Don't know where to start?
Read these tutorials:

**How to remove trial restrictions**
Save your video without a watermark and use the program after 14 days.

**Make a video from scratch**
Learn how to do basic editing using the Timeline.

**Record a video or a screencast**
Set your software and hardware for a seamless recording.

More questions?
Write us an e-mail at support@movavi.com
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Activating Movavi Academic

When you first start Movavi Academic, it will be running in TRIAL MODE. To use the program without trial restrictions, you will need to buy the full version and activate Movavi Academic.

Step 1: Click the button below to buy an activation key. After the purchase is completed, the key will be delivered to you via e-mail. If you already have a key, skip to the next step.

Buy Activation Key

Step 2: Launch Movavi Academic and click the key icon in the launch window. Or open the Help menu in the editing mode and select Activate software.

Step 3: Enter your activation key and click Activate.
Activating without Internet access
If the computer you have installed Movavi Academic on is not connected to the Internet, you can activate the program via e-mail.
See detailed instructions

I bought Movavi Academic, but my videos already have a watermark
After you have activated the program, you can open the movie project and re-export the movie without the watermark.
How to export videos

Trial restrictions
When you first start your copy of Movavi Academic, it will be running in LIMITED TRIAL MODE. In trial mode, you can try out all of the main features, but the following trial restrictions will apply:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TRIAL VERSION</th>
<th>FULL VERSION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Movavi Academic will stop working after 14 days" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Lifetime license" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="A watermark with the words 'trial version' will be added to all exported videos" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="No annoying watermarks" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Audio files will only be saved halfway" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Free updates" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Unlimited capture time" /></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Discounts on other Movavi products and upgrades" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To remove the restrictions, buy an activation key and use it to activate Movavi Academic.

Getting an activation key
You can get an activation key either from our official website or from any of our partners in your region. Follow the steps below to buy an activation key from the Movavi website:

Step 1: Go to the purchase page
To open the purchase page for Movavi Academic:
- In the Movavi Academic menu, choose Buy Activation Key,
- On the welcome screen, click the cart button,
- Or click the button below...

Step 2: Choose a license type
- If you plan to use Movavi Academic at home, click Buy Now on the purchase page to proceed with buying the personal license.
- If you plan to use Movavi Academic at work, in a government institution, or gain profit in any way, click Business license on the purchase page.

After that, you will be redirected to an online store depending on your region and the available payment methods. All of our vendor partners are secure and completely safe.

Step 3: Fill in your billing details
1. Choose any of the available payment methods.
2. Fill in the information required on the page.
3. Enter a valid e-mail address. This e-mail will be used to deliver your activation key.

Step 4: Get your activation key
After the purchase has been verified, you will receive a letter containing your activation key. Now you can use it to activate the program.
Activation instructions
Activating without Internet access

If you haven't received your activation key within the hour:
- Check the Spam folder of your mailbox
- Contact support

Activating without Internet access
When you first start Movavi Academic, it will be running in TRIAL MODE. To use the program without trial restrictions, you will need to buy the full version and activate Movavi Academic.
Step 1: Click the button below to buy an activation key. After the purchase is completed, the key will be delivered to you via e-mail. If you already have a key, skip to the next step.

![Buy Activation Key](image)

Step 2: Launch Movavi Academic and click the key icon in the launch window. Or open the Help menu in the editing mode and select Activate software.

Step 3: Enter your activation key and select the Activate offline option. Then, click Activate.

Step 4: In the next window, click Copy and transfer this information to a computer or device with an Internet connection.

Step 5: When you have access to the Internet, paste the information you copied into a new e-mail and send it to reg@movavi.com. You should receive a reply within an hour. Copy the registration key from the reply and transfer it to the computer with Movavi Academic.
Step 6: Return to the window with offline activation. If you've closed the window, repeat steps 1-3 and enter the same activation key you used before. Then, paste the registration key into the box and click Activate.

Managing subscription

If your subscription has expired, you need to renew it to continue using the program.

To renew your subscription, click the Renew Subscription button. A web page will open, where you can choose a type of license that you need. Once you've made a purchase and received the activation key in an e-mail, copy the key and paste it into the program window. Then click Activate.
Have troubles renewing the subscription?

• If you haven’t received an e-mail with the activation key within an hour, check the Spam folder in your e-mail box.
• Contact our support team. Our experts will help you figure out and solve any of the related problems.

Activating and installing packages

Expansion packages are the sets of additional content which include transitions, titles, stickers, backgrounds and music. The packages are created to help you achieve your creative goals, broaden your freedom of expression and save your time choosing the right artistic tools.

Step 1: Acquiring the package

To use the content expansion packages, open Movavi Academic. Then click Help > Movavi Effects Store. You will be redirected to the Movavi Effects Store web-page to choose and purchase the packages.

Step 2: Making a purchase

On the website, choose and purchase the set you like. After the purchase is processed you will receive an e-mail with an activation key, a link to download the package, and an instruction on how to install it.

Step 3: Installing a package

Click the link you received with the e-mail and download the package. When the downloading is finished, open the package as you normally would open your project: double-click the file or drag and drop it into the video editor. The program will run the installation process. In the Installing Package window click Install and follow the instructions on the screen.

Step 4: Activating a package

Copy the activation key from your e-mail and Paste it in the in the Activating Package window and click Activate.

Wait until the installation is finished. The new elements will appear in the corresponding categories of the video editor. The categories with the new elements will have a blue dot on them and the elements will be marked with the NEW label.
Cannot install or activate the package? Make sure that:

- The video editor you have installed on your system supports the packages;
- You use the key that was sent to you after the purchase of a package and there are no additional symbols after the key;
- You have enough free disk space to install the package.

Editing video

Create or edit videos on any topic using such instruments as chroma key, pan and zoom, stabilization, animation, intros, transitions, effects, titles, stickers and callouts.

To start creating videos

Click Edit Video in the launch window.

Related articles:

Editing videos
- Creating videos - quick guide
- Creating a quick video
- Adding files
- Editing video and audio
- Adding transitions to clips

Editing videos
- How to cut videos
- How to add titles
- Saving videos and projects
- How to save a video
- How to save a project

Creating a video – quick start

In this mode you can use all the tools video editor has to offer and create professional-looking videos without complicated software.
Step 1: Create a project
On the welcome screen, click **New Project** mode to begin making your movie.
Learn more: [Creating and managing projects](#)

![MOVAVI Academic](image)

Step 2: Add files
Now it’s time to add the files that’ll make up your movie. On the **Import** tab, click **Add Media Files** and choose the files you want to use.

Learn more: [Adding files](#) | [Recording video](#) | [Recording audio](#) | [Using built-in media](#)

Step 3: Cut clips
To split clips or cut out unwanted bits, use the **scissors** button on the toolbar:
1. On the Timeline, select the clip you want to cut.
2. Place the position marker where you want to split the clip.
3. Click the **scissors** button to cut in the current position.

![MOVAVI Academic](image)

To delete parts, repeat the steps to cut off the unwanted fragment so that it is a separate clip, then select it and click the **trash can** button.

Step 4: Add and edit music
You can add audio files the same way you add videos and photos: on the Import tab, click **Add Media Files** and choose the audio file you want to use. The audio clip will appear as a green ribbon at the bottom of the Timeline. To change the volume and edit the audio track, select it on the Timeline and click the **Audio properties** button.
Step 5: Annotate your video
1. Click the Titles button on the left.
2. Pick a text style in the list and drag it onto the uppermost track of the Timeline. The text clip will appear as a purple ribbon.
3. Double-click the title clip and edit the text in the player. Here, you can change the font, color, and other properties of the text.
4. To change how long the text appears, drag the edges of the title clip on the Timeline.

Step 6: Save your movie
When you’re finished with your video, it’s time to save it in a format that can be viewed in any video player.
1. Click the Export button to open the exporting options.
2. In the Export window, choose a format you want to save the video in, and name your movie.
3. Finally, click Start to begin processing the video. Your video will be ready in a few minutes.

Tip: Make sure to save your work once in a while: choose Save from the File menu to save the project so that you can access it later.

Creating a quick video
In quick mode, you can use the **Montage Wizard** to automatically build a video for you in minutes. All you need to do is provide the wizard with some video clips or photos, choose a music track, and let the Wizard cut and build the video for you. You can also use the Montage Wizard to make slideshows.

**Step 1: Open the Wizard**
Open the File menu and choose **New Project**. The Montage Wizard window will open.

**Step 2: Add files**
On the Files tab of the Wizard, add the videos and photos that you want to see in your video.
- Click **+Files** to add several files from one folder,
- Click **+Folders** to add the entire contents of one or more folders,
- Or drag and drop the files onto the Wizard window.

The files you've added will appear below. You may need to wait a couple minutes for all the files to load.
- To change the order of the files, simply drag their thumbnails with your mouse.
- To remove files from the video, click the **X** in the upper right-hand corner of each file, or select the files you want to delete and click the trash can button above the list.

**Step 3: Choose a theme**
Click **Next** or the Theme tab at the top to proceed to the next step. You can choose a preset of transitions, titles and music on a number of themes and jump straight to the Preview step. To add music and transitions of your choice, click **No theme** and then proceed to the next step.
Step 4: Choose music
Click Next or the Music tab at the top to proceed to the next step. Here you can choose which music to set your video against. You can add your own audio files or use any of the provided audio clips listed in the left-hand column. These audio tracks are royalty-free so you can upload these videos to YouTube and other services.

- To use one of the built-in tracks, click the + button.
- To add your own audio file, click the +Music button at the top and select the audio track, or simply drag the file onto the Wizard window.

The audio tracks selected for this video will be listed in the right-hand column.

Step 5: Add transitions
Click Next or the Transitions tab to move to the next step. Choose among the given types of transitions.

Step 6: Preview and adjust your video
You're almost done! Click Next or the Preview tab at the top to proceed. If you've added a lot of videos, you may have to wait up to a couple minutes while the Wizard does its magic. You can then preview the video and make some adjustments to get it just right.
Video length
By default, the video will be just as long as the background audio. To change the length, deselect the Fit to music length option and use the slider to set how long you want the video to be. If you opt for a shorter video, some clips may not appear in the end result.

Black bars removal
If the files in your slideshow are of different resolution than the project
If the resolution of the project and the files in your slideshow are different, black bars will appear. You can remove them by checking the Fit to frame option – the image resolution will be automatically fitted to the frame size.
Learn more about frame size

Volume balance
The volume balance slider determines what kind of sounds you can hear in the video. Move the slider to the left side to hear more of the video sounds (such as speech and ambient sounds), or move the slider to the right to make the video’s sound quieter and raise the background music volume.

Learn more:
Adding filters
Adding titles
Color adjustments
Removing black bars

Step 7: Save the finished video
Finally, click the Export tab at the top and decide what you want to do with your finished video.

Save the video – choose this option to save the result as a video file.
Continue editing – this will close the wizard and let you add finishing touches in full mode. After you're finished, you can always click the big green Export button at the bottom to save the result.
Share on the web – choose this option to save a video file and upload it to YouTube, Google Drive or Vimeo right away.
To save the video, choose a video format you want to use and pick a folder to save the video file. If you're uploading the video to YouTube, sign in with your YouTube account and fill in the details about your video. Then, click Start to begin saving your video file. Learn more: Exporting videos | Uploading to YouTube

Creating and managing projects

When you work on your movie, all the changes you make are stored in a project. A new project is created automatically when you start working on a video.

To create a new project:
• On launching the video editor: click Edit Video.
• Open the File menu and choose Create New Project for a new video from scratch, or New Montage to start in easy mode.

After that, you can save your project as a file in the *.mepx format on your computer and open it later to continue editing your movie.

How can I play my project?
Project files cannot be viewed in a regular video player, but can only be opened with Movavi Academic. To view the finished work in a player, you need to first export your movie to a common video format. Learn how to export your project

Saving projects
To avoid losing your editing progress, make sure to save your project every once in a while. To save a project, open the File menu and choose Save Project.

Opening projects
To open a previous project, open the File menu and choose Open. Then, find the project file and continue working on your movie. Learn how to open projects

Saving a project
A project stores all the work on your movie or slideshow. You can save the project for finishing your work later, or restore your work if you need to edit something after you've finished.

Saving the project
1. Open the File menu and choose Save Project.
2. You will be asked to enter a name for the project. Your project files should be stored in the "Movies/Movavi Video Editor/Projects" folder of your user.
3. Click Save to confirm saving.
Saving portable project

A portable project is a kind of project that contains all the media files that comprise it. Since the program does not create copies of the files and only refers to their location on the disk, the project will only work properly on another computer if all the media files are present there as well. You can copy the files manually or automatically. To automatically save the project together with the files, click the File menu and choose Save Portable Project. Name your project and set the destination path. Then transfer the project folder to another computer with Movavi Academic installed.

How to change where projects are saved

1. Open the Movavi Academic menu and choose Preferences.
2. Click the Files tab.
3. Find the Save project files to box and click the button next to it to choose a different folder for storing your projects.
4. Select the folder you want to use and click Select Folder.

Opening a project

Open a project to continue working on your video.

Where are my projects located?

By default, your projects are saved to “/Movies/Movavi Video Editor/Projects”, but you can save your projects anywhere else you like.

How to open a project

A: Find your project in Finder and drag it onto the video editor window.
B: Find your project in Finder and double-click it to open it.
C: Click Open Project on the welcome screen. Then, locate the project file in the Finder box and click Open.
D: Open the File menu and choose Open Project. Then, locate the project file in the Finder box and click Open.
E: In the Import section click Add Media Files and select a project.
Restoring work from an autosave
If your computer malfunctions and you cannot save the project, some of your work may be restored using an autosave file. Simply rename the “autosave.mepx” file and open it in the Video Editor to continue working on your project.

Media use
When you open a previously created project, you may see a message saying that a file is missing from the project. This may happen if one of the files used in the project has been moved somewhere else or deleted from disk. In this case, click Specify Folder in the message box to find the files in their new location, or click Skip to open the project without the missing files. You can also click the magnifying glass icon and specify location of a single file. We recommend that you copy all the files to your hard drive before editing.

Transferring the project to another computer
If you need to work on your project on another computer, you might want to transfer it. To make this transition easy and not to lose any important files, collect the project file and all the files that you have used or only going to use in a separate folder on your computer. Then move the folder to another computer that also has a copy of Movavi Academic. Open the project in the video editor and in the error window set the new path to the files location.

Note: If you only transfer the project file and leave the media files out, the project will not contain any files.

Learn more:
Saving portable project

Project settings
How to change the video’s resolution

You can adjust the parameters of your video, such as bitrate, video resolution and frame rate. These settings affect the quality and the size of a final file. You can change them when saving your video or at any other time.

Opening project settings
In the Export window click the Advanced button.
Video settings
The video settings apply to all videos and photos used in the project. When you import the media files, they will be scaled to fit inside the selected frame size according to your settings.

Video codec
Codec is a program that encodes and decodes data. Codecs, as well as bitrate, use data compression and affect the size of a final media file, so it is easier to store and manage the file.

Resolution
The frame size or resolution determines the video's width and height in pixels. Open the Resolution list to select from the most common resolutions. For your convenience, each resolution is marked with its respective aspect ratio. Ideally, the frame size should match the resolution of the videos and photos you plan to use in your project, and should not exceed the resolution of the largest video. Smaller resolutions allow you to make the output video smaller and thus save your disc space, however, this will sacrifice some video quality due to downscaling.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frame Size</th>
<th>Aspect Ratio</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>320x240</td>
<td>4:3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>640x480</td>
<td>4:3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1280x720</td>
<td>16:9</td>
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<tr>
<td>1280x960</td>
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<tr>
<td>3840x2160</td>
<td>16:9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4096x2160</td>
<td>256:135</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Aspect ratio
The aspect ratio is the ratio of the video or photo's width to its height. The most commonly used aspect ratios are 4:3, used generally for analog TV and in many old movies, and 16:9, the standard resolution for widescreen digital video.

