

VIDEO EDITING GUIDE

Featured Software: Final Cut Pro X, Adobe Premiere Pro, iMovie

In this guide, you'll learn how to...

1. Create a new project
2. Import media
3. Navigate the timeline
4. Place and arrange clips
5. Use the blade tool (Cutting)
6. Use the select tool (Moving and trimming)
7. Export a video
8. Use tips for beginners

1. Creating a New Project

To begin video editing, create a new project. Creating a new project is different depending on the program you're using, as each program offers different starting formats and options. Familiarize yourself with the terminology and use the available help resources if you need additional guidance. The steps for creating a new project in each program are listed below:

Final Cut Pro X:	Adobe Premiere Pro:	iMovie:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Go to File > New > Project.● Name your project.● Save your project inside of an event. Create an event if needed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Select "New Project."● Name your project and select a save location.● Select "OK" to begin.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Open iMovie and select Create New > Movie.● A blank project will open automatically.

2. Importing Media

After creating a new project, gather the media you plan to use and import it into the new project. You can use a variety of media, including videos, music files, and images, in editing software. Some file types may not be compatible with certain software, but typically those files can be converted into an appropriate compatible format.



Final Cut Pro X:	Adobe Premiere Pro:	iMovie:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Select Command + I on the keyboard or select “Import Media.” ● Select “Files” and select “Import Selected.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Go to File > Import or select Control/Command + I. ● Optionally, you can drag and drop files into the Project Panel. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Select “Import Media” (arrow down icon). ● Choose your files then select “Import Selected.”

3. Navigating the Timeline

The timeline is where clips are placed in a sequence for the purpose of editing. Use the zoom tool, represented by a magnifying glass icon, when navigating the timeline. Selecting the zoom tool will magnify the timeline to allow more precise editing. Conversely, you can hold the “alt” button and select the timeline with the zoom tool to display a minus sign rather than a default plus sign. This will allow you to zoom out to show more of the timeline. Typically, you should zoom in to move the playhead frame-by-frame in order to make a precise cut on the clip. The playhead is the movable line on the timeline that shows the current position on your media project. It helps you navigate, edit, and preview your video. You should usually zoom out when you want to move clips to different places on the timeline in order to change the sequence order.

For Final Cut Pro X, Adobe Premiere Pro, and iMovie:

- Arrange your video using the timeline.
- Use the space bar to play or pause.
- Scrub through the video by moving the playhead.
- Use the zoom tool to zoom in to (z) and out from (alt + z) the timeline.

4. Placing Clips on the Timeline

Most video editing is done in the timeline. The timeline is an area that is non-destructive, which means that your original media will stay intact, and you can use the “undo” command to revert your work to a previous state. You must be able to locate the playhead and manipulate the timeline view using the zoom tool (z).

Final Cut Pro X:	Adobe Premiere Pro:	iMovie:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drag clips from the browser to the timeline. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drag clips from the project panel to the timeline. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drag clips from the media library to the timeline.

5. Using the Blade Tool (Cutting Clips)

The blade or razor tool is the best tool for precision editing. The timeline allows you to move the playhead over your clips and adjust the location frame-by-frame using the arrow keys on the keyboard. Decide where to trim the clip then select the blade tool to cut the clip. After cutting the clip, select the portion you want to delete from your timeline.

Final Cut Pro X:	Adobe Premiere Pro:	iMovie:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select B to use the Blade tool. • Select where you want to cut the clip. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select C for the Razor tool. • Select the clip to slice it. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move the playhead to the portion you want to cut. • Select Command + B to split the clip.

6. Using the Select Tool (Moving and Trimming Clips)

Non-linear editing tools offer a lot of flexibility when arranging clips. The select tool is the primary way to manipulate and move clips within the timeline space. The select tool is typically represented by a standard mouse pointer icon. When you click and drag using the select tool, you can move clips in the timeline space and even create additional layers of clips for green screens and other uses. Additionally, you can select a clip to display the clip properties. If you choose the delete key, it will remove the selected clip from the timeline.

Final Cut Pro X:	Adobe Premiere Pro:	iMovie:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select A to activate the Select tool. • Select and drag clips to move or trim them. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select V to activate the Selection tool. • Drag clips or the edges of clips to move or trim them. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select a clip. • Drag the clip to move or trim the ends directly in the timeline.

7. Exporting Your Video

The final step in the video editing process is to export your video. When you export your work, make sure you select the correct file types and codecs. Many Apple products may default to a ProRes format that can have compatibility issues with other devices. A safe choice for exporting the file is an H.264 codec in an mp4 file type.

Final Cut Pro X:	Adobe Premiere Pro:	iMovie:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Go to File > Share > Master File.● Select “Settings” then select “Next,” then select “Save.”	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Go to File > Export > Media or select Command + M.● Set the format to H.264.● Select “Export.”	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Select “Share” in the top right.● Choose “File.”● Select “Settings” then select “Next.”● Name your file and select “Save.”

Tips for Beginners:

- Stay organized and use folders for media.
- Watch tutorials and other videos to help you. YouTube offers many resources and tutorials.
- Be imaginative. Video editing requires creative thinking. If you can imagine it, you can probably make it.
- Video editing skills improve over time. As you create more content, you will learn from your mistakes.
- Watch and discuss your completed projects with others. You can learn from your peers’ successes and failures. Compliment your peers on what they did well but also offer insight on opportunities for improvement.