

SubtitleCreator User Guide

SubtitleCreator v1.8.6 allows you to convert ASCII based text files in [SubRip](#)'s SRT or MicroDVD's SUB format to the binary SUP format expected by DVD authoring tools such as [IfoEdit](#) or [ReJig](#). As such, you are able to create and add your own subtitles to a DVD. You can also manipulate existing subtitles, for example to shift them or to change their colors. Additionally, you can use a different rendering method, which should be useful for fonts with connected characters, like Persian fonts. Finally, it also included a DVD Authoring Wizard function, which is especially useful for beginners and lazy people like me to add a new subtitle to a previously shrunken (DVD Shrink) DVD, without keeping the menus.

In many ways, [SubtitleCreator](#) is similar to the program Sup2srt, but there are many new features as well, such as DVD playback, which are marked with an (*):

- Convert SubRib (*.srt) or MicroDVD (*.sub) files to IfoEdit (*.sup) files
- Load the corresponding IFO file (thanks to the [SubRip](#) sources), such that you can use the same color palette as used by the original subtitles (*)
- Based on the IFO color palette, it tries to select white text, a black outline and a silver anti-alias color on a transparent gray background (*)
- Based on the IFO file, it determines whether we are dealing with PAL or NTSC, and sets the subtitle window position appropriately (*)
- Uses the line breaks you defined in the *.srt source, such that dialogs stay on different lines. However, the maximum number is defined by you, and if it doesn't fit the window, the subtitles are joined and, if necessary, shrunken. If selected in the Settings menu (default is true), the subtitles which are too long will be highlighted in light blue (*)
- You can now also use *<i>italics</i>*, **bold**, or <u>underlined</u> subtitles (*)
- You can also use <L>, <l> and <s> for LARGE, large, and small text (*)
- Preview and position your subtitles (using a screenshot as background or the original DVD)
- Deselect subtitles that you don't want
- Automatically deselects credit lines (with @, or http) (*)
- Choose the font that you like to use
- Use profiles for default font and subtitle window position settings (*)
- You can join several subtitle files, e.g. if the original subtitle consisted of two parts (*)
- Synchronize the subtitles using time shifting
- Synchronize the subtitles using frame rate conversion (*)
- Synchronize the subtitles using the original subtitle *.sup: you can select matching subtitles in the new and original subtitle and match them (*)
- Save the synchronized subtitle file
- Stretch subtitles in horizontal and vertical direction (*)
- Specify how many lines you wish to use for the subtitle (*)
- Specify whether you want SC to automatically wrap lines (*)
- Specify whether you want SC to generate bitmaps of the subtitles for you (*).
- Specify whether you want SC to remove double spaces and other types of annoyances (*)
- When opening a MicroDVD's SUB file, special formatting commands are automatically recognized, like {Y:i}, {Y:b} and {Y:bi} (*)

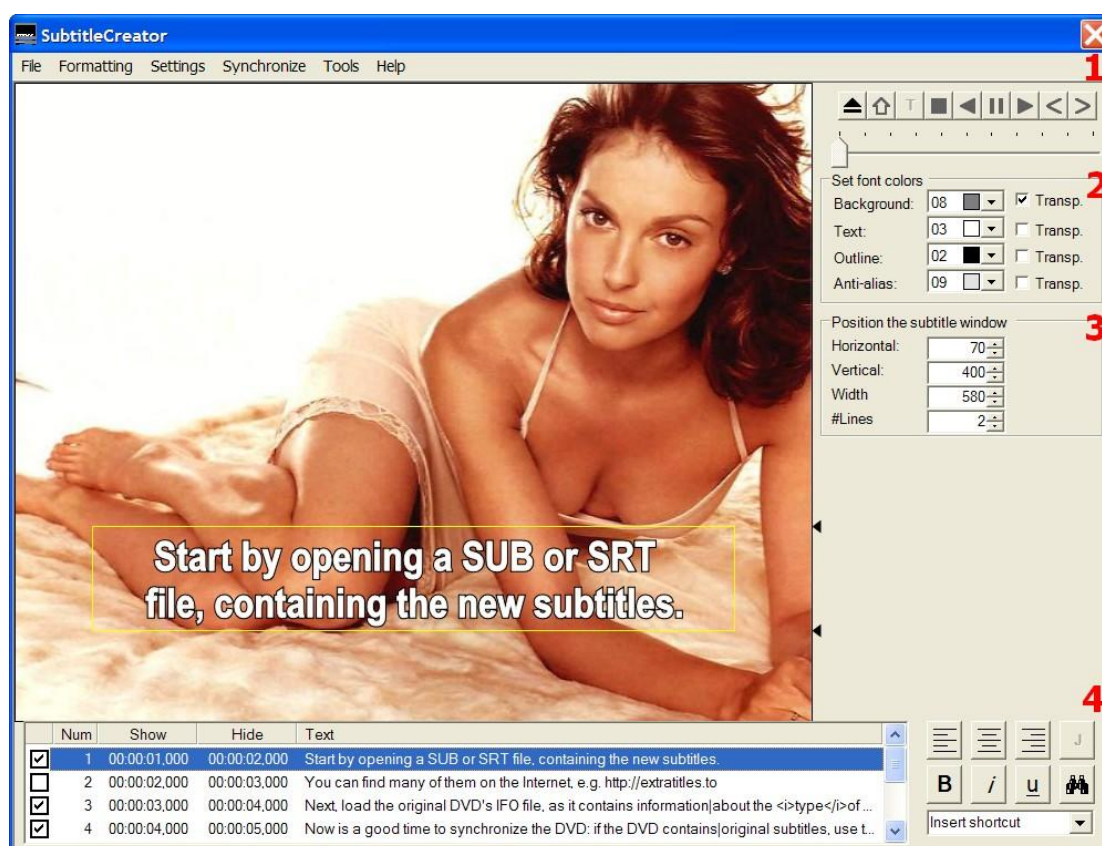
- You can define your own shortcuts in the configuration file, e.g. <s M> gives you the music symbol (*)
- You can search for a subtitle string.
- SUP manipulation tool, which allows you to remap the colors of a binary subtitle SUP file, or to shift it vertically (*)
- DVD Authoring Wizard which, together with two other great freeware tools, PgcDemux and MuxMan, can simplify the process of adding a subtitle to a new movie (without keeping the menu).

