

# Soft4Boost Help

S4B Slideshow Studio

[www.sorentioapps.com](http://www.sorentioapps.com)

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# Contact Us

If you have any comments, suggestions or questions regarding **S4B Slideshow Studio** or if you have a new feature that you feel can be added to improve our product, please feel free to contact us.

When you register your product, you may be entitled to technical support.

<b>General information:</b>	<a href="mailto:info@soft4boost.com">info@soft4boost.com</a>
<b>Technical support:</b>	<a href="mailto:support@soft4boost.com">support@soft4boost.com</a>
<b>Sales:</b>	<a href="mailto:sales@soft4boost.com">sales@soft4boost.com</a>

## Technical Support

**S4B Slideshow Studio** do not require any professional knowledge. If you experience any problem or have a question, please refer to the **S4B Slideshow Studio Help**. If you cannot find the solution, please contact our support staff.

**Note:** only registered users receive technical support

**S4B Slideshow Studio** provides several forms of automated customer support

### **Soft4Boost Support System**

You can use the **Support Form** on our site to ask your questions.

### **E-mail Support**

You can also submit your technical questions and problems via e-mail to [support@soft4boost.com](mailto:support@soft4boost.com)

**Note:** for more effective and quick resolving of the difficulties we will need the following information:

- Name and e-mail address used for registration
- System parameters (CPU, hard drive space available, etc.)
- Operating System
- Detailed step by step describing of your action

# Resources

Documentation for **S4B Slideshow Studio** is available in a variety of formats:

## In-product (.chm-file) and Online Help:

You will be able to use help file (.chm) through the **Help** menu of the installed **S4B Slideshow Studio**.

**Online Help** include all the content from the In-product help file and updates and links to additional instructional content available on the web. You can find the **Support** at our web-site - <http://sorentioapps.com>. Please note, that the most complete and up-to-date version of **S4B Slideshow Studio** help is always on the web.

## PDF Documentation

The offline help is also available as a pdf-file that is optimized for printing. PDF help file is available for download at the program page at **Soft4Boost** web-site. To be able to read and print **S4B Slideshow Studio** PDF help file you will need to have a PDF reading program installed.

## User Guides

You have access to a wide variety of resources that help you make **S4B Slideshow Studio**. The step-by-step user guides will be of help not only to the novice users but also to the users that face a certain task to be performed and look for a way to do it. Please, visit our **Support** section of **Soft4Boost** web-site at to read the detailed instructions for various software and tasks.

## Technical Support

Visit the **Support** at our web-site <http://sorentioapps.com> to ask your questions concerning **S4B Slideshow Studio** installation, registration and use. Feel free to also use our e-mail address [support@soft4boost.com](mailto:support@soft4boost.com)

## Downloads

Visit the **Downloads** section of our web-site to find free updates, tryouts, and other useful software. We constantly update the software, new versions of the most popular programs and new software are also frequently released.

# Overview

Before introducing the program itself it's quite appropriate to mention what a Slide Show actually means. When we hear this word, the following picture comes into mind: a presenter using an apparatus, e.g. a slide projector or in more recent years a computer running presentation software, is showing a series of chosen images.

But now it's becoming more common to see digital photo slide shows. Slide shows can be made using photos, music, wedding invitations, birth announcements, or virtually any other documents that can be scanned. Some people call these DVDs or DVD slide shows. Slide shows can be created not only in DVD, but also in HD video format and executable file for PC. As for the **Soft4Boost Slideshow Studio** program, it produces slide shows in DVD format only.

Reading this help documentation will encourage you to make a successful slide show presentation.

