

# Belle Nuit Subtiter 1.5

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## What it is

Program to spot, edit and render subtitles for Avid or Final Cut Pro. Give it to your translators so they can prepare the titles themselves, reducing both your editing time and typing errors.

## Features

- Full quality antialiased titles with alpha channel
- Support for PAL, NTSC (nonsquare pixels), HD, DVD, 4:3 and 16:9
- Fast batch rendering to PICT, TIFF and lossless-compressed TIFF
- Spotting with a QuickTime movie, exporting timecode data to Avid, to Final Cut Pro and to DVD Studio Pro
- Import more than 10 subtitle formats
- Straightforward title editing
- Automatic or manual text wrapping
- Customizable fonts, styles, colors, position, opacity, alignment, borders, shadows, underlying rectangles and blurring

### New features of 1.5

- Spotting with QuickTime movies
- Timecode comment
- Export to EDL, STL and Final Cut Pro XML
- Export to 720p

### New features of 1.4

- Individual title styles
- Multilanguage program interface
- XML document format

## Specifications

- Power Macintosh
- Minimum 25 MB RAM for the application
- Minimum 3 MB disc space for application and about 50 KB for every rendered title.
- MacOS 8.6-9.2 and OS X 10.1 or newer.

## How to get the Program

The newest version of the program is available at

<http://www.belle-nuit.com/download/index.html>

There is a version for OS 8-9 (Classic) and a version for OSX.

Current release is a multilanguage versions in english, french, german and dutch.

Licences work with any version from 1.0 to 1.5. You may need to reregister the programm however, if you update.

If you have problems to get the page or to get the file downloaded, please drop a message to [matti@belle-nuit.com](mailto:matti@belle-nuit.com)

## Terms of use

This program is commercial software. If you want to use it, you need a license.

### Offline License

You can freely distribute this program and use on any numbers of computers. The offline version is fully functional for handling the title list, but the rendered titles will have the word "offline" in it. Give it to your translator, your director or your producer or whoever is responsible for the subtitle text.

### Online License

You can acquire the online license at kagi (<http://order.kagi.com/?ZSI>).

Online licene fee is 120 USD. After paying, a username and a serial number will be sent to you within 3 days.

With the online license, you are allowed to use this program on one Macintosh. You may make backup copies, but you may not register the online license on more than one Macintosh.

Broadcast stations and rental houses may opt for a site licence (600 USD).

Owners of a online license will have the right to free support by email ([matti@belle-nuit.com](mailto:matti@belle-nuit.com)). Please include your username when you are writing for support.

With both licenses, Belle Nuit Montage keeps ownership of the program. The license only allows you to use the program for an unlimited duration.

If you use this program, you agree with the terms of this license.

## Installation

### Classic

Expand the downloaded file with Stuffit Expander. Install it wherever you want it on your harddisk. As with any installation of Macintosh software, you may want to rebuild

the desktop to have the program and document icons properly displayed (holding option-command on restart).

## OSX

The downloaded file is a disk image. Drag the Program to the Applications folder.

You can choose your program language in the **Apple:Preferences...** menu. Choose between english, french, german and dutch. Menus are updated immediately, windows are updated when they are opened the next time.

