FCPX: 3.5 CORRECTION MASK

Sometimes you may want to change the appearance of only one element in your image without altering the entire image. Color masks are used to achieve this goal.

Add Correction Layer

To add a Color Correction Color Board, start by clicking on the Effects Browser icon in the Toolbar. Go to the Color category under Video, and select the Color Correction effect. Click and drag it on the clip you want to correct.

A shortcut to the Color Board is Command + 6 on your keyboard. Once you make changes, the Color Board will appear under Effects in your inspector.

Add a Mask

With Final Cut Pro X, you have the option to mask out a shape or a color to apply color adjustments to only the masked area.

If you hover over the end of the bar that says “Color Correction”, a mask icon will appear. Click on it to view the drop down menu to choose from shape mask or color mask.

**Shape mask** allows you to define a region between a circle or a rectangle that you want to affect. The default shape is a circle. Click and drag on the white dot to turn the circle into a square or rectangle.
Use the green dots on the border of the shape to change the width and length of the shape. The mask consists of two shapes. The inner shape is the area that the adjustments will be applied to, the outer shape is where it will slowly feather out to blend with the rest of the image. To extend or reduce the feather area, click and drag on the outer shape inwards or outwards.

Use the green dot in the center of the shape to rotate the shape.

Your shape mask will appear under the Color Correction that you created. Click on this icon to show or hide the lines of your shape mask.

Click on the blue box next to the mask to enable or disable the mask.

**Color Mask** allows you to select a specific color to make adjustments to only areas in your image with that color. When you click on “Add Color Mask”, your cursor will turn into an eyedropper so you can select a color in your image to mask.

Drag the eyedropper left and right to adjust how much of the color you want to include.

**Make Adjustments to Mask**

After you have selected the area you want to mask, click on the right arrow next to “Color Board” to make adjustments.

Use the Color tab to make changes to the color, the Saturation to add or remove color, or the Exposure to adjust the brightness or contrast of the masked area.

Across the bottom of the Color Board, you can choose to apply adjustments to the Inside of the mask or the Outside of the mask (everything but the selected area).

Finally, if you want a quicker adjustment to your mask, you can choose from the Presets available in the drop down menu located at the bottom right corner of the Color Board, or you can make adjustments and save them as a preset to use in later shots.

To make a separate adjustment to a different mask, add another Color Correction layer and repeat the process.