Well, that's about it before I show you some screenshots. If you have some suggestions, or if you found some bugs, please mail them to me via subtitle forum at <http://forum.doom9.org> or send me a private message as Paddington.

Installation

Very simple – I don't mess with the registry, nor do I use all kinds of special DLL's. Just unzip everything to a directory (when you are reading this, you probably have already done so J), and it should work. Well, at least if you have installed the [.NET framework](#) and DirectX plus a DVD decoder.

Main Window



About the menu:

- The File menu allows you to open the DVD's IFO file (in order to read the color palette and PAL/NTSC settings), the subtitle file (SRT or SUB format), and save them as binary

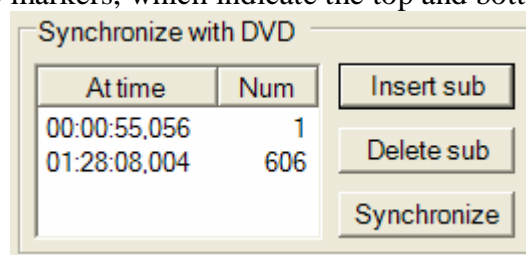
SUP (or SRT) file. Additionally, you can check to join multiple subtitles in case the originals are split, or load another background.

Tip: Press CTRL-X, and enter eXpress mode, which quickly lets you load the subtitle file, the IFO file, and the SUP file for synchronization.

- The Formatting menu controls the display of the subtitles, and you can load a predefined profile (as specified in the `SubtitleCreatorProfiles.xml` configuration file), which controls fonts, outline width, wrapping, etc. You can also overrule the formatting settings, change the vertical alignment of the subtitle in the subtitle window (yellow rectangle). Additionally, you can select a different outline and anti-aliasing rendering method (uncheck “Characters unconnected”), which might be useful for Persian fonts.
- The Settings menu controls PAL/NTSC settings, and specifies if you want to change the position of all subtitles (default), or only the currently selected one.
- All the synchronization options: time shifting, frame rate conversion, and, the most useful option, based on an original SUP subtitle file. Additionally, it allows you to specify if you want to display every line when synchronizing with another SUP (see Synchronize) or every second, fifth or tenth line.
- The Tools menu allows you to manipulate existing SUP subtitles, so you can reposition them or remap the colors. Additionally, you can automatically shift original subtitles to the current subtitle text area, and finally, it contains a DVD authoring wizard that allows you to easily create a simple DVD with your new subtitle (but without menus).

Other options:

1. DVD player options (you should only see this if you have DirectX installed, and have a software DVD player, i.e. the MPEG codec, on your system):
Open DVD, root menu, chapter menu, stop, play backwards, pause, play, previous and next chapter, plus a tracker that let’s you jump through the movie.
Currently, this feature doesn’t work if another program already uses the DVD interface, such as DVDshrink.
2. Choose the subtitle colors here, and their transparency. The colors are defined in the IFO that comes with the DVD (SubtitleCreator starts with the IFO in the Examples directory). As the original subtitles also use this color palette, you better use it yourself.
3. Position the subtitle window (I play the DVD and reposition the subtitle window using the two black triangle markers, which indicate the top and bottom of the window).