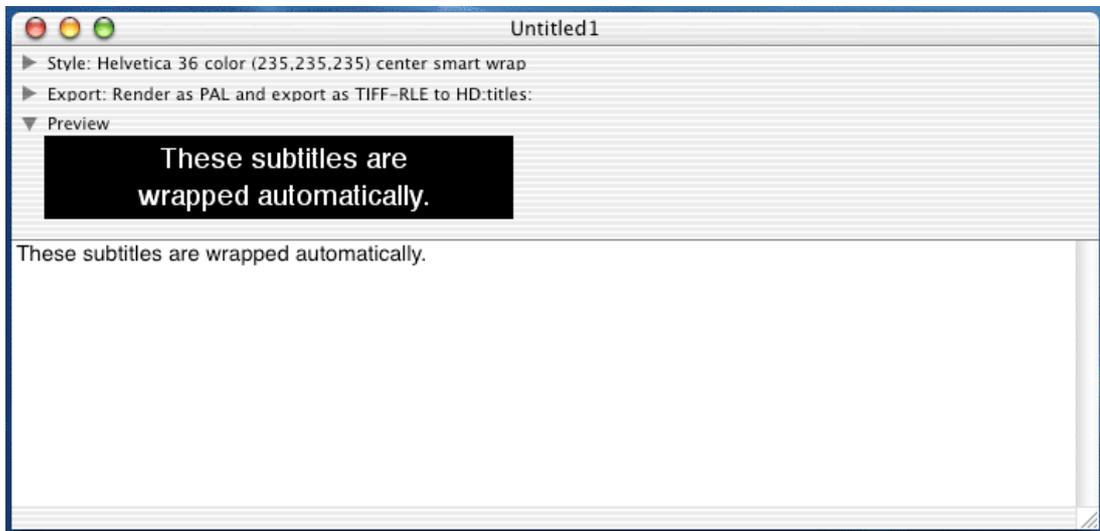
When you want to use Belle Nuit Subtitler for rendering titles, you need to register. Go to the the **Apple:Register...** menu and enter **Username** and **Serial Number**.

## Quickstart

Working in Belle Nuit Subtitler is straightforward. The Subtitler documents window is a texteditor where you can type your titles. Pages are separated by two returns. Text is wrapped automatically to two lines, but you can also wrap the text manually. The style of the titles applies to the whole document. For proper subtitle editing which is often critical in space, you may want to define your title style before editing.

Open the Belle Nuit Subtitler application. An empty document window with the title "Untitled1" appears.

The subtitler document window has five sections: Style, Export, Movie, Preview and Titlelist. While the Titlelist is always visible, you can open the other three sections with the disclosure triangle when you need them.

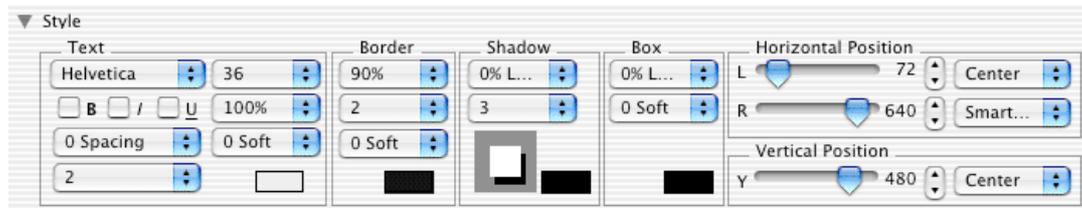


Open the **Export** section. Choose your video format. Choose **TIFF-RLE** as the file format (most efficient with Avid) and click on the **Export Folder** button to choose the folder where you want your titles to be exported to. Close the Export section.



Open the **Style** section. Choose your font. As with all settings, you can still change the font at a later time. It is recommended to use a simple shaped font like Helvetica. Check bold. For the size, use 33-36 for PAL or 30 for NTSC. The color is video white by default (RGB 235,235,235), but you may want to change it to yellow. Click on the color rectangle to choose another color. The Level-popupmenu

defines opacity. Leave it at 100% for the moment. Close the Style section.



Go to the **Titlelist** text editing field and start writing your subtitles. This works like SimpleText and has the standard features cut, copy, paste and find. You can multiple undo your typing (100 levels until the last saved state). You can also redo, e.g. undo your undo.



return. As you type, the title is shown in the **Preview** section. The preview section shows the amount of space you have, depending on your font, size, the video format and the left and right limits you set in the style section. The preview type size is always 12 point, but the black rectangle adapts to reflect the available space.

