

## HOW TO COMPRESS YOUR MOVIES FOR THE INTERNET

once you're done with your project in final cut, export it using compressor (it's an option on the file/export menu). if nothing happens or you get an error message, make sure you have selected the sequence you want to compress on the browser window.

that will launch compressor and your file will appear inside the batch window. now click on the settings pulldown menu in the batch window and you'll see a bunch of compression options. i've been using the "web download (quicktime 7 compatible)" as a base option.

attached you'll find a screen-shot of the "batch" and "inspector" windows. you'll notice different compression settings on the batch window and my mouse next to the buttons i keep referring to being on the top of the inspector window.

i suggest you choose the "h.264 800kbs" option and then customize it. you can customize your settings by first saving the settings (giving it a name) then clicking on them and going to the "inspector" window and click on the video settings. (if you don't see the video and audio settings button click on the second button from the left on the top of the "inspector" window.)

i like to set the key frames to be at 30 rather than 150. i also like to change the data rate to "automatic". encoding should be at "best quality (multi-pass)". you can set quality anywhere between low and medium depending on how big your file is. then customize your audio settings. aac seems to be a good format. i like to change channels from stereo to mono because it saves a lot of bandwidth. i don't really mess with the other settings.

If you can't change the compressor quality slider, change the data rate to automatic, then you'll be able to move the slider.

then i go back to the inspector panel and click on the fourth button from the left to see the filters. i like to check the "brightness and contrast" filter and i set the contrast between "6" and "10". you might want to do a little de-interlacing if you're getting banding on your video. experiment and decide what setting works best.

then i click on the size button (the fifth one from the left on the top of the inspector window) to determine the dimensions of my clip. i've been setting my videos to 480 x 360, but if the size of your final video is too big, set it to 320 X 240.

when you're happy with your settings you can save them for future use by clicking on the save button at the bottom of the inspector window.

now return to the batch window and click on the destination pull-down menu to determine where your file will be saved. then, when all is set, click submit at the bottom of the window.

the best thing to do would be to make a 10-20 second clip of your movie and try different compression settings to see which one yields the best results (best quality and smaller file size). you can do several settings at once in the batch window. you see that each time you choose a setting a new line will appear on the batch window. when you have all the different settings, hit submit, then check the results to see which one looks best and/or is smaller. then compress your whole movie accordingly and save the setting for future use. i find that with each new movie i compress i slightly tweak the settings and keep improving the quality/size ratio.

#### UPLOADING TO THE GX SITE

on another note, the uploading to the gx site is really slow. i find that i'm successful when i start the upload and then leave the room to do something else... then, when i return, it's done. also you need to be doing this on a dsl line, otherwise i don't think it'll work.