iMovie 2011 Basics

Inserting video, images and audio and putting them together to create a final video.

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Set up iMovie
To take advantage of the full range of editing features in iMovie you need to enable the “Advanced Tools”.

1. Click on **iMovie > Preferences**.
2. Under the **General** tab, check “Show Advanced Tools”.
3. Turn on “Show Advanced Tools”, then close **Preferences**.
   This will be critical when you begin placing photos or videos on top of other videos.

Create your project
1. Click on **File > New Project**.
2. Choose a theme or click “No Theme”.
3. Name your project.
4. Choose your aspect ratio (Standard or Widescreen), based on what your videos are, then click **Create**.
   Notice the blank area in your top left corner of iMovie. This is the Project Browser where you will put together a storyboard of your video, adding photos, video clips, music, etc.

Import videos
When you import a video to iMovie it stores it as an “event” in the **Event Library**.

1. Click on **File > New Event**.
2. Name your event (this will be where you store your videos and photos).
3. Right-click on the event name and choose “Import Movies...” (Here you could also choose to import video from your camera with the “Import from Camera...” option).
   **Note:** Make sure that you are using videos that are compatible with Macs, like .mov or .mp4 files. iMovie also accepts .3gp video files from cell phones. When in doubt, just try importing the video and see what happens.
4. Locate and select your video files, then click **Import**. Your videos will be copied from your original location into the event that you created.

Add videos to your project
Once you have imported videos to your event library your footage will appear in the Event Browser (the bottom main section of iMovie).

1. In the Event Browser, select an entire clip or a range of video frames.
   a. To select the entire clip right-click on the clip and choose “Select Entire Clip”. A yellow outline should appear around the whole clip.
   b. To select a range of frames click on the clip and adjust the sides of the yellow outline to highlight the portion of
the clip that you wish to use.

**Note:** To preview a video clip or your movie project, move your pointer to the spot where you wish to start then press the **Space** bar.

2. Once you have made your selection click and drag the clip from the Event Browser to the Project Browser.

3. Continue **Steps 1 and 2** to add more videos to your project.

**Add a title to your video**

iMovie has a variety of title styles for adding onscreen text to any videos in your project.

1. Click on the **Title** button at the right side of the iMovie toolbar.

2. Select the title style that you would like to use (you can preview the animated ones by moving your pointer across the title thumbnails).

3. Click and drag the thumbnail of your chosen title style up to the left of your first video and release.

4. Choose a background for your title by clicking on the thumbnail image. Your title clip should now appear before your first video.

5. Change the placeholder text by clicking on the text box in your Viewer and typing in your own title.

6. When finished, click on the **Done** button in the top right corner.

**Add photos or video**

Break up the action of your video footage by cutting away to a photo or another video. The picture or video can be set to appear at a certain point while the audio from your original video continues in the background.

**Add a photo**

*(Note: If you wish to use a photo that is not in your iPhoto Library, simply locate the file on your computer and then click and drag it into iMovie’s Project Browser onto your main video clip.)*

1. Click on the **Photos** button on the right side of the iMovie toolbar.

2. Locate the picture in your iPhoto library that you wish to use, then click and drag it onto the video clip in your Project Browser (not above the clip... directly onto the clip).

3. iMove will offer a list of insert options. Choose “Cutaway”.

4. The photo will now appear above your video clip in the Project Browser.

5. Determine the point at which you would like for the photo to appear in the video then click on the photo clip and drag it left or right to reposition it.

6. The default length of a still image is 4 seconds. To change that, double-click on the photo and when the **Inspector**
window pops up, adjust your photo’s duration.

7. Repeat **Steps 2–6** to add more photos.

**Add a video**

1. Click on the Event in your Event Library where your video is located and select the clip that you wish to use. (see the “**Add videos to your project**” section for instructions on how to select all or a portion of your clip.)
2. Click and drag the clip up to your Project Browser and onto your main video (remember, not above, directly onto the video).
3. iMovie will offer a list of insert options. Choose “Cutaway”.
4. The video will now appear above your main video clip in the Project Browser.
5. Adjust the position of your cutaway video by clicking and holding the mouse button while you drag it left or right.
6. To remove the audio from your cutaway video so that it doesn’t detract from your main video’s audio, double-click on the cutaway video in your Project Browser. The clip’s **Inspector** window will pop up.
7. Under the **Audio** section click and drag the video’s volume all the way down to zero.
8. Then click **Done**.
9. Repeat **Steps 1-8** to add more videos.