A relative comparison of aspect ratios

When you add videos and photos to the project, they will be scaled to fit the specified frame size. If you add media files with an aspect ratio different from that of the project, you may see black bars appear on the sides of the video. Furthermore, if you add low-quality videos to a project set up to a high resolution (frame size), the small video may be stretched to fit the frame and thus may appear pixellized. For best results, we recommend setting the frame size and aspect ratio to match all or most of the videos and photos you are planning to use.

Examples of black bars appearing when importing videos with a different aspect ratio.

If you cannot find the necessary frame size in the list, you can manually enter the width and height into the respective boxes of the Project Settings window. Note the button with the link icon to the right of the boxes. It allows you to maintain existing proportions when entering
new values:  – the proportions are constrained, allowing you to set a larger or smaller frame size without changing the aspect ratio;  – you can freely enter the width and height with any proportions. Simply click this button to toggle the two states.

Frame rate
Frame rate or FPS defines the frequency at which frames appear on a display per second. Frame rate affects the smoothness of the video being played. Standard frame rate in most types of videos is 24-30 frames per second. The video plays smoother at a higher value, but the file size rises as well.

Bitrate
Bitrate is the amount of digital information contained in one second of a media file. It is measured in kilobits per second (Kbps). You can control the output file size by changing the bitrate value. There are three types of bitrate available in the video editor:

- **Auto bitrate (CBR)** is a constant value set by the program and calculated according to other already set quality options such as video codec, resolution and frame rate.
- **Constant bitrate (custom CBR)** is a constant manually entered value which is then used to process the entire video. This type of bitrate allows to predict the size of a final media file.
- **Variable bitrate (VBR)** is an automatically picked value that is set within the set quality requirements for the video. VBR will adjust to the image using the optimal values to save the quality: lower values for a static image and higher values for a more dynamic one. But in this case it is impossible to predict the output file size.

Audio settings
Sample rate
The sample rate affects the quality of digital sound, and defines the maximum frequencies that an audio stream can contain. The default sample rate is set to 44100 Hz, which exceeds the maximum frequencies of human hearing and is used to record Audio CDs and most music tracks.

Channels
- **Stereo** sound contains two channels and has the capacity to convey the relative location of sound sources, which makes it best for recording music;
- **mono** sound has only one channel and produces sound without differentiating left and right channels. Stereo is the generally preferred number of channels, however, some mobile devices record sound only in mono mode.
- **Surround sound (5.1)** has the capacity to produce sound using six channels (usually 5 speakers and a subwoofer), which allows it to create the so called participation effect. This technology is often used in home cinema systems, as well as in some game consoles and PCs.

Appending a project
You can combine several projects in just one. To do this:
1. Open a project or create a new one.
2. Open the File menu and click **Append Project**.
3. In a new window find and open the project you want to combine your current project with. The project you append will be added at the end of all other clips of the current project.

Adding media
To begin working on your video project, you will first need to add some media files to the Editor.

**Step 1: Open the Import tab**
The Import tab is the first one you see when you start a new project. To open the Import tab, click the very first button in the upper left-hand corner of the window.

**Step 2: Go to the My files section**
In the left part of the **Import** tab, you can switch between adding your own media files or using built-in clips. Click on **My files** to show file import options.
**Step 3: Open files**

1. Click Add Media Files. 
2. A Finder dialog box will open. Locate your files or folders and click Open.

If you want to add the entire contents of one or several folders, click Add Folder, select the folder(s) you want to use and then click Select Folder to add the files.

**Step 4: Arrange the files**

Once you've added the files, they will appear on the **Timeline** at the bottom of the window. The Timeline allows you to arrange the clips in the order you want. The clips' position relative to the time ruler at the top of the Timeline determines when it will appear in the finished video. To reorder the clips, select the clips you want to move and then drag them to the new position on the Timeline.

Learn about using the Timeline

---

**See also:**

- Working with video
- Working with audio

**Using built-in media**

Movavi Academic comes with an extensive collection of built-in royalty-free music, sounds, videos and backgrounds that you can use in your videos.

**Step 1: Open the Import tab**

Click the Import button in the upper left-hand corner to open the media options.
Step 2: Choose a media type

On the left side of the Import tab, you can switch between using your own media files and adding clips from the stock collection.

- Sounds – fun sound effects and audio samples to make your videos more expressive.
- Music – instrumental tracks for your background music.
- Sample video – video clips that you can use as intros, overlays, and animated backgrounds.
- Backgrounds – image backdrops for your titles and transparent clips.
- Intro videos – specifically designed video clips that use visual elements and text and can be edited and customized.
- Photo library – an online source of stock photos on any topic.

Step 3: Download media files

You need to download built-in media to use it. If a thumbnail has a download icon , it means the file has not been yet installed to the category. To download it point the cursor at the media thumbnail. The 'Click here to download' message will appear. Click on the thumbnail. The download will start and a progress bar will appear. When the download is finished, you can use the media file.

You can cancel the download by clicking the Stop icon .

You can also download the whole category at once. To do this, open the tab you need and click the download icon next to the category name. All the files in the category will be downloaded.

*If your device has a limited amount of space or running out of it, choose the option where you can download only the media you want to use.

Step 4: Add the clip to your project

To use a stock clip in your project, pick a clip you like and drag it onto the Timeline.

- Drag sample video clips and backgrounds onto the video or overlay track,
- Drag sounds and music onto the audio track. To link a sound clip to a video clip, select it on the Timeline and drag it up, towards the video track until a line appears between the audio clip and the video clip. Now, when you move the video clip, the sound will stay in sync.
Creating an intro

Create, save and reuse your own intro videos with the images, effects and animation you need.

Step 1. Add a new intro

- In the Import section go to Intros.
- Find the New intro item and drag and drop it onto the Timeline.

Step 2. Edit the intro

- Click on the clip icon an the Timeline will switch to the intro editing mode.
- Add your own media files (video, audio or pictures), effects, titles and other. Work as if you're working with a usual project, but keep in mind that your making a special introductory video.

*Before you start editing, delete the instruction clip that the new intro contains.

Save 3. Save changes

After you're done working with your intro, click on the toolbar to save changes and go back to the main editing mode.

To save the intro and use it in other projects, select the intro clip and click . The intro will be saved with all the other items in the collection. You can edit the intro at any time while working on the project.

Recording audio

After you've added some videos and photos to the Timeline, you can record audio from a microphone or any other recording device.

Step 1: Open audio recording options

On the toolbar, click the microphone button to open audio recording options.
Step 2: Set up recording
1. In the Audio device box, choose the device you want to use.
   - To record from a microphone: choose your preferred microphone or webcam microphone. If you don’t see the device in the list, try reconnecting it to your computer.
   - To record audio from the computer: select **Stereo Mix** from the list. This will allow you to record any music, alerts, or other sounds playing on your computer. If you don’t see “Stereo Mix” in the list, it may be disabled on your computer.

2. (Advanced) In the Audio quality box, choose the sample rate and number of channels that you need.
3. Set the volume level you want to use in your project.
4. (Optional) Enable voice-over mode if you want to record an audio commentary.
5. On the Timeline, place the progress marker to where you want the recording to begin. You will be able to move the clip later.

Step 3: Record sound
1. When you’re ready, click **Start Recording**.

2. The recording will start immediately. The recorded audio will appear on the independent audio track, so it can be moved to any position in the project. If you have enabled the voice-over mode, you will be given a three-second countdown. The video will start playing simultaneously with the recording. This way you will be able to use your video as a visual aid as you speak. This recorded audio clip will appear on the linked audio track.

3. When you’re done, click **Stop Recording**.
Follow the steps below to record video from a camera that's connected to your computer.

**Step 1:** Connect the camera you want to capture from to the computer. Make sure that the system recognizes the device and that it is working correctly.

**Step 2:** On the **Import** tab of the video editor, click **Record Video**. The recording module will open in a separate window.

**Step 3:** In the **Video capture device** box, choose the camera you want to use for capture. Then, select the **resolution** and **frame rate**. A larger resolution will be able to retain better quality, however, the video file size will be larger. A higher frame rate is necessary for recording motion, while static scenes can be captured with a lower frame rate.

**Step 4:** In the **Audio capture device** box, choose the microphone that you want to record the sound with.

**Step 5:** (Optional) By default, the recordings will be saved to your Movavi Library folder. If you want to save them somewhere else, click the folder button under **Save files to** and choose a different location.
Step 6: (Optional) If you want to batch rename the files, choose a renaming option from the 'File renaming' box and set up the new file name template.

Step 7: Click **Start Capture** to begin recording the video. During capture, you can take snapshots using the camera button 📸 on the right.

Step 8: To finish the recording, click **Stop Capture**. If you need to record more videos, repeat steps 7 and 8.

Step 9: When you're done, click **Back to editing** at the bottom of the window. The captured files will be added to your project's Timeline. Also, they are saved to disk in case you want to use them later.

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**Importing AVCHD video**

Follow the steps below to import previously recorded videos from an AVCHD camera.

**Step 1:** Connect the camera you want to capture from to the computer, and enable USB connection mode on your camera. Make sure that the system recognizes the device and that it is working correctly.

**Step 2:** On the **Import** tab of the video editor, click **Record Video**. The recording module will open in a separate window.

**Step 3:** In the **Video capture device** box, select your AVCHD camera.
Step 4: On the left, you will see a list of all clips on the camera storage. Review the files and deselect the ones you don't need.

Step 5: (Optional) After importing, the files will be saved to your Movavi Library folder. If you want to save them somewhere else, click the folder button under 'Save files to' and choose a different location.

Step 6: (Optional) If you want to batch rename the files, choose a renaming option from the 'File renaming' box and set up the new file name template.

Step 7: Click Add files to the Editor to start copying the files. This may take a while depending on the size of the videos.

File information

Find the file's location

To find the location of the clip's original file, right-click on the clip on the Timeline and choose Show in Folder from the menu.
See a clip’s media information
To see a clip's media properties, right-click it on the clip Timeline and choose File Information from the menu.

A small File Information window will appear. Here, you can find the resolution, aspect ratio, and other properties of the original file. Knowing certain information about a clip will allow you to better understand which settings are best for your videos.

Preview and organize clips
Use the player in the upper right-hand part of the window to preview your project.

Current position
Your current playback position can be controlled using the position marker under the player and on the Timeline.

For precise positioning:
• To move in 0.5 second increments, open the Playback menu and choose Skip Forward by 0.5 Seconds (###) or Skip Backward by 0.5 Seconds (###).
• To move precisely from frame to frame, use the Previous frame (###) and Next frame (###) buttons in the player. This will move the position marker exactly one frame backward or forward.
• Use the Scale slider to zoom in on the Timeline to make positioning easier.

Playing the video
1. Move the position marker to where you want to start playback.
2. Click Play or press the Space Bar key.
3. Click the Pause button or press the Space Bar again to pause playback.

Arranging clips
By default, media files will appear on the Timeline in the same order in which you've added them. To rearrange the clips, drag them with your mouse and drop them onto the desired position. To select multiple clips, use ⌘+click or click and drag to draw a selection on the Timeline.

Working with two monitors
If you have more than one monitor, you might want to detach the player into a separate window to have more room for editing. To do that, click the Unpin player button under the player:

The player will then open in a separate window. When you want to return the player back into the main window, click the Pin player button in the detached player or close the player window.

Timeline tracks
The Timeline at the bottom of the window is your working area where you can organize and edit the clips that make up your video project. The Timeline consists of several tracks for different types of media, that are all synchronized against the time scale at the top. You can imagine the tracks as layers: the uppermost layer appears on top of all others. With the exception of the video track, you can layer several clips on each of the tracks to make your video more dynamic.
Adding tracks
With the Timeline that allow work with multiple tracks, you have only three tracks available at the start. To work with several video, audio and title tracks at the same time:
1. Find a Plus button at the upper left-hand corner of the Timeline.
2. Select the track you want to add and click it.
3. (optional) Customize the Timeline: change the order of the tracks, hide the content of a track and link tracks to the video track or detach them.

Video track
The video track holds videos, pictures, and the transitions between them. You can also place titles, callouts and stickers on the video track if you want them to appear against a black background.

Overlay track
You can use the overlay track to show videos and images on top of the main video track. Simply drag the clips from the main video track up onto the overlay track. Overlay clips are linked to a corresponding clip on the main video track. This way, they will stay in sync even of you move or cut the video clip.
Learn more: Creating overlays
**Title track**
The title track holds all of your text clips, as well as callouts and stickers. Clips on this track are linked to a corresponding clip on the main video track. You can't use transitions or effects on any of these clips, but you can animate them.

Learn more: [Titles](#) | [Callouts](#) | [Stickers](#)

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**Independent audio track**
The independent audio track is the very last track of the Timeline and it contains audio that is not linked to any clips on the video track. This track is most suitable for background music and clips that don’t need to be synchronized to videos. Both audio tracks show waveforms that visualize the volume throughout the clip, so that you can easily find the quietest and loudest parts. You can also fine-tune the volume using volume curves.

Learn more: [Volume curves](#)

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**Linked audio track**
The linked audio track allows you to link audio clips to videos and images on the video track so that the audio clips stay in sync as you edit your project. The linked audio clip is hidden by default, but you can link clips by dragging them a little bit up, towards the video track until a blue line appears, connecting the audio and video tracks. If you record audio, the audio clip will also appear on this track.

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**Problem: My audio clip appears on the video track**

**Solution:** Some audio files contain album art, which may sometimes be recognized as the video stream. Therefore, these files may be placed on the video track. In that case, drag the audio clip down onto the audio track, and delete the album art from the video track if you do not need it.

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**Hiding and muting clips**
If you want to see how your project looks without some clips, you can disable separate clips or entire tracks.

**Hiding clips**
To hide a clip from view, right-click the clip and choose Hide Clip from the pop-up menu. The clip will not appear in the player or on the finished video until you re-enable it.
Muting clips
To disable a clip’s sound, right-click the clip you want to mute and select Mute Clip from the pop-up menu. The clip will not play in the player or on the finished video.

Disabling tracks
• To hide an entire track from view, click the eye icon to the left of the track you want to hide.
• To disable the sound for an entire track, click the speaker icon to the left of the track.

Zooming the Timeline
To change the zoom level of the Timeline, drag the Scale slider at the bottom of the window. Move the slider left to zoom out, and move the slider right to zoom in on the Timeline.
Undo actions

How to cancel a previous action

It's okay if you make a mistake or change your mind while editing videos because almost any action can be reversed!

• Click the Undo button on the toolbar or press ⌘Z to cancel an action.
• If you've cancelled an action but want to return to it, click the Redo button or press ⌘⌘Z.

Cutting clips

Use the scissors button on the toolbar to cut video and audio clips into parts. To delete a clip you don't need, click the trash can button.

Splitting clips into parts

Step 1: Select the clip that you want to split.
Step 2: Move the position marker to the moment where you want to cut the clip.
Step 3: Click the Split button on the toolbar.
Cutting out fragments

Step 1: Cut the clip at the beginning of the unwanted fragment
1. Select the clip you want to cut.
2. Move the position marker to the beginning of the fragment. Use the Previous Frame and Next Frame buttons on the player to catch the moment precisely.
3. Click the Split button. The clip will be cut into two parts, with the unwanted fragment at the beginning of the second clip.

