

Exporting Movies from iMovie to Final Cut Pro

How digitizing is different in iMovie and Final Cut Pro

iMovie and Final Cut Pro capture DV-format video in different ways. When iMovie captures DV clips, one at a time or by automatically capturing an entire tape and breaking each shot into its own clip, all video and audio is saved to disk as DV Stream files. When Final Cut Pro captures DV clips, they are saved as QuickTime video files using the DV-NTSC or DV-PAL codec.

Final Cut Pro can recognize both DV Stream and QuickTime files, but the information in these files is stored differently. DV Stream files encode the audio and video of a clip together as one data stream, the way it's stored on DV-format tape. In QuickTime files, video and audio are separate tracks inside a single QuickTime movie file.

DV Stream files that are edited into a Final Cut Pro sequence must be rendered before their audio plays back properly. QuickTime files require no rendering. Also, video files captured using iMovie don't have timecode. This makes it impossible to recapture exactly the same clip twice, which may disrupt your workflow. If you must use a clip captured using iMovie, it's best to back it up when archiving your project, in case you need it for future revisions.

Final Cut Pro can import projects created with iMovie 3 and later. For more information, see "Opening an iMovie 3 Project in Final Cut Pro" on page 226.

Final Cut Pro 4, User's Manual, Volume I: Setting Up, Input, and Output, p.210

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To Avoid Rendering the Audio

1. Select "Share" from the File Menu
2. Choose QuickTime > Expert Settings and click "Share"
3. The "Save exported file as" window opens. Choose "Movie to QuickTime Movie" and click the "Options' button. Choose the settings as seen in the "Movie Settings" window to the right.
4. Click "OK" and "Save" to export
5. In Final Cut Pro, Import the saved file.