Additionally, after loading a DVD, you should see a third menu (see above) that allows you to synchronize with the DVD (I prefer the advanced synchronization using an original SUP, but sometimes the movie doesn’t have a subtitle, in which case I resort to this option). It works as follows: you pause the movie, select the subtitle you would like to appear at the current time, press “Insert sub”, and potentially adjust the timing a little. After you have done this for a couple of subtitles (at least one near the beginning, and one near the end), press synchronize and voilà, all other subtitles are corrected as well using time shifting and frame rate corrections.

4. A set of options to control the appearance of the subtitles:

First line: Left align (CTRL-L), centre align (CTRL-E), right align (CTRL-R), and Jump (to the current subtitle in the DVD, only works when pausing the DVD).

Second line: Bold (CTRL-B), Italics (CTRL-I), Underline (CTRL-U), and Search (CTRL-F).

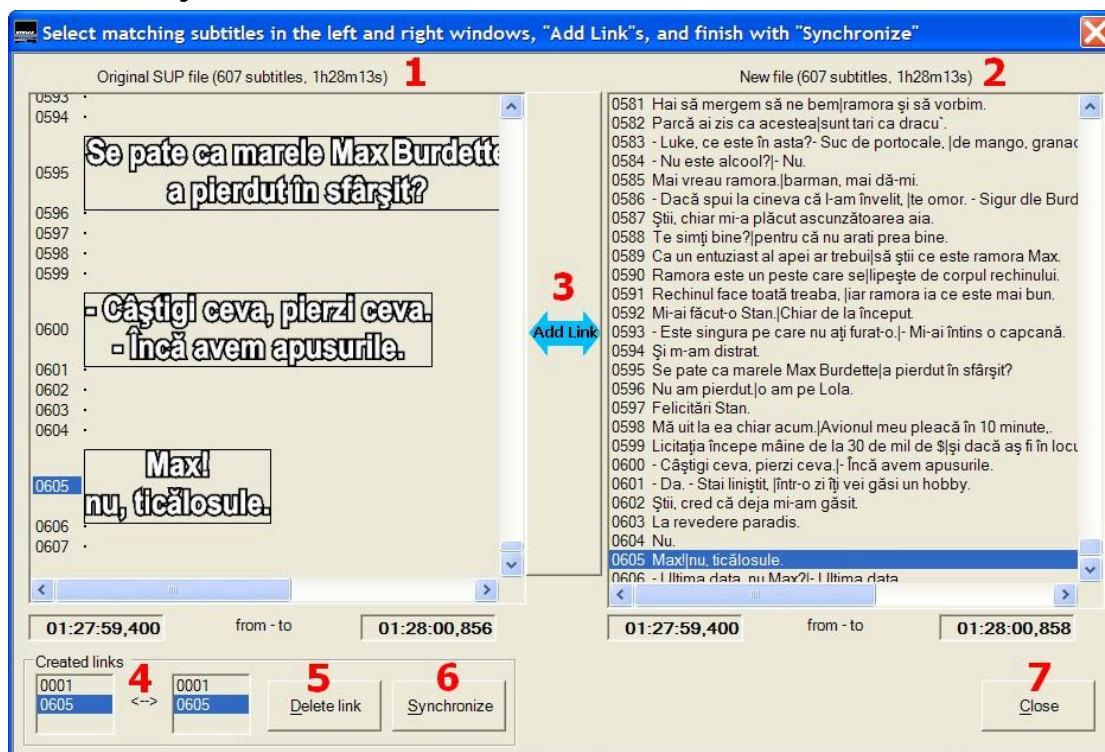
Insert shortcuts: insert predefined (in `SubtitleCreatorProfiles.xml`) text, such as Music symbols (<s M/> and <s m/>), at the beginning of the string. Some other useful commands are <L>, <l> and <s> to make the current line Larger, larger, or smaller than the current subtitle font.

List box: You can edit the times and the subtitle text (double click), and select whether or not you wish to include it. Uncheck subtitles if you wish to exclude them for some reason. Note that you can use italics (start with <i> *and optionally end with* </i>), bold (**versus**), regular and underline (<u> versus </u>) fonts.

Tip: If you want to use another font for the current subtitle, you can specify it as follows: <f Name='Arial Narrow', Type='Regular', Size='14'>.

Tip: If you wish to position the current subtitle somewhere else, you can go to Settings, unselect “Change all subtitles”, and move the subtitle box with the mouse.