Step 2: Cut the clip at the end of the fragment
1. Select the second clip the you've just cut off.
2. Move the position marker to the end of the fragment.
3. Click the Split button again. The fragment should now be in a separate clip.

Step 3: Delete the unwanted fragment
1. Select the clip with the unwanted fragment.
2. Click the trash can button or press the Delete key to remove this clip. The clip will be removed, and the remaining clips on the Timeline will move to close the gap.

Trimming clips

If you only need to cut off some parts at the beginning or at the end of a video or audio clip:

Step 1: Place your mouse pointer over the edge of the clip.
Step 2: Click and drag the edge towards the center of the clip to trim the clip to the desired length.

For more precise navigation:
- Open the Playback menu and use the Skip Forward by 0.5 Seconds or Skip Backward by 0.5 Seconds commands to jump half a second forward or back.
- Use the keyboard shortcuts to move the position marker half a second back and half a second forward, respectively: ### and ####.
- Use the Previous Frame and Next Frame buttons for precise frame-by-frame navigation. You can also use the ## and ## keyboard shortcuts.
Edit and enhance clips
After you've added some videos and images to your project, they will appear on the video track of the Timeline, where you can move and arrange them into a movie. Next, it's time to edit and enhance the clips.

Edit videos and images
Photos and videos aren't always perfect from the beginning. Use the buttons on the toolbar to fix and adjust the clips.

Learn more: Rotating video | Cropping video | Color adjustments | Volume | Speed | Reversing video | Image duration | Fades | Video properties

Picture in picture and overlays
To overlay one video or image on top of another, select the clip you want to show on top and drag it up, towards the top of the Timeline to create an extra overlay track. Then, double-click the upper clip to set up where the overlay will be shown on the video.

Learn more about overlays

Removing black bars
Some videos and photos may have black bars around them in the player. This can happen because the clip's proportions are different from the project, for example, if you add a vertical video. To fix this, you can crop the video or use the special Vertical fill filter.

Learn more about removing black bars

Creating freeze frames
A freeze frame is a still shot inserted in the middle of a video for dramatic effect. You can use the freeze frame to emphasize a very fast movement or pause the action while you give additional information.

Learn more about freeze frames

Rotating videos and images
Nobody likes vertical videos! But don't worry, in just a few clicks, you can turn any photo or video around without having to crane your neck.

Rotating by 90 degrees
1. On the Timeline, select the clip you want to rotate
2. Click the Rotate button on the toolbar to rotate the clip by 90 degrees clockwise. Click the button again to rotate the video more.

Learn more: Removing black bars
Fixing the horizon level
1. On the Timeline, select the clip you want to rotate.
2. Click the Crop button on the toolbar to open the Crop tool above.
3. In the Crop tab, use the Angle slider to slightly rotate the clip inside the frame, until the horizon is level with the guides in the player.

Cropping
Cropping a video can help you remove black bars, cut away the edges of the video, or permanently zoom in onto an object inside the frame.

Step 1: On the Timeline, select the clip you want to crop.

Step 2: Click the Crop button on the toolbar. The Crop tool will open, and a cropping frame will appear inside the player.

Step 3: In the player, set the frame so that the parts you don't want are outside it. Drag by the corners of the frame to change its size, and drag by the center of the frame to move it.
Step 4: Click **Apply**. A star icon will appear on the clip once you've applied cropping.

**Removing crop**

1. Click the star icon on the clip to show the list of applied effects and filters:
2. A tab will open above the toolbar. Find the **Crop** effect and click the **cross** button \( \times \) next to it to discard the effect.

**Color adjustments**

If the original videos look bleak and not vibrant enough, you can use the automatic adjustments to make the colors look more vivid. If that isn't enough, you can always use manual adjustments to correct the colors.

**Step 1: Select clip**

On the Timeline, select the clip that you want to adjust.

**Step 2: Open color adjustments**

On the toolbar, click the color adjustments button to open the adjustments tool.
Step 3: Change and apply adjustments
Auto Adjustment presets can fix contrast, saturation, and white balance of your image. The Magic Enhance preset will automatically determine the best brightness and contrast balance. To apply a preset to the image, drag and drop it to the clip on the Timeline.

The Manual Adjustments tab contains additional adjustment options. Drag the sliders to change brightness, saturation, hue, and other properties.

Step 4 (optional): Save your adjustments
If made your own adjustments to the image and want to save them for future use, click Save Adjustments and name your preset. The new preset will appear on the Auto Adjustments tab.
Once you have used the adjustments, the clip will be marked with a star icon, denoting applied tools or filters.

Video properties
To open the clip properties for a video or image, select the clip on the Timeline and click the Clip Properties button on the toolbar.

The Tools panel will open on the Video tab, where you can edit the following:

Volume — Sets the volume of the clip's built-in audio. Learn more: Volume levels
Only for video clips with built-in audio.

Normalize — Makes the quiet parts of the built-in audio louder.
Only for video clips with built-in audio.

Speed — Makes the video play faster or slower. Learn more: Video speed
Only for video clips.

Reverse — Plays the video backwards. Learn more: Reversing video
Only for video clips.

Opacity — Affects the visibility of videos and images on the overlay track. Reduce the clip's opacity to make it more transparent. Learn more: Creating overlays
Only for clips on the overlay track.

Duration — Sets the precise length of the image clip. Learn more: Image duration
Only for images.

Fade in — The video fades in from black in the time you set. Any built-in audio will also fade in.
For any clips.

Fade out — The video fades out to black in the time you set. Any built-in audio will also fade out. Learn more: Fading video
For any clips.

Video speed
With the Speed tool, you can speed up or slow down a video or audio clip. This can be useful if you're working on a music video and you want the video to match the tempo of the music.

Step 1: On the Timeline, select the clip you want to edit.
- Note that slowing down videos works best on videos with a frame rate of 60 FPS (frames per second) and above.
- You can also change the speed of any audio clip.
• If you modify the speed of a video with built-in audio, the audio speed will also be changed.

**Step 2:** Click the **Clip Properties** button to open the editing tools for the selected clip.

![Clip Properties](image)

**Step 3:** Drag the **Speed** slider to set the necessary video speed, where 100% is the video's original speed.

![Speed slider](image)

The clip's length on the Timeline will change to reflect the new speed. If you've changed video speed, the video clips will be marked with a star icon:

![Star icon](image)

**Video volume**

Learn how to change video volume. To learn how to change audio volume, see [Volume levels](#).

1. Select the video clip on the timeline.
2. Click **Clip Properties**.
3. Move the **Volume** slider to make the video clip sound louder or quieter. Original video volume is set on 100%.
   - To mute a clip, click the volume button.
   - If a clip has a lot of quiet sections, select the Normalize box to make the sections louder.
Reversing video

Reversing the video will play the clip and its audio backwards. You can combine reversing the video with increasing speed and the VHS filter to create a cool rewinding effect.

**Step 1:** On the Timeline, select the clip that you want to reverse. You can reverse both video and audio clips.

**Step 2:** On the toolbar, click the **Clip Properties** button to open the properties for the selected clip.

**Step 3:** In clip properties, select the **Reverse** option.

When you apply reverse, the clip will appear with a reverse icon on top of it:

Image duration

You can change how long each image appears in your video or slideshow either using the clip properties or you can set all images to the same length.
Changing one image's length

Step 1: On the Timeline, select the image clip that you want to edit.

Step 2: Click the **Clip Properties** button to open the properties for the selected clip.

Step 3: In the **Duration** box, enter the new length of the image. Use the following format: *hours: minutes:seconds.milliseconds*. Changes will be applied instantly.

You can also change image duration by selecting an image clip on the Timeline and dragging its borders left or right. The longer the clip appears on the Timeline, the longer it will play in your movie or slideshow.

Setting the same length for all images

To set all of the project’s images to the same length:

Step 1: Click the **Transition Wizard** button on the toolbar.

Step 2: In the Transition Wizard window, enter the preferred length into the **Image slide duration** box. If you don’t want to use transitions to join your clips, select **No transitions** in the box at the top.

Step 3: Click **OK** to set all the images to the selected length.
Fading video

In the editing tools, you can add smooth fades to the beginning or the end of a clip. For videos and images, you can use fading simultaneously with animated transitions. For audio clips, you can create a smooth crossfade effect between songs.

**Step 1:** On the Timeline, select the clip that you want to fade.

**Step 2:** Click the **Clip Properties** button on the toolbar. The clip properties will open in the Tools panel above.

**Step 3:** Set the fade length using the sliders on the **Video** tab.

- **Fade in** – how long in seconds it will take to fade in to full opacity at the beginning of the clip.
- **Fade out** – how long in seconds it will take to fade out from full opacity at the end of the clip.

See also:
- Adding transitions
- Fading audio

Creating overlays
How to create picture in picture and split screen effects

Overlays are video or image clips that are shown over the main video. You can use these to create a split screen or picture in picture effect, add a logo or watermark, create a Chroma Key effect, or insert a short clip without cutting the main video.

Before you start:
You'll need to add both the main video (the video that will be the bottom layer) and the overlay video or image to your project. You can use images in PNG format to add transparent logos.

Step 1: Place the overlay clip
1. Select the clip that you want to make an overlay and drag it up, towards the top of the Timeline.
2. Drop the clip onto the overlay track, where you want it to be shown relative to the main video track. Note that a blue line now connects the overlay clip to the main clip. This means that the overlay clip is linked to the main clip: if you move, cut, or delete the main clip, the overlay clip will also be edited.

Hint: you can also layer several overlays at once!

Step 2: Edit the overlay
1. Double-click the overlay clip to set it up. An options panel will appear in the player.
2. Open the drop-down box on the overlay panel and choose how you want it to appear on the video: Picture in picture, Side by side, or Cover.

Picture in picture
This is the default overlay mode. Using picture in picture mode, you can show the overlay video over any part of the screen. This also works for logos.
1. Choose Picture in picture mode from the drop-down box.
2. In the player, move the overlay to where you want it to appear in the frame.
3. To resize the overlay, drag at its corners.
4. Deselecting the Constrain proportions option will allow you to resize the overlay to any proportions, but a drastic change in proportions may make the overlay look distorted.

Side by side
Side by side mode works best for creating split screens.
1. Choose Side by side mode from the drop-down box.
2. Use the buttons on the panel to choose how you want to align the two videos.
Hint: for best results, place BOTH sides on the overlay track.

Cover
In Cover mode, the video on the overlay track will cover the main video completely. This can be used for a whole bunch of things:
• For videos with transparent areas
• Cutting out the background with the Chroma key effect Learn more: Chroma key
• Inserting a short clip over the main video without having to cut it.

Step 3: Apply the changes
After you’ve set up the overlay, click the Apply button on the overlay options panel.

Step 4: Overlay clip properties
In the Tools panel on the left, set up the overlay’s properties:

Volume: if you have several video clips playing simultaneously, you might want to mute one of the clips. To do that, click the mute button, or use the slider to lower the volume.

Opacity: if you want to make the overlay more transparent, lower its opacity, and the main video track will be seen through it.

Fade in / Fade out: while you can’t use transitions on the overlay track, you can fade in the clip to make it appear smoothly. Set the slider to the time it should take for the clip to appear.

Adding a watermark
Adding a watermark to your videos will protect your ownership even if it’s shared all over the Internet. You can add an image overlay with your own watermark or logo, or make a new one using text.

Image watermark
Step 1: On the import tab, click Add Media Files and add the image or video that you want to use as the watermark. For the best look, use images with transparent areas.

Step 2: Drag the watermark clip up to the overlay track to make it appear on top of other videos.
Step 3: Double-click the watermark clip to edit the overlay. Move and resize the overlay in the player and then click Apply when you’re done.

Step 4: To change the opacity, click the Clip Properties button and use the Opacity slider.

Step 5: To make the watermark show over the whole length of the video, enter your project length into the Duration box, or drag the right edge of the overlay clip until the end of the video track.

Text watermark
Step 1: Click the Titles button on the left and pick a nice title style for your watermark.

Step 2: Drag the titles you like onto the beginning of the Titles track at the top of the Timeline.

Step 3: Double-click the titles and enter your watermark text. Pick a cool font and color on the panel above the player. Click Apply when you’re done.

Step 4: To make the watermark show over the whole length of the video, drag the right edge of the text clip until the end of the video track.

*HINT: If your movie is long, zoom out on the Timeline to make changing clip length easier.

OR: Double-click the text clip to enter text editing mode and enter the length into the Duration field. You can find the length of your whole project at the bottom of the window.
Creating a freeze frame

A freeze frame is a single frame of a video that repeats for some time, creating an illusion of pausing the video. You can use freeze frames to emphasize a moment or create a pause to explain things to the viewer.

Step 1: Choose a frame
Move the position marker over the frame of the video that you want to freeze. To skip by precisely one frame at a time, use the Previous frame and Next frame buttons under the player.

Step 2: Create freeze frame
Once you're on the right frame, open the Edit menu or right-click on the clip and choose Insert Freeze Frame from the menu.

Step 3: Set duration
By default, a new freeze frame is four seconds long. To change the duration, drag the edges of the clip to make the clip shorter or longer. Learn about changing image duration

Removing black bars
Sometimes, when you use videos of different aspect ratios, or if the project is set up incorrectly, some videos may have black bars around them. You can remove black bars from videos using one of the ways below.
**Fill empty spaces**
Using a special filter, you can fill the black bars with blurred parts of the video. This allows you to keep the entire video on screen and make it more pleasant to view.
1. On the Timeline, select the clip with black bars around it.
2. Click the **Filters** button to open the Filters tab.
3. Find the **Vertical video fill filter** in the **Adjustments** group and drag it onto the clip.

[Learn more about filters](#)

**Manual crop**
If black bars appear only on one or several clips, you can cut off the edges to make the video fit better inside the frame.
1. On the Timeline, select the clip with black bars around it.
2. On the toolbar, click the **Crop** button.
3. A frame will appear in the player. Set this frame on the part of the video that you want to keep. Parts that are outside the frame will be cut off.
4. In the Tools tab on the left, click **Apply** to accept the changes.

[Learn more about crop](#)

**Fading effects**
Making effects and filters fade in smoothly is possible using the overlay track.

**Step 1:** Copy the clip and paste it onto the Timeline.

**Step 2:** Drag the copy of the clip onto the **overlay track** above so that it's right above the original. Now you have two identical clips right on top of each other.
Step 3: Double-click the clip on the overlay track and choose **Cover** mode in the panel above the player. Click **Apply** and the clip will cover the entire frame.

Step 4: Now, apply the effects or filters you want to use onto the upper, visible clip. Learn more: [Applying filters](#)

Step 5: With the overlay clip selected, click the **Clip Properties** button. There, use the **Fade in** and **Fade out** sliders to set the fading time. Here you can also set **Opacity** if you want to reduce the effect's strength for the whole clip.
The clip with the effect will gradually appear and disappear, exposing the underlying original clip.

**Editing audio**

**Add audio**

To add music or other sounds to your project, open the **Import** tab and click **Add Media Files**. Or you can use one of the built-in music tracks: click the **Music** category and take your pick from our royalty-free music collection.

**Volume**

To change a video or audio clip's volume, click the **Audio Properties** button on the toolbar and set the necessary volume in the audio tools section above.

**Playing audio synchronously**

If you want two audio clips to play at the same time, simply drag one clip underneath the other. This way, you can have as many sub-tracks as you want. With music, you can use this to create a crossfade effect when you join songs: align the beginning of the second song with the end of the first song to make them joined almost seamlessly.
The end of the first audio clip will be played with the beginning of the second clip.

**Audio properties and adjustments**
To enhance and adjust the audio, click the **Audio Properties** button on the toolbar and scroll down in the audio tools section above.

