

# Videography 101

## FAQ

- **How do you balance audio levels?**

Sound is important, so important that it can make or break a video. The first piece one would want to check, make sure all of the audio levels are the same/even. Secondly, make sure that the audio doesn't "peak." Peaking means that the audio goes above the suggested range, making the video really loud. In Final Cut, when a clip's audio exceeds the limit, the color of the audio meter will change from yellow to red. As a general rule, the loudest clip should never exceed 0 db. If these peaks are kept in the video, this could result in audible distortion. The general rule is to keep the audio between -6 and -12.

- **What does de-interlacing a video mean?**

De-interlacing is the process of converting source material that contains alternating half-pictures to a computer screen that displays a full picture at a time. Traditional TVs do not display one picture-frame at a time. Instead, they display alternately all the odd lines and all the even lines of the picture. That way, they can get a fast display rate of 50 or 60 half-pictures per second, without the bandwidth requirements that full pictures have. Computers however, display full pictures, so this process may be necessary. To apply the De-Interlace Filter in Final Cut Pro, from the **Effects Menu** go to **Video Filters > Video > De-Interlace**. Another option would be if you go to **File > Project Properties** and click the little wrench in the bottom right-hand corner of the info pane, up pops the properties of your project. Just change the Format to progressive (e.g. 1080p instead of 1080i).

- **What is rendering? and why does it make the program slow?**

Rendering is the process of creating temporary video and audio render files for segments of your project that Final Cut Pro cannot play in real time. When you add anything from a clip to an effect on your timeline, an orange bar will appear over the clip to symbolize that the video is rendering. If there are a lot of clips being rendered at once, the program may become a bit slower or lag because there is so much going on internally. You can let it render in the background or take a break and let it render without anything else going on so that it will speed

up. If rendering time is unusually long try to quit Final Cut and reopen it. If that does not work, restart your computer.

- **When I try to upload, my camera will not pop up?**

Make sure the cable connecting the computer and camera is in both ports firmly. Next click the button **on your camera** that allows you to watch videos you filmed. When you click this button, it will create thumbnails then it should pop up on your computer to import!

- **How do I export my finished product using Final Cut Pro?**

Once you are all finished with your video, go to **File > Share**. From there you will see DVD, Master File, and the social media sites. To upload a basic .MOV file, click Master File and find a location to save it, then you will have the video file! If you want a DVD, pop the disk in then go to File > Share again and click DVD and Final Cut will do the rest for you.

### **Basic Tips & Tricks**

- **Free Video Programs**

Imovie, Mac and Movie Maker, PC

- **Exporting: It's not a quick process!**

Give plenty of time just for exporting, as it can take a **long** time. The longer the video and more effects, expect a longer export time.

- **Final Cut Pro: Project, Events, and Libraries**

A **project** can be thought of as a single editing timeline or sequence. An **event** can be thought of as a Bin for organizing and storing media. These all go inside of a **library** to keep the clips separated from different videos, so really they are just tools to keep organized.

- **How to Stabilize Shaky Clips in Final Cut Pro**

**Select your clip** on the timeline, click the **inspector button** on the toolbar (The icon with bars next to the arrow icon), select the **Stabilization tool** and adjust the three bars according to the clip.

- **Add a transition/ Make clips flow together**

The Transition tool is the icon on the toolbar that looks like a square with an hourglass inside next to the music and text tool. This tool has a variety of transitions that can go in between clips to make them smoothly flow together. Different types of films could potentially use a variety of the transitions, but if you want to start somewhere basic I would try the **Cross Dissolve** which simply fades out of one clip and into the other. Transitions provide a video with a more professional look and a smooth feeling while watching.

- **Adding Text**

The text tool is the T on the toolbar. It has everything from static text to rolling credits. Text is applied by dragging it over the clip to the space above it. Double click the text box to edit in the upper left corner of Final Cut. There you can adjust the font, size, alignment, and much more.

### Important Shortcuts

- **A** - Select Tool
- **B** - Blade Tool
- **M** - Marker
- **Z** - Zoom Tool
- **J** - Rewind
- **K** - Stop
- **L** - Fast Forward
- **Control + B** - Disable Clip
- **Command + E** - Export as Movie File