

Step-by-Step

Final Cut Pro: Getting Started

This Step-by-Step Card describes how to set up your system and preferences in Final Cut Pro. For more information, see the Final Cut Pro user's manual or the program's electronic help system. To use the help system, choose Final Cut Pro Help from the Help menu.

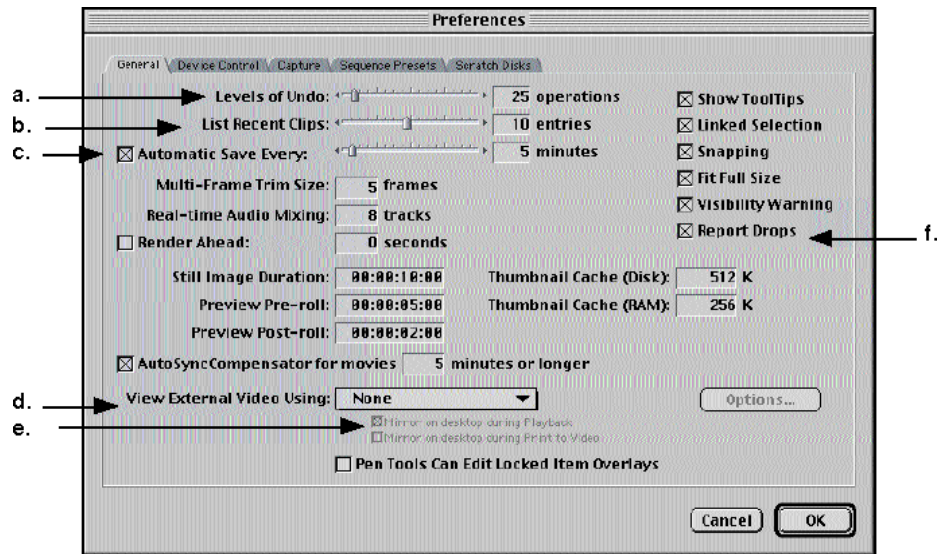
Setting preferences in Final Cut Pro

- 1** Open the Final Cut Pro application.

You may be prompted to turn off virtual memory if it is on. This is imperative because video and audio files can become easily fragmented if virtual memory is on. (If you need to turn off virtual memory, you will then need to restart your computer and open Final Cut Pro again.)

- 2** Choose Preferences from the Edit menu.

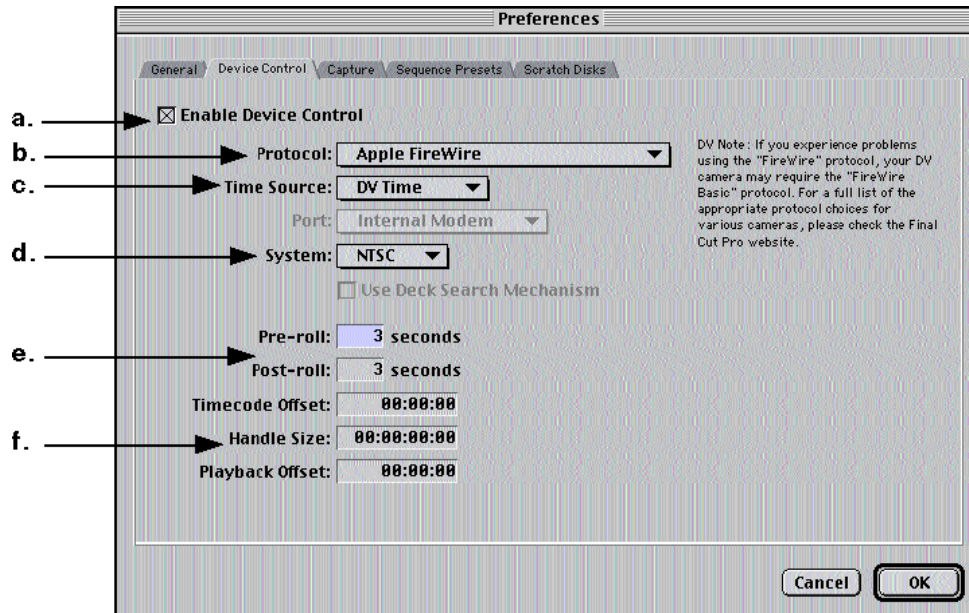
Setting general preferences



The General Preferences tab section appears.

