Divx playback

The S49 and S295 are Panasonic's first DVD Players with Divx support. It is said that they use there own developed chipset for this (instead of using a general one, like the ESS wich Philips players use).

Supported codecs chart

 Officially supported codecs Not documented but can play Cannot play Divx 3.11 Divx 6.x Divx with GMC (*1) Divx 4.x NVOP supported QPEL (*2) Divx 5.x BVOP supportted Packed bitstream (*3)   MPEG4 (*4) Yes Windows Media Video
(*1) Global Motion Compensation
(*2) Plays but gives artifacts
(*3) Try MPEG4 Modifier to unpack the bitstream without re-encoding
(*4) Only the format that is used in digital (video)camera's is supported

Other specifications

 Maxium playable resolution 720 x 480 (NTSC) / 720 x 576 (PAL) Maxium file size Divx 2 GB

Divx with AC3 encoded sound

The player plays Divx with AC3 encoded sound and threats it like an normal DVD dolby digital track. So you have full dolby digital sound with these files.

Playing back MPEG1 and MPEG2 files

The player cannot play back these files directly. However MPEG1 files can easily be burned as an Video-CD (Super Video-CD for MPEG2 files), so it can be played by the Panasonic players (and any other DVD player). You can use for example Nero for creating (S)VCD's.

Divx subtitles

If you have the new firmware, than you can use Divx subtitles. Panasonic released an update to there manual for this function. You can read that page below, it contains all the details about this function, click here for a PDF version.

The name of the subtitle needs to be exactly the name of the video (except for the extension). You can only use one subtitle at a time (no different languages). It also not possible to alter the posistion, adjust the size of the text or change the brightness of the subtitles. Read this method if you want to alter how the subtitles are displayed with Divx playback.

Here is an example how a Divx with subtitles enabled looks like:

Changing the appareances of Divx subtitles

Many people are having trouble with the size and place of the Divx subtitles using the above method. Recently a new method was proved to be working on this player. With the use AVISUB you can convert an Divx avi with a subtitle file to a Divx 6 format with the subtitles embedded. The advantage is that the program let's you choose the font, size, color etc. and doesn't show any black bars surrounding the subtitles anymore!

Step by step instructions (including a flash movie) of how to add Divx 6 subtitles can be find here. More information about this feature will be posted later.

Aspect ration and zoom

The Panasonic can "correct" the source of widescreen Divx files to real widescreen if you use a widescreen TV (in the players menu you must have set your srceen type to 16:9 or else the function won't show). Press the Functions key -> Other Settings -> 4:3 Aspect. For widescreen Divx files use auto or shrink to keep the aspect ratio and correct the size with the zoom function (1.00x to 4.00x). The Panasonic player has an advanced zooming capability, you can adjust it in steps from 0,01.

Divx files on DVD

The player supports Divx/Xvid files to be play back from an DVD, including folder browsing.

Issues (under construction)

Here is an incomplete list of problems and if known solutions to them.

Q: Xvid movie does not always reach the maxium FPS of a movie. This makes playing a movie less smooth.
A: It looks like the Xvid movie have packed bitstreams. Download MPEG4 modifier to unpack the bitstreams.

Q: I have problems playing back a Divx/Xvid movie
A: Most of the playback problems are due to the files having either a packed bitstream or do use GMC and/or QPEL encoding options. In the last case you need to re-encode the entire movie. To see if the movie contains one of these options use G-Spott.