Using Text in Sony Vegas

Sony Vegas treats text the same as any other video asset in your project, making easy the addition of titles, credits or other text to your video.

Adding a Text Object

The following steps reveal how to create a new text object and place it on the Vegas timeline.

- **Creating a New Video Track**   To use text you first need a new video track. Choose 'New Video Track' from the 'Insert' menu item, or right-click beneath the last track in the track list and choose 'Insert Video Track'. See Figure 1.

- **Creating a New Text Clip**   Click the 'Media Generators' tab in the upper-left pane of the main Vegas window, and then select 'Text' from the list on the right. Click on 'Default Text' and drag it onto the new track you created in step one. See Figure 2.

- **Adjusting the Clip Duration**   A newly created text clip has a duration of ten seconds by default. If the text clip has no animations, you can increase or decrease its length simply by dragging the leading or trailing edge of the clip. The cursor will change to this \[\text{←} \] \[\text{→}\] shape when this is possible. You can also type in a new duration in the ‘Length’ box, which you will find at the top of the text editing window. See Figure 3.

- Should you accidentally or intentionally delete the newly created text clip from the timeline, you can find it again in the 'Project Media' window.
Editing a Text Object

Once you have created a text object, you can adjust its appearance and placement on the screen.

- **Entering and Formatting the Text**  
  Vegas automatically opens the generated text media window when you create a new text clip. Under the 'Edit' tab you will find a familiar set of tools for entering and formatting the text. You may also copy and paste text into the editing window.

- **Placing the Text**  
  The 'Placement' tab allows you position the text. Make sure to keep the text within the safe zone, indicated by the red rectangle. Text within the safe zone is guaranteed to appear on all television screens.

- **Coloring the Text and Advanced Text Options**  
  Change the text and background colors from the 'Properties' tab. You may also adjust the spacing (tracking) and scale (scaling) of the letters on screen, as well as the amount of space between lines (leading) in a paragraph.

- **Adding Effects to the Text**  
  The 'Effects' tab allows you to add some truly awful decoration to the text.

- **Creating and Using Presets**  
  After adjusting the text's appearance and placement, you may save its attributes—including the text itself—to a preset by clicking the disk icon to the right of the preset dropdown menu. Use the preset when you want several text objects to have a consistent appearance. Don’t forget to revise the text after applying the preset. See Figure 5.