Introducing Final Cut Pro

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Setting up projects
A project is the basis of your work, it is the glue that holds together all your work. Your project will hold all of your assets; captured DV, imported files and the sequence edits you create from them.

Being organised
Your final cut project will become extremely complex. You will be using lots of different files and folders with lots of assets some of which are very large in file size. It is really important to try and keep everything organised and in the same place or folder structure. If you don't everything will become a huge headache when you come to finally export your project, archive and save it.

Remember to keep **EVERYTHING** in the same folder! This then makes it really easy to backup and copy from one computer to another. You could also think about storing everything on an external hard drive, so you can move about with ease.

Creating new projects in Premiere and Final Cut Pro.
It is very important when working on video/animation projects to get everything set up properly at the beginning. It is difficult and time consuming to correct something (e.g. resolution) when a project is half way through. Getting the settings correct when you begin will mean you save time which you can spend more creatively. Generally your project should be simple to set up for and here are some general settings for PAL (The UK standard for DV, T.V) that you can use for pretty much all your projects.

- Frame rate: 25
- Resolution: 720 Height x 576 Width.
- Aspect: 4.3
- Pixel aspect ratio: 1.067 (??)
- Fields: If you are taking files from a DV Camera then set fields to OFF.
- Editing mode: Depends on what you are editing but generally DV-PAL playback will be best for editing.

Creating a new Project (Premiere).

1. Open Premiere and in the options window make sure that DV-PAL 48kHz is selected and that on the bottom right rendering options: field settings is set to none. Click OK.
2. Next save your project. Put it in the 'My Documents" folder on the local computer. To be really safe create a folder for your project so that it is more identifiable. Go file>save as>my documents>create new folder> save.
3. Make sure all your work is being stored in the same place. Go to edit>preferences>scratch disks and device control. Make sure that captured movies is set to your folder and that the other two are set to "same as project".
4. You are ready to start.

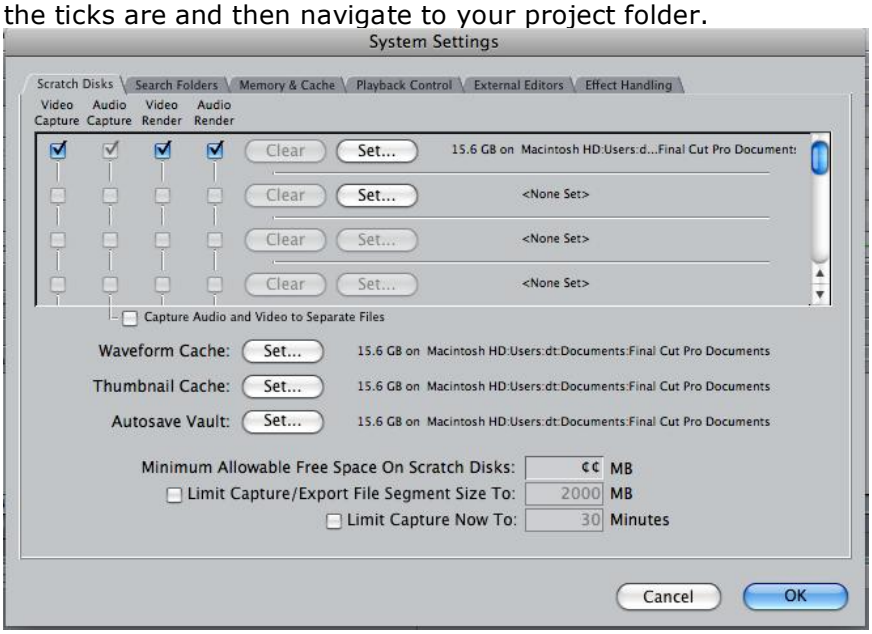
Creating a new project (Final Cut Pro).

1. Open Final Cut Pro from the dock or from the applications folder. Create a new project by going to file>project>new project.
2. Then save the project by going to file>save project as>and then navigate to the Users/shared folder. Saving work here will mean that it won't get deleted when you log off.

3. To make sure you are saving everything in the right place go to Final Cut Pro HD> system settings>scratch disks and hit the top 'Set' button and navigate to the folder you created in the shared area.
4. Finally make sure you are set up properly go to Final Cut Pro HD> easy setup and click on DV-PAL
5. You are ready to start.