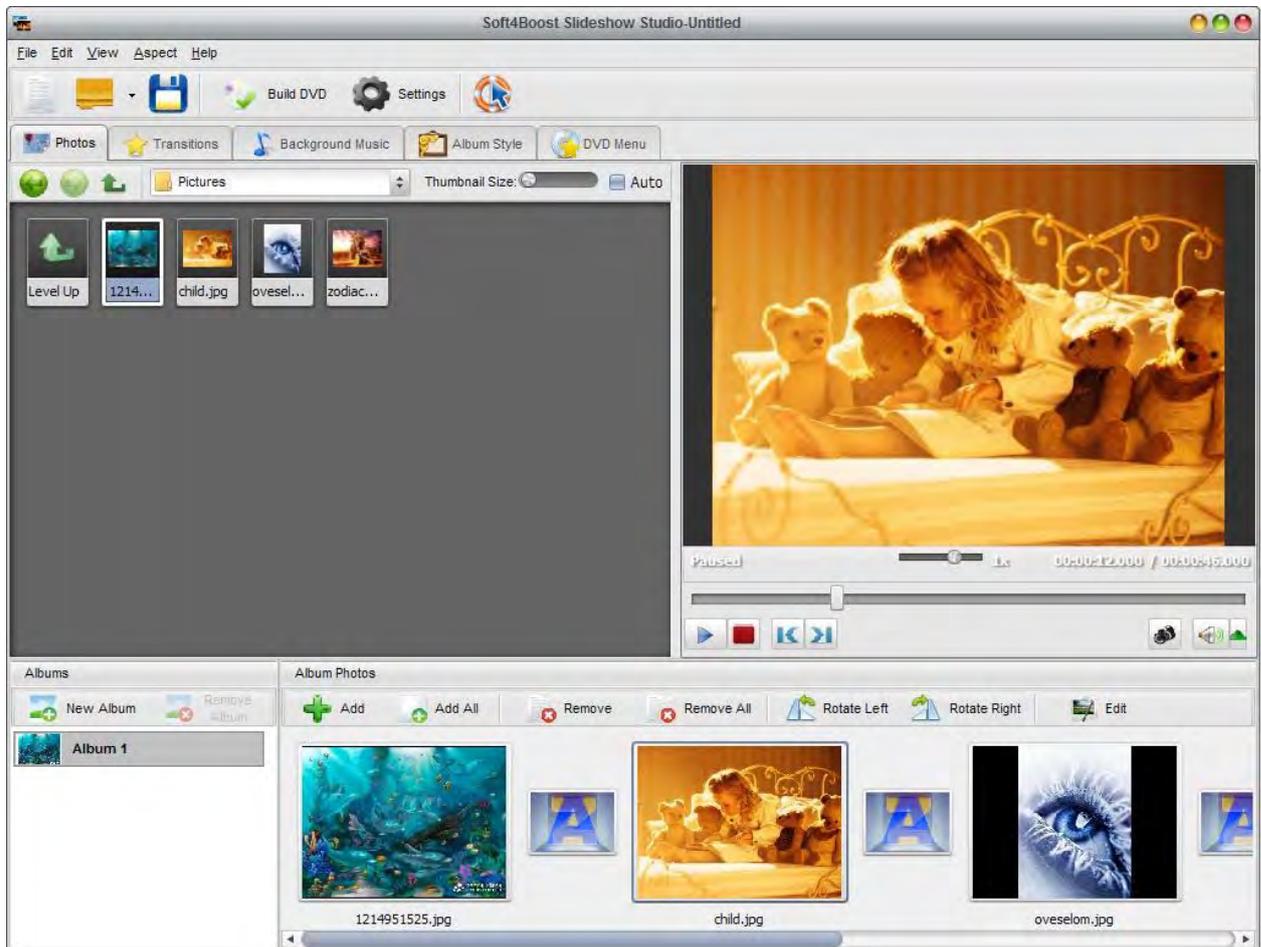
**Soft4Boost Slideshow Studio** is an easy to use application that lets you not only create slide shows and burn them to disc, but also adjust the properties of every photo imported to the program. It's possible to set the duration of each photo, to change its position within the frame as well as the image and color settings not to mention rotate the picture left or right.

With the **Soft4Boost Slideshow Studio** application you can create a complete photo slide show project, including transitions between the added pictures, frame styles applied to photos, background music and DVD Menu. So it comprises a whole set of necessary tools for you to excite your fantasy, achieve the best results and simply enjoy the process.

