

# NTI Media Maker 8

Review by Peter Kaufmann

## **Product Information:**

Media Maker 8 is a product of NewTech Info Systems. The cost is around \$80 with a full version upgrade about \$50. As a user of an older version, my new laptop with Vista necessitated a look at the new model. MM8 is XP and Vista and 2000 compatible and lists these main requirements: Pentium111 900 MHz, 500MB free space to install, 256MB RAM, 10MB for creating DVD disks and a 16 bit color card.

MM8 is a full featured CD and DVD authoring program and a complete listing is extensive. The main features currently used by this novice to date are minimal and a learning curve is needed to achieve higher usage. A list of some of the basic features include: home video maker, backup, music ripper, photo maker, DVD fit and other multiple burning options.

## **Installation:**

The program downloaded and consequently installed happily without incident Two icon's were added to the desktop, MM8 and Digital Flix. Installed help files are extensive, easy to read and are step x step directions to understand and master any of features you are working with. Clicking on MM8 brings up a round instrument like launching panel with access to the main feature options as noted above. Digital Flix is full featured DVD, audio-cd and media player.

## **Sample Runs:**

For the first trial create a "data disk" was launched. It allowed for a single session, multiple sessions or a mixed data audio mode. A single session which formats, copies and closes a session was chosen, Folder(s) were dragged to a frame below burn speed selected and burned in stepped format directions.

Another trial involved copying some old music saved on a second hard drive. Audio was picked from the home pad followed by a second pad with options for audio, mp3, ripper, live audio, music and audio editor. Here again, in two step format, select the drive, folder and drag files to be burned. The order of songs can be changed as desired, select speed and copy. A gauge indicates the size of files (MB) to be copied. The burn was most successful although some small differences in volume were apparent. Some research on balancing is needed.

Got a little daring, did a little trial with the photo maker. From the main launch picked photo and then photo disc. Other choices were cinematic and vcd/dvd side shows. Five pics were dragged into an album as step one. The next step allowed full editing including resize, rotate, crop, etc. Step three allowed for format selection slideshow, photo disc, print or email. After burning, the pictures were viewed. Some resizing could have been done but quality was great.

## **General:**

The featured items covered herein admittedly cover only the tip of the iceberg as to features and functionality available in this application. Users from the beginner to the more skillful “techie” will find application for the program. There is something for everyone. Features range from basic disc burning to more sophisticated level of editing content, file archiving and video importing. They even threw in a Test Drive, a utility that tests performance of media, optical and hard drives. Most optical drives including blu-ray are supported. If I had one complaint, some of the features I use are, for me, layered down too far. Additional projects for me to pursue include DVD fit for recording a long movie, smoothing transition between songs and the Backup 5 feature.

My appreciation and thanks to Linda Herd at Marken Communications for making this program available.