Cyberlink PowerDirector 14 Deluxe earns out top 10 Reviews Gold Award for best DVD Authoring Software for several reasons. It is a powerful, intuitive and effective non-linear editor and DVD creator that you’ll find yields professional-level results. One of the chief benefits is that both novices and veterans alike can use this DVD maker. It can also act as a very effective training ground for industry-standard applications that utilize similar tools, workflows and features.

TOP 3 REASONS TO USE POWER DIRECTOR

EASE OF USE
PowerDirector has always been extremely accessible to novice users. The menus are simple to navigate, and both the Timeline and Storyboard modes have extremely intuitive drag and drop functionality. The learning curve for this software is the lowest of any DVD maker we reviewed.

MENU TEMPLATES
When you’re ready to burn a disc using this DVD maker, you’ll be pleased to find that PowerDirector has plenty of menu templates to choose from. The disk creator also allows you to add extra features and divide your project into chapters. You can burn movies to any type of disc, including single- and dual-layered DVDs and CDs.

SHARING OPTIONS
Now you are ready to share your creation. You can produce DVD discs with stylish menus, convert them for your mobile devices and share directly onto your Facebook page, YouTube or Vimeo channel.

COMPARISON REVIEW
WHY VIDEO EDITING SOFTWARE?
The top performers in our review are CyberLink PowerDirector 14 Deluxe, the Gold Award winner; MAGIX Movie Edit Pro 2015, the Silver Award winner; and Corel VideoStudio Pro X8, the Bronze Award winner. Here’s more on choosing software to meet your needs, along with detail on how we arrived at our ranking of ten products.

Video editing software is more than simply splicing together footage. The best video editors are virtual post-production houses, complete with the ability to publish media online or author a ready-to-play disc. Video editing software is where all of your raw media comes together and transforms into something greater. It’s where you prepare your project for an audience. Our audiences are much larger now than they have ever been. Any video made public online has a potential audience of billions. But even if you have an audience of one, video editing software can help you build a video you’re proud to share.

Video editing software is easier than ever to use. It doesn’t matter if you’ve never edited video before or have rudimentary skills; these applications are increasingly intuitive and offer training and tutorials for all their tools and features. They even offer easy editing modes and automatic video creation. The best video editing applications provide you with the tools you need to make polished videos. They also educate their users and help them become better video editors.

We rated and ranked the best video editing programs on the market today, and the Top Ten Reviews award winners for video editing software are Cyberlink PowerDirector, Magix Movie Edit Pro and Corel Video Studio. We also have several articles about video editing software to help you make an informed decision. These applications also have advanced video editing capabilities — perhaps not as powerful as those in professional video editing software, but still quite powerful. Nearly all video editing software allows you to choose between the simpler workflow of the storyboard and the more advanced timeline modes of editing, usually allowing you to switch between the two with your edits intact. They come with a full array of preprogrammed video and audio effects, transitions, titles and much more. These tools can be useful to video editors of all skill levels.

The best video editing software enables you to build your video quickly and easily, with a minimal learning curve. It also allows you to publish your videos to online sharing sites like YouTube and Facebook. The best video editing applications even allow you to set up chapter markers, design disc menus and insert closed captions for the hearing impaired. Some of the tools in the software we reviewed rival their professional counterparts in terms of quality and granular control. The ability to utilize advanced features such as multicamera capabilities, compatibility with the latest action cameras and customizable export options gives you a high degree of control over the quality of the final product.

VIDEO EDITING SOFTWARE: WHAT TO LOOK FOR
On the consumer level, the best video editing software for any person is the one they feel most comfortable with. Nearly all the video editing applications on our side-by-side comparison chart offer free trial software of their products. Those new to video editing should try out more than one editing application to find one that meets their needs. The best video editing software is simultaneously simple to use while offering a robust video toolset. This requires multiple editing modes. Many of the video editing applications we reviewed offers basic, intermediate and advanced editing modes. Most allow you to upgrade to premium versions of the software that have even more tools. You should take your own skill level into account when choosing which video editing software is right for you. If you’ve ever edited video before, the learning curve for any of the applications is likely about the same. If you’ve never edited video before but have experience in editing audio or photography, you can probably expect no problems learning even the most advanced software. But if you’ve never edited anything before, you could experience a tremendously frustrating learning period and would probably benefit with a program that has a basic or easy mode.

When you’ve finished building your video, your export options are very important. This is one of those areas where applications have to walk a balance between usability and functionality. Exported files can be configured in infinite combinations. However, a few preset options are always nice to help you decide what export setting is right for your project. The best video editing software allows you to export a file specifically optimized for social sharing sites like YouTube and Facebook. The best video editing applications will even upload your video automatically.

Our Analysis
We have tested, rated and ranked all the best video editing software on the market today. We evaluated the applications’ editing tools, ease of use, sharing options and the support options. For the purposes of our review, we compared the entry-level application of each video editing software family.