Learn more:
- [Audio properties](#)  
- [Fading audio](#)  
- [Equalizer](#)  
- [Noise removal](#)  
- [Audio effects](#)  
- [Beat detection](#)

**Adding audio**
You can add audio files in much the same way as you add photos and video files.

**Add files from your hard drive**
1. On the **Import** tab, click **Add Media Files** to browse for audio files on your computer.
2. A Finder dialog box will open. Choose the files that you want to use.
3. Click **Open**. The files will be added onto the audio track of the Timeline.

**Use sample audio clips**
If you don't have any suitable audio files, you can use free music tracks and sounds from the Movavi Academic audio collection.
1. On the **Import** tab, click **Music** if you need a background music track, or click **Sounds** if you need short audio samples.
2. Click on a clip to play it. When you've picked a clip, drag it onto the audio track of the Timeline.

Learn more about **sounds**
Record audio
1. Connect a microphone to your computer.
2. On the Timeline, place the position marker to where you want the recording to start.
3. Click the microphone button on the toolbar to open recording options.
4. Set up your recording device and volume.
5. Click Start Recording and record the audio. When you're finished, click Stop Recording. You'll find your new recording on the Timeline. Learn more about audio recording

Set start time for audio clips
After you've added the audio files, they will appear on the audio track of the Timeline as blue ribbons. To change when the audio clip starts playing, drag it along the Timeline, using the ruler at the top for time reference. Learn about audio tracks

Extracting audio from videos
If you want to use a soundtrack from a movie, you can extract it from a video file and use it in your project.

Step 1: Open video file
On the import tab, click Add Media Files and choose the video that contains the music you want. The file will be added to the video track of the Timeline.
Step 2: Trim video
If you don't need the whole video's soundtrack, you can trim away the parts of the video you won't need. It's easier to do this with the video file, as the video can help you visually find the beginning and end of the fragment you need.
1. Select the video you want to trim.
2. Move the position marker to the beginning of the fragment you want to keep and click the Split button on the toolbar (scissors). You've just cut off the beginning of the video.
3. Now, select the second clip and move the position marker to the end of the fragment you need. Click the Split button again, and the fragment will now be in a separate clip.
4. If you don't need the other fragments, select them on the Timeline and click the trash can button on the toolbar to delete them.

Step 3: Extract the audio
The audio that belongs to a video is shown right underneath it on the video track. To separate it from the video, drag the audio stripe down onto the audio track. If you don't need the video clip anymore, go ahead and delete it.

You can now work with the extracted audio clip separately.

Step 4: Save the audio (optional)
If you want to save the audio clip for later use, you can export it as an audio file:
1. Click the Export button. The export window will open.
2. In the Export window, switch to the Save Only Audio tab.
3. Select an audio format that you want to save the audio file in.
4. The Save to field shows where on the disk the file will be saved. To change that folder, click Browse and select a new folder.
5. Finally, click Start to save the audio file.

Learn more about saving audio

Please respect copyright laws and stay within the boundaries of fair use of copyrighted materials.
If the music file you've selected doesn't go all the way until the end of your movie, you can loop the audio and have the file play over again until the end of the video.

**Step 1:** Copy the audio clip. To do that, right-click the audio clip on the Timeline, and choose **Copy** from the pop-up menu, or use the `C` keys.

**Step 2:** Paste the audio clip onto the Timeline right next to the first clip. The clip will be inserted right after the position marker. Repeat until the audio length is greater or equal to the video length.

**Step 3:** Now, the audio track may be longer than the video track. To trim the audio, hold your mouse pointer over the right edge of the clip, and drag the edge to the left, until the end of the audio clip is right under the end of the video clip.

Hint: Music is looped automatically within the Montage Wizard.

**Using sounds**

You can make your movies more expressive using the built-in sound samples.

**Step 1:** Click the **Import** button to open the Import tab.

**Step 2:** On the left part of the Import tab, click **Sounds** to open the sound collection.

**Step 3:** Click on a sound to play it and pick a sound you like. Drag the sound onto the audio track of the Timeline.
Step 4: (optional) To synchronize the sound with a video clip:
1. Select the sound on the Timeline and drag it up towards the video track.
2. The linked audio track will appear, and a blue line will connect the sound clip to the video track.
3. Adjust the position of the sound clip on the linked audio track so that the line points to where the sound should begin.

Audio properties
To open the properties for any audio, including built-in audio on the video track, select the clip on the Timeline and click the Audio Properties button on the toolbar.

The Tools panel will open on the Audio tab, where you can edit the following:

Volume — Sets the volume of the clip.
Normalize — Makes the quiet parts louder.
Speed — Makes the audio play faster or slower.
Reverse — Plays the audio backwards.
Fade in — The audio fades in from complete silence to full volume in the time you set.
Fade out — The audio fades out from full volume to complete silence in the time you set.

See also:
Video properties
Equalizer
Volume curves

Volume levels
Changing volume levels works the same way for video and audio clips:

Step 1: On the Timeline, select the clip that you want to edit. This can be a video or an audio clip on any track.

Step 2: Click the Audio Properties button to open the tools for the selected clip.

Step 3: Drag the Volume slider to set the necessary level, where 100% is the original volume.
   • To mute the clip, click the Mute button on the right.
   • If parts of the audio clip are too quiet, select the Normalize option to increase their volume.
Playback volume
Only for previewing
If you need to temporarily change the volume of playback in the editor, without changing the project's volume, click the speaker icon in the preview area and set the necessary volume level. Please note that this will only affect the volume while previewing the project in the video editor, and will not affect the output file.

Volume curves
If you need more advanced volume control, you can use volume curves on the Timeline to set the volume for precise parts of any audio clip. Learn more about volume curves

Audio clip with a volume curve

Volume curves
With volume curves, you can control the volume for each part of the clip and smoothly increase or decrease the volume.

Each clip has its own volume curve that starts out at 100% volume for the entire clip, and two points at its beginning and at the end. The white line on the image below is the volume curve before you add any points.

Step 1: Set the base level
Drag the white line up or down to the necessary level. The top of the clip is 100% volume and the middle of the clip is 50%.

Step 2: Add a volume point
Points on the audio curve represent the volume peaks and lows. To add a point, right-click on the audio curve and choose Add Volume Point from the pop-up menu. Next, drag the audio point to the necessary volume level. You'll notice that the surrounding parts also move with the point to make the transition smoother.

Make as many points as you need for each part of the clip where you'd like a peak or a drop in volume.

Step 3: Manage the volume for a part of the clip
To set the volume level for a part of the clip, you'll need at least two points. Create a point at the beginning and at the end of the fragment:

Click and drag the white line between two points to change the volume level for this fragment. When you drag a volume point or a fragment, the parts of the curve to the left and right will also move with it.

However, this affects only the closest parts of the curve. To get more control over the behavior of the curve, create more volume points. This way, only the adjacent parts will be adjusted, leaving the rest of the curve as it was.
Linking audio

You can link audio clips to videos or images on the main video track so that they stay in sync as you edit your project. To link an audio clip:

**Step 1:** Select an audio clip on the audio track at the bottom of the Timeline.

**Step 2:** Drag it up, towards the video clip you want to link it with.

**Step 3:** You’ll see that a new audio track has appeared, and a blue line now connects the video and audio clips. Drop the audio clip onto this new track. The audio clip is now linked to the video clip with the blue line.

Fading audio

In the editing tools, you can add smooth fades to the beginning or the end of a clip and create a crossfade effect between songs.

**Step 1:** On the Timeline, select the clip that you want to fade.

**Step 2:** Click the **Audio Properties** button on the toolbar. The clip properties will open in the Tools panel above.

**Step 3:** Set the fade length using the sliders on the **Audio** tab.

- **Fade in** – how long in seconds it will take to fade in from silence to full volume at the beginning of the clip.
- **Fade out** – how long in seconds it will take to fade out from full volume to silence at the end of the clip.
Using the equalizer, you can boost or reduce the levels of specific frequencies.

**Step 1:** Select the audio clip that you want to edit. This can also be a built-in audio clip on the video track.

**Step 2:** Click the **Audio Properties** button on the toolbar to open the audio tools. There, scroll down in the audio tools and click **Equalizer**.

**Step 3:** Choose an equalizer preset (optional)

**Step 4:** Drag the volume bars to adjust the frequencies to the necessary level.
You can save your own equalizer presets to use them in other projects. Set the volume bars to the right levels and click **Save**. In the new window enter a preset name and click **OK**. The created preset will appear in the presets list.

**Noise removal**

**Step 1:** Select the audio clip that you want to edit. This can also be a built-in audio clip on the video track.

**Step 2:** Click the **Audio Properties** button on the toolbar to open the audio tools. There, scroll down in the audio tools and click **Noise Removal**.

**Step 3:** Use the **Noise suppression** slider to set the amount of noise you want to remove.
- Start with low levels and listen to the audio to check if the noise is gone.
- Don't set the noise suppression too high if there isn't much noise because it can start muting other sounds.

**Audio effects**

Audio effects can transform the sound of an audio clip.

**Step 1:** Select the audio clip that you want to edit. This can also be a built-in audio clip on the video track.

**Step 2:** Click the **Audio Properties** button on the toolbar to open the audio tools. There, scroll down in the audio tools and click **Audio Effects**.

**Step 3:** Click the box in the **Audio Effects** section and choose an audio effect you like.
Removing effects
When you’ve applied an audio effect to a clip, a star icon will appear on it:

Click on the star to see a list of applied effects. Then, select the effect you don’t want and click the cross button to discard the effect.

See also:
Using sounds
Audio properties

Beat detection
To make your movie or slideshow more dynamic, use the Beat Detection audio tool to automatically mark audio beats on the Timeline and then adjust your movie to the beat of the music.

Step 1: On the Timeline, select the music that you want to detect beats for.

Step 2: Click the Audio Properties button to open the audio tools. Then, scroll down and click Beat Detection.

Step 3: In the Beat Detection tool, click Detect Beats. The program will analyze the music and place beat markers on the Timeline.
Step 4: (optional) After the beat markers have been placed, you can modify their tempo. Use the **Min time between beat markers** slider to make the beat slower or faster.

Step 5: Adjust your clips to the beat. When you trim or drag clips, they will now snap to the beat markers, making it easy to keep to the beat.

**Removing beat markers**
- To remove beat markers for a specific audio clip, right-click the clip on the Timeline and select **Remove Beats** from the pop-up menu.
- To remove all beat markers from your project, right-click the Timeline ruler and select **Remove All Beats** from the pop-up menu.

**Filters**
Using filters you can alter the mood of the video, make an old movie, overlay cool flying objects, and more.

**Step 1: Open the Filters tab**
Click the **Filters** button to open the filters collection. Click on a filter's thumbnail to see its preview in the player.

**Step 2: Find a filter you like**
- On the left, you will see groups of filters. Click on a group to see the relevant filters.
- If you're looking for a specific filter, enter its name into the search box under the group list.
- If you really like a filter, click the heart icon to add it to the **Favorites** group.
Step 3: Apply the filter
When you've found a filter you like, drag its thumbnail onto the clip you want to apply the filter to.

Once you've applied a filter, a star icon will appear on the clip, denoting applied filters and tools.

Removing filters
1. Click on the star icon on the clip to see the list of applied filters and tools.
2. In the list, find the filter that you don't want.
3. Click the cross button to discard the effect.

Adding text titles to your videos
How to add text to your videos

Step 1: Go to the Titles tab
On the left-hand side of the window, click the Titles button to view the titles collection.
• Click on a title style's thumbnail to preview its looks in the player and choose the titles you want to use.
If you really like a title style, click the heart icon on its thumbnail to add it to your favorites list.

Step 2: Add a title clip
To add titles to your project, pick a title style you like and drag its thumbnail onto the title track of the Timeline, right above the video track, onto the time where you want them to appear. The title clip will appear as a purple ribbon on the Timeline.

Note the purple line connecting the beginning of each title clip to a corresponding video clip on the video track. This way, whenever you move or edit the video clip, its titles will always stay in sync.

To make several text clips appear simultaneously, simply place them one on top of another on the titles track.

Step 3: Edit titles
When you’ve added a title clip, it will start out with the default text and looks. Double-click the title’s ribbon on the Timeline to show editing options in the player.

Title clip properties
Click the cogwheel icon at the top of the editing panel to see title clip properties. Here, you can change the duration of the titles and animation speed (how fast they will appear or disappear).

Editing text
1. In the preview, double-click on the text box you want to edit.
2. Enter the new text.
3. Click the Font properties button and select the font style, size, and alignment options for the selected text.
4. Click the Color properties button and choose a color for the text, and the outline’s width and color.
5. Drag the text box to where you want to see it on the video.

Editing decoration elements
Some titles come with frames, ribbons, and other decorations. To change their color, select the decoration element you want to edit and click the Color properties button. Then, click the Decorations color palette and choose the new color.

Finally, click Apply to exit editing mode.
Step 1: Open the Titles tab
Click the Titles button on the left sidebar to open the list of available text styles.

Step 2: Add Timer titles
1. Find the "Timer" title style. Use the search bar or click the Basic group to filter the styles.
2. Drag the Timer titles onto the title track of the Timeline. Move the clip along the Timeline until its beginning is where the titles should appear. To change the length of the timer, drag at the edges of the clip.

See also:
Adding callouts
Adding a timer
Timeline tracks
Step 3: Edit the timer

1. Double-click the timer clip on the Timeline to edit it. A properties panel will appear over the player.

2. On the Clip properties tab, set the **duration** and the **format** of the timer. The format determines which units of time are visible on the timer: hours (hh), minutes (mm), seconds (ss), and milliseconds (zzz).

3. On the Font properties tab, choose the font and style of the numbers.

4. On the Color properties tab, set the **color** of the numbers and the **background color**. To make the background transparent, click the background color square and set **Opacity** to 0%.

5. On the Timer tab, enter the starting time into the From box. If you want the timer to count backwards, select the **Countdown** option.

6. In the player, drag the Timer to the necessary location on screen.

7. Finally, click **Apply** to exit editing mode.

Saving custom titles

After you've set up titles to look the way you want, you can save that style and use it in your projects.

**Step 1:** Just like you usually edit titles, double-click the title clip and choose the font, color, and other options.

**Step 2:** Click the **Save** icon at the top of the title editing panel on top of the player.

**Step 3:** Enter a name for your titles and click **Save**.

The new title style will appear under the **My titles** group.

Transitions

Jump to: changing transition length | add a transitions to all clips | removing a transition

Transitions are short animations that use geometric shapes and transparency to connect two clips in a creative way.
Add a transition

1. Click the Transitions button on the left sidebar to open the list of all transitions. Click on a transition to preview it in the player.

2. In the list of transitions, pick a style you like and drag-and-drop its icon between two clips on the Timeline. If you really like a transition style, you can click the heart icon to add it to your favorites list.

A transition icon will appear between the two clips.

Change transition length

By default, each transition will be set at 2 seconds long. To change the transition length:

1. Double-click a transition on the Timeline to open transition properties.
2. In the Transition Properties window, enter the new transition length in the Duration field. The format is hours:minutes:seconds:milliseconds. If you want all transitions that are currently in the project to have the same length, select the Set this duration for all transitions option.
3. Click OK to apply the changes.
**Transition mode**

In the **Transition Properties** window you can choose mode of transition. This setting affects what media is used to fill in the missing parts of the transition:

- **Trimmed content** – if you’ve trimmed the video, the trimmed bits will appear during the transition. If the videos haven’t been trimmed, a freeze frame is shown.
- **Freeze frame** – a static frame is shown during the transition.
- **Slow motion** – the part of the video overlapped by the transition is stretched to fill the entire duration.

