

Using iMovie '09

iMovie is a video editing program that is available on Apple computers. It allows you to create and edit movies with titling and effects, so that you can export them to the Web. The current version is iMovie '09. The interface changed a bit with iMovie '08, as Apple made it more visual.

iMovie imports video from DV cameras. It can also import other video files, like mpeg (often used by still cameras or flip cameras). Sometimes, those files need to be converted using MPEG StreamClip first. (Open file in MPEG StreamClip, Choose Compression – try Apple Motion Jpeg, Apple Intermediate Codec, or H.264, Compress sound with AAC, choose Mono (or Stereo, if it's music), and pick a frame size, probably best to go with current. Then you click on Make Movie and select where you want to save it.) You can import a digital clip as shown below.

To import from the camcorder, you can hook up a DV camera to the Mac via Firewire. The Firewire cable plugs into the 1394 I/O on the camera and the Firewire port in the back of the computer.

Before you start, create a New Project. File, New Project. Make sure you choose the proper aspect ration (widescreen or standard). iMovie detects HD or non-HD footage. Don't choose a transition here, unless you want the same one between every clip.



Video capture

1. Once camera is turned on and is hooked up to computer, open iMovie. Choose File, Import from Camera. You can choose a new event or an existing event when you start to import. You can play the video to the point where you want to begin capturing.
2. Using Manual Mode, as you find pieces that you want for the movie, hit import (just slightly before) and hit it again when you are finished with the clip. The tape will continue to play and you can continue importing clips. You will see the clips below with your events.
3. If your clips are already digital from the camcorder (like a Flip or still camera), you can simply use File, Import, Movie to import files to your event. This process may take a few minutes.

Video Editing

4. Now you have several clips captured in your event library. You can drag these clips in the order you would like them to appear in the movie to the Project. To select an entire clip, use Command-A. You can change the view for Events or Projects by using the sliders. Put the playhead anywhere in the clip and hit the space bar to play.
5. To trim a clip, you must first select it. You can use the selection to select a part of the clip you want to keep or remove. To keep the clip, you can trim to selection. To remove the selection, you can simply cut the selection.
6. To split a clip in two (to add an effect between or to discard part) make a selection to the point you want to split the clip. Choose, Edit, Split Slip. It is best to do all your clip editing before you apply transitions, because you might have to redo them after a trim. You can also choose Join Clip to join two separate clips in the Project.
7. In the bottom corner of the clip in the Project, there is a small icon that gives you lots of other options for cropping (frame size) and rotating as well as audio and video adj.
8. As you are editing, you can turn off audio skimming with the control to the left of the waveform.

Adding still images

9. Select a frame that you want to include as a still image with the playhead. Ctrl-click on the clip, and choose Add Freeze Frame. You get a still that you can use, change the duration.
10. You can save frames of the video as jpg images for usage on your Web site. Make a Freeze Frame as above. It actually creates a jpg for you. Ctrl-click on the clip and choose Reveal in Finder to see where it is located. You can then open in Photoshop and edit.
11. You can also drag in images from elsewhere into the Project.

Transitions

12. Show the Transitions browser by clicking on the button on the right side of the screen under the viewer. You will see several effects that you can use to transition between clips. You can also control the duration. Drag it onto the Project in between the two clips that you want to transition. Test the transition. If you want to change it, simply double click on it and change duration or type of transition.

Titles

13. You can add some title screens by choosing the Titles browser. Your titles can go over a blank screen or pattern or over a frame in the video. Experiment with the different titles. iMovie adds a Title clip above.

Effects

14. Select a clip and choose the tiny corner icon. Select Clip Adjustments. You can change the speed, direction, or duration of the clip. You can try to add stabilization to a shaky

- clip. There are also several video effects you can try. Play around with the effects and then click Apply.
15. There are also Video Adjustments that allow you to change the quality of the frames, color, exposure, brightness, saturation, etc.
 16. Audio Adjustments allow you to control overall volume and add fade-in or fade-out.

Audio

17. You can add audio by either using the sounds provided in iMovie or recording sound with a microphone or a sound from a connected device to the microphone port. Simply choose a sound or record the sound from the device, using the Voiceover button (looks like microphone in middle of screen). iMovie adds a little audio clip below. This can be moved to another place in the Project.
18. You can also import an MP3, .mov, or .aiff. Just drag into the Project. Double-click and you can adjust the clip duration or the audio.
19. You can use the audio from one clip over another (maybe using b-roll clip, but want audio from interview), by dragging the clip with the audio from the Events over the top of the b-roll in the Project. Choose Audio only. You can also insert and replace clips here.
20. You can control the volume or turn off the sound of a particular track (ie the video track) if you want only the audio tracks to play. Use the Audio Adjustments to reduce volume

Exporting

21. Your project is automatically saved as you go. Now you will need to export it to either mov, mp4, or m4v format. These are under Share. Choose a small size (like Mobile) in Export Movie or Use Export Using Quicktime and make appropriate selections. It is important to keep files as small as possible without sacrificing too much quality. Export Using Quicktime gives you the ability to customize. We will discuss codecs and frame sizes. The Export process takes a few minutes to complete.

Now all you have to do is load it up to the Web and add a link to your site to either open the file in Quicktime or to embed the player in your page. Or, you can import into Flash. More to come on that. You can also load these edited movies to a video sharing site like YouTube.

Using GarageBand to edit audio

GarageBand has some easy tools to help you cut or trim clips and make mp3s for audio. You can edit your audio for video before bringing in to iMovie with GarageBand, or just edit in iMovie itself. In GarageBand, simply do your edits and choose share to get a compressed or uncompressed file.