- a. Levels of Undo** is an important preference because it helps to recover mistakes. The total number of undo features depends on how much RAM is installed in your computer.
- b. List Recent Clips** allows you to decide how many recently accessed clips you want accessible from the Recent Clips pop-up menu.
- c. Automatic Save Every** allows you to set a preference to automatically update your file. Move the slider to adjust the length or select the number in the box and type your preferred time.
- d. View External Video Using** determines how you view external video. This is recommended when printing to tape. If an external NTSC monitor is attached to the video source, you will be able to view how the final output will look on tape.
- e. Mirror on desktop during Print to Video** allows you to view the source on both your NTSC monitor and the computer monitor. It is recommended that you deselect this option when printing to tape. The computer may drop frames while printing to tape if it has to work at showing the video source in two places at the same time.
- f. Report Drops** will give you a message if frames are dropped during playback.

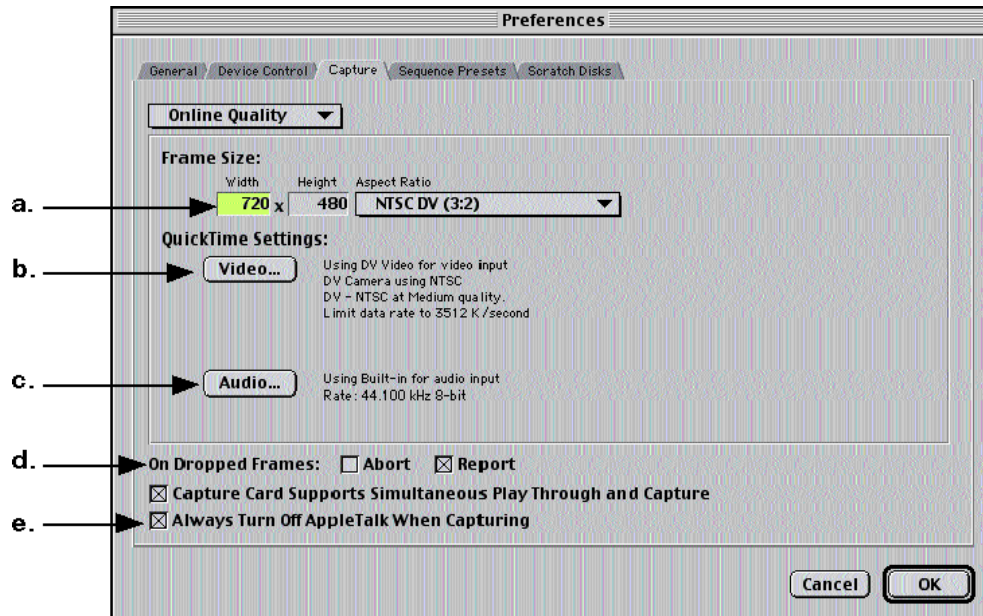
Setting device control preferences



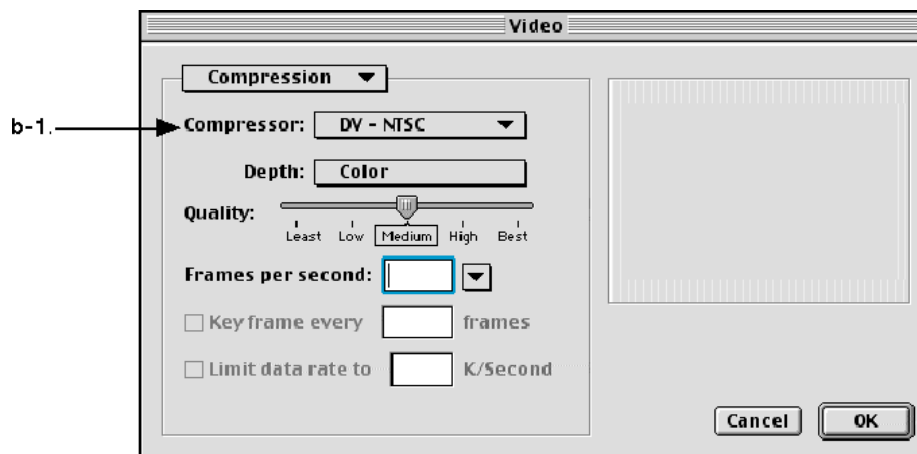
This preference section is devoted to setting your preferences to match and enable you to control the camera you will use to import or capture video and bring the footage into Final Cut Pro.