The default mode is set to **Trimmed content**. The change of transition mode is more obvious when applied to a video clip rather than to an image.

**Add transitions to all clips**

**Using the Transition Wizard**

You can automatically add transitions between all clips in your movie in just a few steps:

1. Click the slideshow button on the toolbar. The Create Slideshow dialog box will open.
2. In the **Create Slideshow** dialog box, select a transition style that you want to use for all clips. If you want to use different transitions, choose the **Use random transitions** option in the list of transitions.
3. In the **Transition duration** box, enter the length that you want to set for all transitions. A transition cannot be longer than the shortest clip in your project.
4. Click **OK** to accept the changes.

**Using the right-click menu**

To add one transition to all the clips in your project, right-click the transition’s thumbnail and choose **Add to All Clips** from the pop-up menu.

**Remove a transition**

To remove a transition from your movie or slideshow, right-click the transition on the Timeline and choose **Remove Transition** from the pop-up menu. If you want to delete all the transitions in your project, choose **Remove All Transitions**.
Stickers
You can decorate your video and make it more fun by adding stickers on top of it.

Step 1: Open the Sticker collection
Click the Stickers button in the sidebar to open the list of stickers.
• Click on a sticker’s thumbnail to preview it in the player
• If you really like a sticker, you can click the heart icon on its thumbnail to add it to your favorites list.
Hint: if you don’t see the Stickers button in the sidebar, click the More button at the bottom of the sidebar and select Stickers from the pop-up list.

Step 2: Add the sticker
Select the sticker’s thumbnail and drag it onto the title track of the Timeline. All titles, callouts, and stickers go on the title track.
Step 3: Edit the sticker

Change length
To change how long a sticker appears on the video, drag the edges of the sticker clip on the Timeline.

Move the sticker
To change the sticker’s position on your video, double-click the sticker clip to go into editing mode. In the player, drag by the corner of the frame around the sticker to change its size, and drag by the center of the frame to move the sticker. To rotate the sticker, click and drag the white dot at the top of the frame. Click Apply above the player when you're finished.

Frequently asked questions

Can I apply transitions to stickers?
No, you can’t. Stickers always appear instantly on top of the video.

Can I animate stickers?
Sure! You can animate them like any other clip. Learn more: Animation

Callouts
Using callouts, you can annotate your video with arrows, icons, and other shapes.
Step 1: Open the Callouts tab
Click the Callouts button on the left sidebar to open the shape collection. To preview a callout style, click on its thumbnail.
• Callouts are grouped into categories on the left. Use these to find the shapes you need.
• If you're looking for a specific callout, type its name into the search box under the list of groups.
• If you really like a callout style, click the heart icon on its thumbnail to add it to your favorites list.

Hint: if you can't see the Callouts button, click the More button at the bottom of the sidebar and choose Callouts from the pop-up list.

Step 2: Add callout clip
When you find a style you like, drag it onto the title track at the very top of the Timeline. Place the beginning of the clip where you want the callout to start appearing. Drag the edges of the callout clip to change its duration.

Note that the clip is linked to the corresponding clip on the main video track with a purple line. This means that the callout clip is synchronized with the video: when you move or cut the video clip, the callout clip will follow without losing sync.

Step 3: Edit the callout
Double-click the callout clip. An editing panel will appear in the player. If the callout consists of several elements, for example, text and a shape or two shapes, make sure to select the one you want to edit.

Position
In the player, drag the callout to where you want it to appear on screen.

Clip properties
• On the editing panel, set the animation speed for the element to change how fast it appears on screen.
• To change the callout's duration, enter it into the Duration box or drag the edge of the callout clip on the Timeline.

Colors
Click the Color properties icon and choose the **color** and **outline** for the selected element.

**Text**
- If the callout has text, double-click on the text box and enter the new text.
- Click the Text properties icon and choose the new **font**, **size** and **style** for the callout text.

When you're done, click **Apply** to accept the changes and exit editing mode.

![Animation tool screenshot](image)

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**See also:**
- Timeline tracks
- Adding titles

**Animation**

With Movavi Academic, animating objects is simple and doesn’t need any additional software. You can move or spin objects any way you want, and make creative appearances.

**Before you start:**
- Add the background onto the main video track.
- Add the object you want to animate. This can be a video or image, text titles, callouts, or stickers. Place the videos or images to the overlay track, and add the titles, callouts, and stickers onto the title track of the Timeline. Make the clip as long as you want the animation to last.

![Animation tool screenshot](image)

**Step 1: Open the Animation tool**

In the left sidebar, click the **Animation** button. If you don't see it there, click the **More** button, and choose Animation from the pop-up list.
Step 2: Select animation type
- Select Presets of animation if you want to add a quick and simple animation, or if it’s your first time using the animation and you want to understand how it works.
- Select Advanced animation to add your own unique animation.

Step 3: Add Animation
Add animation preset
1. Click the Presets of Animation tab.
2. Choose a preset and drag it on the clip.
3. Adjust the keyframes, if needed.

Add advanced animation
1. Click the Advanced Animation tab.
2. Select the clip you want to animate and place the position marker to where you want the animation to begin.
3. In the Animation panel, click Add Animation.

- In the player, you will see a frame appear around the object. You’ll be using this frame to set the position of the object.
- On the Timeline, two points will appear on the clip. These are called keyframes. The first point is the original position of the object. The second point will be its end position after the animation. The distance between the two points determines how fast the object needs to travel between these two positions.

Step 4: Edit the keyframes
1. On the Timeline, double-click a keyframe to edit it.
2. In the player, use the frame to move the object to where you want it to go.
   - Drag by the corners of the frame to change the object’s size.
   - To rotate the object, drag by the white dot at the top of the frame or use the Angle box in the Animation panel. Note that if you want to make the object spin, you can rotate it to a maximum of 180 degrees in a single keyframe.
   - To make the object fade in or out, use the Opacity slider in the Animation panel.
3. To change how fast the object moves, move the keyframe point on the clip:
   - Move the points closer together to make the animation go faster.
   - Move the points farther away from each other to make it go slower.
Step 5: Add more keyframes (optional)
To add another keyframe, move the position marker to where you want to place it in the clip and click Add Keyframe on the Animation panel. If you add it between two existing keyframes, it will create an intermediate position.

Resetting a keyframe
To make a keyframe go back to its original position, right-click the keyframe point on the clip and choose Reset Keyframe in the pop-up menu.

Removing keyframes
• To remove one keyframe, right-click the keyframe point on the clip and choose Remove Keyframe in the pop-up menu.
• To remove all keyframes and delete the animation, right-click any of the keyframe points and choose Remove All Keyframes.

Pan and zoom
Using the Pan and Zoom tool, you can control camera movement using two keyframes. Set the beginning zoom and the end zoom using the frames in the player, and the camera will smoothly move from one frame to the other.

Step 1: Open the Pan and Zoom tool
1. On the Timeline, select the clip that you want to zoom.
2. On the left sidebar, click the Pan and Zoom button.
Tip: If you can’t see Pan and Zoom button, maximize the window, or click the More button at the bottom and select Pan and Zoom from the pop-up list.
Step 2: Add pan or zoom keyframes
1. On the Timeline, place the position marker to where you want the zooming to begin.
2. Select one of the zooming methods: Zoom in, Zoom out, or Pan.
   Tip: To see how an effect works, select it and click Preview.
3. Click Add.

This will add two zoom keyframes to the clip. Using these keyframes, you can set up when the camera moves from one point to the other. The camera will move between these two keyframes.

Step 3: Set up the zoom frames
Now, you can set the zoom level for each keyframe using the frame in the player, and the camera will smoothly move from one frame to the other.
To change the starting or the ending keyframe, double-click a dot on the clip. Then, use the frame in the player to set the zoom level for the starting or ending point of the camera movement.

Step 4: Change the keyframe time
   • To change the length of the zoom effect, hold your mouse pointer over a keyframe and move it left or right.
   • To move the zooming effect without changing its length or other settings, hold your mouse pointer over the arrow and move it along the clip.

Step 5: Add more zooming (optional)
If you want to add more camera movements, repeat steps 2-4 to combine other camera movements in one clip. For example, you can zoom in on an object, pan across the frame with the same zoom level, and then zoom back out to 100%.

Add the Pan and Zoom effect to all clips
1. Open the Transition Wizard on the toolbar.
2. Select the Enable Pan and Zoom effect box to add transitions to all clips in your project.
3. Click OK.
Removing zoom
To remove a pan or zoom effect, right-click a keyframe and select Remove All Keyframes to clear all zoom effects from the clip. To remove just the selected keyframe, select Remove Keyframe.

Stabilizing video
If you're filming with a handheld camera, it's likely that there might be some unwanted camera shake visible on the video, especially if you walk or move while filming.

Step 1: On the Timeline, select the clip you need to stabilize. Longer videos take more time to stabilize, so you may want to first cut the video into smaller segments.

Step 2: On the left sidebar, click the Stabilization button.
Tip: if you don’t see the Stabilization button, click the More button and select Stabilization from the pop-up list.

Step 3: Click Stabilize to open stabilization options. The Stabilization window will open.
Step 4: Set up stabilization with the following parameters depending on the video and the amount of shaking:

**Accuracy**: affects the analysis precision of the video. Higher accuracy yields the best results, but also takes more time.

**Shaking**: set how strongly the shaking is visible on the video.

If you need more advanced settings, click the arrow under the sliders.

**Radius**: when a video is stabilized, each object is adjusted using the pixels from the surrounding area. The radius affects how large that area will be. Use a smaller value for more dynamic videos to avoid mixing objects together and to preserve more detail.

**Smoothing**: limits camera acceleration. Higher values work best for more or less static videos. Excessive smoothing may limit panning.

**Edge Cropping**: after compensating for motion, some distortion artefacts like blurred areas may appear around the edges.
- **None**: the edges will remain as they are. Best results if there is little shaking on the video.
- **Fixed**: the video is cropped to one size to cut off some of the edges.
- **Adaptive**: whenever there is a lot of shaking, the video will zoom in so that the distorted edges are not shown.

Step 5: Click **Stabilize** to start processing the video. This may take a while depending on the length of your video and the selected parameters.

Step 6: After the video has been stabilized, you will see its preview in the player. If you’re satisfied with the result, click **Apply** to replace the clip on the Timeline with the stabilized video. If you didn’t like the results, repeat steps 4 and 5.

**Stabilized copies**
A stabilized copy of the file will be created under “*/Movies/Movavi Video Editor/Stabilized*”. This copy will be used in the project instead of the original video. If you delete the stabilized copy, it will be replaced with the original video, and you will need to stabilize the clip again.

**Filming tips**
- When shooting videos, try to rest the camera on something.
• If possible, use a tripod. Some tripods are really small and can fit into your bag.
• If you can’t put down the camera, hold it with both hands and close to your body. This will minimize the shaking.
• Try to move around less. If you have to move the camera, do it slowly.
• Check your camera’s settings to see if it has built-in stabilization.

Troubleshooting
Not enough disk space error
When a video is stabilized, the video editor creates a stabilized copy of the video in a folder on your disk. By default, this folder is ”/Movies/Movavi Video Editor/Stabilized” on your main disk drive. If you are running out of space on that drive, you can either free more space and try again, or tell the program to save stabilized copies on another disk.
1. Open the Settings menu and choose Preferences.
2. Switch to the Files tab.
3. Find the “Store stabilized videos in” box and click the button on the right to choose a different folder on a drive where you have more space.
4. Click OK to accept the changes. Now, try stabilizing the video again.

Cannot access folder error
This error means that you’ve changed the folder where stabilized files are stored, and that folder’s permissions prevent Movavi Academic from creating files inside it. Try using a different folder for storing stabilized videos.

Highlight and conceal
Using the Highlight and Conceal tool, you can control the focus in the frame, and blur or darken parts of the video.

Step 1: Open the Highlight and Conceal tool
1. On the Timeline, select the clip that you want to edit.
2. On the left sidebar, click the Highlight and Conceal button. The tool’s options will open, and a frame will appear in the player.

Tip: If you don’t see Highlight and Conceal button, click the More button at the bottom, and choose Highlight and Conceal from the pop-up list.

Step 2: Set up the mask
1. In the Highlight and Conceal tool, open the box and choose Conceal if you want to hide an object, and Highlight if you want to bring attention to the object.
2. Choose a shape for the mask: you can use a **rectangle** or an **ellipse**.

3. Choose a masking effect: **blur**, **matte** (black cover-up) or **pixels**. Use the options below to fine-tune the mask:
   - **Opacity** – makes the mask more transparent (for matte and blur)
   - **Feathering** – makes the edges of the mask softer (for matte and blur)
   - **Size** – changes the size of the pixels (for pixel masks only)
   - **Outline** – adds a white outline around the mask.

![Highlight and Conceal panel](image)

4. In the player, drag the corners of the mask to change its size and shape, and drag by the center of the mask to move it on top of the object.

**Step 3: Add more masks (optional)**

If you want to cover up or highlight more than one object, click **Add Mask** above the player to create another mask, and you can now set it up the same way as the first. The selected mask is highlighted orange in the player.

**Step 4: Apply the changes**

When you're done, click **Apply** on the Highlight and Conceal panel to finalize the changes.
How to replace a video’s background

The Chroma key effect allows you to remove any color from the image or video, leaving the background transparent.

**Step 1: Add the foreground and background clips**

Add the video or image clips that you want to use as the foreground and the background. For the foreground (the clip that you want to remove the background from), use a clip with a bright, solid background that contrasts with the foreground objects.

**Step 2: Create an overlay**

1. Select the foreground video and move it up, onto the Overlay track.
2. Double-click the foreground video on the Overlay track. The overlay options will appear above the player.
3. To make the foreground video completely cover the background video, select the Cover overlay mode from the list above the player.
4. Click Apply.

**Step 3: Open the Chroma Key tool**

1. Select the foreground video on the Overlay track.
2. On the left sidebar, click the Chroma Key button. The Chroma Key options will appear.
   
   *Tip: If you don’t see the Chroma Key button, click the More button and select Chroma Key in the pop-up list.*

**Step 4: Set up Chroma Key**
1. Once you open the **Chroma Key** tool, move your mouse cursor over the player and click on the color that you want to remove. The color you've picked will be made transparent, and the underlying video will now be visible. Tip: if nothing happens when you click on the player, click the color swatch in the Chroma Key options and then try again.

2. Use the **Tolerance** slider to set how many similar shades of the selected color should also be removed. Higher values will remove similar colors to the one you've selected.

3. Use the **Noise** slider to determine how sharp the object's edges should be.

4. Use the **Edges** slider to determine how thick the object's edges should be.

5. Use the **Opacity** slider to set the transparency of the background.

6. Finally, click **Apply** to accept the changes.

**Cropping the video**
If the videos you're using for the foreground and background have different aspect ratios, you may end up with black bars or empty areas along the edges after applying Chroma key. To fix this, crop the videos to the project’s aspect ratio.

**Exporting videos**
When you're done with your project, you'll need to export it as a media file to be able to play it back in media players, mobile devices, and so on. This section will guide you through the process of exporting your project to a popular video format. If you want to find out more about other ways of saving videos, see the following guides:

- Saving only audio
- Saving videos for devices
- Saving videos for TVs
- Uploading videos online

**Step 1: Open the Export window**
To start saving the video, click the **Export** button in the bottom right-hand corner of the Editor. The export settings window will open.
Step 2: Choose a format

In the new window choose a format for saving the video in. Some formats allow you to choose between video codecs. If you don’t know which format to choose, try using MP4 with the H.264 codec. The MP4 format is supported by most platforms and operating systems.