To start **Slideshow Studio** go to **Start** menu and choose **All Programs -> Soft4Boost -> Slideshow Studio -> Slideshow Studio**.

# Program Interface

The Main Window of the **Soft4Boost Slideshow Studio** program comprises the following components:



**Main Menu** - is used to get access to all the main functions and features of the program.

**Top Toolbar** - is used to get quick access to the basic features, such as working with projects, DVD compiling commands as well as common information about the program.

**Files and Styles Area** - shows image and audio files and folders stored on your computer, available transitions, album and DVD menu styles.

**Preview Area** - is used to preview the imported photos, album and DVD menu styles as well as the entire slideshow with added background music.

**Storyboard** - is used to add, remove and manage photos, apply transitions between them, album styles as well as add background music.

**Albums List** - displays albums with slideshow photos, along with applied styles and transitions, that will be written to a disc.

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# Files and Styles Area

The **Files and Styles Area** shows image and audio files and folders stored on your computer, available transitions, album and DVD menu styles. It consists of five Tabs situated in the upper part of the area:

**Photos Tab** - is used to find image files stored on your computer hard disk drive or a storage medium in order to create a slideshow on their basis.

**Transitions Tab** - is used to represent all the available transitions for you to select and apply in your slideshow.

**Background Music Tab** - is used to find audio files stored on your computer hard disk drive or a storage medium in order to employ them as background music in your slideshow.

**Album Style Tab** - is used to represent all the available album styles for you to select and apply in your slideshow.

**DVD Menu Tab** - is used to display all the available DVD menu styles for you to select and apply for your DVD where the created photo slideshows will be burnt to..

# Storyboard

The **Storyboard** is situated at the bottom of the **Soft4Boost Slideshow Studio** main window and used to add, remove and manage photos, apply transitions between them, album styles as well as add background music.

The **Storyboard** consists of the following elements:

**Toolbar** - is used to perform main operations with storyboard objects, such as photos, audio files, transitions, etc. and can vary depending on the pressed tab of the **Files and Styles Area**.

**Slide Palette** - presents a location on the Storyboard for an image file added from the Files and Styles Area.

**Transition Palette** - offers a location on the Storyboard for a transition added from the Files and Styles Area.

As already mentioned, the Storyboard can change its appearance depending on what Tab in the **Files and Styles Area** is opened. Therefore it might be useful to read the next sections where each of the storyboard views is introduced. The special case is the Storyboard area when the **Background Music** tab is pressed, as it turns into a **Timeline**.

**Note:** the **Storyboard** has no toolbar and express menu when the **DVD Menu Tab** is pressed.

# Albums List

The **Albums List** is a part of the **Soft4Boost Slideshow Studio** main window and is situated at its bottom. It displays albums with slideshow photos, along with applied styles and transitions, that will be written to a disc. Here you can create as many albums as possible - the main point is that all of them should fit to the disc selected in the **Project Settings** window.

## *Toolbar*

**New Album** – Use this button to add a new album to the Albums List.

**Remove Album** – Use this button to remove selected album from the Albums List.

## *Express Menu*

**New Album** - this option corresponds to the toolbar button of the same name and is used to add a new album to the albums list.

**Rename** - use this option to give the album selected in the list a different name.

**Remove Album** - this option corresponds to the toolbar button of the same name and is used to remove selected album from the albums list.

# Working with Soft4Boost Slideshow Studio

It's very easy to work with **Soft4Boost Slideshow Studio**, as each step in the workflow is quite predictable:

1. Firstly, start the application. Each time you do this a new untitled project will be automatically created. If you'd like to continue working on an existing project you saved previously, open it. If you changed your mind and decided to create a new project, you can do this any time.
2. Then produce your slideshows you want to burn to disc. This step includes such operations as organizing albums, adding image files, transitions between them, background music, and editing imported slides.
3. Finally, select a DVD Menu style, build your DVD and burn your albums with slideshows to a disc.

