SubtitleCreator User Guide

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Introduction

SubtitleCreator v2.0.6 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 MuxMan or IfoEdit. 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, if you don't own the copyright of the DVD, you can overlay subtitles on top of your DVD. 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 copied DVD (e.g. with DVDShrink). It combines the power of PgcDemux, MuxMan and VobBlanker to add subtitles in one go, thereby even allowing you to retain the original DVD menu.

Overview of main features

To give you a brief overview of its features, consider the following list:

- Convert SubRib (*.srt) or MicroDVD (*.sub) files to IfoEdit (*.sup) files
- Load (thanks to the SubRip sources) the corresponding IFO file to determine whether we are dealing with a PAL or NTSC movie, and to read the color palette which is used by the original subtitles: by default, a white text, a black outline and a silver anti-alias color on a transparent gray background are selected.
- 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 also warn when the subtitle's duration is too short (default is off).
- You can use <i>*italics*</i>, **bold**, or <u>underlined</u> subtitles, <L>, <l> and <s> for LARGE, large, and small text, and specify a subtitle's exact position (SubRip format)
- Preview and position your subtitles (using a screenshot as background or the original DVD). Starting with version 2.0.0 you can even preview you DVD with the subtitles being overlaid on top of it as if it was the final 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; frame rate conversion; or, my preferred option, 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
- SUP to SRT translation tool, providing you with a simple editor to translate your DVD from scratch.
- Most Recently Used File list, and the option to automatically open the last used file
- DVD Authoring Wizard which, together with two other great freeware tools, PgcDemux, MuxMan and VobBlanker can simplify the process of adding a subtitle to a new movie (You can even keep the menu).
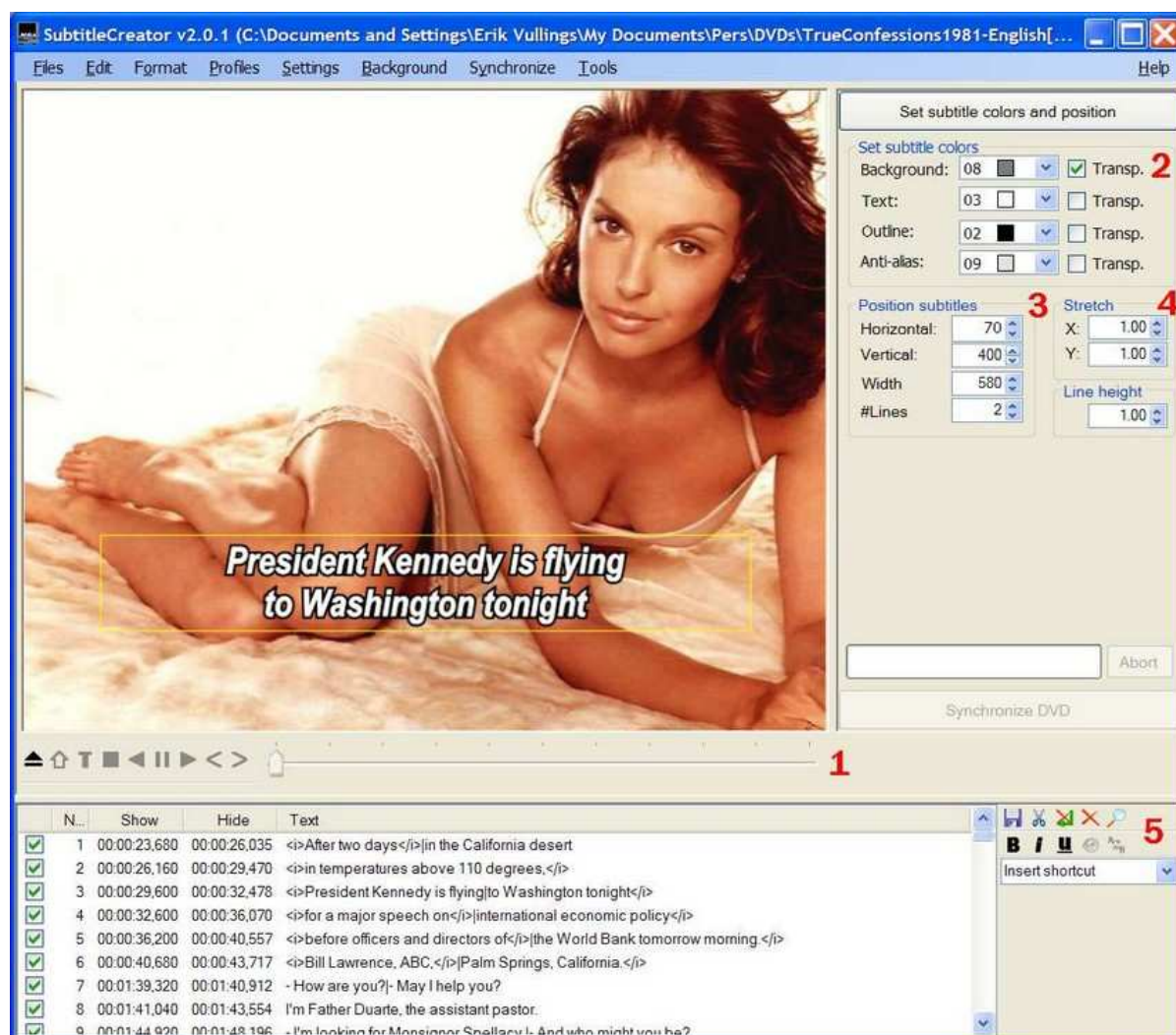
Well, that's about it before I show you some screenshots. If you have some suggestions, or if you found some bugs, please mail them to me via subtitle forum at http://forum.doom9.org or send me a private message as Paddington.

