FCPX: 3.2 MULTICAM EDITING

In this tutorial, you will learn how to synchronize and cut between multiple video and audio clips that were shot at the same time. When shooting the video, be sure to use a film slate or a clap when all devices are recording to make synchronizing easier and more precise. Multi-camera shots can be a combination or just videos, videos and audio, or just audio.

1. Organize Clips

Keywords

When you are working with a lot of clips, it may be easier to organize the media you are using to create your Multicam clip.  

First, start by adding a “Multicam” keyword to all the media you are using to create your Multicap clip. To do so, select the clip(s) and click on the key icon in the toolbar to add a keyword.

After adding a “Multicam” keyword to all your media, you can easily find them in the “Multicam” keyword folder in your Library Browser. Click on the folder to view all your media.

Media Info

If you plan on using Automatic settings to create your multicam clip, you an skip this step. However, in order to use the Custom settings to create your multicam clip, it is important that you add info to your media.

The info that you need to add is either Camera Angle or Camera Name. Adding this info will help you put all the footage from the same device on one layer rather than on separate layers.

To add this info, select the clip in your Library Browser, open the Inspector, and click on the Info tab. The default is set to “Basic” Metadata View. Change this to “Extended” in the lower-left corner of the Inspector.

Scroll down until you see Camera Angle and Camera Name. Type in the box to add this information to the clip.
2. Create Multicam Clip

Select all the media that you are synchronizing in the Library Browser. Make sure that all of the video and audio were recording simultaneously, or the multicam clip will come out messy.

After selecting all the media, right-click, and click on “New Multicam Clip…”

3. Multicam Settings

A window will pop up where you can modify the Multicam settings. Change the name of the final Multicam clip so that you are able to find it when you need to, and select the event you want to save your multicam clip to. Check the box that says “Use audio for synchronization” when possible (if all of the clips have audio, and all the audio was recorded at the same time).

There are many hidden settings that are automatically set to the default Automatic settings. To view or change these settings, click on “Use Custom Settings”.
4. Custom Settings

To view or change the default Automatic settings, click on “Use Custom Settings”.

Angle Assembly:
- **Automatic**: Final Cut Pro creates and names the angles automatically.
- **Camera Angle**: Final Cut Pro uses the Camera Angle information added to the clips in Step 1 to assemble the clips. All footage from the same angle will be on the same layer.
- **Camera Name**: Final Cut Pro uses the Camera Name information added to the clips in Step 1 to assemble the clips. All footage from the same angle will be on the same layer.
- **Clips**: Final Cut Pro creates a separate angle for each selected clip, using the Name property in each clip to name the angle (if Angle and Name is not added to the clip information, this is the automatic setting).

Angle Clip Ordering:
- **Automatic**: Final Cut Pro orders the clips within each angle automatically. If there is more than one clip per angle, Final Cut Pro inserts gap clips between the clips, as needed, to achieve the correct timing and spacing.
- **Timecode**: Final Cut Pro orders the clips within each angle using timecode recorded in the clips. If you recorded timecode in your clips, choose this option. It's the fastest and most frame-accurate method of ordering clips.
- **Content Created**: Final Cut Pro orders the clips within each angle using the date and time information recorded by your camcorder or video recording device.

Angle Synchronization:
- **Automatic**: Final Cut Pro synchronizes the angles automatically (using one or more of the following methods).
- **Timecode**: Final Cut Pro synchronizes the angles based on the timecode recorded in the clips.
- **Content Created**: Final Cut Pro synchronizes the angles based on the date and time information recorded by your camcorder or video recording device.
- **Start of First Clip**: Final Cut Pro uses the first frame in each angle as the sync point.
- **First Marker on the Angle**: Final Cut Pro uses the first marker in each angle as the sync point.
If you want the multicam clip’s timecode to start at a value other than the earliest timecode value in the selected clips (the default), type a timecode value in the Starting Timecode field.

If you want to change the video properties settings or the audio or render settings, select Custom in the Video Properties and Audio and Render Properties section and change the settings as appropriate.

Click “OK”.

**Modify Multicam Clip**

After creating your multicam clip, you will find it in the Event that you selected in the settings with the name that you changed it to (or as Untitled Multicam Clip if you didn’t).

Preview it by selecting it and playing it in the playback. If your videos are not lined up correctly, right-click the Multicam clip and select “Open in Angle Editor”. Here, you can move clips so that they are lined up the way you want it to be.

Click on the left arrow in the upper left corner of the Timeline to save the changes.

**Cut Between Angles**

After creating your multicam clip, you will find it in the Event that you selected in the settings with the name that you changed it to (or as Untitled Multicam Clip if you didn’t).

To begin editing your Multicam clip, click and drag it to your Timeline.

In the Playback menu, find the “View” drop-down in the upper-right corner. Click on it and select “Show Angles”.

A panel will appear next to the playback panel where you can view all your angles.

To cut between angles in your Timeline, put your playhead at the very beginning of the clip. Start by clicking on the angle you want to start with.
Play your clip, and as the clip plays, click on the angle you want to switch to in your Angles panel. Pause and select the exact frame to be more precise with your cuts.

**Audio**

You may notice that when you change clips, the audio changes too. To stick with one audio, whether that be from a specific angle or from an external microphone, select your whole multicam sequence, open the Inspector, go to Audio, and under “Channel Configuration” deselect the audio you don’t want to use, and select the audio you DO want to use (a selected channel will have a check box to the left and will be a lighter shade of blue).