

Digital Resource Development Team NOVEMBER 2006



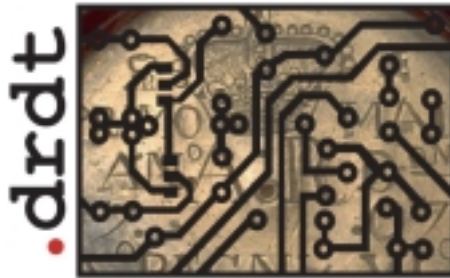
HI ALL,

It seems such a long time since lying by the shore, drenched in sun sipping a large cocktail. (Or in my case charging around Ireland on a 70's shopping bike slurping down the fog at dawn... not humming any Cliff Richard song and not thinking of Routemasters... well not all the time anyway – and, coming to think of it was it not actually an AEC Regent III RT?)

You probably realised the digital mages didn't actually take their holidays until they really had to – which ended up being most of September so this month's newsletter may seem a little less detailed than usual – read on and find out.

YOU WEE SEW AND SEW

I'm sure you've recently received an email from Alice Pearson regarding progress with the touring exhibition including some training opportunities that have evolved around it. (Thanks Mary and Victoria). Kye and I have documented the first restoration tutorial with a view



to tuning this material into a short video to add to the exhibition's on-line presence. We're happy to work on similar material with anyone else interested too. We used the project's HD video camera to shoot the material and the projects A/V editing PC to edit the footage. We've also photographed the workshops with the project's gorgeous and simple to use digital SLR. All the equipment is available for any of the project partners to borrow whenever they like – training is, of course, also available to whatever level you'd like.



Small simian creature observes ass² from prime viewpoint.

As usual animal images from [NOAA](#)

SEW MUCH TO DO
SEW LITTLE TIME

The involvement of the Digital Mages in the touring exhibition – now to be known as “Simply Samplers” is really to help provide any digital element the partners may wish to have included as part of the exhibition and to provide any training necessary including documentation of the exhibition and a linked website currently being populated at <http://simplysamplers.org.uk> and since we were feeling flush at <http://simplysamplers.org> too. We've been thinking, although so far no takers, of the ease of recording, editing and electronically publishing or using audio files within the exhibition. Anybody (perhaps education officers) fancy some on the job training whilst getting out there and collecting those reminiscences? This is a simple skill you could easily get young people involved with should you wish – we'll help you through the whole process, providing most of the equipment to capture the interviews as well as all the

equipment to edit and eventually output the finished pieces. These could be made available alongside the exhibition and/or on the website. It really is a doddle to do. It's only a small step to full motion video capture – again we're happy to play.

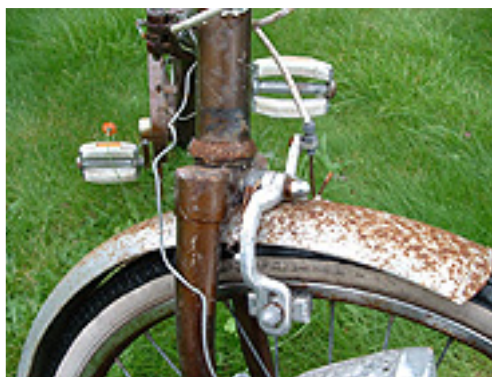
PLAY WITH US

We've been continuing to use our new equipment – which is, of course, available to any of you – with a number of our partners. The top of many people's wish list is still the digital SLR – a Canon EOS 350D to be exact. "Fabby dabby camera", Alice Pearson. As with all the other equipment at your disposal it's an example of good value for money for an excellent specification. My personal favourite was a difficult choice – our high-definition video camera's a peach but since I'm not really into fuzzy fruit I've gone for the outboard analogue video capturing box. This allows the easy transfer of any composite or SVHS video source directly into video editing software. It works beautifully and even keeps the audio in sync (I've tried it on footage over an hour long.)

THIS MONTH'S OFFICIAL FAVOURITE SITE

flickr - <http://flickr.com>. Have a look, you'll find a large number of images belonging to [East Lothian](#) already there and even most of the images for our Touring Exhibition site. Let the public view your

collection, adding their own metadata.



My first Dawes Kingpin...

Not as good as the Triumph Twenty and no basket (yet) but at least it folds in the middle. (Sometimes intentionally!)

MY PERSONAL FAVOURITES THIS MONTH

They actually look pretty poor – well, the hotstuff site looks hideous - and not exactly overly accessible either but as I'm sure you've heard me mumbling about – content is king... <http://ushotstuff.com>..well, just. More lovely content and horrible tables at <http://sheldonbrown.org/raleigh-twenty.html>. With only a little bit of work both these sites



Thy'v obviously typd thir nam using my dodgy laptop keyboard.

