PRODUCING AUDIO-VISUALS (AVs) in PROSHOW GOLD® By Philip Smithies

Although I've devoted the majority of this article to describing how to produce an AV in ProShow Gold, I'll start by summarising the software available for PCs.

FREE AV SOFTWARE FOR PCs

I don't know of anyone who has tried free software. The reviews I have read suggest that the programmes often have serious limitations (e.g. no way of adding text or saving in an exportable format. Technical support will be very limited) and you are likely to have to pay for an upgrade to a fully functional product. Beware that some software may be associated with the undesirable adware, etc. I would urge you to read impartial reviews before proceeding further. That said, the following reviews may be of interest:

<u>http://www.techsupportalert.com/content/dvd-slideshow-gui.htm-0</u> <u>http://www.techsupportalert.com/content/socusoft-photo-video-converter.htm-0</u>.

NON-FREE SOFTWARE FOR PCs

The best-known products are PicturesToExe (PTE) (Essentials or Deluxe), ProShow Gold (PSG) and ProShow Producer (PSP)

PicturesToExe is more popular in the UK than *ProShow* products. Just as DeLuxe is the big brother of Essentials, so Producer is Gold's big brother. All can be downloaded on a trial basis.

These costs were correct on 14 July 2017.

ProShow Gold: £53.78; ProShow Producer: £192.16. Cheapest Upgrade from Gold to Producer: £154.29; PicturesToExe £53.05 or £106.86 depending on the version ("Essentials" or "DeLuxe").

ProShow offer a fifteen percent discount to my contacts on any product purchased before Christmas. ProShow Gold would therefore cost you around £46. Please contact me for further details (philip.smithies@hotmail.co.uk)

ProShow Main Website: http://www.photodex.com/ http://www.photodex.com/try Trial Download for two weeks Tutorials – online guides to the software http://files.photodex.com/docs/manuals/ProShowProducer8.pdf http://files.photodex.com/docs/manuals/ProShowGold8.pdf

PicturesToExe Main website:

http://www.wnsoft.com/ Trial Download for thirty days
Tutorials:
http://docs.picturestoexe.com/en/main
http://docs.picturestoexe.com/en/main menu/file

PicturesToExe (Essentials) is about the same price as **ProShow Gold**. It features keyframes (extremely useful) which **Gold** still does not. There is little difference in the quality of the finished product, so in that respect it doesn't matter which you use. Shows can be published as executables or movie files. The latter are more flexible and of very high quality but are much larger in size. At close viewing distances, the quality of PTE executables is significantly better than ProShow's. The ProShow products seem (to me) to be more user-friendly and easier to use. If I were starting from scratch, I would find it very difficult to decide which product to go for.

YOUTUBE TUTORIALS

YouTube has a large number of excellent video tutorials. Just search for "name of Product" and "tutorials"

OTHER PRODUCTS

Links which compare AV software for PCs: http://photo-slideshow-software-review.toptenreviews.com/index.html http://www.toptenreviews.com/software/multimedia/best-photo-slideshow-software/

I don't know of anybody in Tonbridge Camera Club – or indeed elsewhere – who has any first-hand experience of the other products (many of which are reviewed very positively.

MAC SOFTWARE

I have no direct experience of Mac software. However, Fotomagico seems to be very popular (<u>https://boinx.com/fotomagico/</u>). Google "slide show software for Macs" for alternatives.

EASE OF USE OF SOFTWARE

AV/"Slide Show" software is much more intuitive and easy to use than photo editing software like Photoshop. The guide that follows just gives the basics – ProShow and PicturesToExe are very powerful programmes indeed and capable of much more than is shown here.

VIEWING THIS DOCUMENT

If it's hard to see the contents of the screenshots, zoom in by using "CTRL + scroll wheel"

Important note: The guide which follows describes the stages in creating an AV in ProShow Gold Version 5. The current release is Version 8 but the basics remain the same. Other software is very similar.

Double-click on the desktop icon to open the programme.

SETTING THE SHOW PARAMETERS



Click on Show→Show Settings The "Show Settings" Dialogue Box appears.