The **Estimated File Size** field shows how much disc space your file will require after saving. If the file size is too large, you can set a lower resolution in the **Project Settings**. At lower resolutions, the file will be significantly smaller, however, the video will lose some quality due to the limitations of digital data compression. When changing resolutions, we recommend that you keep the same aspect ratio to avoid black bars around the video or other unwanted distortions.

The **GIF** format is different from other formats in the list. It allows saving video as a mute animated image, which can then be played in some image viewing programs or in any web browser.

Learn more about project settings

Step 3: Choose a destination folder

Name your file and choose a destination folder.

In the ‘**Save to**’ field, enter the folder where you would like to store the file. By default, this will be the directory for saving output videos specified in the **preferences**. To set a different folder, click the **Browse** button and choose the folder in the **Finder** window, or enter the path manually into the box. Name your video in the **File Name** field: the project’s name will be filled in for you by default.

*The video file will have a frame rate of 60 FPS only if the original video files used in the projects had a frame rate of 60 FPS and above.

Learn more about project settings
Step 4: Select quality (optional)
If your project is heavy on small details and filters, you can select **High** or **Highest** quality to export the finished video with a higher bitrate. This will increase the output file size but will preserve better quality. For most other projects, **Good** quality will provide a nice result at a small file size.

Step 5: Choose a destination folder
Name your file and choose a destination folder. In the 'Save to' field, enter the folder where you would like to store the file. By default, this will be the directory for saving output videos specified in the preferences. To set a different folder, click the **Browse** button and choose the folder in the Finder window, or enter the path manually into the box. Name your video in the **File Name** field: the project’s name will be filled in for you by default.

Step 6: Start exporting
Click the **Start** button to begin processing the video file. This may take up to a few minutes.

Export only audio
This section will guide you through exporting just the audio track of your project.

**Step 1:** Click the **Export** button in the bottom right-hand corner of the Editor to open the export settings window.
Step 2: At the left-hand side of the Export window you will find a number of tabs. Click on the Save Only Audio tab.

Step 3: Choose a format
Select the format you’d like to save the audio in.

While MP3 is the most commonplace format, supported by almost all media players and devices, FLAC format allows you to preserve high audio quality, albeit taking up considerably more disc space. When choosing an output format, it is important to note the quality of the original files: due to data compression limitations, digital audio cannot be restructured from very low quality files by saving them as FLAC audio, and vice versa – high quality files may lose some of that quality when saved to MP3 format which is limited to 320 Kbps.

When saving audio from your project, the audio file will retain the same sample rate and channel settings as you have set for your project. The audio bitrate will be determined from the quality of the original files and from the maximum bitrate for the selected format (for example, MP3 is limited to 320 Kbps, while FLAC bitrate is not limited).

Step 4: Name your file and choose a destination folder.
In the ‘Save to’ field, enter the folder where you would like to store the file. By default, this will be the directory for saving output videos specified in the preferences. To set a different folder, click the Browse button and choose the folder in the Finder window, or enter the path manually into the box. Name your video in the File Name field: the project’s name will be filled in for you by default.

Step 5: Start exporting
Click the **Start** button to begin processing the video file. This may take up to a few minutes.

**Export for devices**

This guide will help you export your video project for playing on mobile phones, tablets, and other devices.

**Step 1: Open the Export window**

In the bottom right hand corner of the Editor, click the **Export** button to open the export settings window.

**Step 2: Switch to the Save for Devices tab**

At the top of the Export window, you will find a number of tabs for saving different kinds of media. Choose the necessary tab depending on your type of device:

**Step 3: Choose a format**

On this tab you will find a number of different types of devices for which you can choose a format. You can choose between devices running iOS (iPhone, iPad, iPad mini) or Android, Samsung Galaxy S6 and Galaxy S7, Google Nexus 6 and Google Pixel, as well as Playstation and Xbox consoles. If your device is not on the list, choose **Other**.
Step 4: Set export quality (optional)
If your project is heavy on small details and filters, you can select High or Highest quality to export the finished video with a higher bitrate. This will increase the output file size but will preserve better quality. For most other projects, Good quality will provide a nice result at a small file size.
In the Advanced section you can view the properties for the output file. Due to the limitations of some devices, the video resolution, audio quality, and other properties may be changed to adhere to the requirements of the selected device. Estimated File Size will give you a rough estimate of how much disk space the file will occupy, which may be important if your device is running out of memory.

Step 5: Name your file and choose a destination folder.
In the Save to field, enter the folder where you would like to store the file. By default, this will be the directory for saving output videos specified in the preferences. To set a different folder, click the Browse button and choose the folder in the Finder window, or enter the path manually into the box. Name your video in the File Name field: the project’s name will be filled in for you by default.

Step 6: Click the Start button to begin processing the video file. This may take up to a few minutes.

Export for TVs

This guide will help you export your video project for playing on Smart TVs.

Step 1: Open the Export window
In the bottom right hand corner of the Editor, click the Export button to open the export settings window.
Step 2: Switch to the Save for TVs tab
At the left-hand side of the Export window, you will find a number of tabs for saving different kinds of media. Click the Save for TVs tab.

Step 3: Choose a format
All the available formats are listed on the left-hand side of the window. Choose your TV brand and the necessary resolution. If your TV is not on the list, choose Other 1080p TVs.

Step 4: Set export quality (optional)
Project settings: If you’ve been using the default project settings, your video’s resolution is now 720p. To avoid losing quality when saving to a larger resolution, click the Advanced button and edit the project settings. There, choose the 1920x1080 resolution for 1080p HDTVs, and the 3840x2160 resolution for 4K Ultra HD TVs.

Quality: If your project is heavy on small details and filters, you can select High or Highest quality to export the finished video with a higher bitrate. This will increase the output file size but will preserve better quality. For most other projects, Good quality will provide a nice result at a small file size.
Step 5: Name your file and choose a destination folder
In the 'Save to' field, enter the folder where you would like to store the file. By default, this will be the directory for saving output videos specified in the preferences. To set a different folder, click the Browse button and choose the folder in the Finder window, or enter the path manually into the box. Name your video in the File Name field: the project’s name will be filled in for you by default.

Step 6: Click the Start button to begin processing the video file. This may take up to a few minutes.

Uploading online
After you finish your video, you can share it to YouTube, Vimeo or Google Drive right from the export window.

Step 1: Open the Export window
Click the Export button to open the exporting window.
Step 2: Switch to the Upload online tab
In the left hand part of the Export window click on the Upload online tab.

Step 3: Choose a service to upload to
On the Upload online tab select the service you would like to upload your videos to: YouTube, Vimeo or Google Drive.

Step 4: Sign in to your account
1. Click Sign in. The authentication page will open in your browser.
2. Sign in to your account and click Allow to let Movavi Academic upload videos.
**Step 5: Choose a resolution**

In the Export window, open the Resolution list and choose a resolution that suits your project.

- For best results, choose a resolution that is equal to or less than the height of your project. You can find the resolution of the project at the bottom of the main window, next to Project settings. For example, if your project is 1280x720, choose the 720p resolution.
- This resolution will be the highest quality available for your video. Lower resolutions will be generated automatically by the website.

**Step 6: Fill in the details (YouTube)**

1. Fill in the title and description for your video.
2. Add some tags to help users find videos by relevant topics. Separate tags with commas and add a number sign (#) before each one.
3. Choose a category to help viewers find relevant content.
4. Open the Privacy box and choose who you want to see the video:
   - Private – videos can only be seen by you and the users you choose.
   - Public – videos can be seen by and shared with anyone.
   - Unlisted – videos can be seen and shared by anyone with the link.

*YouTube allows users to upload videos up to 15 minutes. To upload longer videos, you need to verify your account.*

**YouTube help – increasing your upload limit**

**Step 6: Fill in the details (Google Drive)**

1. Fill in the title for your video.
2. Select a Google Drive folder where you want your video to be uploaded. You can create new folders in your Google Drive storage straight in the export window or you can create one in your browser and then click Refresh to see the new folder in the export window.
3. Open the Privacy box and choose who you want to see the video:
   - Only me – videos can only be seen by you and the users you choose.
   - Get shareable link – videos can be seen and shared by anyone with the link.
Step 6: Fill in the details (Vimeo)
1. Fill in the title and description for the video.
2. Set the level of privacy:
   - Anyone – any person can watch the video.
   - Only people I follow – only people you’re subscribed to can watch the video.
   - Only me – nobody, but you can access the video.
3. Select the resolution of the video and add tags.

Step 7: Save and upload the video
1. Before uploading, the video will be saved as a file on your computer. To change where the video file is stored, click Browse and select a folder.
2. Click Start to begin saving and uploading the video.

See also:
Sharing preferences

Video Editor preferences

To open the preferences:
1. Click the Settings menu
2. Select Preferences.

The Preferences window will open. The preferences are organized into tabs. Click on a tab to open the relevant options.
When you're done, click **OK** to close the window and apply the preferences.

See also: 
*General preferences* 
*File preferences* 
*Sharing preferences*

**General preferences**

*Interface Language* – to change the interface language, simply select the necessary language from the list and click **OK** to apply the changes.

*Automatically check for updates* – select this option and you'll be notified whenever a new version is available. Updates within your version are absolutely free (e.g. 1.0 to 1.1), while new releases are offered with a hefty discount to registered users.

*Play notification sound when exporting is finished* – when saving a project as a media file, you'll be notified as soon as the process is completed.

**File preferences**

On the Files tab, you can find the options for storing and saving different kinds of files. You can change any of these folders to a different location.

*Save project files to* – this folder will be offered by default when saving and opening projects. This folder will also store any autosave files for new projects. You can use the autosave file to restore your work in case of an error or force close.

*Save output videos to* – this folder will be offered by default when exporting media files.
Store audio recordings in – the audio clips that you record in the Editor will be stored as audio files in this folder. Tip: if you delete these audio files, the audio recordings in the project will also be unavailable.

Store stabilized videos in – when you stabilize a video, a stabilized copy of the original will be created in this folder and used instead of the original. Tip: don’t delete these files while you are working on the project, or you’ll have to stabilize the files again.

Changing where the files are stored
Using a different folder might help if you don’t have much disk space on your primary drive, or if you want to organize your media files in another way.

1. Click the button with three dots next to the folder you want to change.
2. A Finder dialog box will open. Choose the folder you want to save the files to.
3. Click Select Folder to use this folder.

Sharing preferences
On the Sharing tab of the Preferences window, you can manage your social network accounts for uploading videos.

To sign in:
1. Click Sign In. The authentication page will open in the browser.
2. Sign in to your account.
3. On the next page, allow Movavi Academic to upload videos to your account.
4. Return to the video editor. Your name will be shown in the Preferences window.

**To sign out or use a different account:**
Click Sign Out. After this, you will need to sign in again to upload videos.

**Acceleration preferences**

**Fast Track HD Acceleration**
Fast Track HD Acceleration provides smooth and fast program running. By enabling **HD clips optimization** in the Preferences menu you allow the video editor to create copies of the project files in a smaller size and then use them in the project instead of the original ones. To enable this feature you need to have free disk space, so the Editor can store and use the copies. Once you finish editing and begin export, high-quality files will replace all the temporary optimization copies.
Record computer screen

With the screen capture module, you can record any part of your screen with audio and save the resulting video in any format you like. When you click the Record Screencast button, you will see a control panel window where you can set up your capture preferences and an orange frame which allows you to select which part of the screen you want to record.

To start recording
Click Record Video in the launcher window.

If you are already in the middle of editing, click Record Screencast in the Import section or the REC button on the toolbar.
This tutorial will show you how to record and save a video from what’s happening on your screen.

**Step 1: Set up the capture area**
1. On the recording panel, click the Select capture area button.
2. Select the part of the screen that you want to record:
   - Click and drag on the screen to select the capture area.
   - To record a window or a window panel, hover your mouse pointer over it and click once a frame appears around it.
   - To record the full screen, click on any empty space.

**Step 2: Set up the sound**

**Recording system audio**
1. Click the System Audio button to enable recording sounds and audio playing on your computer.
2. Use the slider on the left to set the necessary recording volume.

**Recording from a microphone**
1. Make sure that a microphone is connected to your computer.
2. Click the Microphone button to enable recording sounds from external devices.
3. Click the arrow above the Microphone button and select the device you want to use for recording.
Step 3: Start recording
When you’re ready to begin, click the REC button. You will be given a 3-second countdown before the recording begins.

Use these keyboard shortcuts to control the recording process:
- `⌘1` - pause the recording
- `⌘3` - take a snapshot of the capture area
- `⌘2` - end capture and save the recording

Tip: these are the default hotkeys. You can change them in the Keyboard Shortcuts section of the preferences.

When you’re ready to finish your recording, click Stop on the recording panel or use the `⌘2` keyboard shortcut.

Step 4: Edit the recording
When you finish recording, the Video Editor window will open. Your recording will be added to the timeline automatically. If you need to get back to your video later, it is saved to the output folder set in preferences in MKV format.

Recording online video
How to capture videos from YouTube, Vimeo, and other websites

Step 1: Select capture area
1. On the recording panel, click the Select capture area button.
2. The screen will dim and a magnifying glass will appear.
   - For high-quality videos, we recommend recording in full screen mode. To select the entire screen, click on any empty area of the desktop.
   - For low-quality videos, draw the capture area on top of the web player.

Step 2: Enable system sound
1. Click the System Audio button to enable sound recording.
2. Use the slider to the left to set the necessary system audio volume.

Step 3: Record the video
1. To ensure the best recording quality, set the online video player to the highest quality and wait for the video to load.
2. Click the REC button to begin recording.
3. You will be given a 3-second countdown before recording starts. Use this time to enable full screen mode and click Play to start the video.
4. When the video ends, use the `Esc` keyboard shortcut to finish recording, or click Stop on the recording panel.

**Step 4: Edit the recording**
When you finish recording, the Video Editor window will open. Your recording will be added to the timeline automatically. If you need to get back to your video later, it is saved to the output folder set in preferences in MKV format.

**Recording with webcam**
How to add a simultaneous webcam overlay to your videos

**Step 1: Select capture area**
1. On the recording panel, click the Select capture area button.
2. With the crosshair, select the part of the screen that you want to record.

**Step 2: Set up the webcam**
1. Connect the webcam to your computer and wait until the system installs the necessary drivers.
2. Click the cogwheel icon on top of the Webcam button. The webcam preferences will open.

3. Under Use this webcam, choose the webcam device that you want to use and check that its preview appears on the right.
4. Set up the video options for this webcam:
   - Click the Settings button to set up your webcam's options such as brightness, contrast, and exposure. Note: webcam settings are different for each model.
   - Choose the resolution that you would like to use. The higher the resolution, the higher the webcam video quality will be. However, if the webcam video is small, you may not need a very large resolution.
   - For the best quality, use the highest frame rate that your webcam can provide for the best quality. If your webcam is mostly static or if you want a smaller file size, you may want to use a lower frame rate.
5. Set up the size and position for your webcam:
   - Use the Video size slider to set the size of the webcam picture relative to the entire video.
   - Choose one of the Position options to place your webcam picture inside the frame.
6. Click OK to save the webcam preferences.
Now that you’ve set up the webcam, the next time you want to use it, simply click the **Webcam** button once to enable webcam recording.

**Step 3: Set up sound**

Next, choose the audio sources that you want to hear on your recording:

**System sounds**

To record music and other sounds playing on your computer, click the **System Audio** button. The button appears green when enabled.

**Microphone**

You can record audio from your webcam’s built-in microphone, or use an external microphone for better sound quality:
1. Click the **Microphone** button to enable recording from external devices.
2. Click the arrow above and choose the microphone you want to use from the list.

