FCPX: 2.8 GENERATORS

Generators is a feature of Final Cut Pro X that has multiple uses. Generators are moving and still clips. Generators can be used as backgrounds for texts, as place holders for missing content, as a timecode counter, and whatever else you want to use them for.

Generator Browser

Generators can be found in the Generator Browser. Click on the Generator icon in the Toolbar to show or hide the Generator Browser. Generators are divided into four categories: Background, Elements, Solids, and Textures.

To apply a generator as a background, drag and drop the generator under the Title or other media you want it to be a background to. To apply a generator as an overlay, drag and drop the generator above the clip you want it to overlay. To apply a generator as a stand along clip, drag and drop the generator on the Timeline track.

Preview a Generator by hovering your cursor above the generator's thumbnail to view it in the Playback window.

Modify Generators

To modify a Generator, add the Generator to your Timeline, select the generator, and go to the Inspector window. Each Generator has its own settings. Some generators, like Nature, are subcategories. Go to the Inspector to choose from Generators available under that subcategory.

Generators can also be treated like videos, and can be transformed under the “Video” tab in the Inspector.
To make a Generator an overlay, change the Opacity of the generator by using the Opacity bar at the very bottom of the Video settings of the Generator in the Inspector.

You can also retime and apply effects to generators the same way you would regular videos.