

Using Final Cut Express in Q-Digital

Set up a shared folder

It is important in Q-Digital to set up your project to save into the correct folder. Open Final Cut Express, go to Preferences and click on the Scratch Disks tab at top. Click set and navigate to *Q > Users > Shared > Your named folder*. Set the other options at the bottom to this same directory. You should save this file to your shared folder.

Correct DV settings for output to tape/dvd

Choose Easy Setup and select DV Pal. These settings are 720 x 576 pixels x 72dpi. 25 fps (frames per second) and with a DV Pal codec (compression). This will correctly output to the tapedecks or make a file you can drop into iDvd. A dvd will hold 1 hour of high quality video or up to 1½ hours of slightly lesser quality.

Different Codecs

Be aware that if your video is for a computer presentation, the web or CD you would use different codecs and sizes to above. These will be advised at the relevant tutorials.

Photoshop files

If you wish to insert still images or titles from photoshop they should be 720 x 576 pixels x 72dpi. FCX will accept most types of file. You should save this file to your shared folder before importing into FCX.

Ripping sound files from CD

Open iTunes and select *Preferences > Importing > Import using AIFF Encoder*. Then select the track in iTunes and select *Advanced > convert selection to AIFF*. The file will normally be saved in Home > Music > iTunes folder. Once again you should move this file to your shared folder before importing into FCX.

Once you have all your *Assets* ready you can import them into the Browser window in FCX. They can then be dragged onto the Timeline for editing.

Capturing clips

Click on the Browser window then select *File > Capture*. Press *Play* and *Capture Now*. The Clips will be saved into the shared folder. Note the shared folder is only on one (your) computer.

Canvas Edit

Double-click your clip in the timeline to make it appear in the Viewer window. Create In and Out points using the **>|** and **|<** buttons. Place the Playback Head in the desired position on the timeline. Drag the image from Viewer to Canvas window and drop onto the chosen insert option.

Transitions and Effects

These are in the Browser window under the Effects tab. Drag and drop a transition or effect onto the clip in the timeline. Double-click the clip or transition to view and alter the settings in the Viewer window. Transitions in bold are Real Time. You can alter the length of a clip or transition by dragging the end-point. You can also use the Razor tool in the Toolbox. Titles can be created in the Effects folder also.

Editing

You can slow down, speed up or reverse a clip using *Modify > Speed*.

To fade in/out or change opacity, click the *Clip Overlay* button in the bottom left of the timeline to view the opacity *Rubber-Band* on each clip. This can be dragged up or down. Create points on this by selecting the Pen Tool in the toolbox and drag these to fade up/down. This works as a volume tool on an audio clip.

In Canvas window view *Image and Wireframe* to create split-screen effects. The Crop Tool can crop edges of inserts to make more sharp.

You can animate an element across screen by setting a *Key Frame* then moving playback head to new position in timeline and dragging element to new position in Canvas.

Output File > Export > Final Cut or Quicktime Movie