Installation

Very simple – just run the installer, which will install the SCFilter for you as well. It requires that you have installed the .NET framework 2.0 and DirectX plus a DVD decoder (if you want to preview subtitles on top of your DVD, we recommend that you install PowerDVD 6 first).
If you intend to use the DVD Authoring Wizard, which I can definitely recommend, please also install PgcDemux, MuxMan and VobBlanker (default location in C:\Program Files\DVD).
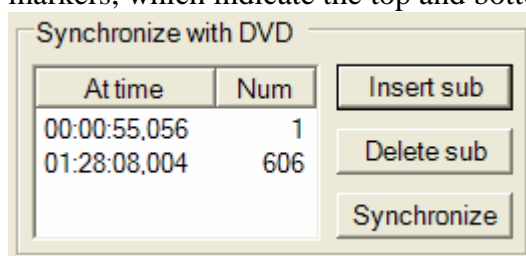
Main Window

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 Format menu controls the display of the subtitles, and you can load a predefined profile (as specified in the `Profiles.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. Stretch the subtitles if needed. This is needed if you use an anamorphic DVD. In this case, choose a value between 1.2 and 1.33 for the Y stretch. Watch the DVD with the subtitle overlaid to check the final aspect of your subtitles.

5. A set of options to control the appearance of the subtitles:
   First line: Save subtitle (CTRL-T), Split subtitle at line break, Remove line break, Delete subtitle, Search subtitles (CTRL-F is new search, or F3 to repeat the search)
   Second line: Bold (CTRL-B), Italics (CTRL-I), Underline (CTRL-U), Jump to a selected subtitle (CTRL-J), and AB repeat.
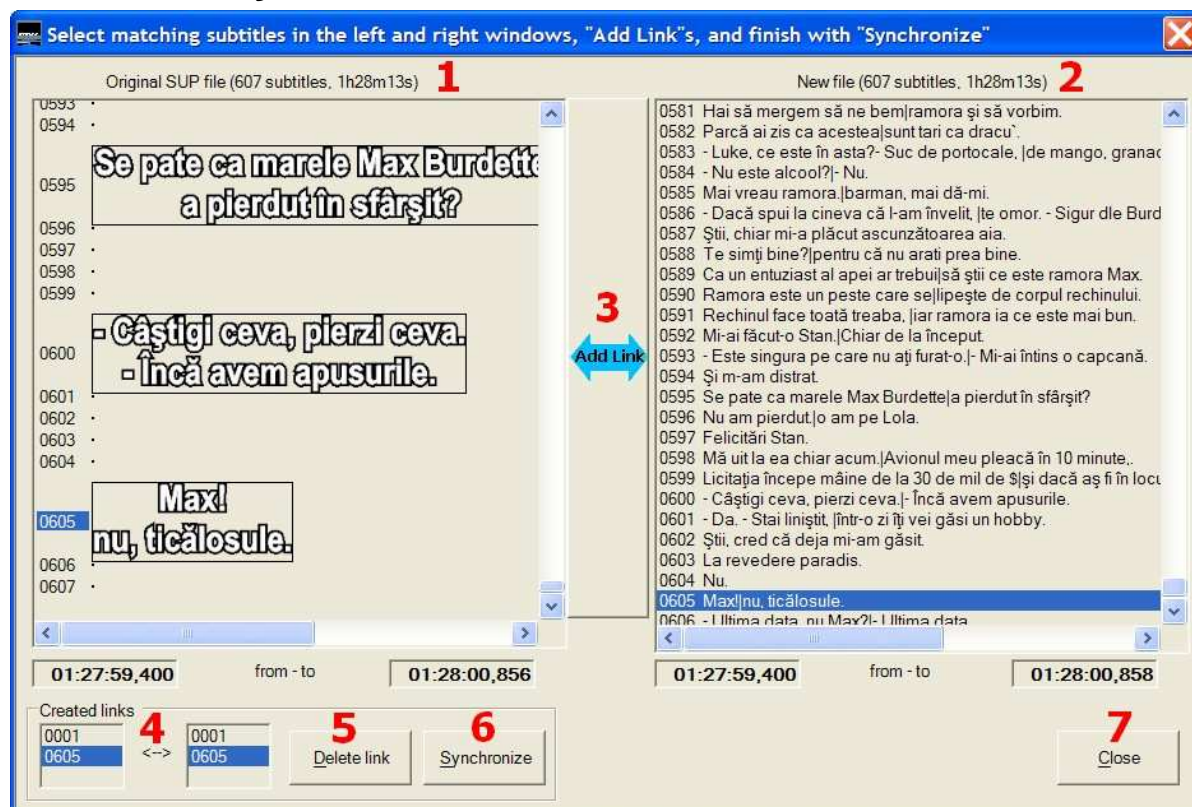   **Insert shortcuts:** insert predefined (in `SubtitleCreatorProfiles.xml`) text, such as Music symbols (<s M/> and <s m/>), at the beginning of the string. Some other useful commands are <L>, <l> and <s> to make the current line Larger, larger, or smaller than the current subtitle font.

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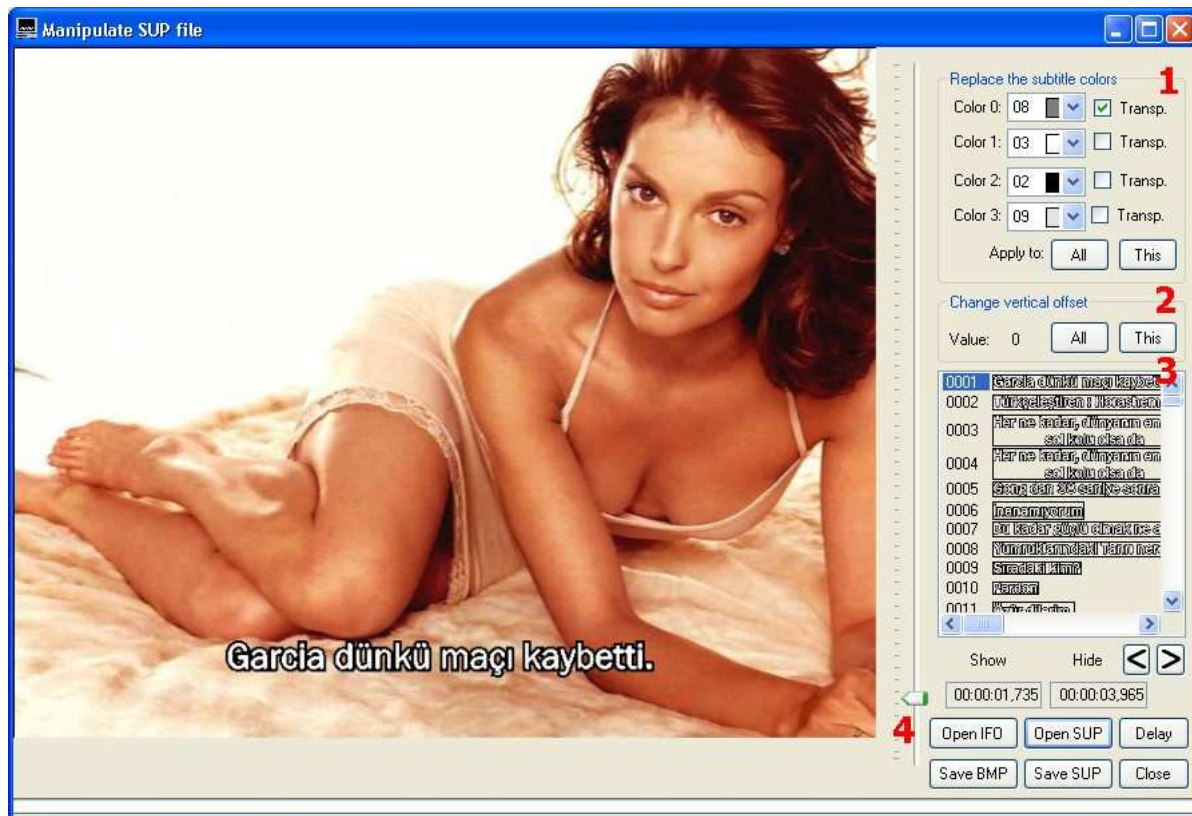
Tip 1: By double clicking in the left (1) window, the right window (2) will jump to a subtitle that has approximately the same start time. The same for double clicking in the right window, although less practical as there are fewer subtitles to show in the left.