- 1 Change these values to "0"
- 2 Untick this box (to prevent the irritating hatched borders from appearing (shown in a few screenshots but removed from many).

Note: sometimes the "New Empty Show" Box appears when ProShow is opened. Untick the "Show at Start-up" box and close.





Create a title (this does not have to be the same as the filename and may be changed at any time)

- Decide on the *Aspect Ratio
 (4:3, 16:9 or custom)
- 5 No need for a thumbnail

Then press "OK" at the bottom right.

*The Aspect Ratio used by the most clubs' projectors is 4:3 but most monitors and some projectors are 16:9. Most of my AVs use the 16:9 ratio. Either ratio can be played on any computer. If, for example, you played a 16:9 show on a 4:3 monitor, there would be black spaces at the top. You can change the aspect ratio at any time, but you would have to make some adjustments to the images.

You are now ready to create the show.

OPENING SCREEN FIG 2

The opening screen resembles FIG 2 but possibly with white font on a black background. This can easily be changed (see next page)



Click and drag at these points if you wish to resize the main windows:

Then click "Save" (CTRL + S). The show will now appear at the very top of the screen. Note: you can have different titles (FIG 3) and file names.

FIG 3



See section on "FILE TYPES" and "IMAGE SIZES" on page 14.

SAVING and STORING PROSHOW FILES

I suggest that you create a new folder (with a shortcut on the desktop and/or taskbar) so that everything is stored and saved in the same place (with subfolders if required). This will make organisation so much easier.

No matter what software you use, if you move your images to different folders, the next time you open the show you be told that the files can't be found. You will be asked if you want to search for these files. Tick the "Yes" box that appears and follow the on-screen instructions. However, please note that if you rename images (rather than just move them), the software – understandably – will never find them.

Save your work regularly.

PSG is fairly stable but, like all software, it does have its uncooperative moments. Incidentally, you can UNDO beyond the last save - in fact, back to the state of the show when it was opened. Unfortunately, there is no direct "Revert" option.

IF IN DOUBT ...

A basic rule for most Windows programmes: if in doubt, RIGHT-click to bring up a context menu.

PREFERENCES / CUSTOMISING YOUR SHOWS

At some stage, it is useful to go to Edit \rightarrow Preferences to customise your shows e.g. set up standard default times, choose screen colours, etc. I prefer black font on a lighter background; others prefer the default white font on a black background.

CREATING AN AV USING "THE WIZARD"

The Wizard Tool has changed enormously since the first version of this guide. I suggest you read pages 110-120 of the User Guide (http://files.photodex.com/docs/manuals/ProShowGold8.pdf) for an overview of the process.

PREPARING THE SHOW – ADDING SLIDES



Images can be in .jpg, .gif or .png format. old - Philip 🚱 ProShow Gold - Philip Smithies - Autumn.psh 🚱 ProShow Gold - Philip Smithies - Autumn.psh File Edit Show Slide Audio Tools Publish Window Help File Edit Show Slide Audio Tools Publish Window Help File Edit Show Slide Audio Tools Publish Window Help 🙆 ѐ 🔒 🔌 🔎 📮 🙊 🔝 Jac . 🕗 는 🚽 🥕 🦊 🔲 🙆 ѐ 🗟 🚬 🖉 🖉 🙆 🗖 ja 🖬 📢 Jac -1) Autumn Autumn Autumn er List er List boors 📙 DOORS EAST ANGLIA EAST ANGLIA OTHER PEOPLE'S P DOORS DEAST ANGLIA EAST ANGLIA OTHER PEOPLE'S PH EAST ANGLIA OTHER PEOPLE'S PI 🕌 EASTBOURNE LASTBOURNE EASTBOURNE FAMILY FAMILY FAMILY FIREWORKS FIREWORKS FIREWORKS FLOWERS FLOWERS You can change the FRANCE 200 slide times and FRIENDS GUY'S WEDDING HALLS OF PLENT transition times GUY'S WEDDING HALLS OF PLENT GUY'S WEDDING HALLS OF PLENT clicking on the numbers and typing in new ones. Everv additional slide in the show you add will **Right-click** have the same times for options as the one before it RLEY 13B.JPG but times can be Play Show Spacebar Transition effect Esc Stop Shov changed at any time. – see page 5. Ctrl+H Show Option Blank Slide Alt+B Randomize Title Slide Ctrl+Alt+B Slide List / Timelir Cut Ctrl+C 0.00 00 / 0.10 00 Сору 50 Paste Ctrl+V Timeli Ctrl+/ Select Al Select None Ctrl+Alt+ Time Forma A Slides OPTIONAL: Right-click here and select