If you are typing a line which exceeds the size limit, the text is wrapped. In the style section, you have three options for wrapping

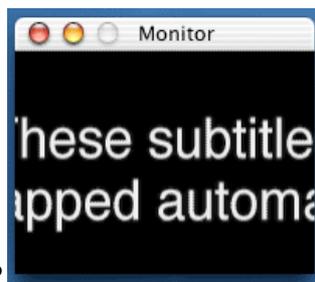
- **No wrap:** Exceeding text is cut.
- **Simple wrap:** Exceeding text is wrapped to the second line.
- **Smart wrap:** If the text does not hold in one line, it is wrapped to have minimal width through both lines. In most cases, you may prefer the last option.

You can always override the automatic wrapping with a manual return. Text is only wrapped if it exceeds the size limit.

Titles are limited to two lines. A third line will not be shown.

Save your document.

While the preview section may be appropriate for fast editing, you may want to have a closer look to the rendered title. Choose the **Windows:Monitor** menu. The monitor displays the rendered title.



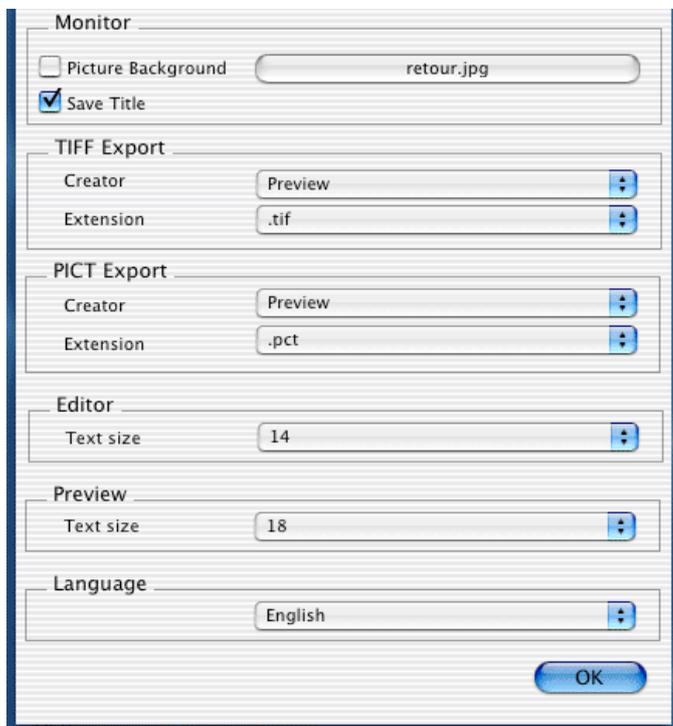
You can resize the monitor to quarter, half or full size picture using the **Window** menu. The displayed size is 4:3 or 16:9 depending on your video format setting.

The monitor is updated whenever you reactivate the window.

You can always have a peek to the native non-square title image. While you **click** in the monitor window, you will see the native title image. While you **option-click**, you will see the Alpha-Channel of the title.

Choose the **Preferences** menu. You can set **Save Title** to display Save Title and Save Action limits, and you can also choose a background picture to test your title.





You now may want to export your titles to see how they display in the Avid. Choose the **Select All** menu to select all your text. Choose the **File:Export** menu. The titles are rendered one by one and exported to the folder you specified.

By default, the file names are serial numbers from 0001 to the number of your titles with the extension .tif or .pct. It is the number you see in the preview-section. The reference section later in this documentation will you give another possibility that you can override the filenames and give your own filename.