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.
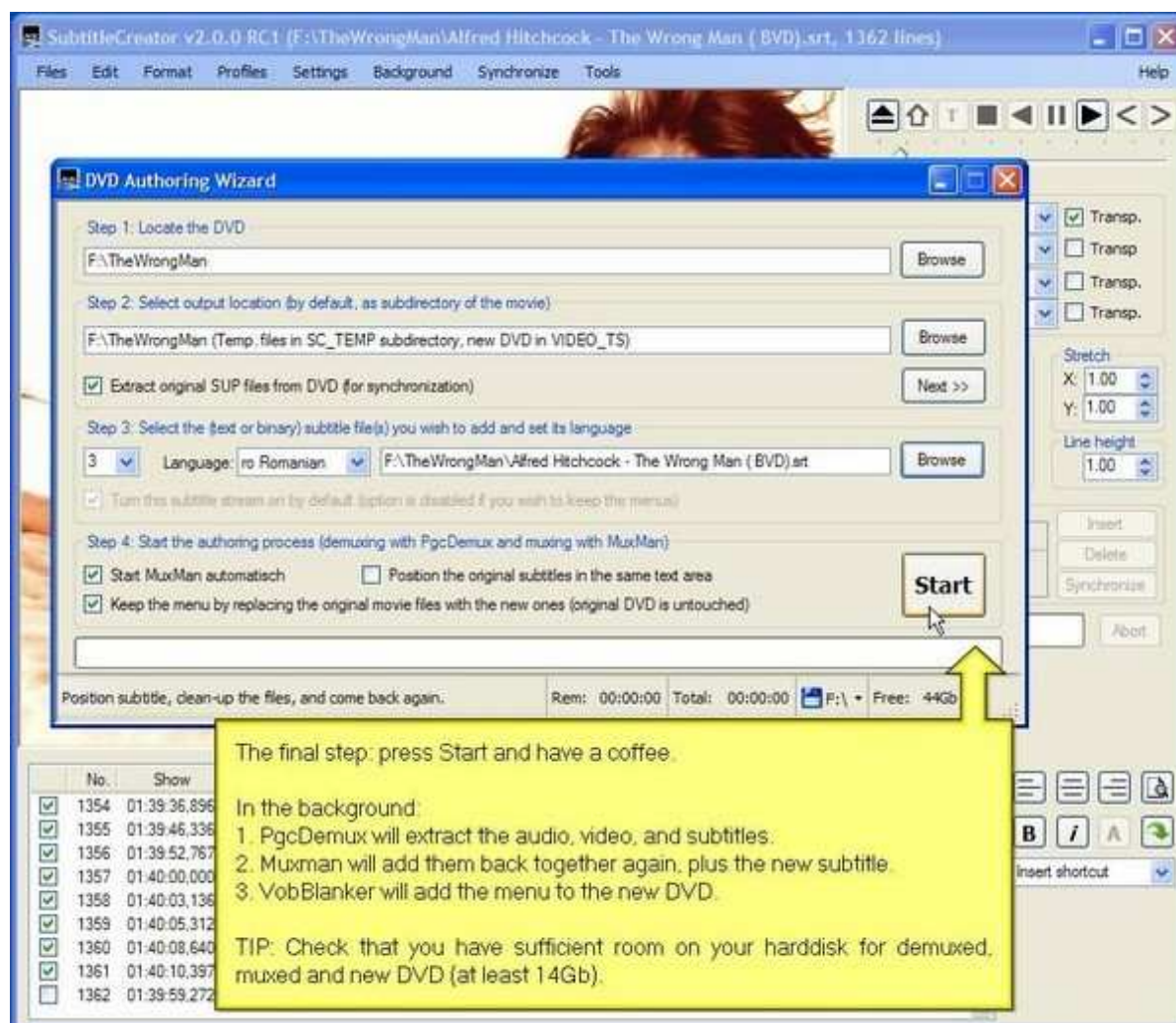