Setting up System Settings
In user preferences you can set up where captured DV is stored and the default settings of sequences and projects. There isn't much to change in user preferences, just make sure that the capture location is in your folder structure and that the project sequence settings (resolution etc) is correct.

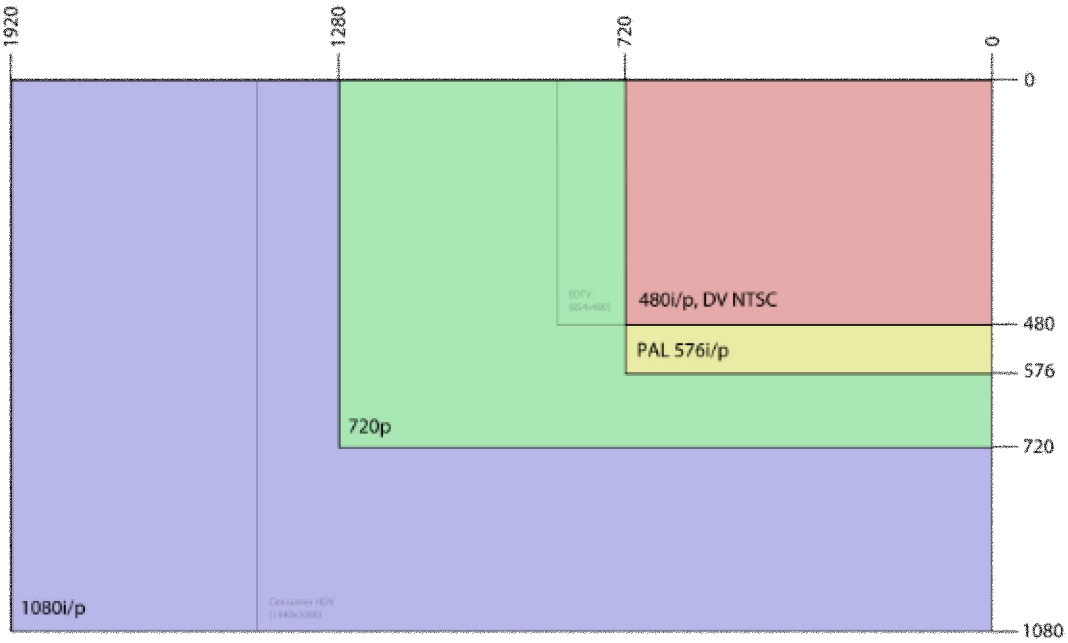
To setup where to store your capture files, click 'Set' in the system settings where the ticks are and then navigate to your project folder.



Formats and Resolution
Whole books have been given over to DV formats and resolution. For basic usage with standard settings and equipment there are however only a few things that you really need to look out for. Getting everything in your project set up to appear at the same resolution and format, will save time later and drastically improve the visual qualities of your final work.

Knowing the format of your final output (where it is being shown) is really important, for example if you are showing your work on a 42" HD plasma you might decide to edit your project in HD, or if it is for the web you might decide to edit in standard DV etc.

Video resolution

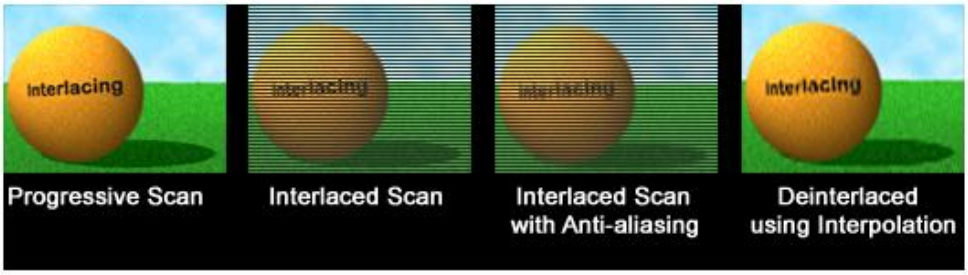


Before starting on a project you must know (or it is far easier if you do) the resolution or size of your final output.
The simplest format to use is PAL which is a resolution of 720 width x 576 height. This is the European standard and will work well on DVD players etc.
You can also make work for HD up to 1920 x 1080 this will give you far higher quality but also far more headaches in terms of file size and long render times.

You can also make custom documents but be careful to make sure all the documents you use to make your project conform to the custom size.