**Step 4: Record your video**

When you’re ready to begin, click **REC** to start recording. The recording panel will be minimized during recording.

To finish the recording, press `Esc` or click **Stop** on the recording panel.

**Before you start:**

Note the quality and resolution of your video. For best video quality, it is recommended that you record the video as close to its real resolution as possible.

- If the video is larger than your screen, maximize the player window and record the full screen.
- If the video is smaller than your screen, set the player settings to display the actual size. In this case, stretching the video to the full screen will decrease the quality.
Step 1: Select capture area
1. On the recording panel, click the Select capture area button.
2. With the crosshair, select the part of the screen that you want to record.

Step 2: Set up the sound
1. To enable recording sounds from the player, click the speaker button under System Audio. The button will appear green when enabled.
2. Use the slider to the left of the speaker button to set the volume of the player’s recording.
3. To make sure that other sounds don’t interfere with your recording, check that the Microphone button is disabled (black), and close other windows or browser tabs that might play sounds during your recording.

Step 3: Record video
When you’re ready, click the REC button on the recording panel and start playback in the player. The recording panel will hide
Tip: You can trim the beginning later, so don’t worry if you start playback after recording has begun.

Recording Skype calls
When you record audio or video calls using Skype™ or a similar program, it is important that you record both ends of the conversation. To do that, you will need to record input from your microphone or webcam, as well as the audio from your speakers. Follow the steps below to record Skype calls with audio.

Step 1: Select capture area
1. Launch the Skype application and make sure it is on screen.
2. On the recording panel, click the Select capture area button.
3. Your cursor will turn into a crosshair. Draw a rectangle inside the Skype window where your call video will be.

Step 2: Set up the sound
1. Click the speaker button under System Audio to enable recording sounds on your computer, including the call from the other end. The button appears green when enabled.
2. Click the Microphone button to enable recording from a microphone. If you have more than one microphone, click Microphone and choose the one you want to use for the recording.
3. Use the sliders to the left of each button to set the necessary volume levels for the call and for your microphone.
Tip: if you’re recording a video call, you do not need to enable webcam recording in Movavi Screen Recorder, because Skype is already recording your webcam.

**Step 3: Record your call**
1. Start your call in the Skype window.
2. Click **REC** on the Movavi Screen Recorder panel to begin recording.
3. When you finish your call, press **Esc** or click the **Stop** button on the recording panel to finish recording. The Video Editor window will open, and your recording will be added to the timeline automatically.

**Record audio only**
Besides screen activity, you can just as easily record online music, radio, podcasts, and voice input as standalone audio files.

**Step 1: Set up the audio**
On the recording panel, choose which audio sources you want to record from:

**Recording system sounds**
To record music, online videos, and any other sounds playing on your computer, click the **System Audio** button.
Recording microphone audio
To record sound from a microphone or any other recording device connected to your computer, click the Microphone button. If you have more than one recording device, click the arrow above the button and select the device you want to record from.

Volume levels
Use the sliders to the left of the System Audio and Microphone buttons to adjust the volume of each source.

Step 2: Record the audio
Click REC when you’re ready to begin recording.

To finish the recording, press F10 or click Stop on the recording panel.

Step 3: Save audio file
When the recording is finished, it will be opened in the Video Editor window, where you can play the recording, edit it and save it.

Learn more: Export only audio

Troubleshooting audio
My device is not available in the list.
If you don’t see the device you want to use in the list, it may be disconnected or disabled in system settings.

1. Try re-connecting the device.
2. If that didn’t help, right-click the sound icon in the Windows notification area and choose Recording Devices from the pop-up menu. The Sound settings window will open.
3. Look for your device in the list:
   • If the device is working correctly, it should be marked with a green checkmark.
   • If you cannot find the device in the list, right-click anywhere in the list and make sure that the options Show Disabled Devices and Show Disconnected Devices are selected.
   • If you still cannot find the device, right-click anywhere in the list and make sure that the options Show Disabled Devices and Show Disconnected Devices are selected.

I can’t enable system audio
If you’re using Windows XP, system audio cannot be recorded simultaneously with microphone audio. To record system audio, open the list of devices above the microphone button and choose Stereo Mix.

Setting up a screen recording
You can use the recording panel to set up your recording.
Learn more: Capture area

Sound
You can record sound from two different sources on your video: from your speakers, or from an external device, such as a microphone.
• Click the speaker button to record system audio,
• Click the microphone button to record from a microphone.
Learn more: Sound

Webcam
You can simultaneously record your webcam footage that will show up in the corner of the video. Connect the camera and click the Webcam button on the recording panel.
Learn more: Webcam

Cursor recording
If you're making an instructional video, you can highlight the cursor and its clicks to help your viewers keep track of your mouse. You can change the appearance of your cursor in the Effects section of the Preferences.
Learn more: Mouse cursor effects

Keystroke recording
If you're showing keyboard actions such as hotkeys on your video, you can enable keystroke recording, and the keys you press will automatically appear at the bottom of the video. You can enable keystroke recording in the Effects section of the Preferences.
Learn more: Recording keystrokes

Starting the recording
To start recording right away, click the REC button on the recording panel. You can pause and end capture using the buttons on the recording panel.
Learn more: Starting the recording

Capture area
The orange frame defines which part of your screen will be visible in your screen recording.

Selecting the capture area
Step 1: Click the Select Capture Area button on the recording panel.
Step 2: Your cursor will turn into a crosshair. Use it to select the part of the screen that you want to record.

- To record a window or a window panel, hold your mouse pointer over the window you want to record and click when a frame appears around it.

  Tip: If you select a window, the capture area will follow whenever you move the window.

- To record the entire screen, click on an empty part of the desktop, or

- To record a part of the screen, click and drag diagonally to draw the area where you want it to appear.

Setting an exact size
After you’ve opened the recording panel, you can choose a preset size from the Capture Area section, or enter an exact size into the boxes:

To set the capture area to full screen, open the preset list and choose DISPLAY from the list.

Editing the capture area
- To change the capture area size, drag the edge of the capture area with your mouse.

- To move the capture area, drag the arrows in the center of the frame.
Sound

You can record sound from two separate sources: system audio and microphone audio. You can enable sound recording on the recording panel.

System audio

System audio is the sound that you can hear from your speakers. It includes music, video sound, alerts, and all other sounds.

1. To enable recording system audio, click the speaker icon on the recording panel.
2. Use the slider to the left of the speaker button to change the system audio volume. This will also affect the volume that you hear.

Microphone audio

To record from a microphone or any other external recording device:

1. Connect the microphone to the computer. Make sure that it is recognized by the system and working correctly.
2. Click the microphone icon on the recording panel to enable microphone recording.
3. If you have more than one recording device connected, click the arrow next to Microphone and choose which microphone you want to use.
4. Use the slider to the left of the microphone button to change the volume.
When enabled, the sound icons appear green.

![Sound icons](image)

### Troubleshooting

**The system audio source cannot be found**

If you see a message when trying to enable system audio:

1. Open System Preferences and click on Sound.
2. In Sound preferences, switch to the Output tab.
3. On the Output tab, select **Internal Speakers** or a different audio device instead of Movavi Sound Grabber.

See also:
- [Recording Skype calls](#)

### Webcam

You can record webcam video simultaneously with a screencast. The webcam video will appear in the corner of the main video.

**Enable the webcam**

To enable webcam recording, click the webcam icon on the recording panel:

![Webcam options](image)

**Webcam options**

If this is your first time recording with a webcam, you may want to set up how the webcam looks on your video. To open the webcam options, click the cogwheel icon on the webcam button.

*Or open the Settings menu, choose Preferences, and then switch to the Webcam tab.*
If you have more than one camera, choose the one you want to use under "Use this webcam".

**Webcam properties**
Click the Settings button to open your webcam's built-in properties. These can be different for each manufacturer, but usually you can set up the brightness, white balance, exposure, and other color options.

**Resolution**
The resolution affects the quality of the output video. If the video is very small, you can choose a lower resolution without a noticeable decrease in quality.

**Frame rate**
Frame rate is the number of shots the camera takes each second. Higher frame rates will make the movements look smoother and work best for videos with a lot of motion. If the picture is mostly static, you can decrease frame rate to save disk space. The standard frame rate is 20-30 frames per second.

**Video size**
Use the video size slider to change the size of the webcam video relative to the main video.

**Position**
You can place your webcam footage in any of the four corners of the main video. Choose where to place the webcam video under position.

See also: Webcam preferences

**Mouse cursor effects**
Using mouse effects, you can use the mouse as a pointer and show your viewers where to click.

**Step 1: Open the mouse cursor options**
1. Click the Settings menu and choose Preferences.
2. In the Preferences window, switch to the Effects tab.

Learn more: Effects options
Step 2: Enable the cursor
Select **Show cursor on recording**. This will make the cursor visible on recordings. To make the cursor invisible, disable this option.

Step 3: Highlight cursor actions (optional)
To make the cursor visible even better, you can highlight it or enable a special effect for clicks.

**Highlight cursor**
A semi-transparent circle will appear around the cursor, making it easier to track.

1. Select the **Highlight cursor** option.
2. *(optional)* The default highlight is yellow. To change the highlight color, click the square on the right and pick the new color.
3. *(optional)* Use the **Size** slider to make the highlight smaller or larger. The cursor itself will remain the standard size. Hover your mouse over the square on the right to preview the highlight.

**Highlight clicks**
Concentric circles will appear for every click, color-coded for two mouse buttons.

1. Select the **Highlight clicks** option.
2. *(optional)* Click the left square to set the color for the left mouse button.
3. (optional) Click the right square to set the color for the right mouse button.

Mouse click sound
A clicking sound will play whenever you click the mouse.

1. Enable the **Mouse click sound** option.
2. (optional) The default clicking sound has already been selected for you. If you want to use your own sound, open the drop-down box and choose **Add sound**. Then, open the sound file that you want to use.

You can use WAV, MP3, AIFF, and AU files.

**Recording keystrokes**
If you're making a tutorial that uses keyboard shortcuts, it's helpful to display them on screen for your viewers. Enable keystroke recording to show the keys you pressed at the bottom of the video.

1. Open the **Settings** menu.
2. Choose **Preferences**.
3. In the Preferences window, switch to the **Effects** tab.
4. To enable keystroke recording, select one of the options:
   - **Keyboard shortcuts only** — only key combinations such as `Ctrl` or `Esc` will show up on screen. Letters and keys that do not cause an action will not be displayed.
   - **All keystrokes** — each key you press will appear on screen, including letters and numbers.

To turn off keystroke recording, open the Effects preferences once again and select **Do not capture keystrokes**.

**Tips:**
- Avoid entering any passwords or other sensitive information while you're recording a video with keystroke recording: if you share the video, your viewers will be able to see each character you type.

**Scheduling**
Any recording can be scheduled for a later time. You can use this to automate your recordings or capture late-night webinars.

**Step 1: Set up your recording**
Scheduled recordings will start with the currently selected options (system sound, webcam, etc.) Before scheduling the recording:

1. (optional) Default capture area for scheduled recordings is full screen, so if you want to change it, click the **Select Capture Area** button on the recording panel and select the part of the screen you want to see on your scheduled recording.
2. To enable system sound recording, click the **speaker** button on the recording panel and make sure it is enabled and highlighted green.

Learn more: Capture area | Sound | Webcam

**Step 2: Schedule recording**

1. On the recording panel, click the **alarm clock** button to open capture time settings.

   *Or open the Settings menu, choose Preferences and switch to the Scheduler tab.*

2. Select **Schedule recording** and click the **Add Task** button.

3. A task template will appear. Fill in the details for the task:
   - **Title** - the name of your recording
   - **Date and time** - the moment recording should start
   - **Duration** - how long the recording should last (e.g. if you want to record an hour long webinar, set this at 01:00:00)
   - **Capture area** - by default, the program will record **full screen**. However, if you'd like to avoid recording extra parts of the screen, you can select **Current area**. Be careful: the program will capture the area selected on screen at the moment your recording starts!
   - **After capture** - you can set your computer to automatically sleep or shut down when the recording is over.

4. Click **Create** to add the task to your recording schedule.
Finally, click OK in the Preferences window to save the changes. After the recording is finished, the recording file will be stored in *.mkv format in the output folder with your other screen recordings.

Please note that if you haven't yet activated the program, the maximum capture time is 5 minutes for each video. To learn more about activating Movavi Academic, see the Activating Software section.

If you are starting a lengthy recording, make sure that you have enough free disk space for saving the temporary recording files.

**Time limit**

When you record a long webinar or online video, you can limit the recording to a specific time and it will stop automatically once the time is up. This way, you don't have to wait around for the video to end.

**Step 1: Set a time limit**

1. On the recording panel, click the alarm clock button to open capture time settings. Or open the Settings menu, choose Preferences and switch to the Capture Time tab.

2. Select the Set time limit for recording option.

3. Set Duration by entering the time limit as hours:minutes:seconds.

4. Click OK to enable the time limit.

Note: the limit will work on all your next recordings in the current session only, until you restart the program.
**Step 2: Start the recording**

Click the **REC** button on the recording panel to begin recording. After the specified time is up, the recording will end automatically.

**Starting a recording**

To begin recording:
- Do any of the following:
  - Click the **REC** button on the control panel.
  - Use the start recording keyboard shortcut (default)
  - On the menu bar, click the Movavi Screen Recorder icon and choose **Start Recording**.

You will be given a 3-second countdown before recording begins.

The recording panel will change during capture:

On the left, you can see information about the recording:
- **Duration** – the time recorded so far
- **Recorded** – the recording size on disk
- **Left on Disk** – how much free disk space you have left

In the middle, you can see which sound sources are being recorded and preview the webcam:
- Webcam – Webcam off/on
- System audio – System audio recording off/on
- Microphone – Microphone audio recording off/on
To pause recording:
To pause recording, do any of the following:
• Click the Pause button on the recording panel.
• Click the Pause button on the orange panel at the top of the capture frame.
• Use the pause capture keyboard shortcut (by default)
• On the menu bar, click the Movavi Screen Recorder icon and choose Pause.

When you're ready to resume the recording, the Resume button will be in the same location as the Pause button.

To stop recording:
When you're ready to finish the recording, do any of the following:
• Click the Stop button on the control panel.
• Click the Stop button on the orange panel at the top of the capture frame.
• Use the stop recording keyboard shortcut (by default)
• On the menu bar, click the Movavi Screen Recorder icon and choose Stop Recording.

The recording will end and the player window will open, where you can view and edit the video.

To cancel the recording:
If you want to terminate the recording without saving the video and delete the recording file, click Cancel on the recording panel.

Troubleshooting:
Capture doesn't start immediately
By default, you will see a three-second countdown after you press the REC button and before the recording begins. You can use this time to prepare for recording. If you want the recording to start immediately, open the Preferences and enable the 'Disable countdown' option.

An orange panel appears on my recording
During recording, you can use the orange panel on top of the capture frame to take screenshots, pause or stop recording, and keep track of the recording process. If you don't want this panel to appear on your videos, open the Preferences and disable the 'Show capture control panel during recording' option.

Permissions
Movavi Academic uses your system's accessibility features for keystroke recording and selecting window panes. To use these features, you will need to enable them in your System Preferences on first use.

1. Open System Preferences.
2. Click Security & Privacy.
3. Switch to the Privacy tab.
4. Click the Accessibility section on the left.
5. At the bottom of the window, click the lock icon and enter your password when prompted to enable changing the preferences.
6. Select the box next to Movavi Academic. This will allow it to use accessibility features for capture.

Screen Recorder preferences
To open the program settings for Movavi Screen Recorder:
1. Open the Settings menu.
2. Choose Preferences.
The preferences window will open. The preferences are organized into relevant categories: General, Files, Keyboard Shortcuts, Video, Webcam and Effects.