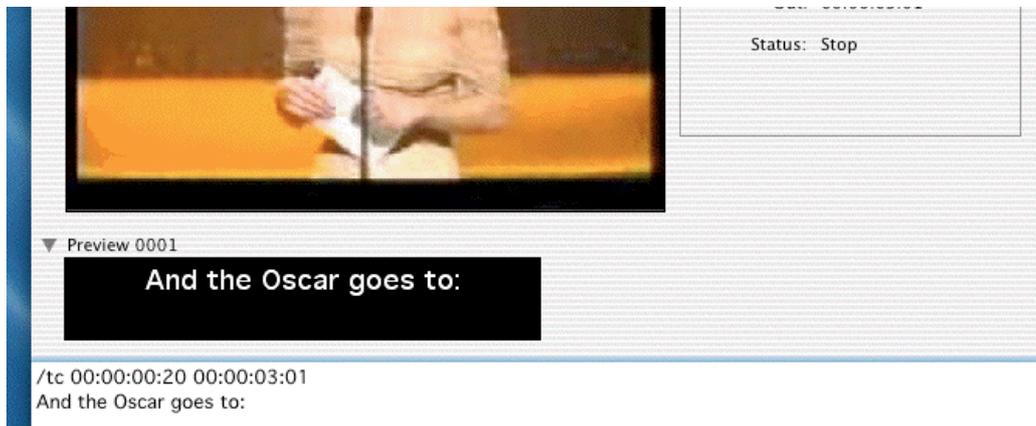
Now, you have finished with Belle Nuit Subtitler, go to the Avid

1. Activate the bin where you want to have your titles imported
2. Choose **File:Import** menu
3. Choose **File Type** pop-up menu: **Graphic/Audio**
4. Look for the folder of the exported files (named 0001.tif etc.) select all files.
5. Click on the **Options...** button
6. Set Aspect Ratio, Pixel Aspect to **601, non-square**.
7. Set Color Levels **601**.
8. Set Alpha **Invert Existing Alpha**.
9. **Deselect Import Sequential Files**
10. The Avid System creates a Matte key effect for each title. Edit it to your timeline. The effect is real-time.

## Spotting

The document window has a **Movie** section. This section will allow you to import a Quicktime movie and to simulate the subtitle spotting while playing the movie. Spotting is the process to define at which moment a title starts and at which moment it ends.





Spotting is an Art on itself which needs both sense of rhythm and knowledge on the language. To work effectively, you also need a feeling to find a good compromise in a reasonable amount of times, which is some seconds. This said, after some self-training, an experienced editor is able to to a successful spotting.

There are different criteria how to define the rhythm of a title and they are often contradictory:

- The title should hold long enough that it can be read by the public while still being able to follow the image. *The duration should therefore be between 1.5 and 3 seconds.*
- The title should not exceed one or two lines of 34-40 characters. *Check the font size and title length requirements before you start subtitling.*
- The title should be in sync with the speaking person. *You should never have a title from one character while hearing another character.*
- The titles should be divided into units which follow the syntax of the dialogs.
- The titles should be divided into units which follow the rhythm of speech of the dialogs. *Which on a documentary is often not the same as the previous criterium.*
- The titles should be spaced with at least 3-6 frames. *Some stations prefer titles without space.*
- The title should neither start nor end with a cut.

You will find out yourself your way. Before you make your first subtitles, you may go to the theatre and analyze the subtitling of international movies.

Now back to Subtitler:

Import the movie with the menu command **File:Import Movie**. We recommend using movies in MPEG4, MPEG1 or DV compression, but your choice may depend of the performance of your Macintosh.

In the **Movie** section, set the framerate and the offset. The offset is the timecode of the first frame of the movie.

Playing and marking is entirely driven by the keyboard. The movie receives keyboard commands, when it has the focus (the blue border). To give the movie the focus, click on the movie or use the escape key.

The **Synchronize** checkbox synchronizes the position of the movie and the titlelist. When you play the movie, you change the selection in the titlelist and you can simulate the subtitling in the Preview. When you edit in the titlelist, the movie goes always to the beginning of the selected title. *Tip: Use the preference for the preview size (18 or 24) to get a bigger preview.*

Keyboard commands:

