Motion Controls in Final Cut Pro
With the motion controls in Final Cut Pro, you can scale, rotate, crop and position video clips within the Canvas. Once you’ve added a clip to your sequence, you can manipulate that copy of the clip independently of other copies or clips. The following assumes you’ve already placed a clip into your sequence, positioned the edit line/playback head over it, and double clicked it from the sequence to open it in your Viewer window.

The title of the Viewer window should read something like “Viewer: CLIP NAME from SEQUENCE NAME”. In this demo, it is “Viewer: demo clip from Sequence 1”. If it reads “Viewer: CLIP NAME from PROJECT NAME”, you need to open the copy of the clip from the sequence, not from the project browser.

Click on the “Motion” tab in the Viewer to expose the motion controls.

The first control under the “Basic Motion” section is scale. You can either adjust the slider or type in a number to change the scale percentage. Notice that the Canvas is displaying the changes since the edit line is over the clip.
Next is Rotation. The clip rotates around the center unless the Anchor Point setting is changed.

Center changes where the center of the clip is relative to the center of the Canvas. It uses X and Y coordinates to do so. Often, the easiest way to get a clip where you want it is to set the Canvas display to “Image & Wireframe” by clicking on the Canvas window to select it and going to View > Image & Wireframe. You should see an “X” across the clip (as shown in the illustrations). You can then click on the clip in the Canvas and drag it into position. You can also scale the clip (by clicking on a corner and dragging) or rotate it (by clicking on an edge and dragging) when Image & Wireframe is active.

The next section in the Motion tab is “Crop”. Under that section, you can crop each side of the clip and adjust the overall edge feathering.
Under the “Opacity” section, you can control the opacity level of the clip.

Finally, clicking the red “X” next to any of the sections will reset that section to default values.