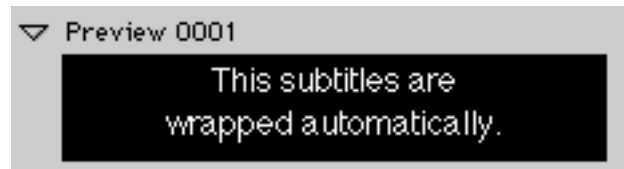


Open the **Style** section. Choose your font. As with all settings, you can still change the font at a later time. It is recommended to use a simple shaped font like Helvetica. Check bold. For the size, use 33-36 for PAL or 30 for NTSC. The color is video white by default (RGB 235,235,235), but you may want to change it to yellow. Click on the color rectangle to choose another color. The Alpha-slider defines opacity. Leave it at 100% for the moment. Close the Style section.



Go to the **Text editing** field and start writing your subtitles. This works like SimpleText and has the standard features cut, copy, paste and find. You can multiple undo your typing without limits until the last saved state. You can also redo, e.g. undo your undo.

Each page is separated by a double return. As you type, the title is shown in the **Preview** section. The preview section shows the amount of space you have, depending on your font, size, the video format and the left and right limits you set in the style section. The preview type size is always 12 point, but the black rectangle adapts to reflect the available space.



If you are typing a line which exceeds the size limit, the text is wrapped. In the style section, you have three options for wrapping

- **No wrap:** Exceeding text is cut.
- **Simple wrap:** Exceeding text is wrapped to the second line.
- **Smart wrap:** If the text does not hold in one line, it is wrapped to have minimal width through both lines. In most cases, you may prefer the last option.

You can always override the automatic wrapping with a manual return. Text is only wrapped if it exceeds the size limit.

Titles are limited to two lines. A third line will not be shown.

Save your document.

While the preview section may be appropriate for fast editing, you may want to have a closer look to the rendered title. Choose the **Windows:Monitor** menu. The monitor displays the rendered title.

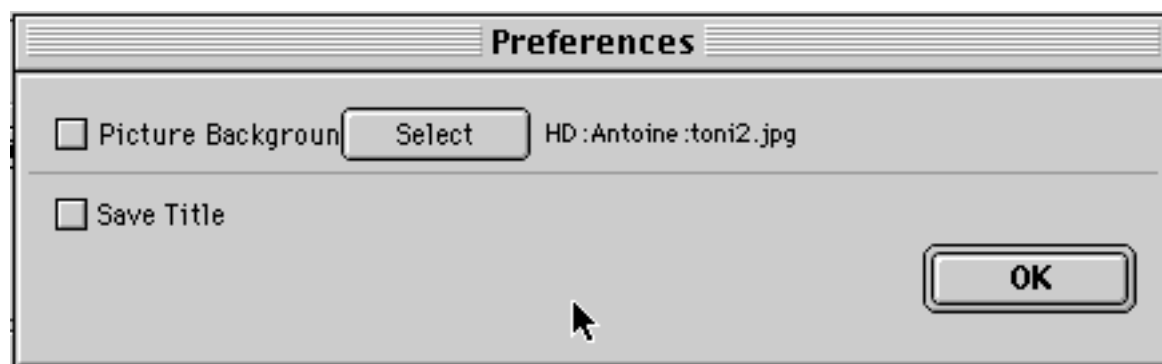
You can resize the monitor to quarter, half or full size picture. The displayed size is 4:3 or 16:9 depending on your video format setting.

Press **enter** to update rendering.

You can always have a peek to the native non-square title image. While you **click** in the monitor window, you will see the native title image. While you **option-click**, you will see the Alpha-Channel of the title.



Choose the **Windows-Preferences** menu. You can set **Save Title** to display Save Title and Save Action limits, and you can also choose a background picture to test your title.



You now may want to export your titles to see how they display in the Avid. Choose the **Select All** menu to select all your text. Choose the **File-Export** menu. The titles are rendered one by one to the monitor window and exported to the folder you specified.

By default, the file names are serial numbers from 0001 to the number of your titles with the extension .tiff or .pict. It is the number you see in the preview-section. The reference below in this documentation will you give another possibility that you can override the filenames and give your own filename.

Now, you have finished with Belle Nuit Subtitler, go to the Avid (description for Media Composer 7.x, Xpress 2.x)

1. Activate the bin where you want to have your titles imported

2. Choose **File:Import** menu
3. Choose **File Type** pop-up menu: **Graphic/Audio**
4. Look for the folder of the exported files (named 0001.tiff etc.) and **add** them to the import file list
5. Click on the **Options...** button
6. Select Aspect Ratio **Force to Fit Screen** (7.0,2.0) resp. **CCIR non-square** (7.1,2.1).
7. File has **RGB-Levels**
8. **Deselect Import Sequential Files**
9. Select **Invert Existing Alpha**
10. Select Single Frame Import Format **Slide**
11. The Avid System creates a Matte key effect. Put it to your timeline. The effect is real-time.

