A Command Extension for Sony Vegas® Pro

VASST Mayhem User's Guide
Version 1.0

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Introduction

Mayhem is a tool for creating special time based effects on video events. It can slice events into small events that can be randomized, zoomed, or have FX applied to. We believe that Mayhem will enhance your creativity and add life to your video productions.

Mayhem has the following features:

Event Slicer to chop events up into pieces as small as a single frame and process them individually with the other tools or just randomize them for some interesting time effects.

Zoom Motion adds random zooms to give drastic motion to your videos slices created with the event slicer.

Special FX adds an effect to each slice so that different effects can be distributed across the slices.
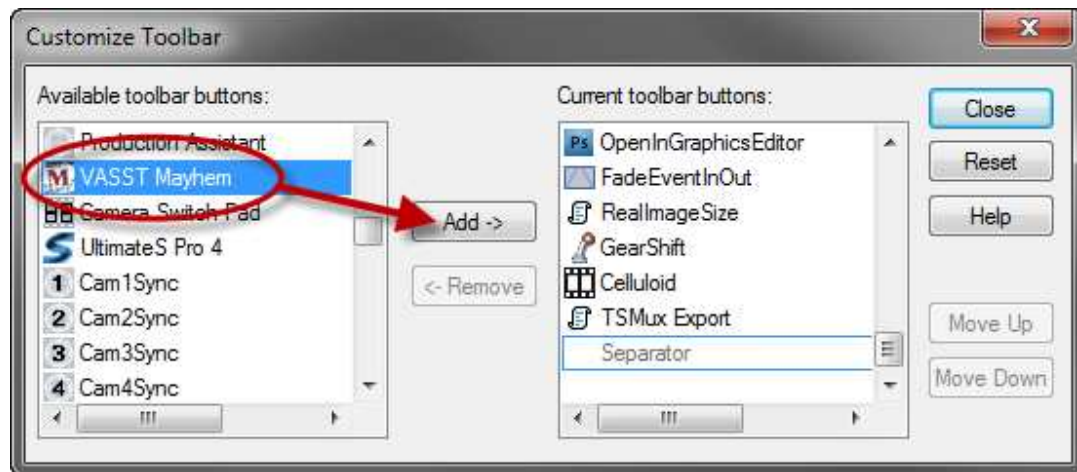
Mayhem is compatible with Sony Vegas Pro 8.0b and later.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR VEGAS PRO 8.0 USERS!

You must be using **Sony Vegas Pro 8.0b build 217** or later to use Mayhem. There are problems with Sony Vegas Pro 8.0 and 8.0a that causes scripts to fail when loaded. The 8.0b version fixes this and is a free update that you can download from the Sony Creative Software website.

How to place the Mayhem icon on the Vegas toolbar

Following installation, you may want to install the Mayhem icon on your Vegas toolbar for fastest and most efficient operation of the tools. From the Vegas menu select **Options > Customize Toolbar...** or *double-click* the Toolbar in Vegas, and the Customize Toolbar dialog opens.
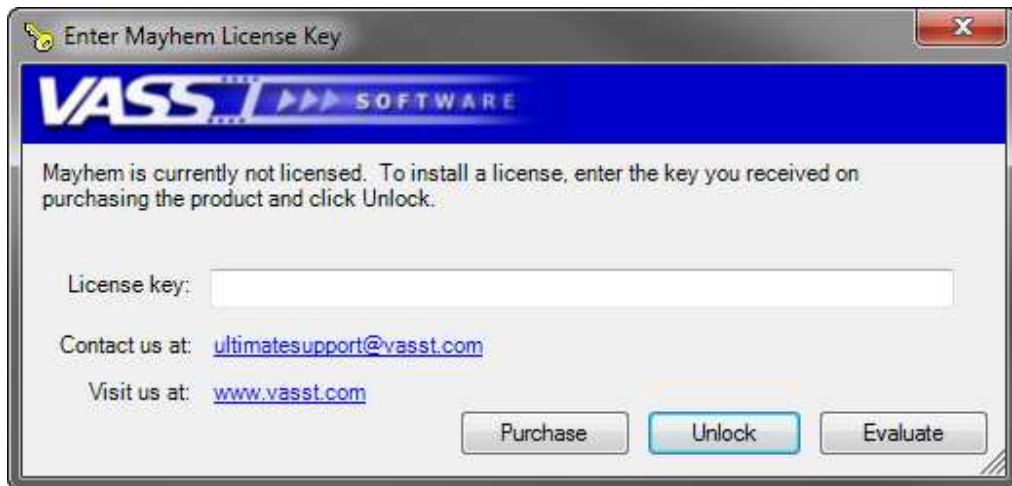

Scroll down the Available Toolbar Buttons and find VASST Mayhem. *Select* the Mayhem icon and *Click* the **Add ->** button or double click the Mayhem icon to move it to the right side of the dialog labeled *Current toolbar buttons*: The icon will now appear on your Sony Vegas toolbar.