About the buttons:
1. The Open IFO button allows you to open the DVD's IFO file (in order to read the color palette).
2. The Open SUP button to open the SUP file you want to manipulate.
3. The Save SUP button to save the subtitles as a SUP file.
4. The Save BMP button to save the subtitles as a collection of .bmp, .png or .jpg files.
5. The Delay button allows to add a Delay to the whole subtitle.

The other options should be clear:
1. Remap the colors of all subtitles, or only this subtitle.
2. Choose if you want to apply the vertical offset to all the subs or only to the current one.
3. Select a subtitle you wish to display
4. Move the subtitle vertically (use the vertical track bar).

DVD Authoring Wizard

After you have installed PgcDemux, Muxman and VobBlanker (latest versions, see the Installation chapter), you can use the DVD authoring wizard for your convenience, which has two big advantages: First, you don't need to interface with these programs directly. And second, the subtitle creation can be done at the start of the process, and not in the middle.
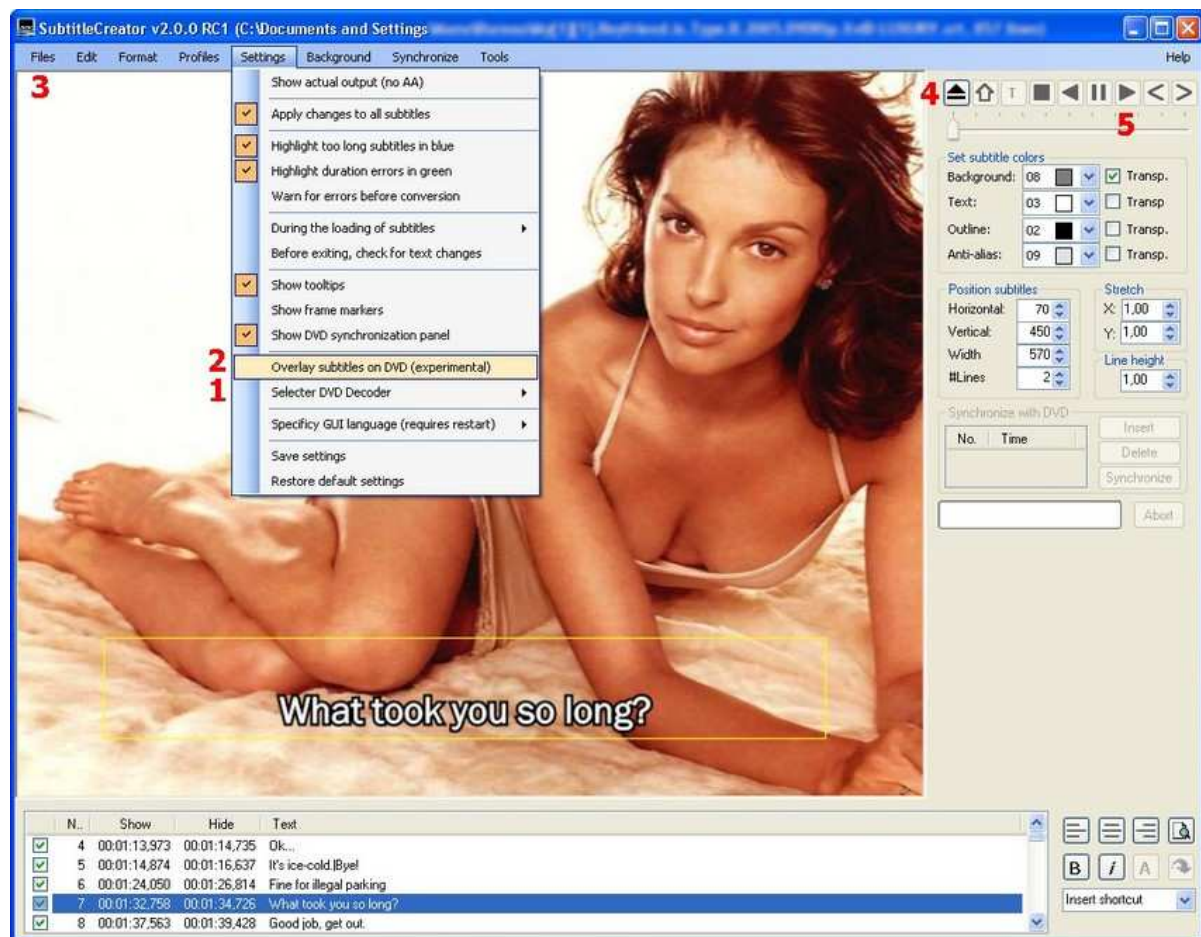

