

## Choosing, Identifying and Converting Video Formats

Digital video appears in a wide range of formats, many of which are not suitable for editing with Final Cut Pro. Not converting files to a proper format will mean increased time waiting for render and export of the project, and may cause playback issues making the project unwatchable.

### Choosing a format for your project

These project formats are supported in the Digital Studio

#### 1) NTSC/NTSC Anamorphic

Shot with: Standard definition Mini-DV cameras. NTSC is a 4:3 aspect ratio, and NTSC Anamorphic is a 16:9 aspect ratio.

Easy Setup preset: DV-NTSC or DV-NTSC Anamorphic

Sequence Settings preset: DV NTSC 48 kHz or DV NTSC 48 kHz Anamorphic

Capture with: Log and Capture

#### 2) HDV 1080i60

Shot with: HDV tape-based cameras or Flip HD

Easy Setup preset: HDV - 1080i60

Sequence Settings preset: HDV - 1080i60

Capture with: Log and Capture (except with Flip HD, convert those as follows)

#### 3) Apple ProRes 422 (LT)

Shot with: Sony tapeless (AVCHD) cameras, Canon 5D Mark II

Easy Setup preset: (none)

Sequence Settings preset: Apple ProRes 422 (LT) 1920x1080 60i 48 kHz

Capture with: Log and Transfer

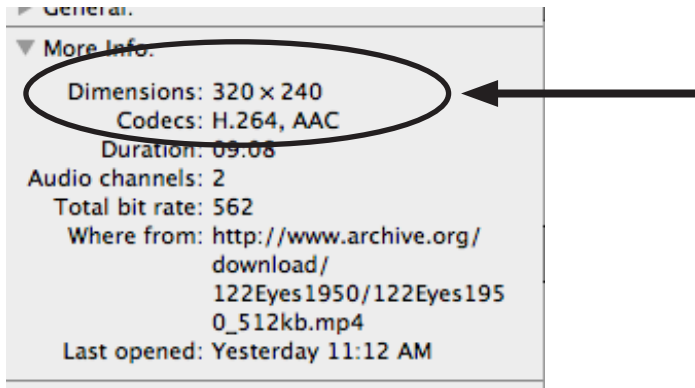
If shooting with a non-New Genres camera or working from downloaded files, follow the steps on the next page to choose the correct project format based on your video files. When mixing video types in a project, typically you should use the highest quality source as your setup.

**Be sure to convert all video prior to importing into Final Cut Pro.**

## Identifying video formats

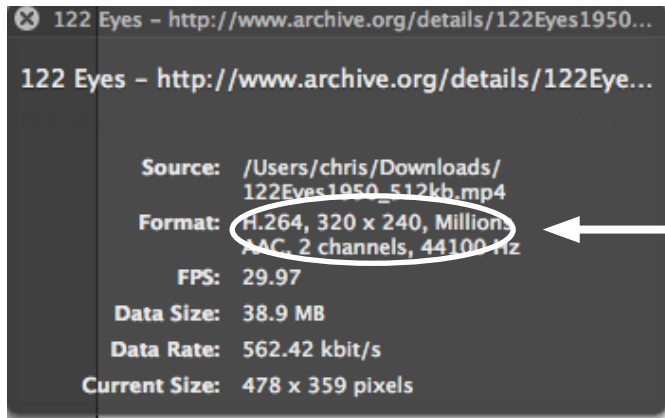
From the Finder

Click once on the file, then choose *File>Get Info*. From the “More Info” pane of the Info window, use the Dimensions entry to select a format.



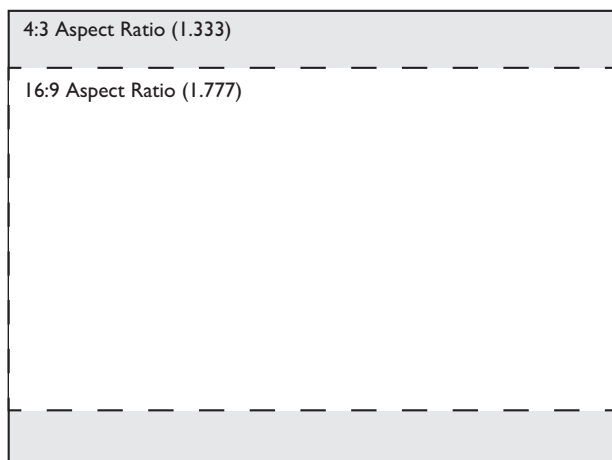
Or, from Quicktime Player

Open the file in Quicktime Player, then choose *Window>Show Movie Inspector* and use the “Format” information.