Mayhem First Use

The first time you open Mayhem, you'll see the Evaluation License screen. Every so often, it will continue to remind you of the time remaining in your trial until the trial expires or you enter a valid permanent license key. Once the trial expires, Mayhem will no longer function.

To get a license for the application, visit the VASST website or click the **Purchase License** button. This will transport you to the VASST web site where you can navigate to the Mayhem web page, purchase a license key for Mayhem and the unlock code will be mailed to you. You can then click the **Unlock** button and the *Install Mayhem License* window will appear.
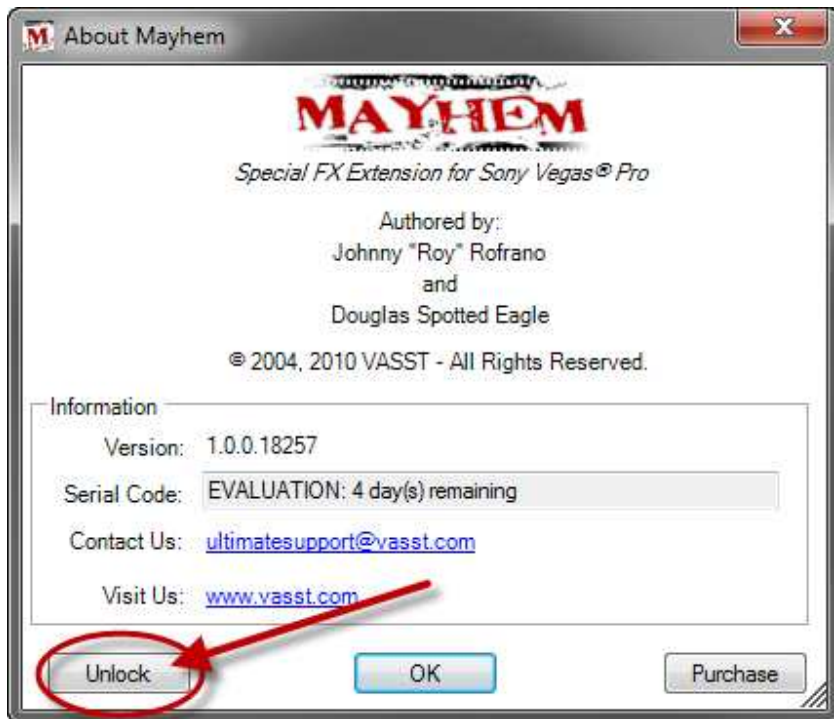

Once at the *Install Mayhem License* screen, paste the license that was mailed to you into the License Key field and click the **Unlock** button. This will install your license key and unlock Mayhem.

Installing the License Key from the AboutBox

You can also install the license key at any time from the Mayhem *AboutBox*. For Vegas Pro 9.0 and 8.0 you can bring up the about box by clicking the VASST logo at the top left of the Mayhem window.

Once you have the license code, click on the VASST Logo on the Mayhem GUI and the *About Mayhem* dialog will open.

Click the **Unlock** button and you will see the *Install Mayhem License* screen. Copy/Paste the unlock code from the email sent to you from VASST and click the **Unlock** button. Your Unlock Code/License key is registered to you and you only. Keep it safe in the event that you need to do a full reinstall Mayhem for any reason.