# Working with Projects

The work in **Soft4Boost Slideshow Studio** is built on the projects concept. It means that you can easily save the results of your work and load them for creating additional DVD copies of your slideshow project any other time you need them.

Projects are also very useful in case you do not have a possibility to add and edit image files as well as compile DVD and burn slideshow albums to disc all at once. If this is your case, you will need to save the project and next time start from the place where you left your editing.

The project file represents a data file with a **.shp** extension containing the information on the image and audio files, transitions and album styles added to your slideshow. You don't need to read the saved project with a third-party application, only **Soft4Boost Slideshow Studio** is able to open (or reopen) the created project file.

**Note:** it's strongly recommended not to change the location of the image and audio files used in your project while working on it.

The work with projects comprises the following:

## Start Phase

- If you launch the application for the first time, a new untitled project will be automatically created. Next time you start it the previously edited project will be opened.
- You can also create a new project if you completed your work on the previously opened one.
- It's also possible to open another existing project.

## Middle Phase

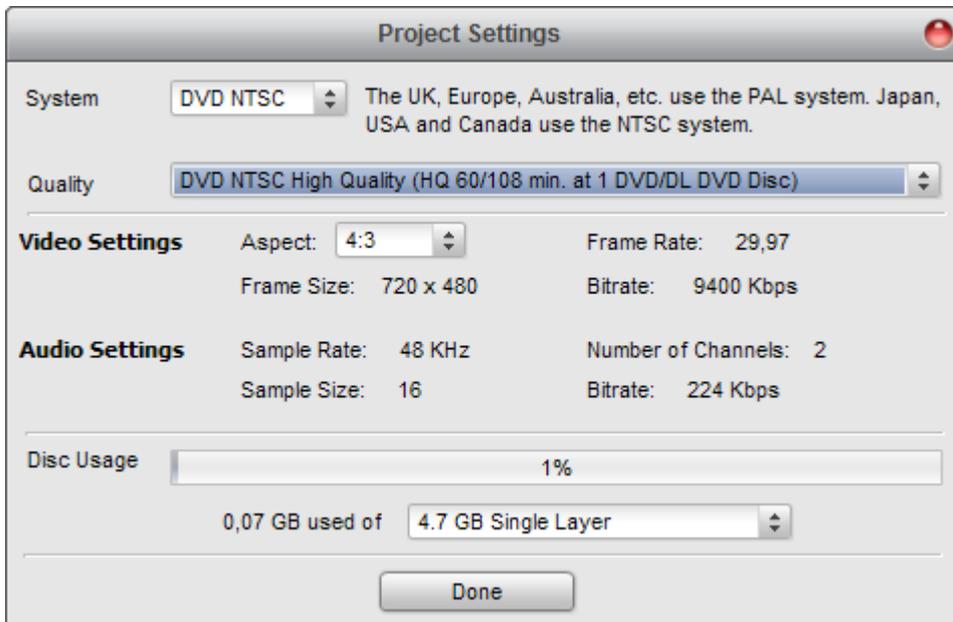
- After that you can adjust project settings - change video system, select quality, aspect ratio and disc type.

## End Phase

- On this final step save the edited project to be able to continue working on it next time.

# Adjusting Project Settings

You can view and change the project main settings using the Settings button of the Top Toolbar. The following window will be opened:



Here you can select the following parameters:

**System** - use this option to select a the TV system used in your country (PAL or NTSC). You should select a PAL (for Europe) or NTSC (for Japan and Americas). Please make sure that your DVD player and TV set support the selected DVD system.

**Quality** - use this option to select a correct preset that will help you record a DVD with good quality, depending on the total length of all slideshows you would like to include into your DVD. Normally you should select a High Quality DVD if its total duration will be no more than 60 minutes for a single layer DVD (108 minutes for a double layer DVD). Selecting a Long Play DVD cannot be really recommended and should be used only in case you really need to use it as the quality of the output DVD will be not optimal.

**Disc Usage** - the space occupied by the albums with slideshows on the selected disc type (single or double layer) with the specified above quality preset.