Advanced Synchronization Window



One of the biggest problems I had was synchronizing the subtitles of a movie with the video and audio. Therefore, I created this feature which uses one of the original subtitles of the DVD to synchronize your own subtitles.

The interface is very intuitive to me, and I hope to you as well: just select corresponding subtitles left (1 – from the original SUP file) and right (2 – your subtitle file) windows, and click “Add Link” (3). The created links are shown in (4) and can be deleted with (5). Finally, select “Synchronize” (6) when you are done, which will use linear synchronization to correct for time shifts and frame rate conversions between the different subtitles.

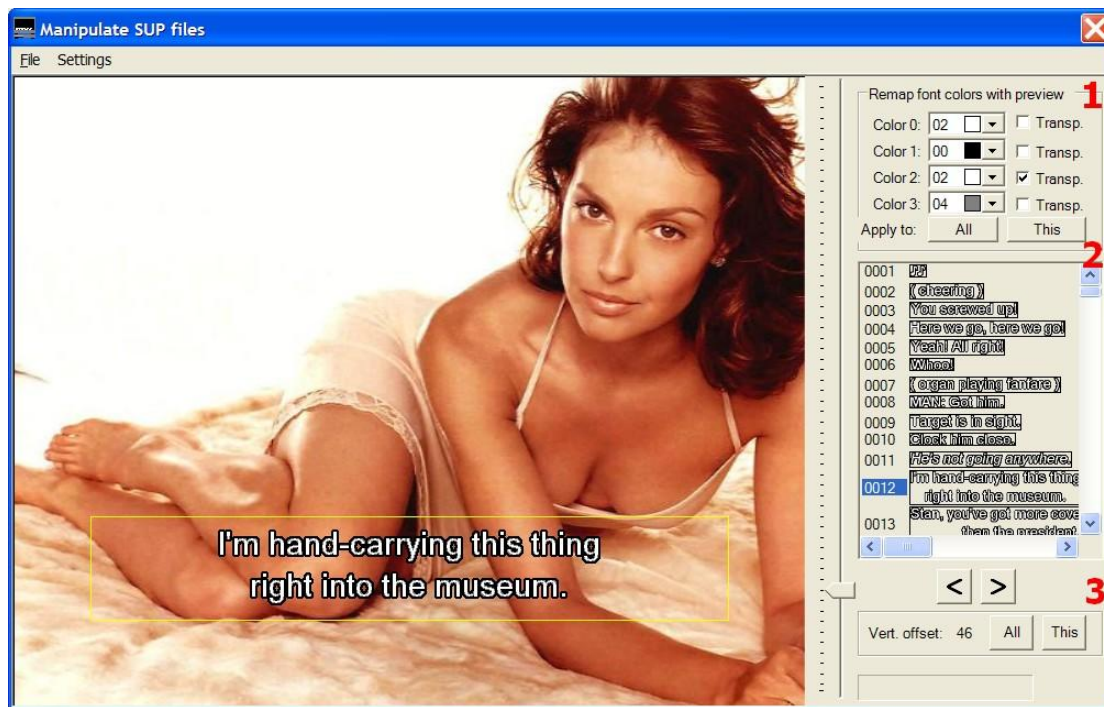
Tip 1: By double clicking in the left (1) window, the right window (2) will jump to a subtitle that has approximately the same start time. The same for double clicking in the right window, although less practical as there are fewer subtitles to show in the left.

Tip 2: When your subtitles are split in two parts, you are never sure whether the second part continues straight away after the first set of subtitles, or whether there is an additional pause. Therefore, create links with the original for (one of) the first and last subtitle in each set. You will see some additional buttons ‘<’ and ‘>’ to jump to the beginning and end of each file, respectively.

Tip 3: If you need more (or less) subtitles, you can set your preferences in the main window’s Settings menu (“When synchronizing, display...”) or in the configuration file, `SubtitleCreatorProfiles.xml`.

SUP Subtitle Manipulation

Select Tools → Manipulate SUP, and you will see the following window appear, which allows you to change each subtitles' vertical position, and you can use a different set of colors.



About the menu:

- The File menu allows you to open the DVD's IFO file (in order to read the color palette), the SUP file you want to manipulate, to save it as SUP or a series of bitmaps, and to change the background picture.
- The Settings menu allows you to display the subtitle window: this is useful if you want to position the original DVD subtitles to the same position as the subtitles you've created yourself. For example, some subtitles are positioned in the black area beneath the movie, which I don't like, and I lift it to the position so they are always fully within the video.

The other options should be clear:

1. Remap the colors of all subtitles, or only this subtitle.
2. Select a subtitle you wish to display
3. Move the subtitle vertically (use the vertical track bar) of all subtitles, or only the current subtitle.