Your Unlock code may be used on two computers such as a notebook and a desktop. The only restriction, as explained in the EULA, is that both computers are not operable by more than one individual at one time.
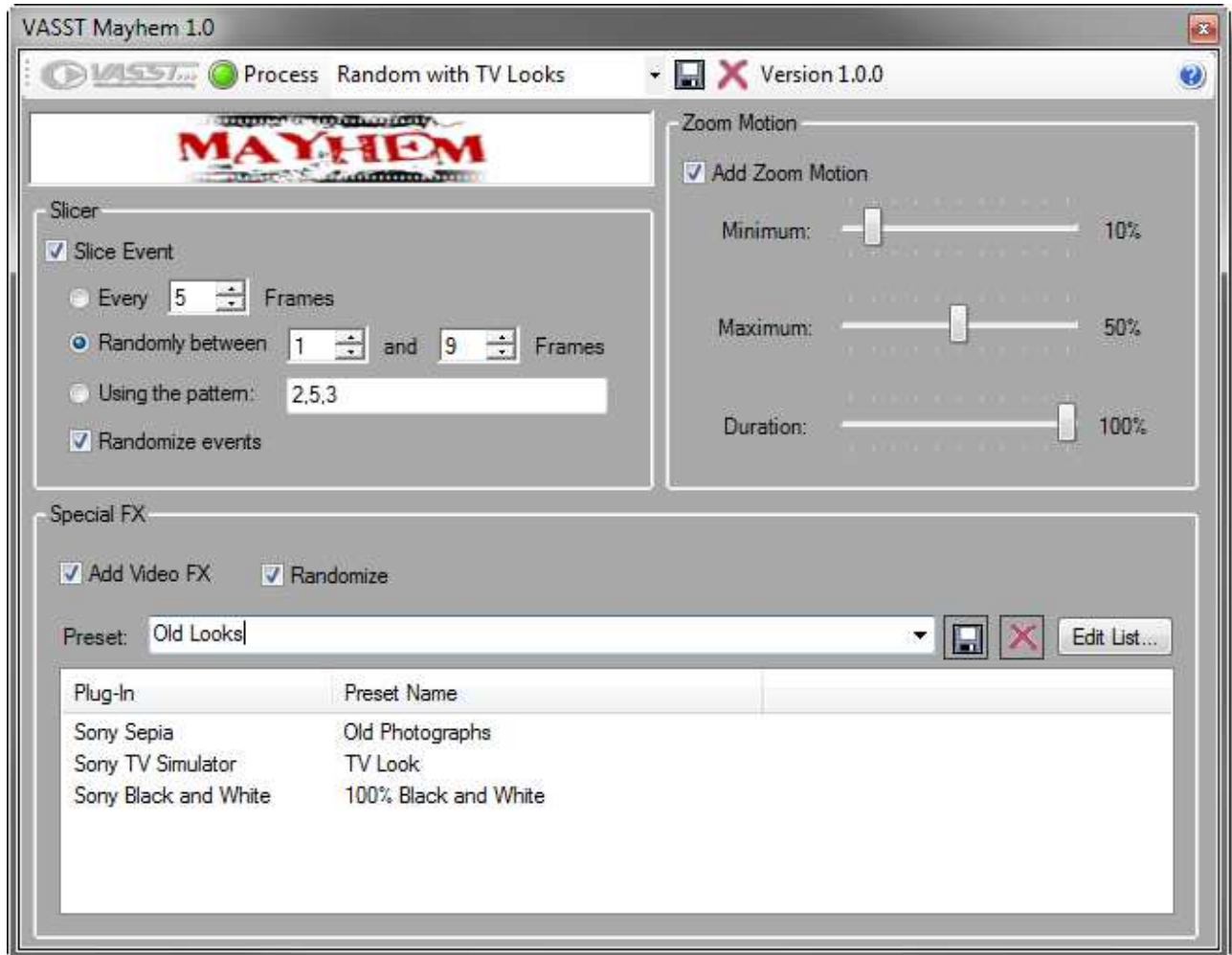
Oh No! I Lost My License Key

If you ever loose your personal license key, you can always access it 24 hrs a day by going to the VASST website and clicking on the **My Account** link.

Once you sign into your account you can review all of your VASST purchases including the license keys for your software products by clicking the **Archived Orders** link.

