



# Reviews & Seal of Excellence Winners



## MATROX'S RT.X100

The folks at Matrox have come up with a new video capture card that should set new standards for medium-range cards. The new RT.X100 saves its hardware power for executing 3D effects in real time and firewire. Plus, Matrox engineers have come up with software solutions for real-time rendering of transition effects.

I installed Matrox RT.X100 in a Dell Precision 530 Workstation with dual P4, 2.2 MHz and 512 MB of RAM. The installation process was easy and during my two-weeks trial run, Matrox RT.X100 drivers proved to be quite stable. No crashes or conflicts with other hardware were detected.

A copy of Adobe Premiere 6.5 comes with the board, and the two work smoothly together. What I admire about Matrox RT.X100 is its excellent color correction feature and the high quality of its Keying function. There are so many 3D transition effects loaded into the Matrox RT.X100 package that it will take you a while to check them all out.

Matrox RT.X100 also allows you to output a channel of analog video along with a real-time channel of digital video. I tried the Slow Motion and Speed Control by creating a variation of speeds for a video clip, and the results were professionally acceptable. Because the RT.X100 comes with a copy of Sonic's DVDIt! LE DVD authoring package, you can export MPEG 2 edited video from the Premiere timeline to create DVDs.

**GOOD NEWS:** Users of programs such as DigiCel's FlipBook that had to look long and hard to find a good capture card to support Video for Windows, will now be able to use The Matrox VFW capture driver. The Matrox RT.X100 also comes with WYSIWYG plug-ins for Adobe After Effects, NewTek LightWave, and Discreet 3dsmax. This means you can check your work as it shows up on an analog monitor.

**WISH LIST:** It would be nice if Matrox would recognize the power of programs such as Ulead's Media Studio Pro 7 and Discreet's combustion and adapt its hardware appropriately.

**THE BOTTOM LINE:** If you use Matrox RT.X100 in a powerful PC, you will have a supercharged video studio at your disposal.

**WEB ADDRESS:** [www.matrox.com/video](http://www.matrox.com/video)

**FINAL SCORE:** \*\*\*\*\*

**EASE OF USE:** \*\*\*\*\*

**INTERFACE:** \*\*\*\*\*

**POWER OF TOOLS:** \*\*\*\*\*

**QUALITY AND DEPTH:** \*\*\*\*\*

**Animation Magazine's Seal of Excellence**