

# Vegas™ Pro Master Suite: FAQ

Sony Creative Software Professional Solutions

**Q: Is Vegas™ Pro software 32-bit or 64-bit? Why is that important?**

A , Vegas Pro software is available in both 32-bit and 64-bit versions. While many 32-bit apps can run in a 64-bit environment like Microsoft Windows® 7, only a true 64-bit program like Vegas Pro 9 can take full advantage of everything that a 64-bit platform can offer, including access to system RAM beyond 4 GB and the ability to use all of the multi-core, multi-processor horsepower within the system. This is especially critical when working with today's high resolution video formats and complex compression algorithms like AVCHD.

**Q: Does Vegas Pro only work with Sony video formats and devices?**

A , Being a Sony product, the Vegas Pro software offers comprehensive support and great end-to-end workflows with all the popular Sony pro and consumer formats, including native support for DVCAM™, HDV, AVCHD, NXCAM™, XDCAM®, and XDCAM EX™. At the same time, we also offer great support for non-Sony formats and devices from companies like Apple, Panasonic, RED, Canon, and JVC, to name just a few..

**Q: Will Panasonic P2 files work in Vegas Pro?**

A , YES! P2 support in Vegas Pro requires a simple, affordable plug-in from DVFilm ([www.dvfilm.com](http://www.dvfilm.com)) called Raylight ULTRA. Once installed, the Panasonic P2 MXF files can be dragged to the timeline just like any other media file. Raylight ULTRA works with Panasonic DVCPRO 25, 50, and 100, as well as providing support for AVC-Intra 50 and 100 in their most recent release.

**Q: If Vegas Pro is Quicktime compatible, why do some .mov files fail to play in Vegas Pro?**

A , It is important to remember that QuickTime, like MXF, is merely a file "wrapper," not a format itself. If the .mov file contains a format with a codec that is supported in Windows, Vegas Pro will recognize and decode the .mov file as long as the codec is installed on the system. For example, a QuickTime .mov file using the Apple ProRes codec can be played back in the Vegas Pro timeline as long as the Apple ProRes Decoder for Windows has been installed.

**Q: Are there any HDSDI hardware I/O options for Vegas Pro?**

A , Vegas Pro works with popular hardware I/O devices from AJA Video and Blackmagic Design for SD and HD ingest, capture, and output. While the Vegas Pro software can capture uncompressed baseband SD or HD video using these I/O devices, the software also offers the unique ability to capture live, streaming video as 50 Mb/s XDCAM422 MXF files using just the power of the CPU, all in real time. Analog capture and other features of the devices may not be fully supported; please check the Sony Creative Software website for up-to-date details.

**Q: It's been said that one of Vegas Pro's greatest strengths is its audio capabilities. What exactly makes Vegas Pro software stand out from the competition when it comes to audio editing?**

A , There are actually a number of reasons why Vegas Pro software has received these accolades for its audio capabilities. To begin with, Vegas Pro offers sample-based precision when editing audio, supporting 24-bit files at sample

rates up to 192 kHz. Secondly, Vegas Pro includes a robust set of audio tools, filters, reverbs, EQs and effects, with the ability to augment the built-in effects with additional DirectX and VST audio plug-ins from a variety of vendors. Each effect parameter can be precisely controlled via envelopes, and these envelopes can be automated with the mouse or with a dedicated pro audio hardware control surface. Up to 32 audio effects can be combined into a single effects chain, and these chains can be applied to the full mix or to sub-mixes through the sophisticated bus-to-bus routing within Vegas Pro. Keyframeable 5.1 surround mixing is also standard in Vegas Pro, with real time down mix monitoring to stereo or mono. For the best audio performance possible, the audio engine in Vegas Pro has been optimized for today's multi-threaded, multi-core platforms, and high-performance professional audio I/O devices are supported in Vegas Pro via low-latency ASIO drivers.

**Q: What does "sample-based audio editing" mean?**

A , Unlike video, which is typically recorded at 24, 30, or 60 frames per second, audio is sampled at much higher frequencies. 44.1 kHz, or 44,100 samples per second, is the standard for audio CDs, at a bit-depth (or resolution) of 16-bit. Many professional video formats record 24-bit audio at 48 kHz. Vegas Pro can edit 24-bit audio at sampling rates up to 192 kHz.

**Q: Can't all video editors edit and mix audio?**

A , While all NLEs can edit audio at the FRAME level, few offer the ability to edit audio at the sub-frame SAMPLE level. In other words, Vegas Pro can "zoom in" to the audio clip beyond the video frame boundaries (1/24th, 1/30th, or 1/60th of a second) and work with sample-based precision, at 1/48,000th of a second or beyond. This is essential for fixing audio problems that occur "between" frames of video, as well as repairing out-of-synch audio caused by microphone placement or distance from the camera to the subject. Combined with the range of audio tools and filters in Vegas Pro, no ordinary NLE comes close to matching the audio capabilities of the Vegas Pro package.

**Q: If Vegas Pro is such a complete audio editor, why do I need Sound Forge™ Pro?**

A , Vegas Pro is an audio tool designed for mixing, editing, and recording multi-TRACK projects. Sound Forge Pro is a file-based, multi-CHANNEL audio recording, processing, and mastering tool. The seamless integration between Vegas Pro and Sound Forge Pro makes it easy for the editor to use the best tool for the specific audio task at hand.

**Q: What is ACID™ Pro?**

A , ACID Pro is a full-featured Digital Audio Workstation (DAW). It offers professional-level loop-based production, MIDI production, and multitrack audio recording, editing and surround sound mixing. ACID Pro provides the perfect working environment for video post, with the ability to add voice over and sound effects. Use hit markers and tempo maps to frame-accurately create and match your musical score to your video. Use loops to quickly create bumpers and stingers, or complete scores. Over 3000 royalty-free, license-free loops are included with ACID Pro, with more than 130 additional loop libraries available from Sony.