Mayhem

Mayhem contains a collection of tools that will allow you to quickly slice up your video into small sets of frames and process each slice individually. This can give a variety of effects to add spice to your video productions.
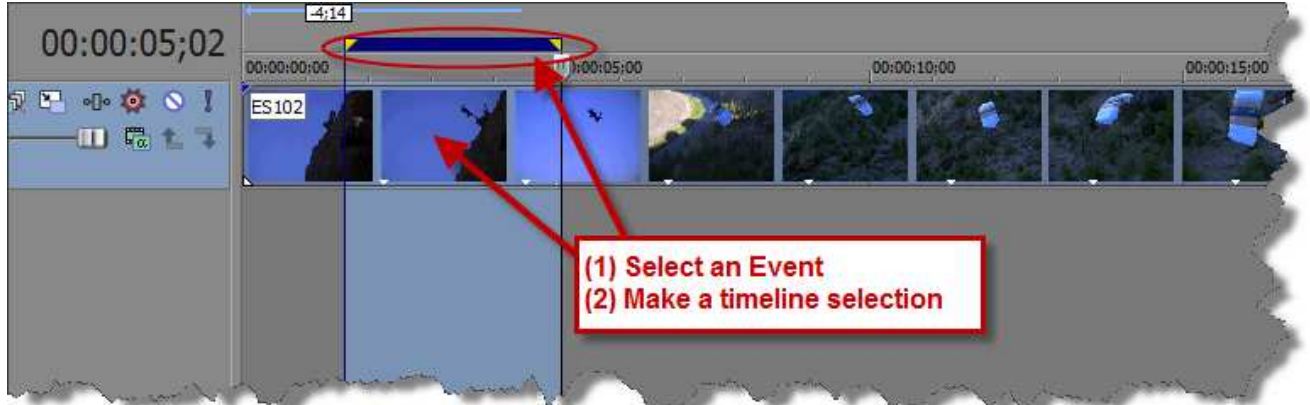
How to Use

Mayhem works by slicing up events for the duration of a timeline selection. It is important that you select the track that you want to work with and that you make a timeline selection for the duration of the effect before you use Mayhem to process the event.

The steps are:
1. *Select* a **Video Track** from the timeline
2. *Make* a **Timeline Selection** within the event
3. *Adjust* the **Mayhem** parameters to your liking
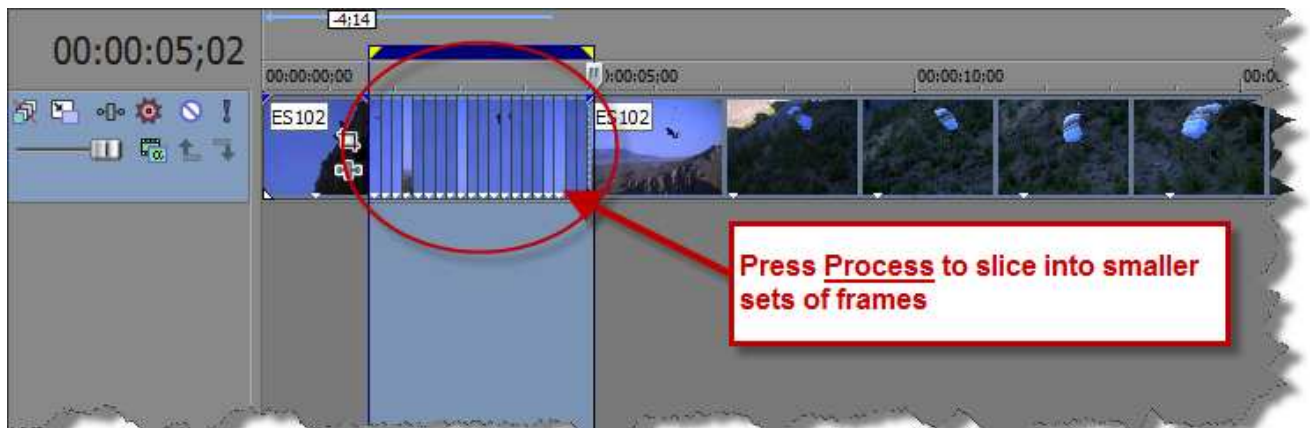4. *Press* the **Process** button to process the event with Mayhem

Before

The picture below shows the timeline set up for Mayhem to be used:

(1) Select an Event
(2) Make a timeline selection

After

The picture below shows the timeline after being processed by Mayhem:

Press **Process** to slice into smaller sets of frames

You can event use Mayhem to make a transition between two events by spanning two events on the timeline.

Process

Press the **Process** button to process your video selection.

Presets

You can load, save, and select presets from the preset dropdown list on the toolbar. This saves everything in the Mayhem window so that you can give it a name and instantly recall it at any time.
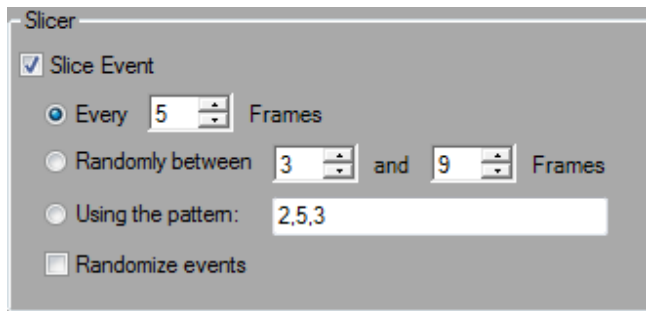
Save

Type a name for your preset and press the ▣ button to save it to the list.