"Insert" → Blank Slide" from drop-down list (or ALT+B). A blank slide at beginning (and end) ensures smooth entry into (and exit from) show. I set the time of the blank slides to 0.25 seconds

Navigate to the relevant folder and drag the first slide in (alternatively, just double-click the slide). Add the rest of the slides (singly or in multiple).

by

Images can be added at any time and to anywhere in show. PSG will put a green tick and number in the File List by each picture that's been added to the show. Your screen will resemble Fig 7. Clicking on an image in either the timeline (the "thumbnail") or file list will bring it up on the main (Preview) screen. (Double-clicking brings up the "Slide options" box.)

The timings in Fig 6 Slide 2 are the default settings that I use for every slide. You can change all defaults and lots more besides in Edit \rightarrow Preferences.

You can also drag in slides directly from Windows Explorer (e.g. from "My Pictures").



A slide can be repositioned by clicking it and moving it using the left (<) and right (>) arrows on the keyboard (below the "K" and "L" keys). To select more than one slide, use the standard Windows techniques:

- "CLICK" on the first and then "CTRL + click" to select additional slides
- "CLICK" on the first slide and then "SHIFT + click" on the final slide

Standard useful shortcuts are CTRL+X/C to cut/copy and CTRL+V to paste. The image(s) will be pasted **before** the image you click on. Insert a blank slide at the end if necessary.

ESSENTIAL SLIDE ADJUSTMENTS

Double-click on the slide thumbnail at the bottom of the screen (#5 in this case) to be modified and the "Slide Options" dialogue box, with its three tabs, appears occupying most of the screen. **FIGs 8 and 9**



LAYER SETTINGS tab Click on "Layer Settings" tab. The majority of your images will not completely fill the available space because their aspect ratio is different from your choice in Figs 4 and 5 (for example, most cameras have a 3:2 aspect ratio). Adjust the figures here and/or drag the image/four handles to fill the screen.



ADJUSTMENTS tab

The "Adjustments" tab, as its name suggests, enables a large number of basic (nondestructive) adjustments to be made e.g add a border (Outline) or convert to monochrome (illogically called "Colourise").

EFFECTS tab

This tab enables you to create image movement such as pans and zooms (in or out) or combinations thereof. In this example, when the slide is played, the effect will be to zoom in on the building.



Click in the "Starting Position" Box. If necessary, change values for "Starting Position" by changing numbers and/or dragging sliders and/or dragging the image. Then click on "Ending Position" to make changes there. See FIG 11.



Check the effect by clicking "Preview"

You can move to the next / previous slides by clicking the buttons to the left of the "Preview" button.

You should consider extending the length of the slide if you are using a large zoom (in or out) or sweeping pan. However, as a general principle, only employ movement for a purpose and not for the sake of it.

Even if you don't prefer not to use movement, you should, at the very least, use the "Layer Settings" option to ensure that that image fills the screen and/or is correctly positioned and/or sized.

You might want to explore the "Tilt" and "Rotate" options. ProShow Producer and PicturesToExe feature "keyframes" which enable very complex motion effects to be created. The absence of keyframes is a weakness of ProShow Gold in my opinion. Contact me if you would like more information.

TRANSITION EFFECTS

By default, each transition (the way in which one image fades to the next) is a linear cross-fade – shown as so on the slide list. When you click on a transition, this full screen box appears with a range of different effects.

FIG 12



Clicking on any transition effect in this box gives a preview in the top left corner. The drop-down list shows a large range of alternatives. Double-click on the effect to apply it or click "Apply". The screen also shows at the bottom right the most recently used effects which can be applied directly. Don't overdo the transitions you use – simple is usually best.