- ESC: switch focus between movie and titlelist.
- SPACE: play/stop.
- J: play backward and increase speed.
- K + J : play backward 25% speed
- K: stop.
- K + L : play forward 25% speed
- L: play forward and increase speed.
- LEFT: move position to one frame to the beginning.
- RIGHT: move position to one frame to the end.
- HOME: move position to the beginning.
- END: move position to to the end.
- I: Mark In.
- O: Mark Out.
- Q: Goto In.
- W: Goto Out.
- N: Create new title with current marks (and start writing the title).
- Y: Split the title in two titles at current position.
- U: Join the title with the next one at current position.
- 1: Trim the start of the title at the position one frame to the beginning.
- 2: Trim the start of the title at the position one frame to the end.
- 5: Trim the entire title at the position one frame to the beginning.
- 6: Trim the entire title at the position one frame to the end.
- 8: Trim the end of the title at the position one frame to the beginning.
- 9: Trim the end of the title at the position one frame to the end.

*Tip: Use the Keyboard shortcut help menu to remember the shortcuts.*

When you split titles, a distance of 3 frames is created between the two titles by default. You can change this setting in the Preferences menu.

When you have finished spotting, you can export an EDL for Avid/Final Cut Pro and an STL file for DVD Studio Pro.

The spotting information is saved as timecode comments attached to the titles. You can edit these timecodes by hand or use the trim keyboard shortcuts to change them.

## Import and Export

You have now various possibilities to create spotting information for your subtitles:

- Export a Quicktime movie and spot in Subtitler.
- Spot in your editing system, export an EDL and import it into Subtitler via TitleListConverter.
- Get your spotting as a file from a Service Bureau and import it into Subtitler via TitleListConverter.

With any of these variants, you finish with a Subtitler document with timecode comments. You can now export this information to use it in your editing system

- Export an EDL for Avid.
- Export an EDL for Final Cut Pro 3-4.0 or an XML for Final Cut Pro 4.1
- Export an STL file for DVD Studio Pro.

Look at the specific helpfiles we have written for [Avid](#), [Final Cut Pro](#) and [DVD Studio Pro](#)

### Spot once, export multiple

With Belle Nuit Subtitler, you can now spot and edit your subtitles for your video and reuse the spotting information

for your DVD. Simply change the video format to PAL DVD or NTSC DVD, reexport the titles to as new folder and export an STL file to automatically import the titles into DVD Studio Pro.

## Tips

### Define your title style before you edit the subtitles

Subtitle writing is often a space-critical work. If you already have defined a Title Style, the Preview section will accommodate to available space and allow you to adapt the text.

### Use Belle Nuit Subtitler with Avid

You can keep Subtitler open while working in Avid. For last-minute changes, using Subtitler and importing to your bin will be as fast as opening the title tool.

## Reference

The application has three main windows: The Document window, the Monitor and the Preferences Window. You can have multiple document windows open. The Monitor always renders the topmost document window.

### Document window

The document window has five sections: Style, Export, Movie, Preview and the Titlelist. While the Titlelist section is always visible, the other four sections can be shown or hidden with the disclosure triangles.

### The Style section

You can choose any **font** in your system. True Type fonts work best. If you choose Postscript fonts, be sure to add big screen fonts and not only the 12-size. This will approve the font metrics.

**Size** can be chosen within the limits of the screen dimensions. We made best experience with sizes from 30 to 36 in subtitles.

Choose your style with the **Bold**, **Italic** and **Underline** checkboxes. *Read later below how you can define title-level styles with comments.*

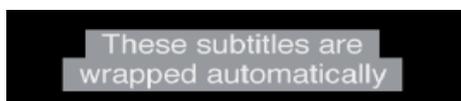
Choose the **Text color**. Color is not checked for legal values. This is why you may choose **File has RGB-Levels** in the Avid import options.

Choose **Spacing** (space between characters) and **Leading** (space between lines).

Choose the **Softness**. Softness of bigger than 0 will blur the title. Rendering may take more time.

Choose the **Level**. 0% is completely transparent, 100% completely opaque. If you choose colored titles, a reduced level of 90% may improve the results in the Avid by having less compression artefacts.

Choose **Border** level, width, softness, color and.



Choose **Shadow** level, softness, position and color.