Delete

Select the preset to delete and press the ✖ button to delete it from the list.
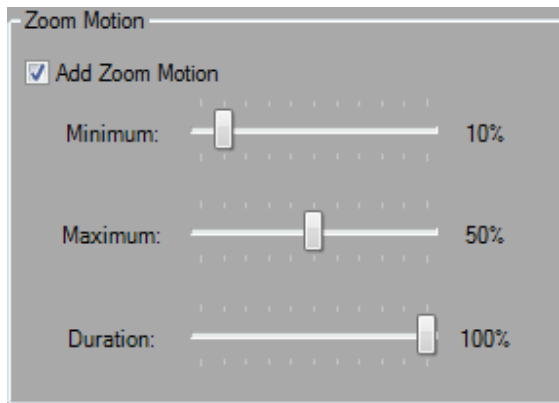
Slice Event

Every: Slices the event every 'n' frames. Depending on the look you are trying to achieve, somewhere between 3 and 7 frames is usually good.

Randomly Between: Slices the event randomly between low and high value of frames. This is good to have some slices be longer than others.

Pattern: Uses the pattern to slice the event at different fixed frame intervals. Each number represents the number of frames to slice. The number of frames are separated by comas. In the example `2,5,3` the event will be sliced at 2 frames, then 5 frames, then 3 frames, then 2 frames again, 5 frames again, etc. repeating to the end of the selection.

Randomize: Randomizes the slices after they are made. This is like shuffling a deck of cards. It mixes up the frames out of their normal order so that they play in a random order.
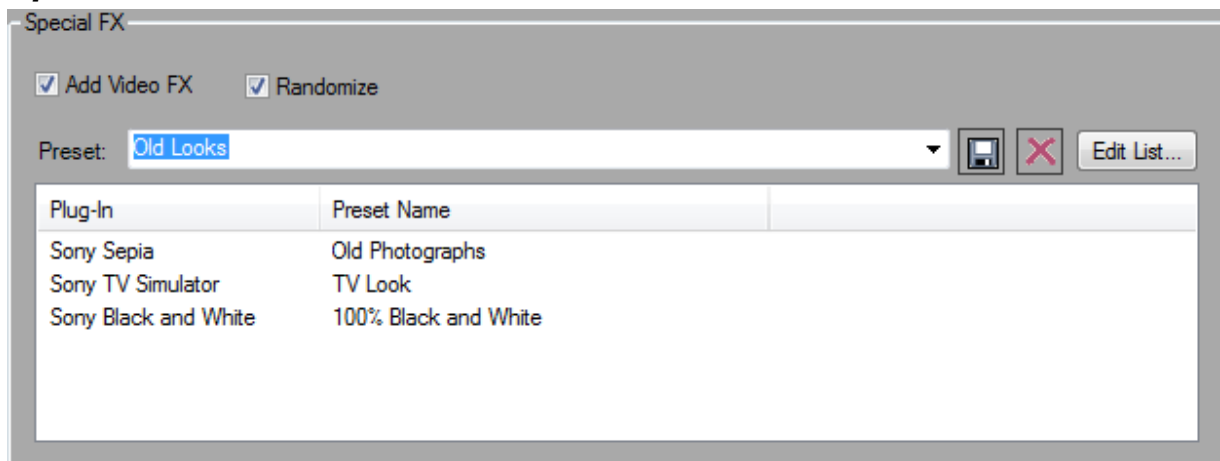
Zoom Motion

Zoom Motion adds random zoom to your slices. This can be controlled by the following settings:

Minimum: specifies the minimum amount of zoom as a percentage of the frame size. If you want some slices to have no zoom, leave this setting at zero (0%)

Maximum: specifies the maximum amount of zoom as a percentage of the frame size. The greater the percentage, the deeper the zoom into the frame.

Duration: specifies how long to hold the zoom. Set this to 100% to have the entire slice zoomed. Smaller values will only zoom that percentage of frames in the slice. For example, if you set the Event Slicer to slice every 8 frames and you set the duration top 50% the Zoom Motion will zoom in for 4 frames and then back out to normal size for 4 frames. Note: for slices of 1 frame setting to less that 100% may cancel the zoom.

Special FX

This control allows you to apply an effect to each slice. One effect will be applied to each event slice in the order listed. The list will be repeated until there are no more slices. In the example above, the first slice would have Sony Sepia applied, the next slice would get Sony TV Simulator applied, the next Sony Black and White and the next would get Sony Sepia again.