CAPTIONS

Double-click on the relevant slide (a blank one if you prefer) then click on the "Captions" tab and the "+" to create captions:



This box in Fig 14 appears:

5



The caption can be resized and repositioned by clicking and dragging, or by typing numbers into the appropriate boxes. In Gold, the caption lasts just very slightly less than the slide; unfortunately, you cannot alter the duration. Again, don't overdo the effects.

SOUNDTRACK

Click "Show \rightarrow Soundtrack", then "+", then "Add Sound File". In the box that appears, navigate to relevant folder and song, click "Open" and then "O.K." You can use more than one piece of music as described below.

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de List	Drive-In Saturday.w	David Bowie Collection
	Friday on My Mind	David Bowie Collection
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This is the waveform for the music track. Switching to "Timeline" enables additional changes to be made to the sounds. Many sound formats can be used but .mp3 is preferable.

(Note: if the song is visible in the folder/slide list on the left, you can just drag it to the timeline)

After you click open, the "Soundtrack" box will appear as shown in Fig 16.

BASIC SOUNDTRACK EDITING



Click on the "+" and navigate to add additional music.

- You can make some basic edits by clicking "Edit Fades and Timing" which brings up the dialogue box (Fig 17) below.
- Importing music from a CD is not recommended as the quality isn't as high.

Explore this option when you want to match the "beat" of the music exactly with the duration of the slide.

Hold the cursor over each icon to see what it does. For example, you can fade out music, or cut it short using the sliders or entering values in the boxes. However, it's normally far more effective to edit music properly. "Audacity" is free downloadable user-friendly music-editing software which offers a huge range of effects as those in all AV software are very basic indeed. "Audacity" is available for both PCs and Macs. See <u>http://www.audacityteam.org/download/</u>. (This is one free software I have no hesitation in recommending)

Version 8 has a much-improved "Timeline" window and it is possibly easier to make changes there.

VOICEOVERS/COMMENTARIES

Adding voiceovers/commentaries to create a "documentary" type AV is beyond the scope of this document but straightforward to do – but very difficult to do well. You will no doubt have heard countless examples of poor voiceovers – creating good ones is an art in itself.

If you're interested in adding voiceovers, Richard Gandon's informative AV about adding voiceovers/ commentaries to AVs is on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PxGLpcqjdgE&feature=youtu.be.

It seems nowadays that the most successful AVs in competitions are likely to be in a documentary style.

ADDITIONAL SLIDE ADJUSTMENTS: LAYERS

You can have two (or more) images ("layers") in the same slide/frame, with effects being set individually for each. To add a second image, hold down the CTRL key and drag an image from the file list on top of an existing slide. Repeat as many times as desired. Layers are useful when you want to include images which are square(-ish) or in portrait format side-by-side as in the example below. This avoids having images only occupying a fraction of the screen – something which looks unattractive.



Then double-click the image to open the "Slide Options" box and modify each layer as shown in Fig 19:



Click each layer in the "Layer Settings" tab to position image.

The two top images are set at -25, 0 and +25, 0, respectively and the zoom is set at 98%. Layers can also be reposition by dragging or using CTRL + \leftarrow or \uparrow or \rightarrow or \downarrow . A white border (Outline) has been added from the "Adjustments" tab. The bottom layer (which completely fills the screen) is an image from earlier in the show but modified in the "Adjustments" tab - turned to monochrome ("Colourised"), "Blurred" and the "Brightness" increased. As mentioned earlier, changes made in the "Adjustments" tab do not affect the original image. The preview window now looks like Fig 20:



Note: when you first add a layer to a file, it will partially or totally obscure the layer below, depending on its aspect ratio. By double-clicking on the slide and opening the "Slide Options" box, you will see that all the layers are there.

.PNG FILES

Png. files are exceptionally useful as they can be partially transparent thus enabling the creation of countless special effects. Fig 21 is a basic .png version of the statue in Fig 20



FIG 21

To create this, I made a selection of the figures in the image on the right of Fig 20 in Photoshop. I copied it to a new file and saved it as a .png file. This preserved only the selection with the background becoming completely transparent.

Many of the effects seen in AVs can only be achieved by using .png files.

