

# Hands-On Review: Five Popular NLE Systems Tested and Compared

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## United Media's Multicam with Matrox

In researching this article, we noticed that resellers and integrators were bundling the RT2500 with another product from United Media called Multicam Editor. A by-product from United's On-Line Express NLE systems, Multicam runs on Matrox 2000, 2500 or DigiSuite hardware, and provides terrific editing power. When we tested this combo we found it almost too good to believe.

With the RT2500 and Multicam, you can edit a multi-camera shoot in a fraction of the time it would normally take. Multicam lets you preview four cameras simultaneously on the computer screen and easily switch between them. Multicam remembers all of your cuts and then exports your completed project back to the Premiere timeline. You can set up to export to an A/B cuts only format or you can set Multicam to overlay the tracks. This makes it easy to add transitions to your projects. There are also special tools that make it easy to synchronize tracks.

We found that the ability to see up to four cameras at the same time also allows for greater creativity and much better shot selection. Rather than choosing a main camera position and just cutting to another camera when there is a problem, we were able for the first time in nonlinear editing to easily see which camera had the best shot.

Perhaps it would help to think of this interface as similar to editing with an analog mixer and a preview monitor: the RT2500 and Multicam combine to give you the best of everything. You can see all your cameras simultaneously while enjoying the creative features of nonlinear editing.

Multicam Software for Premiere is list priced at \$599 for 4-camera and \$299 for 2-camera. The software is being bundled by some system integrators with Matrox products like the RT2500 (United Media users can also use Multicam software). The SEP of the RT-2500-Multicam bundle is \$999 for a package that allows you to view two cameras and \$1,299 for the four-camera version. The RT2500 ships with Inscrubber Title Express, Sonic Foundry Acid Music, SonicSolutions DVDit! LE, Pixelan Video SpiceRack Lite and other applications.

### In Conclusion

The RT2500 as a stand-alone product is a strong and useful platform for effectively editing projects. The many real-time transitions and effects offered by Matrox allow the editor a wide array of creative options.

Matrox constantly upgrades the product by adding a myriad of useful features. Matrox RT2500 offers the best integration with its dual monitor display cards, which provide the screen real estate that is so useful in nonlinear editing. For videographers editing long multi-camera shoots such as wedding ceremonies, dance recitals, plays, speeches and communions, the powerful RT2500-Multicam bundle is the big winner. There is no better product in this review for lengthy multi-camera work.

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United Media's Multicam solution is being bundled by some Matrox RT2500 integrators, but the Premiere/Matrox plug-in is available separately. It also runs on United Media's On-Line Express/Matrox Systems.

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