Create a video with Apple iMovie

iMovie is a simple to use video editing application. It allows anyone with a Mac to import footage from a camera, edit sequences of video, add transitions, music, special effects, voiceovers and professional looking titles. You should be able to follow the instructions in this booklet to create a simple film, without needing to attend an expensive and time consuming training course.

This booklet assumes that you have followed the instructions in the document Import Video Footage to a MacBook.

1. Start iMovie (if not already running)

Click on the Spotlight Search icon in the top right of the screen The search box appears. Type in "iMovie", wait a couple of seconds, and press enter. iMovie should start, and will look something like this:



2. Create a new project



Click on the < Projects button near the top left of the screen. Then add a new project of the Movie type.

3. Select the required footage and set the zoom and clip size

We now need to prepare to select and add footage to the project timeline. Select the footage (event) you want in the Library on the left. Then click on the settings icon. Adjust the zoom and clip size setting, so that you can see as much or as little of the footage as you need, in order to select just the parts that you require.

Settings icon







4. Preview your footage to find sections that you want to use

If you put your mouse over a point in the footage, the image from that point is displayed in the viewer. As you move your mouse across the footage, the viewer is updated and you will also hear the sound "skimming" through the audio (if this doesn't happen, switch on Audio Skimming in the View section of the main menus.

To play the footage at normal speed from the point your mouse is over, press Space on the keyboard, and Space again to stop it.



Use your mouse to select a section on the footage. It will be framed in yellow. Press the forward slash key on the keyboard (/) to play your selection. You can drag the sides of the yellow frame to adjust your selection.

5. Add selected footage to the timeline

Using your mouse, drag the selected footage into the timeline (at the bottom part of the screen). Or press the E key on your keyboard. It will look like this. You can zoom in or out of the timeline using the settings slider (above the timeline on the right). Move your mouse to the beginning of the timeline, press Space to play your movie.



6. Add more clips in the order that you require for your film

So that's almost it! You can build your film up as a sequence of clips by selecting them in the Media Library and adding them to the required point in the timeline. You can also drag and drop clips in the timeline to change the sequence in the movie.

Next we will look at adding some extra types of content and effects to the clips in the timeline.

7. Add transitions

Transitions are effects that appear on screen between clips. The classic transitions are Cross Dissolve and Fade to Black. iMovie includes some other less subtle and less advisable transition types. A cross dissolve is shown below.



1. Click on the Transitions tab

2. A cross dissolve has been dragged and dropped to here.

8. Add titles

iMovie includes many professional style titles, as well as some more novelty style. Some titles are designed to go over video footage. Others are better when placed over a background (use the Backgrounds tab to add backgrounds into your movie, then drag and drop a title onto the background).



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9. Add music and voice overs

iMovie includes useful stock audio. You can also add music your have composed in GarageBand, or from iTunes (but you must respect copyright). Voice overs may be recorded directly into a movie using the microphone on the Mac.



10. Export your completed movie

You can export a movie as an MP4 file, or upload directly to YouTube, Vimeo or Facebook. This demonstrates how to export as a file.

To begin the process, select File -> Share -> File from the main menu at the top of the screen.

