

Final Cut Pro – Advanced Features

Titles in Final Cut Pro

Here is an excellent tutorial on how to insert titles and text into your final Cut Pro project: <http://multimedia.journalism.berkeley.edu/tutorials/finalcut/titles/>

Action Safe and Title safe area

This is an excellent explanation of action safe and title safe areas from After Effect's help manual (http://help.adobe.com/en_US/AfterEffects/9.0/WSA964B7EB-1AD1-489a-AEC1-2E8E92172D35.html):

Television sets enlarge a video image and allow some portion of its outer edges to be cut off by the edge of the screen. This kind of cropping is known as *overscan*. The amount of overscan is not consistent between television sets, so you should keep important parts of a video image within certain margins, in areas known as *safe zones*. Safe-zone margins represent the percentage of image dimensions not included in the safe zone. You should always design from one edge of the frame to the other, because computer monitors and some television sets may show the entire frame.

The conventional action-safe zone is 90% of the width and height of the frame, which corresponds to a margin of 5% on each side. Keep important visual elements within this zone.

The conventional title-safe zone is 80% of the width and height of the frame, which corresponds to a margin of 10% on each side. Keep text that you intend for the audience to read within this zone.

Compositions with a frame aspect ratio equal to or near 16:9 have two additional *center-cut* safe-zone indicators. The center-cut indicators show which parts of a 16:9 composition may be cut off when the image is shown on a 4:3 display. Such cropping is a concern when creating images for high-definition displays that may also be shown on standard-definition television sets. By default, the center-cut action-safe margin is 30% (15% on each side), and the center-cut title-safe margin is 35% (17.5% on each side).

For working with action safe and title safe areas in Final Cut Pro see:
<http://documentation.apple.com/en/finalcutpro/usermanual/index.html#chapter=75%26section=3%26tasks=true>

Creating Content in Photoshop for Final Cut Pro

When you create still image content in Photoshop for inclusion in your Final Cut Pro projects remember the following pixel dimensions:

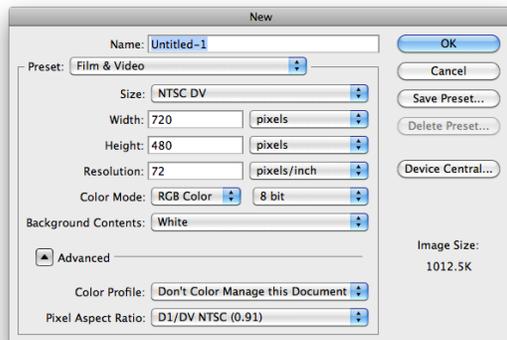
- 720x480 (scaled from 720x540) for 4:3 content
- 720x480 (scaled from 853x480) for 16:9 content

You need to work in the original resolution first (bold numbers above) and then unproportionally scale your content in the last step to accommodate for the pixel aspect ratio difference between computer graphics and content in a video frame.

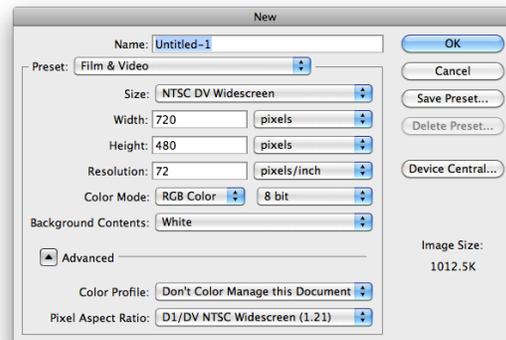
Later versions of Photoshop also have presets that you can choose when you create a new file that automatically work with the correct dimensions and aspect ratios:

In Photoshop go to: File > New

Under “size” choose NTSC DV for 4:3 content and NTSC DV Widescreen for 16:9 content. You see that both have exactly the same pixel size but they differ significantly in their pixel aspect ratio settings.