**Note:** if you select a double layer DVD, make sure that your DVD drive supports writing onto such discs.

To accept all the changes you've made click the **Done** button, to discard changes and close the **Project Settings** window click the X button in the top right corner of the window.

# Producing Slideshows

The process of producing slideshows consists of the following steps:

1. Create albums for your image files and give them titles.
2. After that add your image files to the storyboard and arrange their sequence.
3. Now you can give free rein to your imagination. Apply transitions, add background music, edit imported photos - rotate them, adjust their duration, position as well as color and picture properties, - add text to certain slides or all of them.

## *Organizing Albums*

It makes sense if you start producing slideshows with creating and organizing albums, thus you can better plan the contents of the disc you want to create. Of course, it can comprise one and only album if all the slides correspond to the same topic. But if not, you can arrange all the slides in albums according to their topic.

So, when you launch **Soft4Boost Slideshow Studio**, an album will be automatically created for you under the Album 1 title. You can easily give another name to it by left clicking the album title once and entering the name you wish into the appeared field (see the figure on the left) or using the Rename option of the Express Menu.

If you'd like to burn more than only one album to DVD you can add more albums hitting the button or using an appropriate option of the Express Menu. In the similar way you can delete unnecessary albums from the Albums List clicking the button.

As soon as you start adding image files to the storyboard, instead of the sign you will see thumbnail of the first slide in the album.

## *Adding Images*

When you find a folder with necessary image files, add them to the Storyboard. Within **Soft4Boost Slideshow Studio** you can use one of four ways of doing it. They are:

### **1. With a double-click**

Direct the mouse cursor to an image file thumbnail in the Display Area, left-click it twice and in a few seconds it will take place in the first Slide Palette.

### **2. Using storyboard toolbar**

Click the image you want to add in the Display Area and then press the button on the Storyboard Toolbar.

### **3. Using express menu**

Right-click the image you want to add in the Display Area and select the Add option in the opened Express Menu.

#### **4. By dragging and dropping**

Left-click the image you want to add in the Display Area, drag it to the storyboard and drop within a certain Slide Palette.

It's also possible to add all the image files from the chosen folder to the Storyboard using two of the ways described above - hitting the button on the Storyboard Toolbar or selecting the **Add All** option of the **Express Menu**.

If you want to place an image on a certain palette in an existing slides sequence, click this slide palette once on the Storyboard to mark it and double-click the necessary image in the **Display Area**. So, it will be placed on the marked palette followed by the slide previously situated here.

**Note:** It's only possible to add files to the storyboard one by one thus arranging a slides sequence, i.e. you can't leave a slide palette empty within a sequence. So, after adding an image only the next slide palette will be available for placing an image there.

### *Applying Transitions*

While adding images one by one they will appear on the Storyboard and a default transition type will be automatically used between images to let one image smoothly turn into another. **Soft4Boost Slideshow Studio** offers you quite a number of transitions. They can be found on the Transitions Tab of the files and styles area.

You might want to apply a specific transition between certain slides on the storyboard. To do it click the Transitions Tab and find a transition you want to add. In order to facilitate the searching process there is the Category drop-down list on the tab toolbar where you can choose one of the transition types to be shown within the Display Area.

### *Adding Background Music*

While creating a slideshow project you can't go without background music. Using it you can communicate mood or give a certain message to people who will watch your slideshows.

Within **Soft4Boost Slideshow Studio** you can use one of three ways to add background music. They are:

#### **1. Using storyboard toolbar**

Click the audio file you want to add in the Display Area and then press the “plus” button on the Timeline Toolbar.

#### **2. Using express menu**

Right-click the audio track you want to add in the Display Area and select the Add option in the opened Express Menu.

#### **3. By dragging and dropping**

Left-click the audio file you want to add in the Display Area, drag it to the storyboard and drop within a certain area, as shown in the figure below.

**Note:** you can add as many audio tracks as you want depending on the duration of your slideshow.

### ***Editing Photos***

There are a lot of editing operations you can perform within **Soft4Boost Slideshow Studio**, such as: rotating imported image files, applying album styles, adding text to single slides and changing color and image properties of single slides.