Editing Tools
All video editing software allows you to cut your footage together. All the video editing applications we reviewed have an array of basic non-linear video editing tools. Timelines, storyboards, effects, transitions, titles and audio editing are all common fare for each of the products we reviewed. Likewise they all offer multiple editing tracks in your timeline. Some only offer as few as six tracks while others offer up to a hundred; still others don’t limit how many tracks your video project can have. It may seem like a trivial distinction since most small projects won’t require you to use more than a few tracks — maybe even just one or two. But complex projects will require more editing tracks. More tracks also gives you more flexibility and precise control over what will appear on your screen and when. You may not need a hundred or infinite editing tracks, but you will eventually feel the restrictive nature of applications that limit the number of tracks to just a few or a dozen.
The effect libraries of these applications are also quite important. These pre-programmed enhancements can include everything from the simple filters and transitions to particle effects and animation tools. The number of effects that come with video editing software varies. Some only offer fewer than a hundred effects while others offer hundreds. There’s even an application that offers more than 1,500 effects. However, an effect library that exceeds 500 objects is usually sufficient for any video project produced at the consumer level.

Ease of Use
The truth about video editing software is that you could load your footage into any of the products we reviewed and achieve roughly the same (or at least similar) results. The question for the novice video editor becomes which application will serve his needs the best. In order to answer that question we tested each application’s tools, built test projects and analyzed workflows and common tasks. We compiled the data from these tests to create the application’s Usability score. This simply refers to how easy it is to use the tools and features of the program to their fullest potential. The best video editing applications have an “easy” or “basic” mode for those users who are first timers, beginners and novices. These modes are distinct from the familiar timeline and storyboard modes. Easy editing modes often reduce video editing to its most basic concepts and tools. Some applications go even beyond beginner modes. Many of the video editing applications we reviewed will scan your media and create a video for you automatically. This tool is great for small or large amounts of footage. The best applications allow you to manipulate your automatic video after it has been compiled.

The availability of basic themes and templates is also important for consumer-level video editing software. They allow you to build simple as well as more advanced projects by customizing templates that could service anything from a child’s birthday party to a vacation highlight reel or even mock movie trailers starring you, your family and your friends. They not only produce high-quality results, but they also allow the user to learn and grow their video editing skills.

Sharing Options
When your video project is finished and ready to share, video editing software gives you plenty of options. All video editing software allows you to export your project into a video file on your computer’s hard drive. This option usually gives you the most control over the size, frame rate and other details. The best video editing applications allow you to easily export into all the popular video file formats such as MP4, MOV, AVI and WMV. Normally, the software has pre-sets for each of the formats. However, there is little reason to export into more than seven or eight of the most commonly used formats. All of the video editing software we reviewed has at least some capacity to optimize your videos for sharing sites like YouTube and Facebook. The best applications even allow you to upload your finished videos directly from within the program’s export menus. Since people are watching, storing and sharing more and more videos on mobile devices, it has become increasingly important for a video editing program to have the ability to export finished videos directly to them. Nearly all the applications we reviewed have this ability to some degree. The best programs have companion mobile apps that can be synced with their desktop/laptop counterparts, making the transfer of that data faster and more secure. The disc authoring tools in each of these products is also essential to consider if you intend to distribute DVDs or Blu-ray discs of your video. The authoring features of these applications can be quite extensive, offering the ability to insert chapter markers, build disc menus and include extra features just like the Hollywood movies that you buy in retail stores. The best video editing software gives you a lot of options in this area.

Help & Support
No matter how simple these programs become, video editing is a difficult and time-consuming task. There will be times when you need help, especially if you have limited experience editing video. This help can come in the form of a simple online chat, FAQs section or knowledgebase. It could also come in the form of free tutorials. Probably the most useful tool a manufacturer can offer is a community dedicated to video editing. These are places where editors can share, learn and collaborate. The potential usefulness of these communities is significant, especially for those editors who grow their skills.

The Results
The results of our analysis are summarized in our side-by-side comparison chart. There are many good choices. You could use many of these programs for years and be perfectly happy. Here is a recap of the products that came out on top in our comparison. Cyberlink PowerDirector continues to top our charts, earning the Top Ten Reviews Gold Award for striking the delicate balance between usability and functionality with precision. It has all the tools that hobbyists and professionals want, combined with an intuitive interface for the newcomer. It also has the most robust video editing community in its DirectorZone network. Magix Movie Edit Pro is another such product. This video editor offers some unique features such as object-based editing, meaning that any media type can be placed on a track. That makes this video editor one of the most flexible in programs we reviewed. It also offers some fun extras like the ability to create faux movie trailers. It earned the Top Ten Reviews Silver Award. Corel Video Studio has always been a great video editing application. The latest version, X8, is no exception. It offers plenty of effects, transitions and themes to satisfy casual users but also contains enough sophisticated tools, such as ScoreFitter and motion tracking settings, to allow more skilled editors make something truly special.

Summary
The best video editing software is an application that walks the line between usability and functionality. They are programs that cater to users of all skill levels. Even professionals will use some of these applications. All of these programs have something positive to offer, some more than others. The real test will be how well it works for your video editing projects.