Tips

Choose a proper workflow for productive subtitling.

1. Spotting: Add a new empty video track. Go through the film and define the length of the titles. Put add edits as placeholders.
2. Scripting: Write down your dialogs, using the defined borders in the spotting. Use Belle Nuit Subtitler or use a Word Processor
3. Translating: Translate your titles in a second window in Belle Nuit Subtitler.
4. Render the titles
5. Import the titles into the Avid and place them on the prepared video track.

Define your title style before you edit the subtitles

Subtitle writing is often a space-critical work. If you already have defined a Title Style, the Preview section will accomodate to available space and allow you to adapt the text.

Use Belle Nuit Subtitler with Avid

If you have enough RAM, you can keep Subtitler open while working in Avid. For last-minute changes, using Subtitler and importing to your bin will be as fast as opening the title tool.

Use sample placeholders from Belle Nuit Subtitler

The program comes with a sample file "Placeholders" which are just numbered subtitles from 1 to 2000. Render as much titles as you need. Place them during the spotting.

Digital cut the tape for the translation. The translator has a guide number for each title.

When you import the new titles, you can just replace the placeholder titles with the real titles which have the same number.

If you are used to the Relink-command you can use it to automatically relink the sequence to the new titles. Take a look at the tutorial of Wes Plate: <http://www.wesplate.com>

Reference

The application has three main windows: The Document window, the Monitor and the Preferences Window. You can have multiple document windows open. The Monitor always renders the topmost document window.

Document window

The document window has four sections: Style, Export, Preview and the text editor. While the text editor is always visible, the other three sections can be shown or hidden with the disclosure triangles.

The Style section

You can choose any **font** in your system. True Type fonts work best. If you choose Postscript fonts, be sure to add big screen fonts and not only the 12-size. This will approve the font metrics.

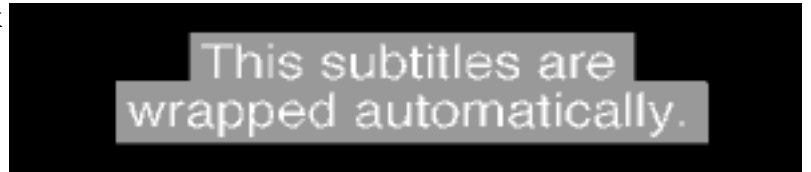
Size can be choosen within the limits of the screen dimensions. We made best experience with sizes from 30 to 36 in subtitles.

Choose your style with the **Bold**, **Italic** and **Underline** checkboxes. At this time, it is not possible to individually change this for a title. If you need to do this (for literal citations or off commentary), a workaround is to make a duplicate of the subtitle document, change the style and rerender only these lines.

Choose the **Text color**. Color is not checked for legal values. This is why you may choose **File has RGB-Levels** in the Avid import options.

Choose the **Alpha**. 0% is completely transparent, 100% completely opaque. If you choose colored titles, a reduced Alpha of 90% may improve the results in the Avid by having less compression artefacts.

Choose the **Shadow color** and **Alpha**. Use the black rectangle to define the shadow position. If it is behind the white, there will be no shadow. You can have either a shadow or an underlying rectangle. A transparent underlying rectangle may improve lisibility in difficult context.



Choose the **Left**, **Right** limits and **Vertical** position. Option-clicking on the sliders sets them to their default value. The vertical size is set automatically according to the size of the text. The pop-up menu choose the relative position of the text to the defined position. Most time, you will stay with **center** and **center**. With this setting, if there is a oneliner among twoliner titles, it will be vertically centered.

You have three options for **Wrapping**

- **No wrap:** Exceeding text is cut.
- **Simple wrap:** Exceeding text is wrapped to the second line.
- **Smart wrap:** If the text does not hold in one line, it is wrapped to have minimal width through both lines. In most cases, you may prefer the last options.

You can always override the automatic wrapping by giving a manual return. Text is only wrapped if it exceeds the size limit.

All style settings are saved with the document. If you create a new document, it will copy the style settings of the topmost document window.

The Export section

- **Video format:** Support for PAL and NTSC and widescreen. Output for PAL is always 720*576 non-square pixel, for NTSC 720*486 non-square pixels. The widescreen 16:9 option scales typo so that it shows properly on 16:9 projects.
You change the format of the document at any time, but changing may affect text wrapping.
You may also have multiple documents open with different video formats at the same time. However, if you change to often between formats in one session, the monitor window has to renitalize the video buffer and you may run out of memory. Just quit the application and reopen it.
- **Export folder:** Select the folder where you export your files. The files will have names like 0001.TIFF.
Caution: Exporting will overwrite any existing file with the same name.
You may override the naming scheme using the comment function explained below. Any title with a beginning line of **/file myfilename** will be saved under this name, with the extension TIFF or PICT.
Caution2: It is your responsibility in this case to give unique filenames. If you give the same filename two times, the file will be overwritten.
- **Export format:**
 - **PICT:** saves the title as RGB file and as a separate alpha-file. The export is fast and the files are small, you can batch-import them on newer systems, but the matte key is not realtime and renders slowly.
 - **TIFF:** saves the title als RGB with embedded alpha. The exporting is not very fast and the files are big (1.6 MB). Alpha is normal (white = background).
 - **TIFF-RLE:** saves the title as RBG with embedded alpha. The file is run-length-encoded, which is for titles a very effective lossless compression (40 -60 KB) without loosing quality. Alpha is inverted (white = foreground) to enhance compression. You have to choose invert alpha in the Avid import settings.
The recommended setting is **TIFF-RLE**.