STYLES

Consider exploring the Slide Styles tab in the "Slide Options" box.



This video link is useful, even though it only covers version 4: <u>http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7rc-WEI_bPg&NR=1</u>. There are a range of other YouTube videos which may be helpful.

Don't overdo the use of "Slide Styles".

PLAYBACK

The show can be played back at any point. (Go to Edit \rightarrow Preferences to set quality)



Hold your cursor over these buttons and drag this slider to investigate their effects

INCORPORATING VIDEOS

In <u>http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gMSgrIPS3ts</u>, Gavin Hoey gives a clear demonstration of how to add and edit video. Because modern dSLRs can take high-quality videos, AV-users are increasingly making use of this facility. It has to be acknowledged that some in the AV world frown upon their use (for reasons that escape me).

SYNCHRONISING PICTURES AND MUSIC

It's unlikely that the music and the slide show will be exactly the same length. A simple way to address this is to select all (CTRL + A) or some of the slides and go to:

Audio \rightarrow Quick Sync – Selected Slides and click "Yes" when prompted.



Sometimes, if the two times are very close, modifying the timings of one or both end blank slides may be sufficient. I must emphasise that this is the simple way to deal with the issue and is not suitable if you exactly want to synchronise a particular section of music with a particular image. If that is the case, you will have to tweak individual slide lengths and/or make use of the "Sync Slide to Audio" button in Fig 16.

ADDING SOUND EFFECTS ON TOP OF EXISTING MUSIC TRACK

Navigate to the folder which contains the effect (e.g. the sound of traffic) you wish to add:

FIG 25



CTRL + drag the sound to the slide where you want the sound to begin. Then double-click on the slide:



Edit the sound accordingly. Explore the "Timeline" option for a more sophisticated approach.

This is one site which has some free downloadable (.mp3) sound effects: <u>http://www.mediacollege.com/downloads/sound-effects/</u>

PUBLISHING THE AV – CREATING "MOVIE" FILES and/or EXECUTABLES

Finally, the show must be converted into a playable form – either a **movie** file (e.g. .avi, .mov or .mp4) or an **executable** (.exe) or both. Movie files are much larger and take longer to create but are of higher quality and can be played on both PCs and Macs – and also "SMART" TVs. External competitions until recently insisted on executables but most now also allow movie files.

CREATING AND PLAYING EXECUTABLES

For full details, see http://www.kcpa.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/PROSHOW-CREATING-EXECUTABLES.pdf

When the show is complete and saved, you can create an executable for use on your own and other computers. To ensure that the show satisfies competition criteria (i.e. opens instantly at full-screen when the file-name is double-clicked and without an intermediate display), amend the various settings as described in the link. If you would like your own copy, please contact me on <u>philip.smithies@hotmail.co.uk</u>

Executables can be copied to a CD, memory stick or hard drive and played on any PC (including, of course, the one on which they were created). Executables *cannot* be played on TVs or on *Macs whereas movie files can. Executables play automatically when the filename is double-clicked and no software is needed to do this.

One of the weaknesses of ProShow, in my opinion, is that the quality of executables, at least when viewed closely, is not as good as PictureToExe's. I therefore always create a movie file rather than an executable.

Anti-virus software can sometimes refuse to allow executables to play and may quarantine them. One way round this may be to right-click on the file-name and select "File Insight" from the menu that appears and investigate the options available. Choosing "Trust Now" is highly desirable.

When executables (.exe) are created, they may be fragmented – sometimes into hundreds of pieces. If you find your executable doesn't play smoothly, you might consider defragmenting your computer (particularly an older / less powerful machine).

*PTE apparently now offers the option to create an executable which can be played on a Mac.

CREATING AND PLAYING MOVIE FILES (e.g. .AVI FILES)

Movie files (e.g. .avi files) are a higher quality alternative to executables and are easily created as shown below: Go to "Publish" \rightarrow "Video for Web, Devices and Computers" \rightarrow Video File \rightarrow AVI. Select MPEG-4 SP 1080 (for .avi format) and then click "Create" The file takes much longer to produce than an executable roughly three minutes for every minute of show. (FIG 27)

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You will see in Fig 27 above that numerous other video/movie file formats (e.g. .mp4 and .mov) can also be created.