Choose the **Box** level, softness and color. The box resizes automatically to the width of the text. A partially transparent underlying box may improve lisibility in difficult context.

Choose the **Left, Right** limits and **Vertical** position. Option-clicking on the sliders sets them to their default value. The vertical size is set automatically according to the size of the text. The pop-up menu choose the relative position of the text to the defined position. Most time, you will stay with **center** and **center**. With this setting, if there is a oneliner among twoliner titles, it will be vertically centered.

You have three options for **Wrapping**

- **No wrap:** Exceeding text is cut.
- **Simple wrap:** Exceeding text is wrapped to the second line.
- **Smart wrap:** If the text does not hold in one line, it is wrapped to have minimal width through both lines. In most cases, you may prefer the last options.

You can always override the automatic wrapping by giving a manual return. Text is only wrapped if it exceeds the size limit.

All style settings are saved with the document. If you create a new document, it will copy the style settings of the topmost document window.

### The Export section

- **Video format:** The following formats are supported:

Format	Dimensions	Antialiasing	Flicker filter
PAL	720*576 non square 4:3	yes	yes
PAL 16:9	720*576 non square 16:9	yes	yes
PAL DVD	720*576 non square	no	no
NTSC	720*486 non square 4:3	yes	yes
NTSC 16:9	720*486 non square 16:9	yes	yes
NTSC DV	720*480 non square 4:3	yes	yes
NTSC DV 16:9	720*480 non square 16:9	yes	yes
NTSC DVD	720*486 non square	no	no
VGA	640*480 square	yes	no
HD 720p	1280*720 square	yes	no
HD 1080p	1920*1080 square	yes	no

The widescreen 16:9 option scales typo so that it shows properly on 16:9 projects.

You change the format of the document at any time, but changing may affect text wrapping.

You may also have multiple documents open with different video formats at the same time.

- **Export folder:** Select the folder where you export your files. The files will have names like 0001.tif. *Caution: Exporting will overwrite any existing file with the same name.* You may override the naming scheme using the comment function explained below. Any title with a beginning line of **/file myfilename** will be saved under this name, with the extension .tif or .pct.

- **Export format:**
  - **PICT:** saves the title as RGB file and as a separate alpha-file. The export is fast and the files are small, you can batch-import them on newer systems, but the matte key is not realtime and renders slowly. Use this format for DVD Studio Pro.
  - **PICT-alpha:** saves the title as RGB with embedded alpha. Though not officially supported, this format is recognized by most graphic applications and it is the only possibility to import titles as slides to older versions of Avid Mediacomposer (6.x) or MCXpress (1.x).
  - **TIFF:** saves the title als RGB with embedded alpha. The exporting is not very fast and the files are big (1.6 MB). Alpha is normal (white = background).
  - **TIFF-RLE:** saves the title as RBG with embedded alpha. The file is run-length-encoded, which is for titles a very effective lossless compression (40 -60 KB) without losing quality. Alpha is inverted (white = foreground) to enhance compression. You have to choose invert alpha in the Avid import settings.

The recommended setting is **TIFF-RLE** if you use MediaComposer 7.x or later, Xpress 2.x or later or Final Cut Pro.

## The Movie section

You can import a movie (menu **File:Import Movie**) to spot subtitles with Belle Nuit Subtitler. The movie is shown as half size of the video format. You can play the movie, set in and out points, define new titles and trim, split and join existing titles. When you are in synchronize mode, the Preview and the Titlelist are updated while the movie plays. On the other side, the movie is updated, when you select a title in the Titlelist.

Set the **Framerate** of the movie. The framerate is independent of the actual framerate of the imported movie (which may be reduced like in the case of an MPEG4 file).

You can set a **Timecode Offset**. For all new spotted titles this offset is added to the movie position to create the timecode comment. Choose this offset at the beginning.  
*Note that for STL export, you can set the preferences to ignore that offset.*

The **Synchronize** checkbox synchronizes the movie with the Preview window and the Titlelist. Use the ESC-key to jump between the movie and the titlelist.