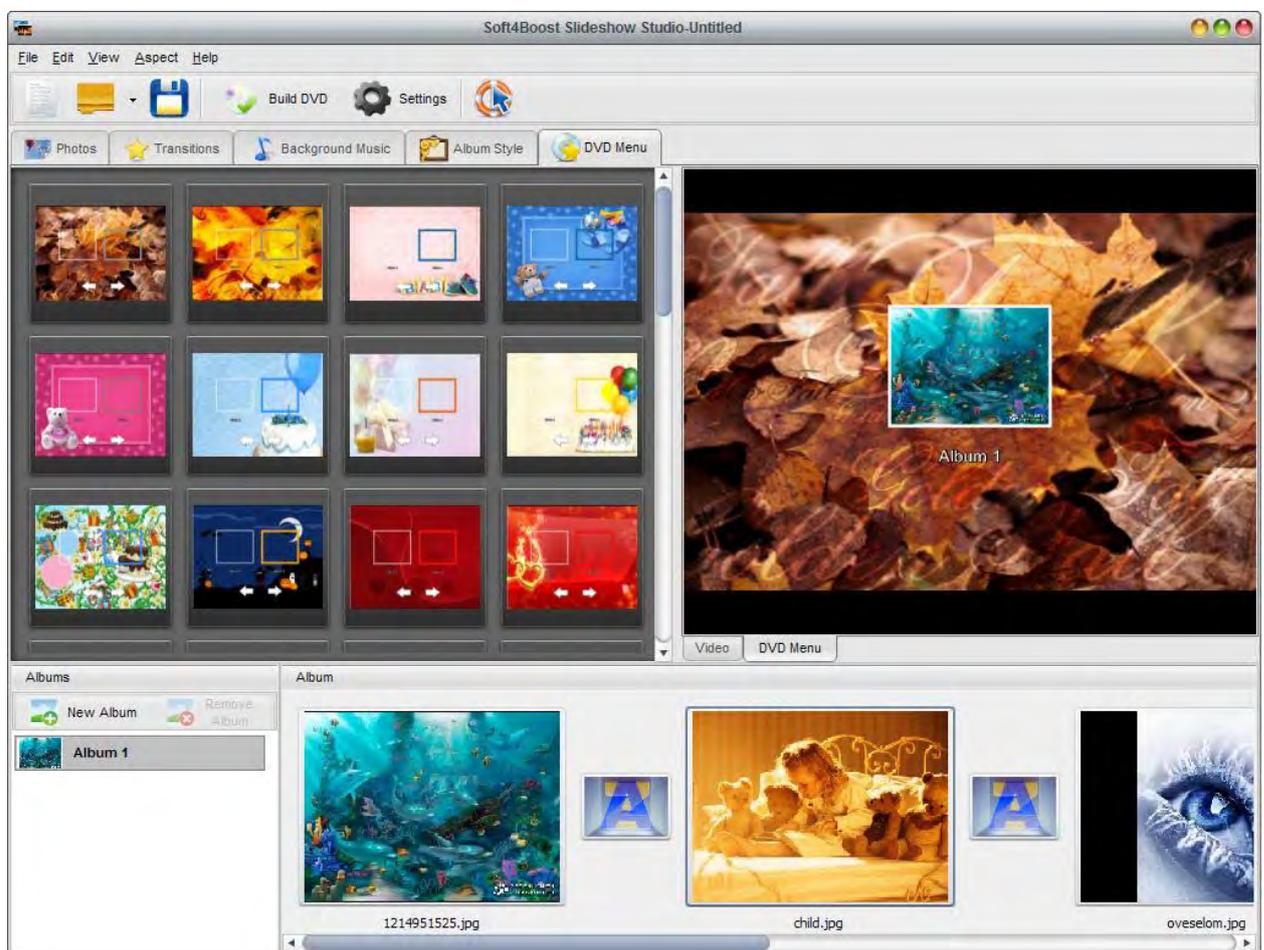
# Creating DVD

The process of DVD creation includes the following steps:

1. Selecting DVD menu style that will represent the whole disc contents and help you to navigate through the created slideshow albums.
2. Building DVD, which involves checking the project settings, choosing an appropriate disc type and compiling all the data to the DVD structure.
3. Burning the resulting DVD video files to disc.