The file can be played on "SMART" TVs or with Windows Media Player or other software such as VideoLan VLC. The methods are described in the next pages.

OPTIONAL FIRST STAGE

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BEATLES		Played 147 Times	Connection speed	Consider deselecting "Display full-
BEATLES - BA	ACKING TRACKS VOLUME 2	Simple as This	Detect connection speed (recommended)	screen controls". This is not
BEATLES A -	G	Discust 104 Times	Choose connection speed:	essential and can be reversed and
BEATLES A -	н	Played 104 Times	Modem (28.8 Kbps)	
BEATLES H -	J	The Cave [Shorter		results in the file playing without
BEATLES H -	M	Played 98 Times	Network buffering	the toolbar becoming visible when
BEATLES L -	S	Riders In The Sky	Use default buffering (recommended)	you move the mouse – which may
BEATLES N -	Y	Played 97 Times	◎ Buffer 5 seconds of content	you move the mouse which may
BEATLES RAP	RITIES	Trouble Is My Mic	m	e or may not be what you want.
BEATLES T -	γ	Played 96 Times	DVD and video playback	
JAKE BUGG		Seen It All	Drop frames to keep audio and video sinchronized	Then click "OK"
MIKE OLDFIE	ELD	Played 88 Times	✓ Use video smoothing	
NEW - PAUL	McCARTNEY	I Can't Write Anot	Display full-screen controls	
PAUL McCA	RTNEY - VOLUME 8	Played 86 Times	✓ Turn on DirectX Video Acceleration for WMV files	
PAUL McCA	RTNEY - VOLUME 9	Note to Self	Video border color:	
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VARIOUS AR	TISTS - VOLUME 18	Played 75 Times		
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VARIOUS AR	TISTS - VOLUME 19	Disued 74 Times -		

FIG 28

To play the file from this box, click File \rightarrow Open and then navigate to the folder where your file(s) is/are kept. Double-click the file (Note: if you want to play more than one file, hold down "CTRL" and click any other files you also wish to play) and then click "Open".

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File Vie Play Tools	Help			
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Open URL	Ctrl+U			
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Create playlist	Ctrl+N	Played 167 Times		
Create auto playlist			71 6 111 1/	
Save Now Playing list				
Save Now Playing list as	5	C Libraries > Documents >	PROSHOW > .AVIs - SORTED >	- + Search .AVIs - SORTED
Manage libraries	+	Organize 🔻 New folder		8≡ - □ 0
Properties		🔶 Favoriter	Documents library	
Work offline		A Tavonics	.AVIs - SORTED	Arrange by: Folder 🔻
		Contraction Desktop	- Name	
Exit		📜 Libraries	A DARKS AND GARDENS ave	
BEATLES T - Y		Documents	A PIERS OF THE REAL M.avi	
JAKE BUGG		👌 Music	A PORTRAIT OF BLACKPOOL avi	
MIKE OLDFIELD	1071101	Pictures	A PORTRAIT OF BRIGHTON.avi	
NEW - PAUL McCA DAUL M-CARTNER		H Videos	A PORTRAIT OF CARDIFF.avi	
		🜏 Homegroup	🛓 PORTRAIT OF HASTINGS.avi	
PAUL McCARTNE	Y - VOLUME 10 NOT	B Philip	🛓 PORTRAIT OF LINCOLN.avi	
PAUL McCARTNE	Y VOLUME 8	🥼 .swt	PORTRAIT OF LIVERPOOL.avi	=
RECENT SONGS		Contacts	PRAGUE - CHARLES BRIDGE AND OLD Townset in type:	VI C media file (.avi)
UNRECORDABLE		Desktop	A PRAGUE - COMBINED.avi Size: 211 N	1B
VARIOUS ARTISTS		Drophox	PRAGUE - ELECTROSHOCK.avi	:03:37
VARIOUS ARTISTS	- VOLUME 18	Eavorites	PRAGUE - LEFTOVERS.avi	
VARIOUS ARTISTS	- VOLUME 18 NOT O	Incomplete		•
	- VOLUME 19	File name		Media filesta txnes)
Music	VOLUME 20 NOT 0	The <u>manic</u> Polynolity		lectio
Q Artist				Open 🔽 Cancel
 Album 				
© Genre		My Soul (with Nitin Sawhney)	My Soul (with Nitin Sawhney)	4:04 /2 Wingspan
ER ACT		Played 69 Times		

Alternatively, and rather more easily, go directly to the folder which contains your shows and either (i) double-click the file name or (ii) right-click* on the file name and from the menu which appears select "Play with Windows Media Player" or "Add to Windows Media Player list".

