VSW-2200 Switcher – Tech Note #1
Preparing images for the Still Store

Here is a tip to file away about the Still Store function in the VSW-2200.

First, make sure you are using the latest firmware version available here:

http://www.lcdracks.com/Switchers/VSW-2200-switcher.php

Next, download the free photo viewer / processor app, "XnView" (currently version 2.40) available here:

http://www.xnview.com/en/

XnView can view almost any picture file format and can convert, crop, etc.
The picture format (dimensions, aspect ratio) should match the video format. So, it's best if the picture format is 1920 x 1080 (for full HD) or 1280 x 720 (for 720p video).

Color processing steps:

In XnView, go to File / Open to bring the picture into the viewer
Click on the IMAGE tab, select Convert To Colours and set the number of colors to 128.
Pick one of the Dithering options to reduce "posterization" or "banding" and click Apply.
(To try other combinations, go to Edit / Undo and try again.)
Go to File / Save As and select either BMP or PNG as the file type.

Follow the steps in the VSW-2200 Operations Manual to load the file into one of the four Still Store registers.

That's it. **Open File > Convert to Colours > Colours = 128 > Save As (bmp or png)**....Done
Transfer of a full 1920 x 1080 picture via USB will take 6 minutes or less.

VSW-2200 Switcher – Tech Note #2
Special Switching Modes

The VSW-2200 has several different "modes". Using the application (assuming you are using the latest application version and firmware), there are several check boxes on the Main page.

TAKE ENABLE

Check this box if you want to be able to pre-select an Input source then switch to it when you press the TAKE button on the unit, on the IR remote or in the control application.   When this mode is ON, the Input button will start blinking when pressed but the picture from the switcher will not change until TAKE is pressed. Uncheck this box if you wish to switch sources immediately when a particular Input button (1,2,3,4) is pressed. There is also a short-cut to turn Take Enable mode ON or OFF.   Simply hold the TAKE button on the front of the unit for 5 seconds to change the mode.

CUT, FADE, DISSOLVE

On the control application Main page, there are three check dots in a row: Cut, Fade, Dissolve. CUT and DISSOLVE modes are pretty straight-forward. FADE is a bit more interesting.

When CUT is selected, the operation of the switcher is in its normal mode. It simply switches to the selected Input as quickly as it can.   The output images "cut" from one to another.

When DISSOLVE is selected, ALL transitions will be dissolves (mix) for approximately 20 frames. In other words, pictures will blend from one to the other.

When FADE is selected, something interesting happens. The switcher will appear to still be in CUT mode. This changes when an input is selected TWICE..… The first time you select an Input, that source will appear at the output of the switcher.   If you press THE SAME button again, the output of the switcher will "Fade-to-Black". When that Input or any other is selected, the picture will fade back up from black.

How is this used?
Example: You are getting ready to feed a live stream. First, Select the Camera or other source you want to start the program on. Click that Input a second time to get Black.

When the program is to start, select that Input again and the picture will fade up smoothly from black.

Now, switch the program normally….switch, switch, switch,..........finally switch to the closing shot, select the same Input again and it automatically fades to black.
The switcher will stay in this mode until you change it using the control application. FADE

mode can be operated from the front panel, the IR remote or the control application. You can even do this from Crestron® or other controller if you have implemented the protocol (document available for download from our website).

Note: Still Store Slides do not fade or dissolve. They operate as a full screen overlay so they cover up what's going on behind. Still Store images will drop if any Input source is selected.