Frame rate and interlacing

Frame rate is the amount of still images per second that make the video. The standard PAL and HD is 25 FPS. When capturing from a DV cam this is how many FPS the computer will capture. It is really important to stick to a frame rate and I would say 25 FPS is fine. If you have different docs that are differerent FPS then you can have all sorts of problems (things appearing to slow etc).



Interlacing:

How DV video actually works is by making one frame every 50th of a second in horizontal lines and then making another one with another set of lines directly below. What happens when you start to edit is that these two frames are joined together as one giving you a 25 FPS. Interlacing can cause some horrible effects to your video especially if there is a lot of motion, you can see it in the fact that there appears to be a lot of horrizontal jagged lines where there is a lot of movement.
If you have this problem you can deinterlace your video. The best thing to do is to deinterlace it as the last thing you do to your project before it is exported. If you keep deinterlacing you can cause your video to lose quality over all.

Capturing footage with Premiere and Final Cut Pro.

When you import be aware that it takes up masses of space on the computer so be selective about what you are importing. Also be aware that your work is not 'safe' on any computer in the room, i.e. anyone has the power to delete it. If you are working on a project and want to keep it very safe overnight etc we have a firewire hard drive that you can backup your work up to for a short period. If you, or a group of you are working on video projects it makes total sense to buy a firewire hard drive.

Capturing from DV cam with Premiere.

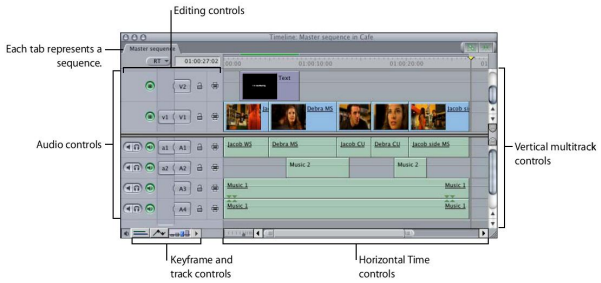
1. Make sure your camera is connected to the computer.
2. Go file>capture>movie capture
3. A window should appear, at the bottom of the window there should be controls to control the camera playback.
4. You can either go to the beginning of your footage press play and then press import. Or to be a bit more exact you can set the in and out of the capture by setting the in at the beginning and forwarding to the end to set an out. When you hit record (the red circle) the computer will then automatically rewind to the in point and capture your footage to the out point, leaving you free to do something else.
5. When your footage is all captured close the Movie Capture window and (important) detach the camera from the computer. Your captured files will be in your project folder for you to start editing.

Capturing from DV cam with Final Cut Pro.

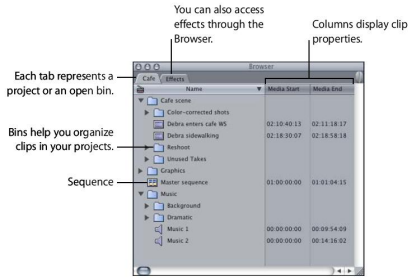
1. Make sure your camera is connected to the computer.
2. Go file>capture>movie capture
3. A window should appear, at the bottom of the window there should be controls to control the camera playback.
4. Go to the start of the footage on the camera and press play then import.
5. A window should appear showing the footage (It will be jumpy but it is only a preview of the capture). When you have got to the end of the footage press the Esc key to finish.
6. Close the import window, detach the camera and you are ready to edit.

Final Cut interface (what some of the buttons are)
Final Cut Pro can look intimidating, with lots of windows, buttons and menus that don't seem to make much sense. Indeed for most users it is possible to use Final Cut and to never or rarely use many of features available. However it is worth while finding out what they do because it might save you time on laborious tasks. In fact if you find that something you do when editing is quite laborious or tricky, there probably is a tool to make it easier.

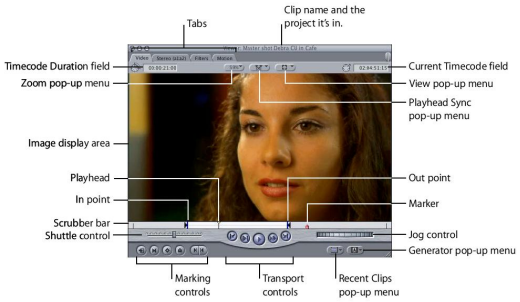
The Timeline



The Browser



The Viewer



The Canvas