- a. Enable Device Control** allows you to activate device control. Select this option to enable and make sure your camera (or device) supports device control.
- b. Protocol** is used to determine the device control protocol your camera uses. The default protocol is Apple FireWire.
- c. Time Source** is used to specify the time code format supported by your deck or camera. This allows Final Cut Pro to find clips from the original tape in the exact spot the footage was recorded.
- d. System** is used to determine the broadcast standard for your system. If you are printing to tape and plan to play your videos in the United States, you would choose NTSC.
- e. Pre-roll/Post-roll** is the number that reflects the amount of video played before and after the current position.
- f. Handle Size** is important when doing a batch capture or capturing many clips at the same time. The handle size refers to the amount of padding or footage on either end of the capture. This is important for flexibility when trimming clips.

Setting capture preferences



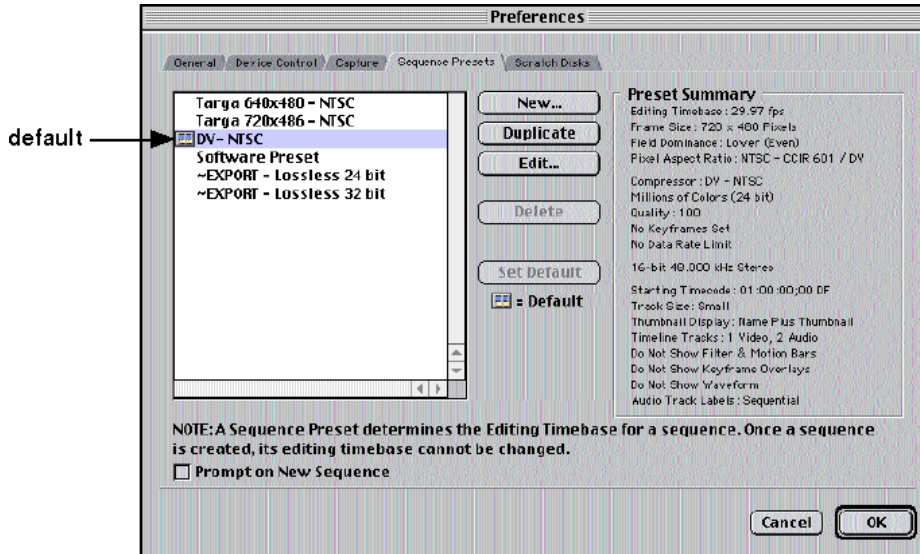
- a. **Frame Size** is the value in Width and Height of your incoming video source. 720 x 480 is the default frame size for DV/NTSC video capture.
- b. **Video** settings allows you to specify the video source and frame rate. 29.97 fps (frames per second) is the default for full motion video.



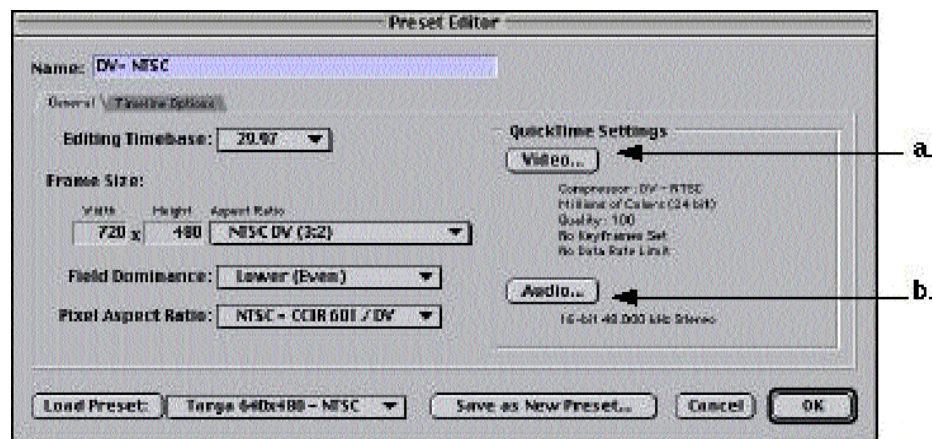
- b-1. **Compression** from the pop-up menu allows you to choose a codec to determine your compression settings during video capture.
- c. **Audio** settings allow you to specify the quality of the audio that is imported into Final Cut Pro. The default setting is 44 kHz or CD quality sound.
- d. **On Dropped Frames** allows you to decide what to do if Final Cut Pro recognizes dropped frames during capture. Dropped frames can occur because of many issues, one of which is having many programs open in the background, or having AppleTalk on.