**General preferences**

The General tab allows you to change the basic behavior of the program.

- **Disable countdown**
  Every time before the recording starts, you will see a 3-second countdown. This gives you time to prepare for your recording. Select this option to turn the countdown off and start recording immediately.

- **Show capture control panel during recording**
  The capture control panel will appear on top of the capture frame while recording a video. You can use it to pause or stop capture, take a snapshot, or see how much space the recording has taken up. If you are recording a full screen video, the panel will not be visible.

- **Disable frame blinking during capture**
  In case the blinking irritates you, check this box. The frame will stay still during recording.

- **Allow window panes selection**
  To record only the main window panes (no frames, menus or browser tabs), Movavi Screen Recorder needs access to your screen.

- **Capture separate streams**
  When recording a video, the webcam, main onscreen video, external audio, etc. will be recorded as separate streams, like layers. This can be useful for editing the video later, so you can edit them separately.

**Other settings**
Save extended logs for troubleshooting
In case you experience trouble using the program and contact our support team, they might ask you to collect logs. The logs contain the program's actions for some period of time, as well as important error reports and descriptions. Extended logs give the most amount of information which may be essential to solving your problem.

Automatically check for updates
The program will notify you if a new version is available. Minor updates are absolutely free (for example, from v.1.3 to v.1.4). For major updates users with purchased Movavi Screen Recorder license will get a considerable discount.

File preferences
In the Files section of the preferences, you can change where your captured files are stored. To change a folder location, click the icon with the dots and select a new folder:

- Save output videos to...
  This is where all your video recordings are saved.
- Delete original recording after saving
  If you save the recording in a different format, or trim the file, the original will be deleted.
- Save screenshots to...
  This is where all your new screenshots are saved. You can also find your recent screenshots in the editor window.
- Default screenshot format
Here you can change the format for all new screenshots. You can also change the format for a single screenshot by using the Save As button in the editor window to save a copy with a different format.

**Keyboard shortcuts**

On the **Keyboard Shortcuts** section, you can set your own shortcuts.

To change one of the shortcuts:

1. Click inside the box with the shortcut you want to change. The box will become blank.
2. Simultaneously press on keyboard the keys you want to use as a shortcut to the selected action. The box will now display your custom shortcut.
3. Click **OK** to apply the changes. To reset all the keyboard shortcuts to their original state, click the **Reset to Default** button.

If there's a keyboard shortcut you want to use in other software while Movavi Screen Recorder is running, check the **Disable keyboard shortcuts** box.

In case you forget a shortcut, you can always look it up here in the keyboard shortcut settings.

**Video preferences**

On the **Video** tab, you can choose how the videos are recorded and saved, change the preferred audio quality, including the sample rate, number of channels, and bits per second.

**Frame rate**

The frame rate defines how many frames will be captured each second and affects the smoothness of motion in the video. A lower frame rate will result in smaller output size, however, the video may not turn out as smooth. The recommended frame rate is 20-30 frames per second.

**Output frame size**
Usually, your desktop is recorded at full size. This option allows you to reduce the original video quality to 1/2 or 1/4 of the original. The video file will have lower quality, but take up less disk space. This can also improve performance while recording on slower computers.

**Scale down Retina video recordings**
Enabling this option will reduce video file size, but may also result in text and graphics appearing less crisp. Disable this option if video quality is a concern.

**Sample rate**
The first number is the audio sample rate, measured in Kilohertz (kHz). This is the number of digital samples taken each second to record sound. Higher sample rate usually means higher quality. 44.1 kHz is the recommended sample rate, which corresponds to the human hearing range.

**Channels**
- **Mono** uses only one audio channel, which saves some disk space.
- **Stereo** uses two audio channels, which allows distinguishing the direction a sound is coming from and usually sounds more natural.

**Bit depth**
Screen Recorder will record audio at 16 bits, which is the standard bit depth for most audio recordings. This means that every sample contains 16 bits of information to encode sound.

**Webcam preferences**
The **Webcam** section of the preferences allows you to set up your webcam for recording it on top of the main video.

![Webcam preferences panel](image)

**Enabling the webcam**
1. Connect the camera to your computer and wait until your system installs the necessary drivers.
2. In the **Webcam** preferences section, select the camera you want to use from the '**Use this webcam**' box.

If the camera does not appear in the list, try manually installing the driver that came with your camera. You can use the preview square on the right to check that the camera is working properly.

**Webcam properties**
Clicking the **Settings** button will open the camera's properties. These properties are different for each manufacturer, but generally you can use them to calibrate the brightness, contrast, and exposure of your camera.

**Resolution**
The resolution affects the quality of the output video. If the video is very small, you can choose a lower resolution without a noticeable decrease in quality.

**Frame rate**
Frame rate is the number of shots the camera takes each second. Higher frame rates will make the movements look smoother and work best for videos with a lot of motion. If the picture is mostly static, you can decrease frame rate to save disk space. The standard frame rate is 20-30 frames per second.

**Video size**
Use the video size slider to set the size of the webcam overlay relative to the main video.

**Position**
Use one of the position options to choose where your webcam overlay will be placed on the original video.

**Effects**
In the **Effects** section of the preferences, you can set up the visibility of your mouse and keystrokes.
**Cursor options**
Select **Show cursor on recording** to make the cursor visible to your viewers.

- **Highlight cursor**
  This option will add a bright circle around the mouse cursor to make it more visible.
  1. Select the Highlight cursor option.
  2. Click the square on the right to choose the highlight color. Use the Alpha channel box to change its opacity.
  3. Use the size slider to change the size of the highlight circle.
  
  Hint: hover your mouse over the preview square on the right to see how it will look on the recording.

- **Highlight clicks**
  This option will flash a circle around the cursor for every click. You can set two different colors for the left and right mouse buttons.
  1. Enable the **Highlight clicks** option.
  2. Click the left square to set the color for the left mouse button.
  3. Click the right square to set the color for the right mouse button.

- **Mouse click sound**
  A clicking sound will be played every time you click the mouse to draw attention to your actions.
  1. Enable the **Mouse click sound** option. The default mouse click sound will be used.
  2. (optional) If you have a file with a different sound effect you want to use, open the box under **Mouse click sound** and choose **Add sound**. Then, open the audio file with the sound effect. You can use WAV, MP3, AIFF, and AU files.

**Keystroke recording options**
- **Keyboard shortcuts only** — only functional keys and key combinations (for example, `Ctrl`) will appear on the video.
- **All keystrokes** — all key presses, including letters of the alphabet, will appear on the video.

  Hint: avoid entering passwords when this option is enabled if you don’t want everyone to see your password.

**Scheduler**
In the **Scheduler** section of the preferences, you can start and stop recordings automatically.
Automatically ending a recording
1. Select the 'Set time limit for recording' option.
2. Enter the duration of the recording as hours: minutes: seconds.
Learn more: Time limit

Scheduling a recording
To start and end a recording automatically:
1. Select the 'Schedule recording' option:
2. Click 'Add Task' button.
3. Fill in the details and click Create to add your task to the recording schedule.
Learn more: Scheduling

The Screen Recorder application must be running at this time for the recording to begin.

Help and support
Didn't find what you were looking for? Need help with a problem? Have a suggestion? Contact our support team and we'll help you right away.

How to reach us
By e-mail: support@movavi.com
Fill out a support form
We guarantee a response within 3 business days!
If you ran into a problem, please describe it in as much detail as possible; any screenshots, log files, or information about your system will allow us to help you faster.

Frequently Asked Questions
How to remove the trial watermark
What are the system requirements for using Movavi Academic?
What formats does Movavi Academic support?
More frequently asked questions

Keyboard shortcuts
Editing video becomes much faster and easier if you learn a few basic keyboard shortcuts, especially if you're using a touchpad. You can find the list of shortcuts if you open the Help menu and select Keyboard Shortcuts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Shortcut</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Add media files</td>
<td>#O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New project</td>
<td>#N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open project</td>
<td>#F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Save project</td>
<td>#S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Save project as</td>
<td>##S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Split clip</td>
<td>#B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insert freeze frame</td>
<td>#E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Add keyframe</td>
<td>#T</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* for Animation and Pan and Zoom tools
System requirements

Note that Movavi Academic may also run on slower machines, however, we cannot guarantee stable performance if the minimum requirements are not met.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Minimum system requirements</th>
<th>Recommended configuration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operating system</td>
<td>Mac OS® 10.7 or higher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Processor</td>
<td>64-bit Intel processor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graphics card</td>
<td>Intel® HD Graphics 2000, NVIDIA® GeForce® series 8 and 8M, Quadro FX 4800, Quadro FX 5600, AMD Radeon™ R600, Mobility Radeon™ HD 4330, Mobility FirePro™ series, Radeon™ R5 M230 or higher graphics card with up-to-date drivers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Display resolution</td>
<td>1280x800 screen resolution, 32-bit color</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAM</td>
<td>256 MB RAM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free disk space</td>
<td>200 MB for installation, 500 MB for proper operation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1 GB RAM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Administrator permissions are required for installation

Supported formats

Here you can view the list of formats and codecs supported by Movavi Academic.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Format</th>
<th>Codec</th>
<th>Read</th>
<th>Write</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3GPP, 3GPP2 (.3gp, *.3g2)</td>
<td>H.264, MPEG-4</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AVI – Audio Video Interleave (.avi)</td>
<td>H.264, MJPEG</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flash Video (.flv, *.swf)</td>
<td>MPEG-1, MPEG-4, VC-1, VP8, VP9</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MKV – Matroska (.mkv)</td>
<td>H.264, MJPEG</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M2TS – MPEG Transport Stream (.m2ts)</td>
<td>MPEG-1, MPEG-4, H.265, VC-1, VP8</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MTS – MPEG Transport Stream (.ts, *.mts, *.m2t)</td>
<td>H.264</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>MPEG (.mpeg, *.mpe, *.m1v, *.dat, *.mod, *.tod, *.vro)</td>
<td>H.265</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>MPEG-4 (.mp4)</td>
<td>H.264, H.265</td>
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<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>MPEG-4 (.m4v)</td>
<td>MPEG-1, MPEG-4, VC-1, H.265, MJPEG</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>OGV – Ogg Video (.ogv)</td>
<td>Theora</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOV – QuickTime (.mov)</td>
<td>H.264</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WebM (.webm)</td>
<td>VP8</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Audio formats

3GP | AAC, AMR-NB | ✓
You can view the full list of supported devices here.

### Installing Movavi Sound Grabber

Movavi Sound Grabber is a free extension that enables you to capture system sounds on your Mac. It acts as a virtual audio input device and sends the sound from music, videos, and system alerts that you would normally hear through your speakers to the input channel so that it may be recorded by screen capturing software. By default, Movavi Sound Grabber is installed with Movavi Academic. However, if you have uninstalled Movavi Sound Grabber or it is missing from your system, you will need to install it in order to capture system sounds.

1. Click the button above to download the installation package.
2. Once the download has finished, open the .dmg package you've downloaded.
3. Double-click the package icon to launch the install assistant. Then, follow the on-screen instructions to install the software just like you would install any other program.
4. Restart Movavi Academic if it was running during installation.

That's it! You can now easily record system audio using Movavi Screen Recorder!

### Uninstalling Movavi Sound Grabber

Since Movavi Sound Grabber is a virtual device and does not show up under Applications in Finder, you need to use an Uninstall file to remove Sound Grabber from your system.
1. Launch **Movavi Sound Grabber Uninstaller** in your **Applications** list, or click the link below to download the uninstaller.

   ![Movavi Sound Grabber Uninstaller.zip - 6.5 MB](image)

2. Make sure that Movavi Screen Recorder is closed and launch the downloaded file. If you see a security warning, click **Open**.

3. You will see the following confirmation dialogue. Click **Yes** to continue and enter your user password to confirm uninstallation of Movavi Sound Grabber.

   ![Are you sure you want to uninstall Movavi Sound Grabber?](image)

Movavi Sound Grabber will then be removed from your system. If you need to re-install Movavi Sound Grabber for capturing system sounds, please see the **Installing Movavi Sound Grabber** section.

**Glossary**

Here’s a list of some terms that you may come across while working with video and audio. You won’t need to know all of these to use Movavi software, but if you want to learn more about the specifics of media file processing, you can start here.

**Aspect ratio**

A video’s aspect ratio is the proportion of its width to height, e.g. 16:9 (read as sixteen-by-nine). Usually, you might encounter the 16:9 or 4:3 aspect ratios, but most recent displays and videos have the 16:9 aspect ratio. You might encounter 4:3 resolutions in some older TV videos. Here’s how different they look:

![Aspect ratio comparison](image)

If you join videos with different aspect ratios, you might see black bars around the edges. Think of a video’s frame like a box: if you put a square peg into a rectangular hole, you might have room left over at the sides. This can happen in your project if you’re mixing videos and photos, or if you’re using videos from different sources. This is how it might look if you’re adding 4:3 videos to a 16:9 project and vice versa:

![Aspect ratio adjustment](image)

To remove the black bars, try using the **crop** tool, or change the **project settings**.

Learn more: [Removing black bars](link)

**Bitrate**

Bitrate is a property of digital video and audio files. It means the amount of data in bits contained in each second of the file. Higher bitrate allows to preserve more detail, but also requires much more disk space for the output file. Bitrate also depends on your video resolution, because you need much more data to store a large HD video frame compared to a tiny 360p video. If your video has lots of small details or fast action, you can choose a higher quality when **saving the video**. The output video will have a larger file size, but you’ll be able to see detail better.

**Codec**
Video and audio information is processed or encoded to shrink the size of the file. However, your computer needs to have a decoder installed in order to open the file. There are many different codecs, each compressing video in different ways. Many video formats can store multiple video formats. For example, you can save a video with the .mp4 extension, but you can use the H.264 or MPEG-4 codecs. If you don’t know what codec works best for you, go for H.264 – it is supported by most players and platforms.

**Hint:** Don’t download codecs from suspicious websites. They may contain malware.

**Format**

Usually when someone mentions formats, they mean container formats, namely, the way of storing a video or audio file’s information inside a file. You can spot container formats by file extensions. A container format contains video and audio streams, that are be encoded with a codec. The figure below shows how a standard video file may look like.

![Video File Diagram]

**Frame rate, FPS**

A video’s frame rate is the number of frames or still images in each second of the video (also called FPS or frames per second). Most movies have a frame rate of 24 frames per second, but most cameras and mobile phones shoot video at 30 frames per second. More modern cameras even allow you to film with 60 FPS and above. If you have a higher frame rate, you can slow down the video to make a slow-motion effect without making the video look choppy.

**.mepx files**

Movavi Academic project files are saved with the MEPX extension. You can open the file in the Editor and continue working on your project.

**Resolution (frame size)**

A video’s resolution is basically its width and height in pixels. Usually it is written as the width multiplied by height, e.g. “1280x720”, or sometimes you might only see the height listed, e.g. “720p”. Usually, videos with high resolution have better quality because there are more pixels available for storing information. However, if you convert a low-quality video to a higher resolution, it will not instantly look better because there is nowhere to restore the extra information from, so you will end up with the same quality with a much larger file size. You can change the resolution of your output video in project settings.

**Sample rate**

The sample rate affects the quality of digital sound, and defines the maximum frequencies that an audio stream can contain. The default sample rate is set to 44100 Hz, which exceeds the maximum frequencies of human hearing and is used to record Audio CDs and most music tracks.

**Stream**

A video file contains the video and audio information in separate streams, which simply means that their data is stored separately inside the file. When you play the file, these streams are played simultaneously, just like a stream of water.