## *Selecting DVD Menu Style*

**Soft4Boost Slideshow Studio** offers you a variety of ready-made DVD menu templates. To see all of them press the DVD Menu Tab of the Files and Styles Area.



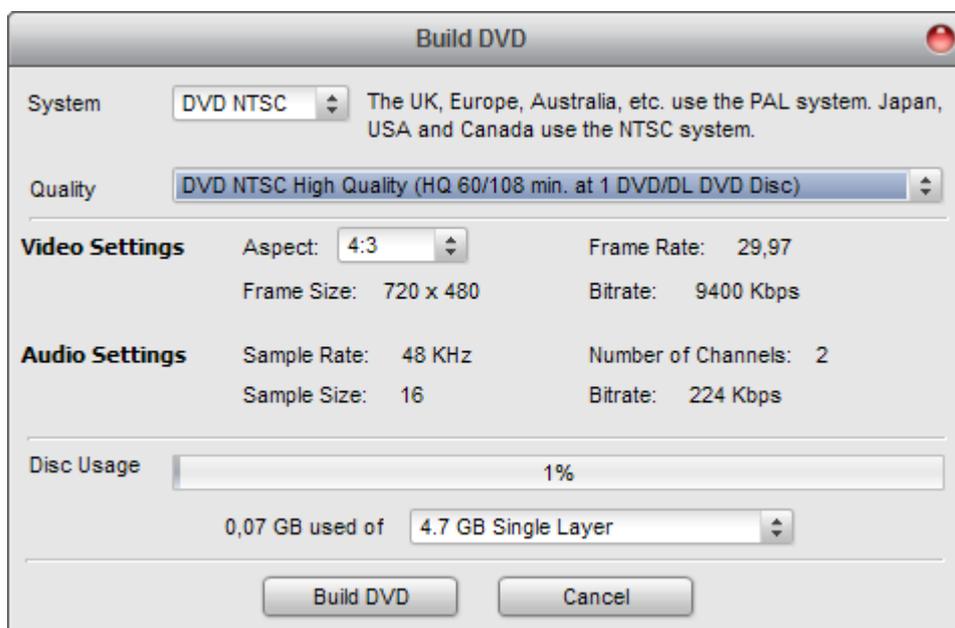
The first DVD menu style will be automatically loaded by default. But you can change it any time you want. As soon as you choose the menu style that corresponds to the albums contents best, double-click it and the selected style will be displayed within the Preview Area. For this purpose you can also use the Express Menu by right-clicking the necessary menu style and selecting the Apply Menu Preset option.

Within the Preview Area you can see all the created albums with the first slide from each album used as thumbnail. To navigate through the created DVD menu pages you can use the tabs situated in the lower part of the Preview Area or the white arrow shown in the figure above. Select any album you want to preview with the mouse cursor and click the Video tab.

Use the playback controls at the bottom of the Preview Area to navigate through the entire slideshow and make playback adjustments.

## ***Building DVD***

As soon as you are sure that all the photos you wanted to burn are added to the created albums, every image is properly edited, all the styles are applied, you can save your current project and build DVD by pressing the appropriate button on the Top Toolbar or using the appropriate option of the File section of the Main Menu. You will see the following window:



Here you can view and change the project parameters: system, audio/video settings and control the space occupied by the slideshow albums on the selected disc type. See the Project Settings chapter of the Working with Projects section for more detail.

After you have set up all the parameters, click the Build DVD button. You will need to select an empty folder with enough free space for your DVD to be created.

**Note:** the selected folder must have enough free space for your DVD: not less than 4.7 Gb for a single layer DVD and about 8.6 Gb for a double layer DVD. The type of the DVD used is selected in the Project Settings window.