

FlipCamera Files with Final Cut Pro

Introduction

There are a couple of ways to utilize the files the Flipcams create to work with FCP. Below are two typical methods for using the files with pros and cons for each. Choose the method that best fits your needs.

Method 1 – Drag and Drop

Pros

- Simple and straight-forward
- Can begin editing immediately
- Small file size

Cons

- Extremely long render times
- Every time an edit is made, a full render will be necessary
- Cannot edit to exact frames
- Can't load the clip into FCP's Viewer

Method 2 – Converting

Pros

- Short rendering times with effects
- Can edit to exact frames
- Can edit without rendering
- Can load the clip in FCP's Viewer

Cons

- Requires conversion using MPEG StreamClip

Method 1 – Drag and Drop

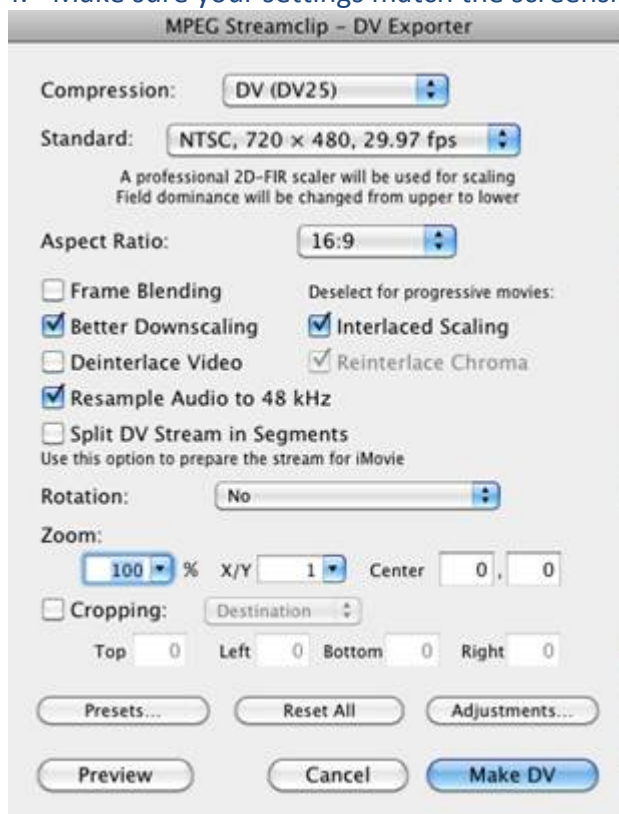
1. Copy the files from the camera into your project folder
2. **Import** the .mp4 file into FCP
3. Drag the file from the browser into the **Timeline**. You cannot edit this type of file in the Viewer by double-clicking the clip.
4. Begin editing your clip, rendering as you go.

Method 2 - Conversion

Flip cameras record as 1280x720p30 HD h.264 .MP4 44.1kHz files. The h.264 standard is not an editing codec, so therefore we have to transcode (convert) it to something we can edit with. The easiest (and free) way is probably [MPEGStreamClip](#). This can be downloaded for both Mac and PC.

Transcoding Files to Work with FCP

1. Open MPEG StreamClip.
2. Import one of the Flip videos by dragging the video from the **FLIPVIDEO > DCIM100** folder to the empty black screen of MPEG StreamClip.
3. **File > Export to DV...**
4. Make sure your settings match the screenshot below:



5. Click **Make DV**
6. Navigate to the directory you want to save your new video and give it a title.
7. Click **Save**.

Special Notes

1. MPEG StreamClip will create a new video that is 720x480 interlaced, 30 frames per second, 16x9 Widescreen with the ".dv" file extension. Using the DV format is a

good practice for the FlipCameras, because both Mac and Windows computers can easily read the .dv file extension.

2. Because this footage is widescreen, there will be black bars on top and bottom of the screen (known as letterbox), it will not “fill the screen,” so to speak.