(*or click the first one and then CTRL + click the others to play a sequence). See FIG 30.

FIG 30

AVIs - SORTED						
🌀 🕞 🗸 Computer 🝷 DATA (F:) 🝷 Users 🝷 Philip 🍷 My Documents 🝷 PROSHOW 🍷 .AVIS - SORTED 👻						
Organize 🔻 🚊 Play 🔻 Play all Burn New folder						
🔆 Favorites	Size		Name		Length	
🧮 Desktop	<u>ا</u>	391,738 KB	TO THE TOP OF EL	Diav		
Downloads	<u> </u>	221, 156 KB	POSTCARD FROM	Add to VLC media player's Playlist		
🕮 Recent Places	<u> </u>	172,424 KB	ENGLAND.avi	Play with VLC media player		
🔭 Librarian	<u> </u>	232,821 KB	MAGICAL MYSTER	Add to Windows Media Player list		
	<u> </u>	232,821 KB	MAGICAL MYSTER	Play with Windows Media Player Open with	•	
	<u> </u>	108,518 KB	A WINTER'S DAY.	Vorton 360	•	
Pictures	<u> </u>	232,876 KB	PORTRAIT OF LIVE	Add to archive		
📑 Videos	<u> </u>	141,678 KB	LIGHTHOUSE - HU	Add to "TO THE TOP OF EUROPE VERSION 2.rar"		
	<u>A</u>	136,008 KB	WIND POWER.avi	Compress and email Compress to "TO THE TOP OF EUROPE VERSION 2.rar" and	email	
🤣 Homegroup	4	116,595 KB	UNIVERSAL SOLDI	Restore previous versions		
Computer	<u> </u>	400, 145 KB	SWITZERLAND 3 -	Send to	•	
Local Disk (C:)	<u> </u>	169,559 KB	DEAR GOD [4x3].a	Out		
Elements (E:)	<u> </u>	111,485 KB	SCENTED PATHS.a	Сору		
👝 DATA (F:)	<u> </u>	221,990 KB	THE SCRAWL OF 1	Create shortcut		
👝 My Passport (L:)	<u> </u>	202,907 KB	LOOK! A ROUND	Delete		
👝 My Passport (M:)	<u> </u>	307,367 KB	PORTRAIT OF PRA	Rename		

Note: I use VideoLan/VLC Media Player as my default player – hence the VideoLan icon by each filename.

The show begins to play as shown in FIG 31 (with close-up of corner shown by main screenshot): **FIG 31**



Click on the "View Full Screen" and the show(s) will play completely filling the screen. Alternatively, or if this icon is not present, press the "F11" key or "ALT + ENTER". These will toggle between full screen and the original size.

Press "ESC" to escape (if necessary, click the "x" at the top right-hand corner)

It's as easy as that. Once you've played an .avi file, you won't want to use executables again.

PLAYING .AVI FILES ON A MODERN TELEVISION

If you have a modern "Smart" TV, it will have a USB port.

Copy the movie files to a memory stick/portable hard drive and place it in the USB port. When the menu appears, simply navigate using the arrows on the controller. Not all "Smart" TVs can play all movie formats. If one movie format doesn't work, try recreating the movie file in another format.

If you're intending to show a PC-created movie file on a Mac, ensure the Mac can cope with that format. For example, Macs may not be able to cope with .avi formats although they can usually handle .mp4 and .mov files.