**Additional options**

**Add credits**

1. Click on the **Title** button at the right side of the iMovie toolbar.
2. Locate the **Scrolling Credits** title style, click and drag the thumbnail up to the right of your video and release.
3. Choose a background for your credits by clicking on the thumbnail image. Your credits clip should now appear after your video.
4. Change the placeholder text by clicking on the text box in your Viewer and typing in your credits.
5. When finished, click on the **Done** button in the top right corner.
6. To adjust the speed of the credits, double-click on the credits in your Project Browser and change the duration, then click **Done**.

**Add narration**

You can add narration to your video project that can play over a still image or video. In this instance, we will have the audio play over a photo. If you don’t already have a still image displaying on its own, start by selecting a photo from your iPhoto Library and clicking and dragging it between your title and video in the Project Browser. Set the duration to 20 seconds by double-clicking on the photo. This will give you enough time for your voice recording.
1. Click on the clip that you wish to record a narration over then click on the **Record a Voiceover** button at the center of the iMovie toolbar.

2. In the Voiceover window that pops up, select the microphone that you wish to use (if you have an external mic attached) or choose “Built-in Microphone”.

3. Practice speaking a few words to observe the volume levels on the **Voiceover** window, and adjust your **Input Volume** accordingly. (Green = good, red = too loud.)

4. To start recording click on the clip where you want the narration to begin.

5. After the “3, 2, 1” countdown, begin speaking.

6. When finished, press the **Space** bar. A purple voiceover bar will appear below your clips.

7. Click on the **Close (X)** button in your **Voiceover** window to return to your project.

8. To adjust the length of your still image to match your narration, simply double-click on the photo and change the duration to match your recording (in this example we would change the duration to 6.4s).

9. To delete the recording, simply click on the recording in your Project Browser and hit the delete key.

**Add other audio**

You can add songs from your iTunes library as background music to enhance your video.

1. Click on the **Music and Sound Effects** button on the right side of the iMovie toolbar.

2. Click on the **iTunes** icon, then locate the song in your library that you wish to use.

3. To have your song play during a specific portion of your video as background music, click and drag the song directly onto the clip where you wish for it to start (the same way you add a photo to appear over a video), then release. The music track will appear as a green bar below your photo.

4. Adjust the length of your music track by double-clicking on the green bar then changing the duration.

(Note: If you wish to have a song play behind the entire video as background music, simply click and drag the chosen song into the empty area of your Project Browser then release. The music track will appear as a green clip around the entire video and will automatically be set to the length of your video.)

**Adjust audio levels**

You will notice when playing your video that the background music will automatically drop the volume whenever it plays below a voiceover. However it does not do the same below a video track. To change this:

1. Double-click on the video clip in your project where music will be playing in the background.

2. Click on the **Audio** section of the **Inspector** window then check to enable “Ducking”. This will drop the volume of any audio that plays behind this video clip.

3. Click **Done** to close the **Inspector** window. Now when you play the video, the background music will not overpower the main video audio.
4. Repeat Steps 1–3 for any other videos that have the music track in the background.

**Add transitions**

1. Click on the **Transitions** button at the right side of the iMovie toolbar.
2. Select the transition style that you wish to use (we recommend **Cross Dissolve**), click and drag it between two clips then release. A transition icon will appear between the two clips.
3. Continue **Step 2** to add transitions between the rest of your clips.
4. You can also add transitions to images and videos that you have set as cutaways over your main videos. To do this:
   a. Double-click on the cutaway clip to open the **Inspector** window.
   b. Under the **Clip** section, set the “Cutaway Fade” to “Manual”, then click **Done**.
   c. Repeat Steps a and b for the rest of your cutaway clips.
5. For a finishing touch, we recommend that you give your project a nice fade-in and fade-out. To do this:
   a. Locate the **Fade to Black** style in your Transitions Browser then click and drag it first to the very beginning of your video project and release.
   b. Return to your Transitions Browser, select the **Fade to Black** style again then click and drag the style to the end of your credits.
6. Your video project is now complete!

**Export the finished movie**

Now that your video project is finished you need to export the final video as a movie file so that you can share it with others.

1. Click on **Share > Export Movie**. (You can also choose “Export as Quicktime” — it just takes longer. Choosing “Export Movie” will save your movie as a .m4v file which also works just fine.)
2. Name your movie file.
3. Select the location where you wish to save your movie file.
4. Choose the size that you wish to export (we recommend “Large”, which is the original size of your video.).
5. Then click **Export**.

Your exported movie file can be played using a Quicktime player on any computer, uploaded to YouTube or inserted into a PowerPoint presentation.

To watch a video version of this **iMovie 2011 Basics tutorial**, visit: [www.personal.kent.edu/~gmote/imovie/](http://www.personal.kent.edu/~gmote/imovie/)