The movie is entirely driven by the keyboard:

- ESC: switch focus between movie and titlelist.
- SPACE: play/stop.
- J: play backward and increase speed.
- K + J : play backward 25% speed
- K: stop.
- K + L : play forward 25% speed
- L: play forward and increase speed.
- LEFT: move position to one frame to the beginning.
- RIGHT: move position to one frame to the end.
- HOME: move position to the beginning.
- END: move position to to the end.
- I: Mark In.
- O: Mark Out.
- Q: Goto In.
- W: Goto Out.
- N: Create new title with current marks (and start writing the title).
- Y: Split the title in two titles at current position.

- U: Join the title with the next one at current position.
- 1: Trim the start of the title at the position one frame to the beginning.
- 2: Trim the start of the title at the position one frame to the end.
- 5: Trim the entire title at the position one frame to the beginning.
- 6: Trim the entire title at the position one frame to the end.
- 8: Trim the end of the title at the position one frame to the beginning.
- 9: Trim the end of the title at the position one frame to the end.

### The Preview section

Simulates the wrapping of the titles to give you the possibility to edit space-critically. The size is always 12 point (or the size you choose in the Preferences), but margins are adjusted according to the textsize. Color is always white and shadows are not shown to speed up response. To have the preview working properly, you need to set your style to the actual definitive render settings.

### The Titlelist

Text is not styled. It is always 12 point (or the size defined in the Preferences) in the text font you choose. You can cut, copy, paste and find like in any other text editor. You may import a text document if you prefer another text editor.

The text formatting is simple

- Titles are separated by double returns
- Titles may have one or two lines. You may enter manually a return or you can use the wrap fonction defined in the Style section.
- If the title exceeds two lines, the other lines will be ignored
- If the line of a title begins with a slash /, it will be regarded as a comment and ignored for the rendering.

### About Comments

Comments are mainly for your own purpose. You may enter time code values or other information.

You can use a comment to add your own filename. If the commentline has the **/file** tag, the following text will be used as the filename.

Examples for comments

```
This is a normal title without comment.

/? chabis
Here I added a comment that i did not
understand the word chabis

/file generique
This title will have the filename
"generique.tiff"

/file 00:01:12:10
This title will be saved as
"00.01.12.10.tiff" because ":" are not
allowed in macintosh filenames.
```

You can use a comment to define a style on the title level. Adding a **/style** tag allows you to set titles **bold**, **italic**, **underline** or **plain** (remove bold, italic and underline) and align to **left**, **right** or **center**. Styles can be combined. Examples:

```
/style bold
This is a bold title
```

```
/style italic left
This is a title which is italic and
left.
```

The Timecode comment **/tc** has the format

```
/tc 00:00:00:00 00:00:00:00
```

where the first timecode is the inpoint and the second the outpoint.

Timecode comments are created automatically with subtitle files from TitleListConverter. You can edit them manually or use the keyboard spotting commands to create and trim titles when you have imported a QuickTime movie.

*Note for NTSC: Use the framerate menu of the movie to identify drop-frame and non-drop-frame timecode.*

If you need a title to start with a slash, then use a **double slash //** to escape the slash.

### Preferences Window

- Display a background image to have a better preview of the title. You can import any picture QuickTime can read. The picture will be forced to fit your video format dimensions.  
A background picture slows down the title rendering in the monitor and the rendering is only approximative if the monitor is not original size.
- Display Save Action (90%) and Save Title (80%) area.
- Define the Creator of the exported PICT and TIFF files. The Creator is the Application which will open the file when you double-click it.
- Define the File-Extension of the exported PICT and TIFF files. This allows you to have TIFF files exported as .tiff, .tif or without extension.
- Define the textsize in the Titlelist and in the Preview. This allows for better reading on large screens.
- Define Split distance for Spotting. The split distance is the number of frames between two titles you decide to split.
- Use Tape Offset for STL Export. You can choose to either use or to ignore the Offset defined in the Movie section. If you ignore, the absolute positions are used.
- Define the interface language. Currently supported are english, french, german and dutch.