It rquires a good thumping!



Headphones - so much more descriptive than VideoLan's traffic cone.

could be made to look marvellous and work fabulously. As you've probably guessed, even though I've acquired another Moulton, and the remains of both a Triumph Twenty and a Dawes Kingpin since the last newsletter I'm still in the market for small wheeled bicycles (condition completely irrelevant).

THIS MONTH'S SOFTWARE CHOICE

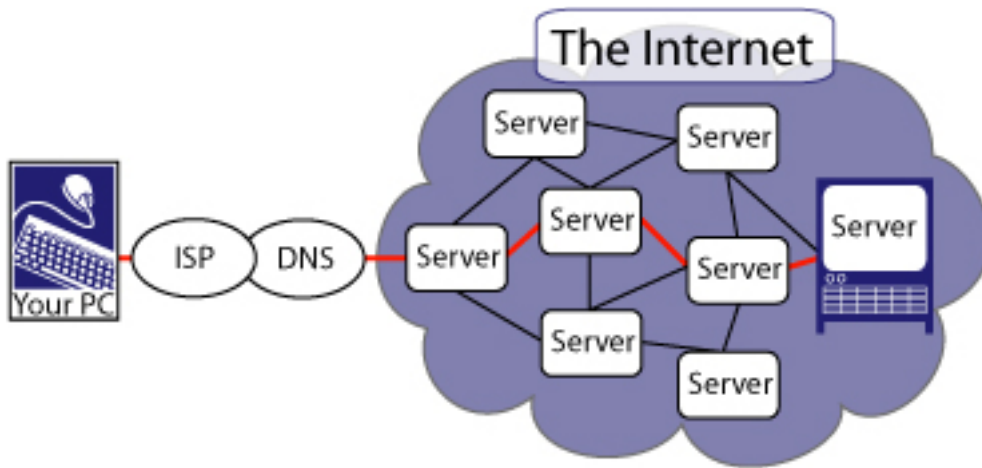
Cut, cut, cut, slash, hack, thrust – okay maybe not the last three but you'll find audio cutting an absolute breeze using Audacity – just ask Donald at Trimontium. I've been using Audacity for a few years and am very fond of it. As with all the software we've highlighted so far it's free to use in any way you want and available for Macs, Linux and Windows machines. In addition it can output to all your favourite audio formats including the compressed favourites Ogg and mp3. You'll also find you can download a pile of splendid audio filters. Including everything necessary to give your singing voice that reverb boost used by everyone in the industry.

<http://audacity.sourceforge.net>.

MAKING WHAT'S QUITE COMPLICATED BUT LOOKS SIMPLE SOUND SIMPLE TOO.

Chapter One: How the internet works

How can information from across the globe reach our



little screens?

Your computer 'dials-up' to the internet through an ISP (Internet Service Provider) and uses a process called TCP/IP (Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol) to communicate information called packets (yep, little packets of information) to other computers on the network. When you type in a URL (Uniform Resource Locator) like

www.digitalimages.org in to your web browser, the computer will need to know where exactly the information is physically located in order to retrieve it for you ie the address, sort of like a house number and postcode, of the server on which the information is stored.

What's required is an Internet Protocol (IP) Address. An IP address is a unique number that every system on a network, like the internet, has to identify itself. Unfortunately

an IP address is rather long and complicated e.g.

62149.36.9 so we use a URL – sort of like a nickname that is 'human-friendly'.

To resolve a URL into an IP address the computer sends a request to a system called a DNS (Domain Name Server). The DNS is a dedicated program with the sole purpose of going through a massive list and converting the URL's into

IP addresses.

Once the IP address is obtained the web browser can communicate directly to the web host and retrieve the packets of information. The web host is an online server that holds all of a website's information. Any images, documents, html pages and so on can then be sent back to your PC and your web browser as more little packets of information that are re-assembled on your screen.

If this all sounds a bit woolly please have a look at the digram above...

As ever, if you think we've gotten it all wrong then please let us know.

WHY DONKEY?

It's simple - just listen to [The Cramps'](#) beautiful rendition of [Muleskinner Blues](#) as you begin to look for images. Wonderfully inspiring!



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If we've confused you too much or you would just like to shout at us anyway our contact details are only a click away:

<http://www.digitalimages.org>.

We're off... burning rubber for your amusement.

Where did we leave that snowplough?

