Panoramic and Multi-Screen Projection

Using panoramic projection and harnessing the power of multi screen softedge blending enables you to use the Hippotizer in completely new and stunning ways.

The Hippotizer range of media servers now have a powerful soft-edge blending tool built in. We’ve positioned soft-edge blending as an effect in the Control Centre because it is actually a great way to merge zoomed layers and give a Hippotizer composition the kind of style that designers have embraced for many years with tricks like edge-feathering of inserts and so on. However, having access to edge-blending on the final output, i.e. the Master Canvas, has huge practical advantages.

The ability to overlap and blend the edges of projection has been a task not relished by video engineers for many years, and long before the advent of Media Servers. Some technicians have built a career on sorting out this issue and solutions have ranged from a multitude of third party boxes between source and screen to physical masking at the lens. But our new Soft Edge Blending feature means you might not need to get those scaffold towers out quite so often and your control area doesn’t look like a bowl of spaghetti! You can now adjust this critical parameter from within the Control Centre on any Hippotizer and in real time.

And it can be employed in a multitude of ways, but probably the most common is to use multiple screens ‘edge blended’ together to create one seamless canvas. The Hippotizer allows for many different setups so lets take a look at some possibilities.

1.) PAN mode

This is an easy way to create a panoramic projection from a single Hippotizer. The PAN mode is a display option available on the Hippotizer Stage and outputs directly to 2 projectors. In standard configuration the 2 screens might sit side by side (hard-edge), but by deploying the special PAN Soft-edge blend effect on the master canvas, the inner edges of both projectors are split and masked in such a way that the resulting overlaid image appears seamless.

You can then control and program the Hippotizer as normal, composing the layers and placing them anywhere across the two projections on one single canvas and your positioning corrections remain true.
2.) Multiple Hippotizers

To create larger canvases employing more than 2 projectors it is necessary to use 2 or more Hippotizers. The central 2 screens now require soft-edge-blended outer extremities not just towards one side, but on both edges of the projection. This can easily be achieved by utilising the second effect engine on the master canvas. And because you can edge-blend on either or both of the effects layers found on the master canvas, you can compensate for irregularities in the positioning across multiple projectors individually.

Because of temperature changes, physical movement and settling, installations often have to correct edge–blending regularly, sometimes daily. And for touring applications even the most rigorous of designs can experience irregularities between venues. So the ability to correct the degree and position of blending in real-time and from a simple user interface can reduce rig-times and take the stress out of this age-old problem.

Using panoramic projection and harnessing the power of multi screen soft-edge blending enables you to use the Hippotizer in completely new applications. And because Hippotizer allows synchronisation of media via timecode from external sources, you can create stunning synchronised displays in a variety of configurations such as ultra wide panoramas or 360 degree wrap-arounds.