4:3 NTSC preset

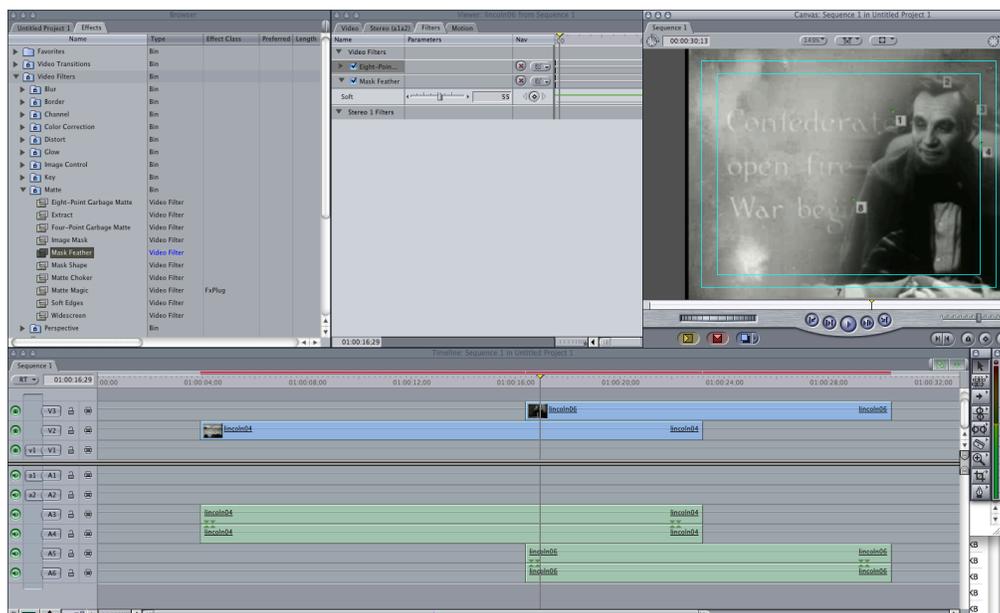


16:9 NTSC preset

Masks and Mattes in Final Cut Pro

Mask/Mattes allow you to crop video footage geometrically to make compositions with other visual elements and video footage in the same frame.

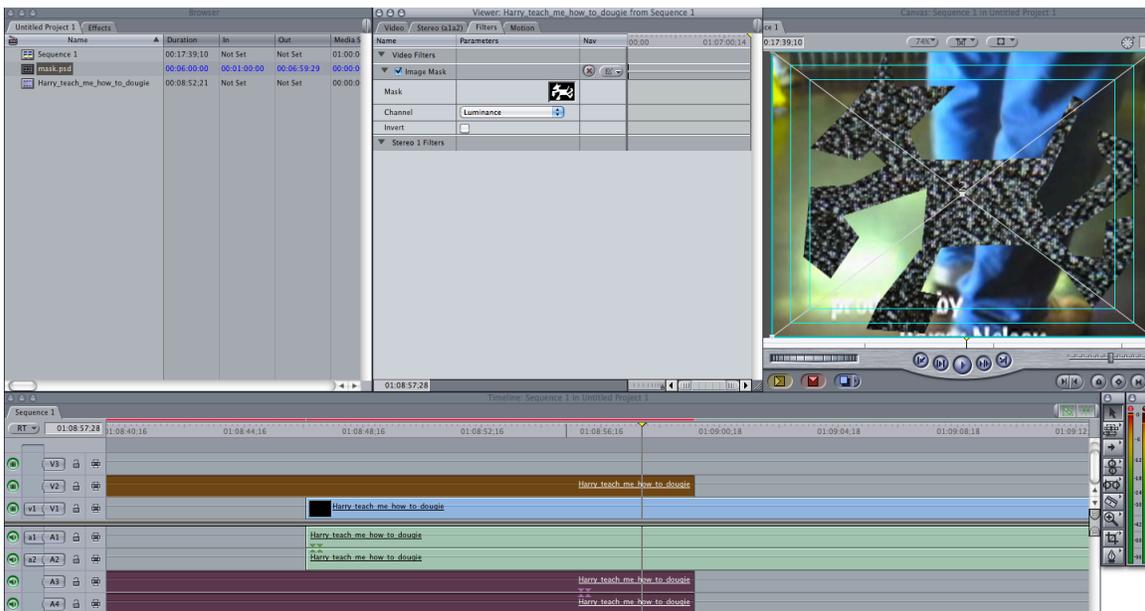
Final Cut Pro has a 4 point and an 8 point Garbage Matte both of which you can find in the Effects section in the Browser window. You can further modify the edge of the mask by choosing “Mask Feather” in the same folder in the Effects tab.



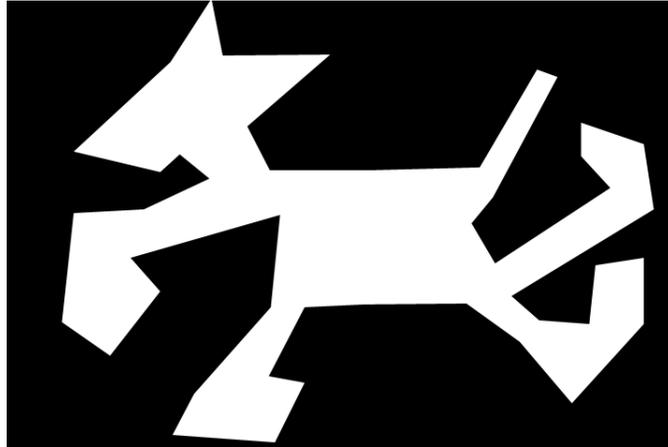
The source footage of this example is from D. W. Griffith's film *Abraham Lincoln*, (1930).



You can also draw custom masks in Photoshop and apply them using the “Image Mask” filter. Black parts in the Photoshop image turn transparent and white parts turn opaque. You can create feathered outlines with grayscale values.



This is what the source image looks like (save as .psd):



Keyframes in Final Cut Pro

A good introduction to keyframes in FCP can be found here:

http://www.kenstone.net/fcp_homepage/basic_keyframing.html

Other helpful resources for working with Final Cut Pro:

- The shirtless apprentice – lots of helpful video tutorials on all things related to video production: <http://blip.tv/the-shirtless-apprentice>
- Lynda.com – an extensive online source with in depth video tutorials on everything from photoshop to video production to computer game development – you can access the resource through the Purdue library’s website: <http://catalog.lib.purdue.edu/Find/Record/2473634>