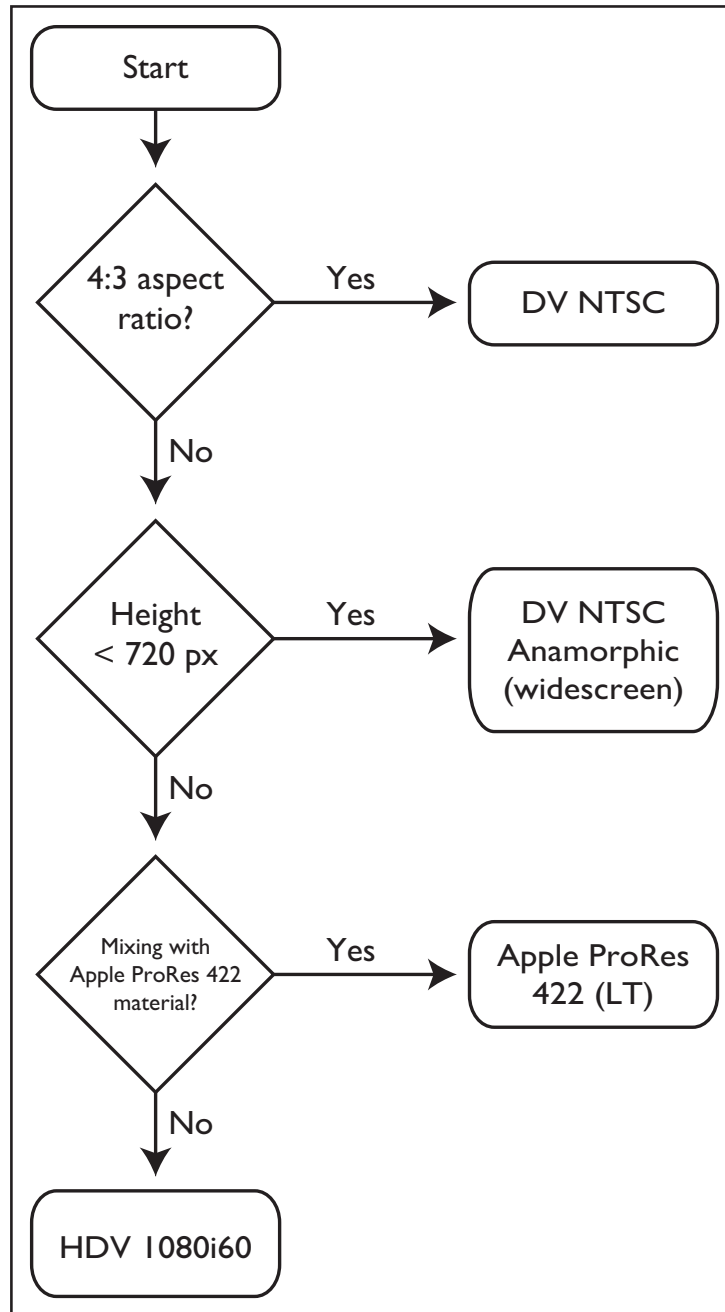


Use that information and the flowchart on the following page to decide on which format your video should be converted to. This must be done prior to bringing the footage into Final Cut Pro.

To identify 4:3 or 16:9, use the illustration below, or divide the larger dimension by the smaller and use the result. The first value is the width, second is the height (320 px wide, 240 px high in the example)



## Selecting Format to use for files from Youtube or non-standard cameras



### Common conversions by source

YouTube (4:3) – DV NTSC

YouTube (16:9) – DV NTSC Anamorphic

Flip HD – HDV 1080i60

DSLR or point and shoot not using Log and Transfer – HDV 1080i60

iPhone – HDV 1080i60

## Converting between video formats

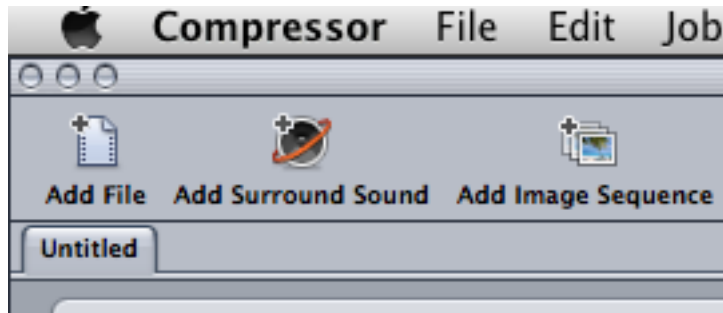
This must be done for ANY material not brought in through Log and Capture or Log and Transfer

All conversion should be done outside of Final Cut Pro, using Compressor. Allow plenty of time for converting non-standard source material, this is the equivalent to capturing/transferring standard sources from the camera.

1) Copy source files from camera or original source to your external hard drive



2) Launch Compressor from the Applications folder (or in the dock).



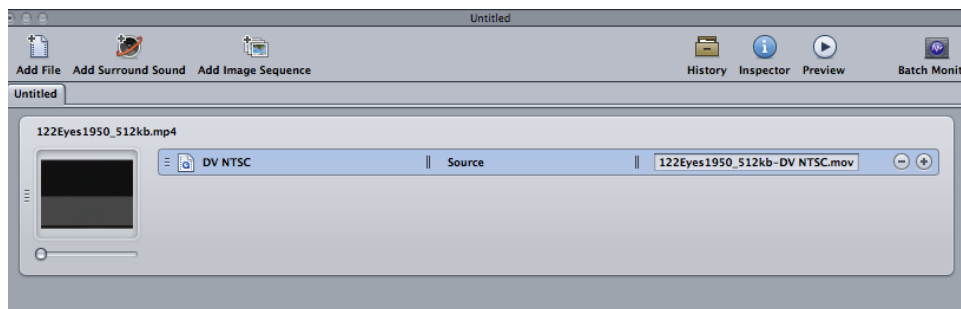
3) Click "Add File" in the top left of the Batch (Untitled) window.

4) Select files to be converted

5) Select Preset in Settings tab of Settings window and drag to files in Batch window  
DV NTSC and DV NTSC Anamorphic are at *Other Workflows > Advanced Format Conversions > Standard Definition > DV NTSC or DV NTSC Anamorphic*

HDV 1080i60 is at *Other Workflows > Advanced Format Conversions > High Definition > HDV 1080i60*

Apple ProRes 422 (LT) is at *Formats > QuickTime > Apple ProRes 422 (LT)*



6) Click "Submit" in the Batch window and in the resulting dialog box and wait for your files to be converted.

Depending on source and target formats along with video duration, this can take a significant amount of time, or just a few minutes. Batch Monitor should open and indicate the estimated time remaining (click on elapsed time to see remaining if needed).