

## FINAL CUT PRO HELPER

1. **Starters.** On these stations, DV tape is the only tape format you can bring in because there is only a digital firewire input. (Technically, you can bring in analog source material by transcoding it through the DV deck, but I would rather not move the decks around and would like everyone to bring in timecoded material on DV.) If you have shot material on other formats, you need to transfer the material you are going to edit onto DV tape at the dub station. You can also import audio from CDs, stills from Photoshop files or import Quicktime files over the network or via zip disk. When you dub to DV, make sure that you are recording at drop frame and try to keep continuous time code (avoid gaps which break up the numbers).

A note about DV-CAM: Most consumer DV cameras which use the mini DV tapes record at the regular mini DV speed. The Sony DSR20 decks play both mini DV and DV-CAM but do not record at regular mini DV speed which is slower. Consequently, material outputted or transferred on the DSR20 will probably not play on your consumer camera. A 60 minute mini DV tape recorded at the normal DV speed is about 60 minutes whereas a DV-CAM recording will only be about 40 minutes on the same tape. The GV-D300 decks record at normal mini DV speed and seem to be able to play back mini DVs recorded at DV-CAM speed.

2. **Disk space.** Each person is allowed to leave three to four gigs of material on the computers (about 15 minutes at full resolution depending on the complexity of image, etc.) so plan accordingly. Please be courteous. There are FireWire drives available for video classes which are hot swappable.
3. **Check start-up disk.** First, turn on monitors, DV deck, speakers, and computer (if it is off). Click on the start-up disk icon. You can do this by clicking on the **Start up alias** icon. In the window that opens, make sure FINAL CUT PRO startup is highlighted. If it is, close window and go on. If not, highlight it, then go to **special** pull down menu and hit restart. The computer will reboot. If you are transferring files over the network, you can do this on this hard drive, but you must make sure that Apple Talk is on.
4. **Opening up Final Cut Pro and starting a new project.** Click on the **Final Cut Pro** alias. This starts FINAL CUT PRO. You should get a "new project settings" box. If you don't, click on File> new project
5. **Check preferences.** You should first check your preferences.  
Edit>preferences

The preference tabs should be as follows:

General: View External Video Using: Apple Firewire (NTSC 720x480)  
(This is the most important setting on this window.)

Device control: Enable device control (check this for device control)  
Protocol: Apple Firewire  
Time source: DV time  
System: NTSC

Capture: Online quality  
Frame size: 720x480  
Aspect ratio: DV (3:2)  
Audio sample rate: 48 kHz 16 bit  
(DV must be either 48kHz or 32kHz or else it won't hold lip synch.)  
32K is low quality  
44.1K is CD quality  
48K is highest quality and will take up the most space.  
If you bring in audio from CDs, you should upsample it to 48K.

Sequence presets: DV NTSC (This should be set on “Software Preset” which is the Photo J-PEG setting for doing the tutorial.)

Scratch disks: Check DV Capture “X” (one of the DV capture drives or your Firewire drive) and click the three boxes, video/audio/render. Uncheck the first row, “Final Cut Pro Startup.”  
Minimum allowable free space allowed on scratch disks: 500 Mb

## 6. **Capturing.** File>log and capture

Turn off Apple talk when it asks. Click **yes**.

You get a new screen. You can monitor audio with headphones. Set your phone monitor levels. Unfortunately, you cannot capture video without audio. You can either capture on the fly or do a batch capture. In a batch capture, you need to make a capture list, naming your clips and

Put tape in the DV deck. You control the deck with the buttons under the image, they are the same as the VCR buttons.

NOTE: If the video does not play properly on the monitor, you have to trash the preferences. Quit the program and save it. Go to Final Cut Pro Start Up drive > “Final Cut Pro” Locate “Final Cut Pro preferences” and drag to trash. If you are just starting and have not saved your project yet, save to the Firewire drive or whatever drive you are using. Make a new folder with your name on it (please put your first and last name on it). Then relaunch Final Cut Pro and open your project.

Name reel. It will ask for a reel name. This is an important identifier if you have multiple tapes so you should name and number them, eg “tape 1.”

