Why consider Magix Movie Edit Pro?

I've been a fan of Pinnacle Studio editing software for fifteen years now. I've used it for work projects and hobby use, and although I've had problems at times, I've always worked around them. The introduction of Avid Studio (which became Studio 16 and 17) was very exciting. It offered a very good approach to multi-track video, great workflows and some advanced tools, while still having features that appeal to the hobbist.

However, in 2011 I began working on a multi-camera HD project that pushed Pinnacle Studio to its limits, so I began investigating other software that could possibly be used to produce video that would be in a format suitable for broadcast. I settled on Magix's profesional editing package Edit Pro X5. Apart from being able to work with the required codecs, it offered proxy editing, multicam and autosyncing of the tracks.

Having got to understand how the Magix editing interface worked, I then took a look at the consumer version of their software, Movie Edit Pro 2014. While it doesn't offer the pro codecs, it does have a remarkable feature list for its price. What's more, unlike Pinnacle Studio, it will recognise 3rd party codecs installed on your computer such as GoPro Cineform and Avid DnxHD.

Is the interface hard to learn?

There are a few quirky things in the design of the Magix editing interface, but nothing too weird. It's easy to keep multi-track projects in sync. If you are used to the overlay tracks being below the main video track (as in PS15 and earlier) then Magix uses the same layout. If you have got used to the top track overlaying the those below (as in PS16 and later) then you will need to adjust, although in Magix, you can nominate clips on lower tracks to act as backgrounds.

Does it have a Library feature?

No, it uses a more conventional browsing interface that allows you to access you locations without having to add media or use watch folders.

Is the software reliable?

More so than Pinnacle Studio, in my experience. Although you can get it to crash, rendering doesn't seem to stop for no apparent reason. What's more impressive is that if you report a bug, you normally get a good response from the software support staff at Magix, rather than a 3rd party support service that doesn't understand the product very well.

Does it have more or less features than Pinnacle Studio?

I'm struggling to find anything that can be done in PS17 that isn't implemented in MEP in some form. There is plenty in MEP that isn't available in PS: Two camera multi-cam, proxy editing, dynamic timewarp, auto syncing of audio, secondary colour correction, motion tracking. The disc authoring section is more versatile, as well – you can produce discs that have more than one title, has a none-skippable intro video, plays in loop mode, and contains additional files, as well as being able to verify your burns.

Is there a trial version?

Yes, and you can check out all three levels of the program so you know if the Standard or Plus versions will be enough for your needs.