The **Randomize** option will apply the effect randomly. Each event slice will receive one effect from the list in a random order.
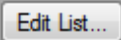
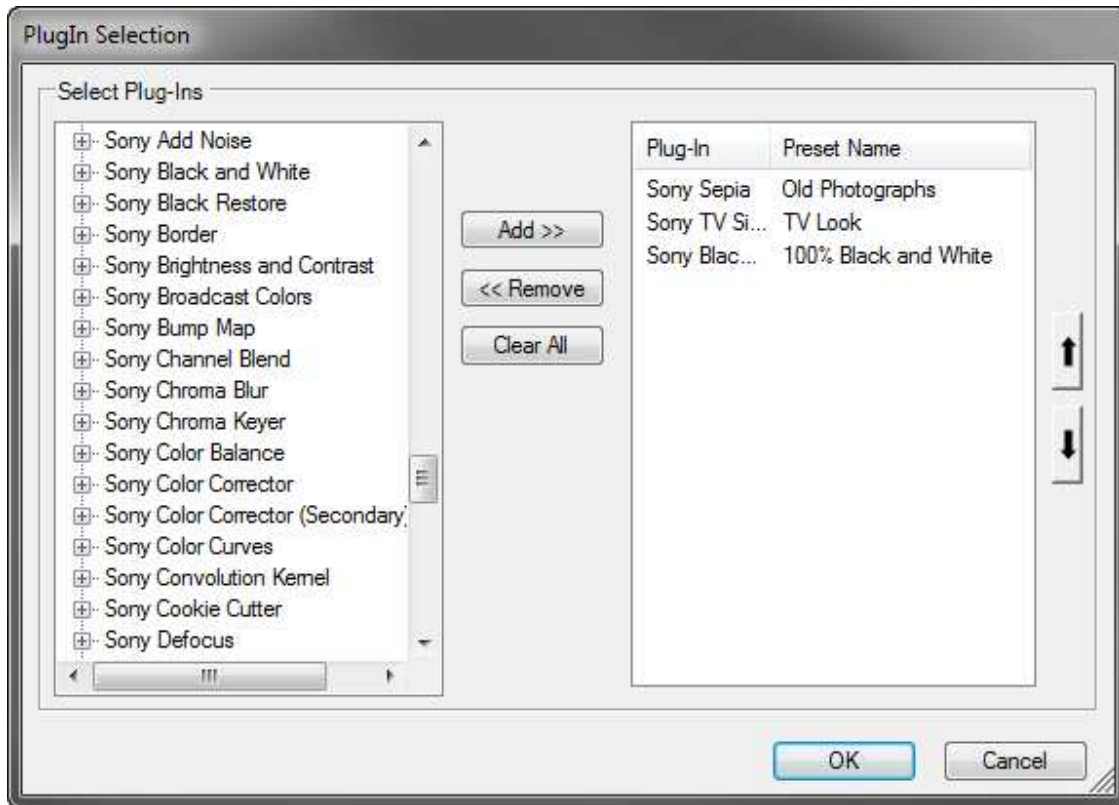**Note:** *there is no way to apply a chain of effects to a slice. It is one effect, one slice.*

It is a good idea to keep these lists small. In fact, using only two effects on small slices can give a very nice effect switching back and forth between the effects quickly.

Preset: This lists the names of the presets you have saved. You can create a new prest with the Edit List button and then give it a name and save it.

Save: Type a name for your preset and press the 💾 button to save it to the list.

Delete: Select the preset to delete and press the ✗ button to delete it from the list.

Edit List: Press the Edit List... button to edit the FX in the current preset. This brings up the following window:

You can add any Effect that is in Vegas Pro including 3rd party FX and add then to the list of FX's to be used in your preset. When you have the effects you want, press OK to return to the preset list.

The Mayhem Command Extension Tool

There is a lot of function variations in Mayhem to explore. This User's Guide has just scratched the surface of the mechanical workings of them. Now it's up to you to explore the artistic workings and use the tool in different ways to improve your workflow and ultimately provide a better product to your customers. Happy Editing!

If you have any questions or concerns, VASST software support can be reached at:

email: ultimatesupport@vasst.com

We are also moderators on the **DMN Sony Vegas Scripting** forum where you can post questions on any of our software products. Posts to that forum go directly to our email support.
http://www.dmnforums.com/cgi-bin/displaywwugindex.fcgi?forum=vegas_scripting

<div align="center">

Thank You from the entire **VASST Team**.

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