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VE DVD Navigation Tips

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The DVD of *Video Essentials* takes advantage of the format's many options in navigation. It provides any number of ways to find your way around the program. You can select options in the two different menu systems, search by Title and Chapter or use a combination of the Play, Scan and Skip buttons. There are also options within options.

Since even basic navigation capability is often individual to a player it may be necessary to read the player's instruction manual in combination with these notes to find your way around this or any other disc.

Of the options we've listed learning the Title and Chapter search capability is often the most complex, but is the most useful method of navigation. That's because of the way it is implemented in many players. Some remote controls hide the "Title" key, so it can also be difficult to find. Other just don't include it at all.

Part of the reward for learning how to navigate this disc is knowing a bit more about every disc you play. You may be able to more easily find "hidden" information in a disc.

We should point out that disc navigation capabilities are often dependent on the instruction set included with each disc. As an example, in *Video Essentials* pressing the "Audio" key on the remote control allows you to switch among the six audio options in the program. Some programs force you to go back to the menu system in order to change audio tracks.

"Title" and "Menu" systems

The "Title" key on the DVD player's remote control provides access to an overview of the entire disc. You can navigate to any item in the "Title" menu by using the arrow keys. Depending on the brand of player you are using, selecting the highlighted item is done by pressing the "Enter" or "Play" key. The player's manual should point to the right key or you can figure it out by pressing each. Keep in mind that an individual program's authoring can also dictate which of those two controls is active.

Among the options in the Title menu of *Video Essentials* is item # 4, "Start at Chapter". It provides access to individual titles within the program. If you select an item from the subsequent pages of menus it will take you to another menu system describing the contents of that particular

title. That second menu system can also be reached by pressing the “Menu” button while playing an individual title.

In the case of *Video Essentials* items displayed in an on-screen menu can also be reached using the numeric keypad. If it is the fourth item down from the top, the number 4 key will highlight it. Depending on the player, the numeric keypad may select the option just by entering the number.

The graphics for the program were assembled more than a year ahead of the program being finished. What we thought were going to be chapters within a single title actually became titles themselves. Therefore even though a menu says “Start at Chapter”, it actually means Start at Title. In the change of navigation we also created many more chapters within a title than were included in the “Menu” system.

In summary we have two menu systems in *Video Essentials*. The “Title” menu provides an overview of the entire program while the “Menu” key provides a list of some of the things going on within an individual title. That capability is not always available on every DVD title. One or both of the remote control menu keys may not function or they will both take you to the same menu system.

Searching for individual Titles and Chapters

Most players allow you to search for any Title and Chapter combination in the program. The player’s manual should tell you how to do this. Once you know how to use the audio and video tests you may want to go directly to particular signals each time you use the disc. The Title and Chapter search capability will take you to the beginning of any test location listed in the index.

There are also chapter skip buttons on most remote controls. Once into a title you can easily skip through the individual chapters. In going backwards a single press of the skip back key will usually take you to the beginning of the chapter you are currently in. Getting back further will often require pressing the skip back key more than once in quick succession.