The Preview Section

Simulates the wrapping of the titles to give you the possibility to edit space-critically. The size is always 12 point, but

margins are adjusted according to the textsize. Color is always white and shadows are not shown to speed up response. To have the preview working properly, you need to set your style to the actual definitive render settings.

The Text Editor

Text is not styled. It is always 12 point in the text font you choose. You can cut, copy, paste and find like in any other text editor. You may import a text document if you prefer another text editor.

The text formatting is simple

- Titles are separated by double returns
- Titles may have one or two lines. You may enter manually a return or you can use the wrap fonction defined in the Style section.
- If the title exceeds two lines, the other lines will be ignored
- If the first line of a title begins with a slash /, it will be regarded as a comment and ignored for the rendering.

About Comments

Comments are mainly for your own purpose. You may enter time code values or other information. A comment may not exceed one line.

You can use a comment to add your own filename. If the comment line has the **/file** tag, the following text will be used as the filename.

Examples for comments

```
This is a normal title without comment.
```

```
/? chabis
```

```
Here I added a comment that i did not understand the word chabis
```

```
/file generique
```

```
This title will have the filename "generique.tiff"
```

```
/00:01:12:10
```

```
This title should go to a specific timecode.
```

```
/file 00:01:12:10
```

```
This title will be saved as "00.01.12.10.tiff" because ":" are not allowed in  
macintosh filenames.
```

Preferences Window

You can change two settings

- Display a background image to have a better preview of the title. You can import any picture QuickTime can read. The picture will be forced to fit your video format dimensions.
A background picture slows down the title rendering in the monitor and the rendering is only approximative if the monitor is not full size.
- Display Save Action (90%) and Save Title (80%) area.

The Monitor Window

The Monitor Window actually renders the title. It will always be activated on exporting.

You can resize the window to quarter, half and full size. The window size does not affect the quality of the exported titles.

The monitor always displays the title of the topmost document window. If you have documents with different video formats open at the same time, subsequent reinitializing of the video buffer may you have run out of memory.

The monitor is not automatically updated on changes. Press **enter** to force rendering.

You can peek the fullsize output rendering by **clicking** into the monitor. Be sure to click within the title itself. If you **option-click**, you will see the alpha-channel. White is background, black is foreground, gray is some level of transparency.

Menu reference

- **Apple:About Subtitler:** Use this menu to register to upgrade from offline to online license
- **File:New, File:Open, File:Close, File:Save, File:Save as** work as expected. You can only open subtitler documents, not the rendered PICT and TIFF files.
- **File import:** Select a textfile with subtitles prepared in another word processing programm. The file must be of TEXT type.
If the file does have tabulators, they will be changed to returns.
Returns will be changed to double returns, unless the document already has double returns.
- **File export titles:** The document will be exported to a TEXT file with the creator "ttx" (Simple Text)
- **File export:** The selected titles will be rendered and exported as image files. If there is no selection, only the title at the cursor position will be rendered. The file format and destination are choosen in the Export section of the document. The files have the creator "ogle" (PictureViewer) Files are numbered by default as 0001.tiff or 0001.pict etc, but you can override this by adding a comment to the title (/file filename). **Caution: Existing files with the same name as the image file will be overwritten.**
- **File:Quit** works as expected
- **Edit-Undo, Edit-Redo.** Unlimited multiple undo for the text editing until to the last saving.No undo for formatting.
- **Edit:Cut, Edit:Copy, Edit:Paste** work as expected in the editfield of the document
- **Edit:Find, Edit:Find Again** searching for occurances of a choosen text in the active document window.
The search starts at the current active line.
- **Windows** activate the respective windows.

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Comments please to matti@belle-nuit.com

The latest version is available at <http://www.belle-nuit.com/>

History

27.2.00 1.0.1 release in french, german, update in english. PICT-alpha added, TIFF exporting is faster.

14.2.00 1.0 release versions in english. bug with registerwindow fixed.

31.1.00 1.0ß8: text editor with multiple undos and integrated style and preview. adding comments and filenames, underlying rectangle as option, left-right limits, simple and smart wrap. resizable monitor window, save title and background picture. preparing for french and german localization.eport as simpletext and as picture viewer files.documentation as pdf.

31.12.99 1.0ß1



This program has been made with REALbasic, the leading Basic Development Tool for Macintosh Applications
<http://www.realsoftware.com>

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