### The Monitor window

The Monitor window renders the title.

You can resize the window to quarter, half and full size using the **Window** menu. You can also resize to the files exporting size. The window size does not affect the quality of the exported titles.

The monitor always displays the title of the topmost document window.

The monitor is not automatically updated on changes. Activate the window to force rendering.

You can peek the fullsize output rendering by **clicking** into the monitor. Be sure to click within the title itself. If you **option-click**, you will see the alpha-channel. White is background, black is foreground, gray is some level of transparency.

### Menu reference

- **Apple>About Subtiter**
- **Apple:Register**: Use this menu to register to upgrade from offline to online license (*not visible when you have already an online license*)

- **Apple:Preferences**
- **File:New, File:Open, File:Close, File:Save, File:Save as** work as expected. You can only open subtitle documents, not the rendered PICT and TIFF files. You can open Subtitled 1.1. documents, but they are saved in the new XML-format.  
*With the option-key pressed, you can try to open damaged documents.*
- **File:Import:** Select a textfile with subtitles prepared in another word processing program. The file must be of TEXT type.  
If the file does have tabulators, they will be changed to returns.  
Returns will be changed to double returns, unless the document already has double returns.
- **File:Export:** The selected titles will be rendered and exported as image files. If there is no selection, only the title at the cursor position will be rendered. The file format and destination are chosen in the Export section of the document and in the preferences. Files are numbered by default as 0001.tif or 0001.pct etc, but you can override this by adding a comment to the title (/file filename).  
*Caution: Existing files with the same name as the image file will be overwritten.*
- **File:Export Other:Text:** The Titlelist will be exported to a TEXT file with the creator "ttx" (Simple Text)
- **File:Export Other:Subtitled 1.1**
- **File:Export Other:EDL** for Avid and FCP 3.0/4.0
- **File:Export Other:STL** for DVD Studio Pro. *Save the file in the same folder as the rendered titles.*
- **File:Export Other:XML** for FCP 4.1. *Export the titles before exporting this file.*
- **File:Page Setup** and **Print** works as expected to print a title list.
- **File:Quit** works as expected
- **Edit:Undo, Edit:Redo:** 100-level multiple undo for the text editing until to the last saving. No undo for formatting.
- **Edit:Cut, Edit:Copy, Edit:Paste** work as expected in the editfield of the document
- **Edit:Find, Edit:Find Again, Edit:Replace** searching for occurrences of a chosen text in the active document window and eventually replacing the text.
- **Windows** activate the respective windows.
- **Window:Quarter, Window:Half, Window-Full, Window-Original** set the monitor to the respective sizes.
- **Help:Keyboard Shortcuts Spotting**
- **Help:Online Help**
- **Help:Mail to Developer**

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The newest version is available at <http://www.belle-nuit.com/>

## **History**

20.4.4 1.5 Spotting with imported movies, timecode tag, export to EDL, STL and Final Cut Pro XML, export to 720p

12.3.4 1.4 Multiple comment lines, individual styles, settings for extensions and creator codes, multilanguage support, xml file format, keyfile in application support folder. fixed bugs: invisible icons, underline stiles, faster export of single titles.

2.8.00 1.1 borders, blurring, export to HD, replace, faster TIFF export.

27.2.00 1.0.1 release in french, german, update in english. PICT-alpha added, TIFF exporting is faster.

14.2.00 1.0 release versions in english. bug with registerwindow fixed.

31.1.00 1.088: text editor with multiple undos and integrated style and preview. adding comments and filenames, underlying rectangle as option, left-right limits, simple and smart wrap. resizable monitor window, save title and background picture. preparing for french and german localization. eport as simpletext and as picture viewer files. documentation as pdf.

31.12.99 1.081

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