- e. **Always Turn Off AppleTalk When Capturing** is a must when capturing video. AppleTalk on in the background is also a major culprit in dropped frames. Final Cut Pro turns AppleTalk back on after you quit the program.

Setting sequence presets



Sequence presets are a group of presets you apply to a sequence of exported files. You can select a sequence preset or create your own. The default preset has a preset icon and the preset you select affects all sequences until you change the preset. Click Edit in the Preferences dialog box.



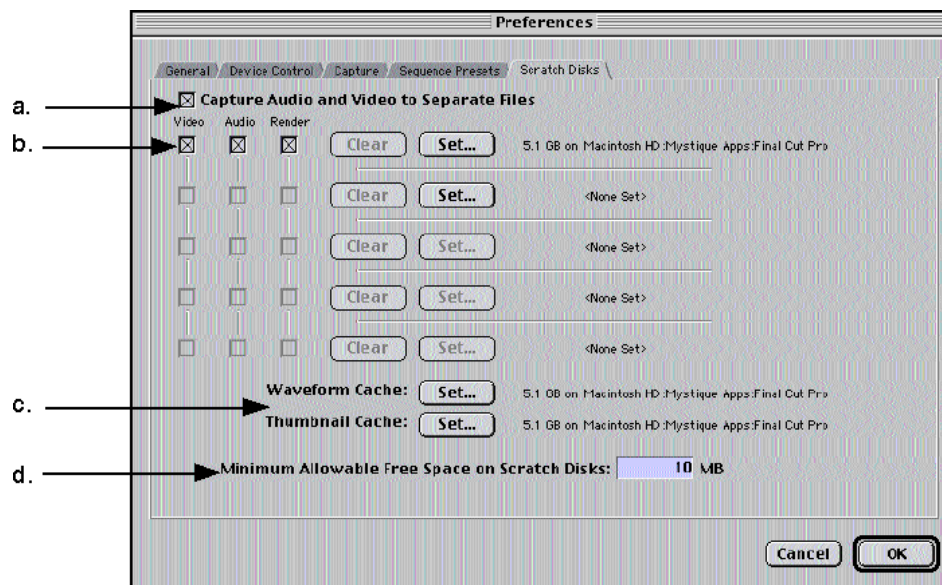
The Preset Editor appears. The dialog box allows you to create and edit sequence presets. The two tabs in the window, General and Timeline Options, allow you to specify settings within the preset.

- a. **QuickTime Video Compression** settings allow you to set specific codecs to match the sequence preset you choose. This is helpful when using different cameras, output sources, storage space sizes, and so on. These settings are the same as the previously discussed compression settings.

- b. QuickTime Audio Compression** settings allow you to specify codecs to match the sequence preset you choose. You can select to compress audio to mono, a single channel of audio or stereo, or dual channels of audio. Stereo channels are also referred to as *left* and *right* channels.

Setting scratch disks preferences

The scratch disk is where Final Cut Pro stores captured or rendered files. The disk or volume chosen needs to have a large amount of storage space for data and should be your fastest drive. For video throughput that is able to send and receive data for broadcast quality and smooth playback, the spindle speed of your hard disk should be a minimum of 7,200 rpm; 10,000 rpm spindle speed would be better yet. The default storage location for scratch disks is the Final Cut Pro folder where the application is installed. You are also able to specify separate disks for video and audio capture for higher data rates and improved playback performance.



- a. Capture Audio and Video to Separate Files** allows you to optimize playback for QuickTime files with higher data rates. This allows you to write data files to separate locations. The video and audio files from the same clip will have the same name with “v” attached for a video track and “a” attached for an audio track.
- b. Video, Audio, Render** are selected to specify the types of files to be stored on the scratch disk.
- c. Thumbnail Cache** are set to specify a folder or disk to store thumbnail cache files.
Waveform Cache is set to specify a folder or disk to store waveform cache files (graphical representations of audio signals).
- d. Minimum Allowable Free Space on Scratch Disks** is set to allow a minimum to be reached. Once this is reached, Final Cut Pro looks for the next disk in the list.