The wizard will ask you to:
1. Select the original DVD's location:
2. Press Next: PgcDemux will automatically extract existing (or remaining) subtitles for synchronization (optionally you can turn this of, and you can define alternative output locations for temporary and final files)
3. Specify the new subtitle's language and open the file, after which you have to go through the normal process in order to create a SUP file (position it, check subtitle colors, font size, etc.)
4. Finally, create the SUP and return to the wizard to allow PgcDemux to demultiplex your DVD into separate video, audio and subtitle streams, MuxMan to put everything back together again (including your new subtitle), and VobBlanker to restore the menu.

Subtitle on top of DVD Preview

Starting with SubtitleCreator version 2.0.0, it is now possible to preview the actual subtitles on top of the video. This works with every type of subtitles, whether they be horizontal, vertical, in Chinese, Japanese, or any other language.

To be able to preview the subtitles on top of the DVD, SCSubtitle filter must be installed. Normally it has been installed automatically when installing SubtitleCreator 2.0.0. A DVD decoder must also be installed to allow you to preview your DVD. We recommend the use of PowerDVD 6 (Version 4 and 6 have been tested successfully).

If PowerDVD and SCSubtitle filter are correctly installed, you can now preview your subtitles on top of your DVD.
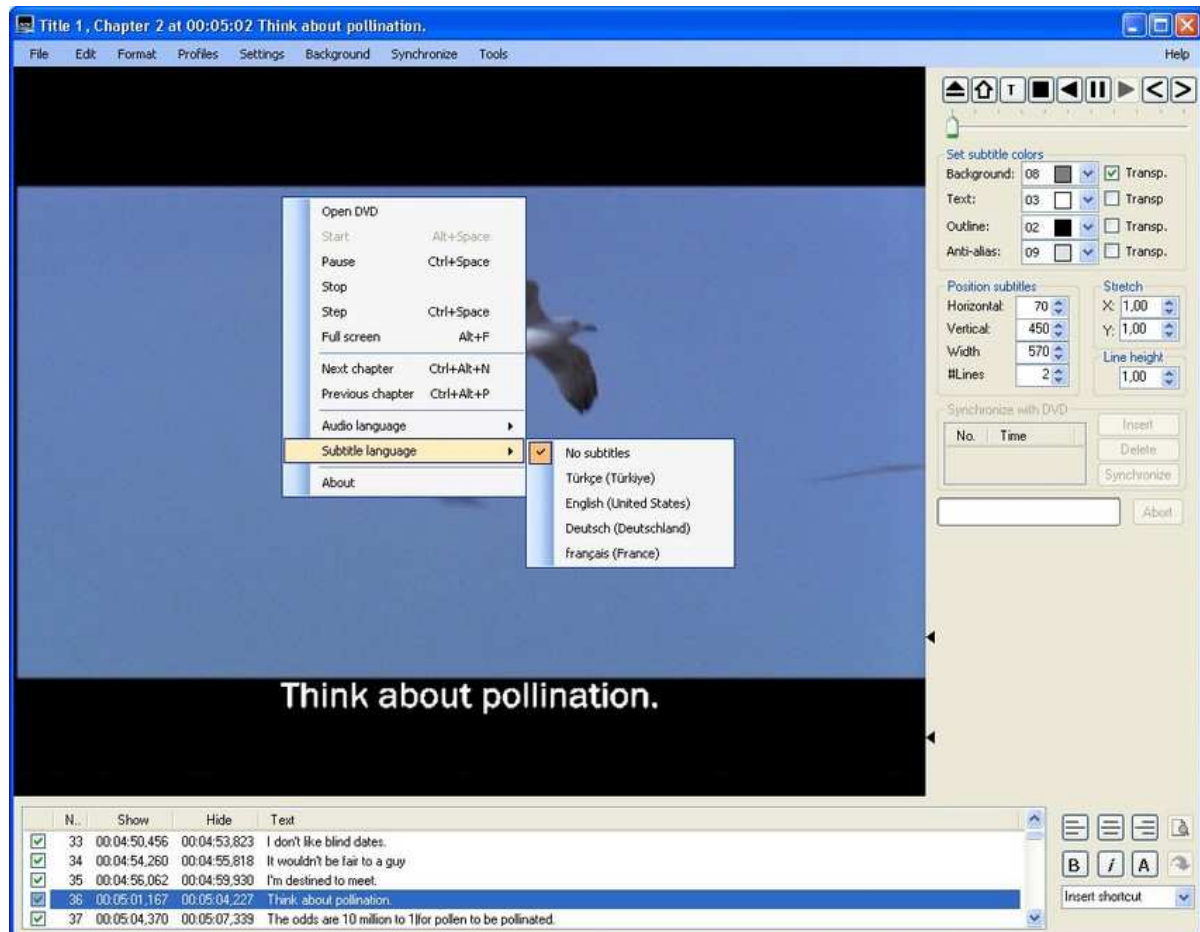

For that:

1. Go to Settings, Select DVD Decoder and choose "Preferred by SC" if you have PowerDVD version 6 installed or "Preferred by system" if you want the system choose it for you.
2. Go to Settings and check "Overlay subtitles on DVD (experimental)" if it's not already done. You can choose "Save settings" if you want to save it for the next time.

