



DETAILS

PRICE

• £100\* / \$190 / €148\*  
\*Currency conversion

PLATFORM

PC

RECOMMENDED SYSTEM

• Windows XP

MAIN FEATURES

- Simple-to-use image-management and compositing tools
- Can be run directly from a flash drive
- Comes with a 'slate' creator
- Has its own advanced image player/converter

DEVELOPER

Sequencemaster Ltd

WEBSITE

www.sequencemaster.com

# Sequencemaster 2

This inexpensive new package provides a one-stop shop for image management and compositing. Should more expensive rivals look to their laurels? **BY GARY NODEN**



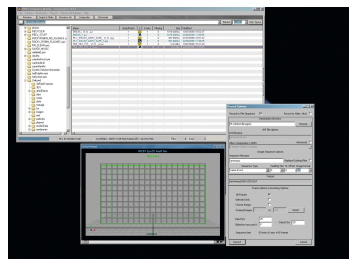
Sequencemaster Ltd's first mainstream release is not a product easily described in a single sentence, mainly because it doesn't fit into any particular niche. On the contrary, *Sequencemaster 2* is so versatile a package that the only word that really describes it is 'myriadic' - and we had to make that up.

Even though *Sequencemaster 2* is, at heart, an asset-management tool, to describe it in those terms would be to ignore its true potential. True, it manages images - but it does so much more besides.

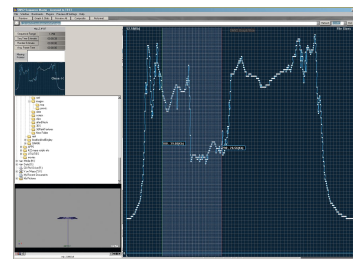
Postproduction work generates stupidly large numbers of rendered images, hence the need for a powerful tool to direct this material. *Sequencemaster 2* does everything you'd expect it to in this regard - displaying, copying, moving and renaming files, and so on - then knocks all of this stuff into a cocked hat by suddenly displaying much wider capabilities.

For one thing, it has the *Sequencemaster 2 Pro Player* which is capable of playing almost every image and movie format: say goodbye to FCheck and Flipbook! It then gives you the ability to transcode anything it is playing into a different format, so if your compositor does not handle the material you have been given, you can change it into a format you can use in no time at all.

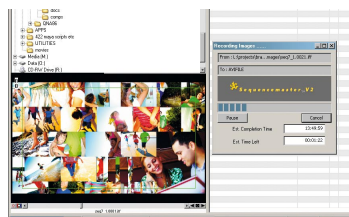
For the render wranglers out there, the Graph & Stats facility enables you to see



• The basics of the *Sequencemaster 2* interface: not as beautiful to look at as *Alienbrain*, but distinctly more cost-effective



• Graphs can be boring, but this is cool. Select your renders, flip to Graph & Stats to find any gaps, then re-render the dropped frames



• *Sequencemaster 2's Pro Player* is a fantastic feature. Here it is, converting an IFF sequence to an AVI with just a single button press

all of the frames you have rendered in one long series, each displaying its file size. This means that if you think you missed a frame, but you can't be sure, you can actually check to see if there's a failure trough in the graph. Swiping over the trough, you can render the selected sequence again - at least, if you're a *Maya* user, this being one of the few features of *Sequencemaster 2* that is tied in to a specific 3D package: the standard

asset-management tools are software-neutral. You can also re-render files from the main window, as it automatically sees dropped frames there too.

## EXTRA DUTIES

The application is also, amazingly, a compositor in its own right. Yes, this tiny program, small enough to be supplied on a memory stick, not only manages your files, but also lets you combine the little blighters, albeit only two layers at a time. But with effect filters such as Blur, Emboss, Posterize, Contrast and, hold your breath, a simple but very effective chromakeyer, it really is an astonishing tool.

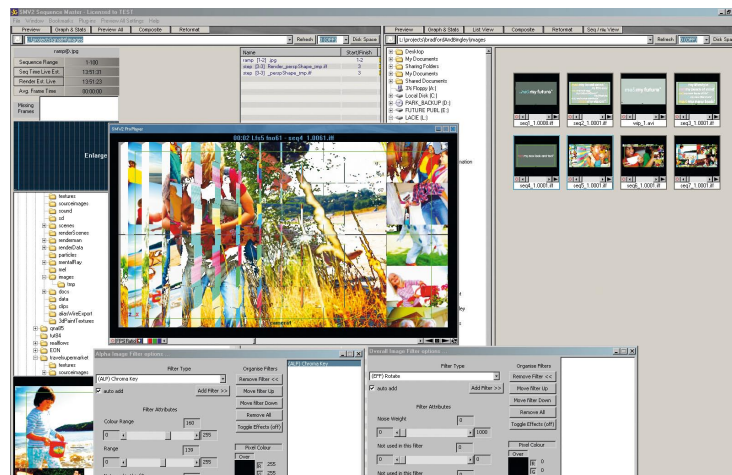
Add to this directory bookmarking, colour-coded network directories, a two-view window and all the other stuff it offers, and you soon realise that *Sequencemaster 2* really is an amazingly good piece of software. Its TARDIS-esque toolset coupled with its modest price tag makes it useful for every stage of a project. In terms of competitors, it really only has one: an admittedly more powerful, but much more expensive, application. All we can say is: *Alienbrain*, look to your laurels: *Sequencemaster 2* may yet manage to knock you off your perch. ●

## VERDICT

### PROS

- Wonderfully portable system
  - Very user friendly
  - Packed full of features
- ### CONS
- Windows only

RANGE OF FEATURES	9
VALUE FOR MONEY	9
OVERALL	9



• The *Sequencemaster 2* workflow in all its glory. A dual view - with one as thumbnails - a preview window and a playable preview of a custom chromakeyed sequence. What more could you want?

## RELATED PRODUCTS

- *Alienbrain 7.5*  
Reviewed: Issue 34  
(reviewed at version 6.0)
- *MediaDex Professional*  
Not reviewed:  
Visit [www.mediadex.com](http://www.mediadex.com)