

Animated Lesson Presenter

By Ideas4ADIs, Reviewed by Lynne Barrie. Price: DVD £35, DVD Player £190

Since starting out back in 2004, Ideas4ADIs has continued to develop a range of products for ADIs, so many in fact, that the price list barely fits onto a full side of A4. Each product seems to be the result of careful research, and the company have stated that they are only interested in developing products that will raise the professional status of the driving instruction industry. The latest product - the animated lesson presenter - very much has this philosophy in mind. It is designed to exploit the latest DVD player technology and, although you as an ADI may not be at home in the evening using your tablet PC, Playstation 3, Wii or iPhone, you can bet that most of your teenage pupils are. Young people are exceptionally techno-savvy, and such products have a habit of attracting them in, so it's great to have a product that recognises this by using up-to-date tech.

No Paper, Magnets or Confusion

As a full package, the presenter consists of a specially designed DVD and a tablet style DVD player for use in-car during lessons. The DVD contains some 43 different animated 2D diagrams of road configurations such as roundabouts, emerging, moving off, stopping etc. In fact there is an animation of each of the 15 key driving syllabus subjects and all the manoeuvres. Using the DVD player in the car means you can illustrate points to your pupil using diagrams which are animated - cars and other traffic can be seen driving along the road, approaching

and moving out of junctions or roundabouts as you are talking the pupil through what they need to do and why. It replaces the need for plastic toy cars being positioned on a laminated diagram sheet clipped to a magnetic board (have you ever noticed how those model cars don't actually stick to the magnetic board and end up under the front seats instead?). With this new, up to date, system, all you need is the DVD player and the special DVD. Sensibly, Ideas4ADIs have chosen not to include any spoken commentary or sound effects on the DVD audio - this is where you, as the instructor, come to the fore (though not necessarily with the sound effects), using the briefs that you learnt for your Part 3 exam and developed through your teaching experience. Exploiting the facilities of the DVD player means that you can freeze the action at a particular point, or repeat it as many times as is necessary, in order to get the relevant point across to the pupil. You can also rewind the action and repeat it in slow motion if needed. The menu system on the DVD means that you are always just two steps away from accessing any of the animations from the main DVD menu.

Although you can purchase the DVD separately at £35 and play it on any portable DVD player or laptop PC with a DVD drive, the system really comes into its own when used with the recommended DVD player also available from Ideas4ADIs. It's a very smooth device in its own right. It's a lightweight (under 2kg) slim line device, which slips easily into its own deluxe carrying case. It has a rechargeable

battery built in that lasts over 2.5 hours and can be kept charged up in the car from a cigarette lighter socket, or at home via a mains plug. Of course it includes some great features that don't relate to driving instruction, but could provide you with a home/portable entertainment unit including a Freeview TV tuner and USB and SD card ports, and it will play audio and video from a range of formats including: MPEG4, DivX, MP3, WMA, and CD.

Multi-Functional

Returning to its use in driving instruction, it also functions as a large digital photo frame for images held on an SD or other memory card or on a USB memory stick to illustrate your driving tuition. I've always been an advocate of taking digital photos of local roads and junctions and using them in lessons to teach pupils anticipation, hazard perception and planning. Using a screen and memory stick/card saves on space, paper and mess - it also looks more professional. The player is not cheap at £190, but it is a very classy piece of kit and appears rugged enough to cope with use in lessons throughout the day and work as a long-term investment. More information about the player can be found on the website at www.ideas4adis.co.uk/dvdplay12.php.

Of course, it is the DVD itself that provides the important leap into the future on in-car instructor training aids. I like the way you can use it to talk through observations, hazard routines, and priorities. The DVD also has an 'extras' section, containing printable documents such as mock test



forms, pupil record sheets and instructor diary sheets that you can print out at home and use. The DVD also holds the user guide. Some subjects like pedestrian crossings and dual carriageways are absent, but Ideas4ADIs have informed me that they have already received positive feedback and suggestions for minor improvements, and are looking at producing an upgraded version sometime next year.

One Giant Leap...

Altogether this is an excellent package for ADIs who want to stay ahead of the game and represents a real step forward in training aids, using up-to-date technology and imagery. Modern and professional, both my pupils and I have enjoyed trying the product out during lessons - a great idea and a brilliant product. **adi**

Competition

Competition:

How many animated road configurations are there on the DVD? The first three correct answers out of the hat on the 20th August will receive a copy of the DVD. Send answers to the usual addresses on page 3.

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