3. Open your subtitle file (.srt or .sub). (File→Open Text Subtitles). Optionally you can apply a profile (Profiles→Apply profile)
4. Choose the path and open your DVD (from a DVD or the Hard Disk)
5. Start playing your DVD

You must see the time incrementing on the title bar of the DVD window. The subtitles must be overlaid on top of the video.

If you right click on the DVD window, a popup will allow you to control your DVD: stop, pause, and single-step, display the video Full Screen, go to the next or previous chapter, display a subtitle stream (from the DVD) and change the audio stream. **This means that you can display subtitles from the DVD and from you subtitle file at the same time!**

You can also choose the about box that will display useful information about the DVD. It also displays the version of SC Subtitle filter and the DVD decoder that SubtitleCreator is

actually using. If it shows "Preferred DVD video Decoder" as the DVD decoder this means that you should have no problem to overlay subtitles on top of the DVD.

Known restrictions:

- The DirectShow filter that is used to overlay the subtitles on top of the DVD (SC Subtitle filter) will not work with all the DVD video decoders. We advice that you use PowerDVD (version 6 is the preferred version).
- Your PC must be powerful enough. According to the first tests, a 1.5GHz processor should be enough (to be confirmed). This also depends on the size of the subtitles you are using. The larger the subtitle, the more CPU power is needed.
- The aspect of the subtitles when in overlay mode reflects the aspect of the subtitle after being embedded in the final DVD. **However, the timing is not very accurate.** A 1-2 second shift is possible. We plan to fix this in the next versions.