**Q: Do I need to be a musician to use ACID Pro?**

A, Musicians will certainly be able to take advantage of the advanced features in ACID Pro, especially the MIDI interface and the ability to play and record their own instruments while ACID Pro is playing the background tracks. However, non-musicians will also be able to create tunes and great-sounding music beds for their video projects, thanks to the intuitive, fun interface and the incredible variety of ACID loop content available from Sony and other vendors. **Loops** are short musical .wav file recordings containing special metadata for things like tempo and pitch. The loop libraries available from Sony and other suppliers cover virtually every musical genre imaginable. To create music in ACID Pro, simply pick a loop from the included 3,000 loop collection and *paint* it into the timeline. As you add more musical loops to your project, ACID Pro automatically adjusts the pitch and tempo so that the composition stays in tune.

**Q: Do ACID Pro and Vegas Pro work together?**

A, ABSOLUTELY! Many customers use ACID Pro as their scoring tool for their Vegas Pro video projects. At the conclusion of the visual edit, a video proxy can be exported from Vegas Pro to ACID Pro, complete with reference audio. Markers placed in the ACID Pro timeline serve as audio cue points, to align the musical elements with perfect precision to the visual content. The advanced Time Stretch/Compress and Auto-Pitch Correct features of the ACID Pro software results in a rich, perfectly synchronized soundtrack for any type of video project.

**Q: Can I use the great audio plug-ins from Sound Forge Pro 10, like Noise Reduction 2.0 and the iZotope™ Mastering Bundle 2, with Vegas Pro and ACID Pro?**

A, Yes! By sharing a common plug-in architecture, Sony has enabled its users to leverage the audio plug-ins from one application with the other applications in the Sony family.

**Q: Do Sound Forge Pro and Vegas Pro work together?**

A, Of course! While Vegas Pro offers extensive audio tools, it is often desirable to use the mastering and sound-shaping tools in Sound Forge Pro to get the job done. For example, the *pencil* tool in Sound Forge Pro allows you to actually re-draw an audio waveform, to quickly edit out a transient audio **spike**, **click**, **pop**, or other audio anomaly. It is a simple matter to send the file right from the Vegas Pro timeline to Sound Forge Pro, where the file can be fully processed and sent back to the Vegas Pro project non-destructively, as an alternate take, enabling the editor to instantly toggle between the two versions.

**Q: What is Vegas Pro Production Assistant?**

A, Vegas Pro Production Assistant is a highly versatile plug-in that enhances the functionality of Vegas Pro software by streamlining and automating many frequent tasks and editing processes, to save hours of tedious and repetitive editing work. For example, the Production Assistant plug-in can batch process a project or a collection of clips to adjust the aspect ratio, correct the white balance, add a bug, etc., and batch render to a wide range of delivery options, all within a single preset. The Production Assistant software also adds very useful utilities like a *Photo Montage* tool, a *Gap Remover*, an *Auto-Dissolve* tool, and a *Lower Thirds graphic generator*.

**Q: Are there any training resources for the Sony Vegas Pro Master Suite?**

A, The Vegas Pro Master Suite includes the Sony Seminar Series training DVDs for Vegas Pro, ACID Pro, and Sound Forge Pro. The Seminar Series training includes projects and media files, making it very easy to follow along with the lessons. For quick instructional tips, all of the applications include built-in *Interactive tutorials*, which can be launched right from the Vegas Pro, ACID Pro, or Sound Forge Pro project. This gives the new user the ability to learn about the programs while working on an actual real world project, using their own content and resources. As an added bonus, we've also included the *FASST Start for Vegas Pro* DVD from VASST ([www.vasst.com](http://www.vasst.com)) to help new Vegas Pro users get up and running very quickly.

There are also a number of 3rd party training resources for the Sony software products available online. In addition, Sony also offers consulting and training packages in our Madison, Wisconsin training facility, or we can create a specialized, custom training program for you and your customers.

**Q: What is the price range of the Supermicro turnkey systems?**

A, The Supermicro systems are available in three different configurations, to meet the performance requirements and budgetary needs of a wide audience. The Supermicro Professional system (MSRP \$3999) is an Intel® Core™ i7 system with 8 GB of RAM and 2 TB of storage. Next step up is the dual Intel® Xeon® Supermicro Pro Plus system (MSRP \$4999), which also features a Blu-ray burner. The top of the line is the Supermicro Extreme system (MSRP \$6999), boasting faster CPUs, more RAM, and a 600 GB 15k RPM RAID 0 configuration.

There is also the Supermicro Editor system (MSRP \$2999), which offers the same hardware platform as the Professional system but features Vegas Pro 9, DVD Architect Pro 5, and the Dolby AC-3 encoder only. By eliminating the rest of the Master Suite package (software, training, bonus content, and Double Platinum support plan), we're able to offer an entry-level Vegas Pro editing system that offers tremendous value without sacrificing performance.

**Q: Is the Vegas Pro Master Suite collection available as software only, without the workstation?**

A, Currently, the Vegas Pro Master Suite software package is available only as part of a Supermicro turnkey solution. We will continue to monitor the demand for a software-only Master Suite collection.

**Q: Is the Vegas Pro Master Suite collection available on any other hardware platforms, including mobile solutions?**

A, Today, the Vegas Pro Master Suite collection is available only as part of a Supermicro turnkey solution. We are actively evaluating the requirements of the mobile content creation market, and we hope to offer an equally strong portable Master Suite solution in the near future.