There are two ways to capture:

On the fly—You play the tape and when you see a part you want, you hit **capture now** in lower right corner. Press ESC to stop capturing. You get an untitled window which must be saved. If you hit Apple S, or File>save, it will be saved where you specified on your scratch disk. It will name them numerically. You can use File>Save As and specify a folder, and a name for the clip (this can be helpful).

Log and batch capture (using time code)--

Check Markers box.

If you have logged you tape, you can type in the TC #s of in out, then LOG CLIP. This will put it in a log list called BROWSER. You should check and make sure it went in.

You can also log in and out points on the fly by pressing I or O or click on marker icons.

You can name and annotate each clip.

Then you hit BATCH in Capture and choose to either capture all the clips, or the clips you have selected (using shift and mouse click routine) They will be saved to the designated capture scratch disk.

Warning: Regarding TC continuity, if the TC restarts at 00;00;00 in the middle of a tape (which it may do several times if you have taken the tape out, or turned the camera off) then batch will only work with the TC in the part of the tape that is continuous. You may have to batch capture separately for each section of TC on your tap

Name your project folder with your **last name**. Please be neat and put all of your stuff in your folder. This way I'll be able to track you more easily. Until we get more Promax stations, each user is allowed 3 gigs of space. Once you have a saved project, you can drop your project onto the Premiere icon and your project will open with its related clips.

## 7. **Editing.** File>new > sequence

Name it. It gets saved in Browser window along with your clips. Double click on sequence and you get the canvas window and time line windows in addition to the viewer window. Make sure that Canvas and Viewer windows are set at 50% in order to get a smooth running image on the NTSC monitor.

There is a good Final Cut Pro tutorial which should give you editing basics.

8. **Capturing video for usage in building websites, etc.** If you are doing work on a website and are only using this station to import video so that you can make it into a file format you can work with, you can capture with one of the other settings (eg. Multimedia) and click File > Export. Designate the kind of compression you would like to use and save it onto a zip or on the desk top in order to transfer through the network.
  9. **Importing files from other programs.** Final Cut Pro is a Quicktime platform and Quicktime files made in other programs can be imported. Since this is a Mac platform, audio files must be AIFF files. For animation, they need to be sequences of TARGA files.
  9. **Importing audio from CDs.** You must use SoundEdit (dog icon).
  10. **Checking size of project.** You are welcome to use more space than your allotted 4 gigs while you are on the computer, but you need to limit what you leave on the computer. Click on your folder and click on Apple "i" for information. If you need more space, talk to Ann. We now have VST FireWire drives for video classes. Remember, if you output to DV, there should be no generation loss so you could output sequences at the end of the day and then recapture at the beginning of a new session.
- A couple of reminders and quick fixes:
- A. With DV, the heads often get clogged very easily when you use different brands of tape. If you notice static or lines in your image when you are capturing or playing a tape, you should clean the heads with a DV head cleaning tape (ask Ann for one).
  - B. If you can't open a clip or play it, and the machine keeps crashing with an Error two, shut the computer down and turn off the DV deck. Disconnect the fire wire and reconnect the fire wire on both the deck end and computer end. Restart the computer and try again. This often gets rid of any problems you might be having.
  - C. When rendering, to save space, you should set the render quality (low to high) accordingly if you are just testing something.
  - D. If the computer is not recognizing the DV device, restart the computer. Trash the preferences. Final Cut Pro preferences are in the Final Cut Pro folder.
11. **Exporting to tape.** The easiest way is to play record and play on the DV deck and then play your sequence. If it appears on the NTSC monitor you are in business.
  12. **Miscellaneous.** Please sign up for time in the sign up notebook. With so many people working on the machines, we anticipate a high number of people working on the systems. Do not expect the machine to be free when you walk in. There are trouble reports for those who have problems or you can e-mail me at [akaneko@arts.ucla.edu](mailto:akaneko@arts.ucla.edu). These are both good ways of communicating problems to me. If you had a problem and were able to solve it, please let me know what your solutions were because it might help me out to problem solve for someone else in the future.