

Mega-Lightning Stock Footage Assembly Kit

Notes on how one might use this Mega-Lightning Stock Footage Assembly Kit.

On this disk you will find several interesting clips of Mega-Lightning footage. All footage has been sequentially named according to the position it had in real time. Hence if you were to “string” all clips together, you would almost get the actual full footage taken. Of course to save space on the disk, I had to remove some of the not active or “dead” footage.



Clips of this type of footage are extremely rare and difficult to acquire. Searching the Internet, one might find a clip here or there, at quite a price. I have seen clips of this nature fetch up to \$200.00 per second! Of course, usually those clips yield only a few frames of the actual lightning and are padded to be up to a minimum of 3 seconds. Hence, you pay for padding. Typically a lightning strike yields 7 to 10 frames at best, but on this disk you will find a single bolt repeat itself and yielding quite a bit more. Remember, ~30 (29.97 exact) frames equals 1 second. So in lightning terms, that’s a life time.

In any case, you can use this footage in sequence or out of sequence. Actually any sequence you feel good about and for whatever purpose you need it for. This is the full progressive, non-compressed DV footage. Some things you might want to use such footage for could include:

- Dramatic effect and filler for thrillers or horror
- Music video timing footage (great for syncing with the beat of drums, particularly the bass drum)
- Background footage for documentaries or interviews – green/blue screen work. (Cramer’s Mad Money on CNBC does this during his “Lightning Round”)
- Educational purposes – dissecting a lightning bolt, frame by frame
- These are just some ideas or suggestions – I would love to hear back on how you use it.

There are 4 actual segments on this disk (plus a bonus clip). Each segment has a 10 second “dead” footage file that you can use for filler, leader or trailer to adjust the actual clip length you need for your purposes. Each of these 4 clip sequences are easily determined by their name. These sequences were determined by changing the camera position. You will notice subtle differences of fixed items on the video that shows why there are 4 sequences. (Hey, when I was shooting, I needed to move a bit here and there for safety reasons.)

How to understand the filename conventions on this disk:

Each filename contains important information that will make it a bit easier for you to use and get the clip you want or need.

All filenames within the 4 sequences may look like this: **mlseq-x-zz-aaaaaaa**

- **x** depicts the sequence number
- **zz** depicts the clip sequence within the whole sequence **x**
- **aaaaaaa** – depicts a shot description acronym as follows:

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- **sf** – soft flash or strong flash
- **sb** – strong lightning bolt
- **vsb** – very strong (powerful) lightning bolt
- **bf** – very bright flash
- **msf** or **msb** – means multiples of the same in a very short time.
- **seq(sb, sf, etc..)** – means a longer sequence of multiple flashes, bolts or combos.
- **multi(sf, sb, etc)** – same as above but with additional features. (see mlseq-4-16-multisfsb-bicycle for example)
- **pf** – powerful or very bright flash

Note: the naming conventions serve as a guide only. You may perceive the description to be bit different when previewing the clip.

	Filename	Short	Size	Fps	Length
1-14	mlseq-1-1-xx – mlseq-1-14-xx	Mega-lightning Sequence 1	720x480 (N)	29.97	00:00:04 each
15	Mlseq-1-leader-trailer	leader/trailer clip	720x480 (N)	29.97	00:00:10
16-22	mlseq-2-1-xx – mlseq-2-7-xx	Mega-lightning Sequence 2	720x480 (N)	29.97	00:00:04 each
23	Mlseq-2-leader-trailer	leader/trailer clip	720x480 (N)	29.97	00:00:10
24-33	mlseq-3-1-xx – mlseq-3-10-xx	Mega-lightning Sequence 3	720x480 (N)	29.97	00:00:04 each
34	Mlseq-3-leader-trailer	leader/trailer clip	720x480 (N)	29.97	00:00:06
35-74	mlseq-4-1-xx – mlseq-4-39-xx	Mega-lightning Sequence 4	720x480 (N)	29.97	00:00:04 00:00:07 00:00:08 each
Bonus Clip					
75	dusktodark_cloudwlightning-tl-med-nt	Long clip in time lapse of dusk to dark thunderhead with flashes	720x480 (N)	29.97	00:02:04

A little history about this particular footage...

This footage was originally shot from north facing south of Davis Monthan AFB, in Tucson, AZ during the early phase of the 2007 monsoon season (around middle of August). This was an adrenaline rush to say the least. I couldn't believe how consistent and powerful the storm danced for me. The actual total raw footage was only about 15 minutes. But the intensity and strike cycle was something I had never seen before, at least not within a safe filming distance.

It is very unusual to be able to stay in on position for such a time period. Monsoon storms can change direction on a dime and can get to be pretty precarious. Think about it, you are standing next to a lightning rod, your tripod! I have been very lucky so far to say the least. Fortunately, this storm behaved for me and only changed course after I was done. I was tipped off by the sudden strong winds that started blowing into my face. Yes, this storm did a full 180 on me within seconds. But I knew the signal and knew how to read the clouds. Of course seeing the lighting get a bit closer was a tipoff as well.

I don't recommend doing this type of filming (or photography) unless you really understand the beast. It is a very dangerous task and several people have been injured and even killed doing this type of

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work. So, if you think you can just go out and chase a storm, think twice! And if you still decide to go, take a buddy along for safety.

Have fun and enjoy your **Mega-Lightning Stock Footage Assembly Kit**.

- Create loops for backgrounds (green screen work or background work – ever watch Jim Cramer’s Mad Money? He has a “Lightning Round” with such footage running for effect.)
- Analyze how lightning works frame by frame (educational purposes - See DISK_3/StillShots for several such still shots taken from several of these clips.)
- Combine several clips for dramatic effect on your next indie. (Horror, drama, sci-fi, they all can use a good bolt or two.)
- Create music video’s using just such sequences. (see examples at: <http://www.youtube.com/vadervideo>)
- Use them in you multimedia presentations for the web for that special impact.

To our knowledge, there has never been such a large collection of lightning stock footage available to date (and at this price!). It is our intent to be able to offer the largest variety possible, for any task or requirement. We hope we succeeded and that you will without a doubt agree.

We thank you for your support!

If you have a special request or need of footage, drop us a line at:

www.vadervideo.com/eyeneed.html

Although we may not be able to immediately supply your needs, it will help us determine what the wishes and wants are of the production world for future product releases.

For support or other issues, please visit:

www.vadervideo.com/contact.html

(These links can easily be found by double-clicking on the shortcuts on this disk – Internet connection required.)