PLAYING .AVI FILES WITH VIDEOLAN VLC MEDIA PLAYER

Many people, including Tonbridge Camera Club and the KCPA, use VideoLan (VLC Media Player), a free downloadable software for both PCs and Macs. To download it, go to <u>http://www.videolan.org/vlc/index.html</u>. Follow the instructions. A shortcut icon will be placed on the desktop.



The file can be played by right-clicking the file-name and selecting "Add to VLC Media Player's List" from the menu which appears. You can select more than one file by clicking the first file-name and CTRL + clicking the others and selecting "Add to VLC Media Player's List". If you've set VideoLan is the default media player, the show will open with a double-click.

,							
🛓 00:03:46	PORTRAIT OF HASTINGS.avi						
🛕 00:04:15	PORTRAIT OF LINC	OLN.avi					
A 00:03:37	PORTRAIT OF LINE	8800L					
A 00:05:41	PRAGUE - CH	Play					
A 00:13:34	PRAGUE - COL	Add to VLC media player's Playlist					
A 00:07:44	PRAGUE - ELE	Convert video file					
A 00:05:48	PRAGUE - LEF	Edit video file					
A 00:07:50	PRAGUE - WES	Play with VLC media player					
🛕 00:02:11	PUB SIGNS - L	Convert with Switch Sound File Converter					
۵0:03:54	PUB SIGNS - N	Add to Windows Media Player list					
🛕 00:03:40	RAIN.avi	Play with Windows Media Player					
🛓 00:05:18	SHANGRI-LA.	Open with	•				
🛓 00:04:19	SIMPLE AS TH	Share with					
🛓 00:03:31	STAIRCASE.av	Noton 260					
🛓 00:03:09	STEEL AND GL	Postera previous versions	· .				
🛓 00:04:40	TEMPLES TO F	Restore previous versions					
00:01:54 🛓	TERMINUS.avi	Send to	•				
🛓 00:03:06	THE END OF T	Cut					
🛓 00:04:11	THE SCRAWL	Copy					
🛓 00:04:12	THE SUMMER						
🛓 00:03:40	THE VILLAGE (Create shortcut					
à 00:04:06	TIME.avi	Delete					
🛓 00:02:11	UNIVERSAL SC	Rename					
🛓 00:03:56	WHEN I'M CLI	Properties					
A 00-03-20	WIND POWER						

However, in order to obtain the very best results, you do need to tweak the settings. Please contact me if you would like a detailed document on how to achieve this.

FILE TYPES AND FILE SIZES

FILE TYPES

As mentioned before, the show file created on page 3 will be a **.psh** file. I suggest you type "show or hide file extensions" in search facility on main Windows screen and follow on-screen instructions to make file extension always visible.

Control Panel (4) Control Panel (4) Make a file type always open in a specific program Console the file type associated with a file extension	FIG 32	
Show or hide file extensions	Control Panel (4)	
Documents (23)	💮 Make a file type always open in a specific program	
DRM_EN.doc Address Change Form doc	📔 Change the file 📢 associated with a file extension	FIG 33
Music (2)	Show or hide file extensions)
OGG to MP3.docx J Did Lsign the letter that you typed up vesterday wma	Documents (104)	
Files (194)	Polder Options PSG V7.docx Show or hide file extensions	

During the course of producing a show, PSG will produce a number of files with the same name but different extensions:

- .psh is the main show file with links to music and images and should **NEVER** be deleted.
- .bak (Back-Up) file can safely be deleted after the .psh file is saved and closed.
- .b01, .b02, etc. are additional back-up files produced each time the file is saved and can safely be deleted after the .psh file is saved and closed.
- .pxc files are huge with full copies of images and music. They are created automatically as you prepare your show. When you are totally happy with the executable or movie file, the .pxc file will not be needed and can be permanently deleted. If you re-open the .psh file, the .pxc file is automatically recreated.

FILE SIZES

ProShow can cope with image sizes of any size and shape, and with the majority of file formats.

Since most computers these days are powerful, with lots of RAM and hard drive capacity, there is rarely any need to resize your images. A large file will retain quality when you zoom in whereas a small one won't. Conversely, a larger file will take longer to upload, and some machines may struggle with them.

AND FINALLY...

If you have any questions, please email me on philip.smithies@hotmail.co.uk.