

Done with your Final Cut Pro project? This is what you need to take with you.

So you are done with your Final Cut Pro project, now what? Here are several scenarios, starting with the least comprehensive to most comprehensive scenario.

All I need is my final edit on tape:

In this scenario, all that you need is your video edit on tape. Which case, Print to Video your project onto MiniDV. Double check it, make sure it is all there, just the way you want. If you need it on another format, take it to Groundworks and copy it to VHS or DVD for example, in our Media Conversion Rack.

In this scenario, you'll have your original in the best quality possible. At the minimum, always leave with your project on tape.

All I need is a DVD of my edit:

Never leave with just a DVD. Always leave with your edit on MiniDV tape and on a DVD if needed. You can make an easy DVD copy in the Media Conversion Rack in Groundworks using our simple realtime DVD Burners. If you want to something more complex and professional, check out iDVD and DVD Studio Pro.

I have a short project. Can't I save the media files to DVD?

You may be able to save your project and all your media files on a DVD if all your combined footage is less than 4.2 Gigabytes. 5 minutes of DV video equals 1 Gigabyte, in which case you should use an application such as Toast Titanium to back up all your files and burn them to a DVD.

I want my edit on tape, but I'd like to have a way to do some more editing if needed without having to save all my media files on a the hard drive.

There is a process in Final Cut Pro in which if you have all your original MiniDV tapes and your Project File, you can re-digitize your footage with frame accuracy using a process known as Batch digitizing. You'll want to read up in the Final Cut Pro help to learn the details of this process before starting or meet with a Duderstadt, Digital Media Commons Consultant. The downside, if you have ten hours of footage, it will take ten hours to re-digitize it. The upside, they only data you are saving is your Project File, which is usually only a few megabytes at most. Don't forget to out your final edit on MiniDV tape too.

I want to save everything in case I have to make changes later on.

This is possible, but you will need an external hard drive, preferably a Firewire Drive like those found at Promax.com. Save your Project File, your scratch disk locations and even your Render Files if desired, although you can always re-render your effects and titles later on if needed. Make sure you plan your project and hard drive needs before hand so as not to run out of room on the hard drive.

Below are all the files you'll want to think about backing up:

