

Automate chapter menus


From the experts at Adobe


Most Hollywood DVDs contain scene menus that let you quickly navigate to various points within a film. Creating this navigation can be cumbersome if you want to link the scene menu to more than a few chapter points. With Adobe® Encore® DVD 2.0, you can create the links automatically. In fact, if there are more chapter points than buttons, Encore duplicates the menu as necessary to accommodate them. It even links the menus to each other using Previous and Next buttons.

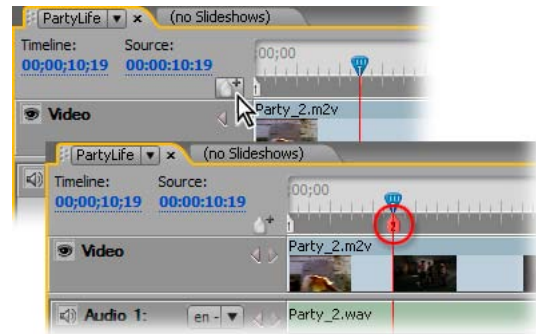
This tutorial covers the steps to create a timeline, add chapter points, and then have Encore create menus that automatically link to those points.

The files used in this tutorial are on Disc 2 of the Total Training Video Workshop (included with Encore or Adobe Production Studio). Depending on the television standard for your region, copy either the NTSC or PAL folder from the Encore folder to your desktop. Alternatively, you can follow along using your own files. You'll need a video file and a menu with three buttons. (You can use the Bluenotes Submenu from the Library, but you'll need to delete three of its buttons.)

Create a timeline and add chapter points

- 1 Create a new project.
- 2 Choose File > Import As > Timeline, navigate to the folder you copied from the Total Training DVD, and select PartyLife.m2v and PartyLife.wav, then click Open. Encore places both clips in a single timeline. By default, a chapter point appears at the beginning of the timeline.
- 3 Select the beginning chapter point. In the Properties panel, change the name of the chapter point to **Intro**. The chapter point name is used for buttons you create.
- 4 Move the current-time indicator  to 00:00:10:17. At this time, a frame showing the mirror being uncov-

ered appears. Click the Add Chapter button , which appears beneath the Source timecode. Encore adds chapter point 2. Name this chapter point **Mirror**.



Click Add Chapter button (above). Chapter point is added at current-time indicator (below).

- 5 Click the Source timecode to highlight it, type 2320, and then press Enter. Encore moves the current-time indicator to 00:00:23:20. Choose Timeline > Add Chapter Point. Name this chapter point **Body Tap**.
- 6 Move the current-time indicator to 00:00:46:19, and then press * (asterisk) to add a chapter point. Name this chapter point **Drum Solo**.
- 7 Add chapter points at 00:01:01:20, and 00:01:22:16 using any method described previously. Name the chapter points **Model** and **DJ**, respectively.
- 8 Encore uses the frame located at the chapter point as its poster frame, which is used for thumbnails. If desired, you can designate a different frame as the poster frame. Drag the current-time indicator to the Body Tap chapter point, and then click the chapter point to select it. Drag the current-time indicator to 00:00:26:08, right-click the chapter point, and choose Set Poster Frame.
- 9 Select chapter point 4, Drum Solo, and Ctrl+Alt-drag the chapter point a few frames to the right to set a poster frame where you release the mouse. Designate the poster frame of your choice.

Create a menu and link it to the timeline

- 1 Choose File > Import As > Menu, select Three Button.psd, and click Open.
- 2 Drag the first chapter point from the timeline to the Scene 1 button in the menu. Encore updates the button, displaying the poster frame and renaming it to Intro.

Automate chapter button creation

Once you've established the link for the first chapter point, you can automatically create links to the remaining chapter points.

- 1 Click the Menu Viewer to make it active.
- 2 Choose Menu > Create Chapter Index. Encore creates the chapter index from the sample menu.

A total of six buttons are needed, but the template has only three. Encore links each chapter point until it runs out of buttons, and then it duplicates the menu. Note that a duplicate menu appears in the Project panel.



First menu, with buttons linking to chapters 1-3, and Next button active



Second menu, with buttons linking to chapters 4-6, and Previous button active

In the example for this tutorial, six buttons were used across two menus. Encore removed the Previous button from the first menu and the Next button from the second menu. If a third menu existed, the second menu would include both the Previous and Next buttons.



Three-menu configuration

Go further with slide shows

The Create Chapter Index command also works on slide shows within Encore. You can create a similar thumbnail page from still images, complete with Previous and Next buttons, without additional work.

From the experts at Adobe.

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