

Converting Video Files

For free

(P.S. Converting some audio too!)

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Playing Stubborn Media

- To let Quicktime play Windows video and audio (.wmv and .wma), install Flip4Mac.
- <http://www.telestream.net/flip4mac-wmv/overview.htm> , download the free version, and install it.
- VLC plays lots of media that Quicktime can't.
- <http://www.videolan.org/vlc/download-macosx.html>

MPEG Streamclip

- To convert my video files (and some audio), I use MPEG Streamclip. It is free.
- <http://www.squared5.com/>
- You can change the size of videos, like 1080 to 720, or 640x480 to 320x240.
- You can change video formats, like .mov to .mp4.

Shrink a Video

- I had several 1080p .mov files (in my Final Cut Express Capture Scratch folder) to share with a Windows user (a Cinemasports video we did). The files were huge (500 MB to 1 GB), and compressed with Apple Intermediate Codec (not playable on Windows). HOW DID I DO IT?
- Drag the .mov file into MPEG Streamclip.
- File: Export to MPEG-4 (converts to smaller file size)
- File was 1920 x 1080 (“unscaled” is original frame size).
- Frame size: 1280x720 (smaller frame size, smaller file size)
- Compression: H.264 (readable on Windows)
- The files shrank a LOT (like 700MB to 10MB).

Video Clip in MPEG Streamclip



Convert to MP4

MPEG Streamclip - MPEG-4 Exporter

Compression:

Quality: 50 % Multipass
 B-Frames

Limit Data Rate: Kbps

Sound:

Frame Size: A professional 2D-FIR scaler will be used for scaling

1440 × 1080 (4:3)
 1920 × 1080 (16:9)
 1920 × 1080 (unscaled)
 720 × 576 (DV-PAL)
 720 × 480 (DV-NTSC)
 1280 × 720 (HDTV 720p)
 1920 × 1080 (HDTV 1080i)
 Other: ×

Frame Rate:

Frame Blending
 Better Downscaling

Deselect for progressive movies:
 Interlaced Scaling
 Reinterlace Chroma
 Deinterlace Video

Field Dominance: Use "Upper Field First" for all codecs except DV

Rotation:

Zoom: % X/Y Center ,

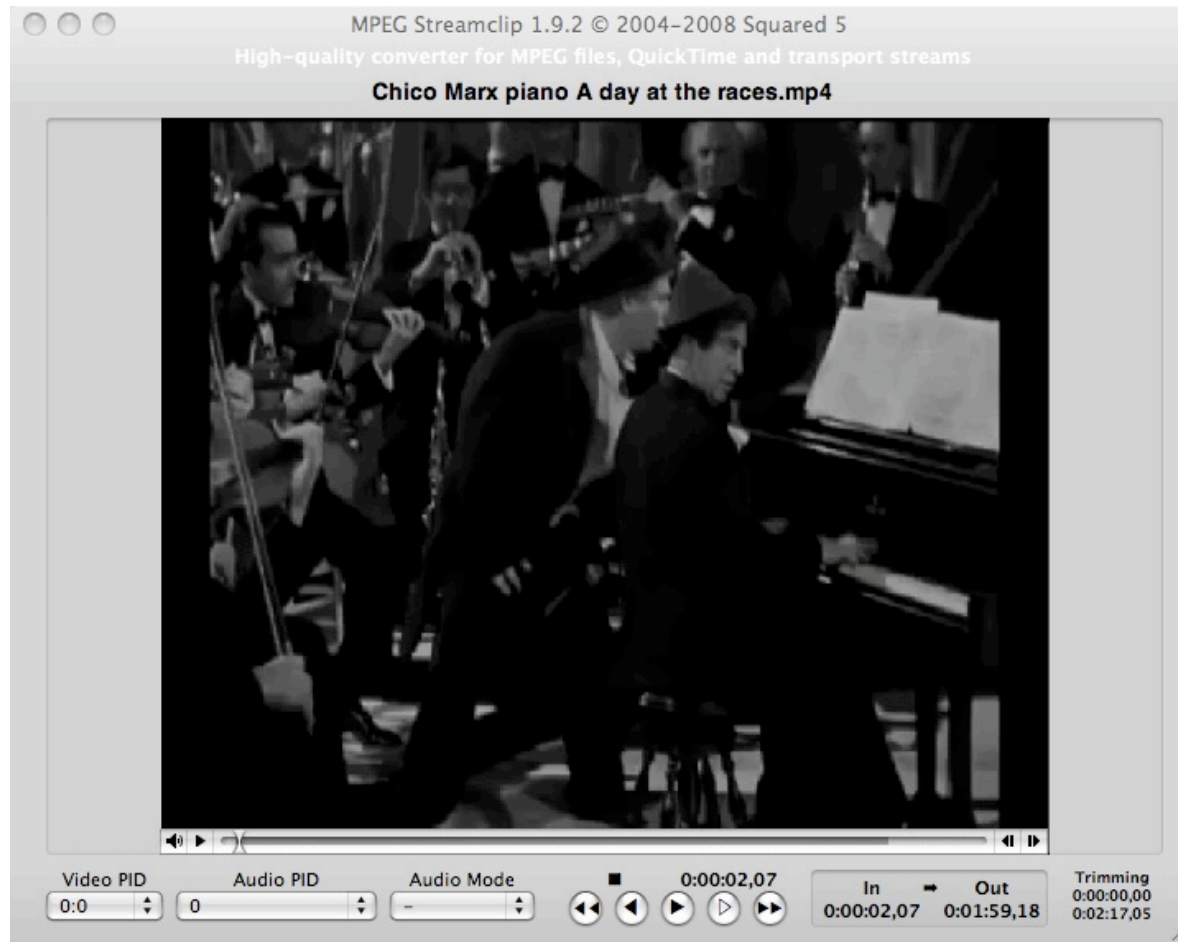
Cropping: Top Left Bottom Right

Fast Start

Trim a Video

- Set the playhead to where you want your trimmed video to start.
- Edit: Select In.
- Set the playhead to where you want your trimmed video to end.
- Edit: Select Out.
- Edit: Trim.
- Then export (or save) the video as you want.

Trimming A Video



Export Audio

- Open a video file in MPEG Streamclip (or an audio file that you wish to convert)
- File: Export Audio
- I pick either AIFF or MP3; they are most universal.
- Saves as an audio file.

Export Audio

MPEG Streamclip - Audio Exporter

Format:

Channels:

Sample Rate:

Bit Rate:

DVD Video

- No, MPEG Streamclip does NOT read video from protected DVDs, so don't even ask.
- But an unprotected DVD? Navigate on the DVD to the VIDEO_TS folder, find a .vob file, and you can convert that.
- File: Export to MPEG 4. Then MPEG Streamclip asked if I wanted to open it as a DVD. I said no.
- I chose 720x480 unscaled.
- This works better for shorter clips, since on DVDs, longer video segments get cut into smaller ones. An hour DVD can be several VOB files.

YouTube Downloading

- Do you want to download a video from YouTube? Here's how.
- In Firefox, navigate to the Youtube video you want to keep.
- Once you do that, **STAY ON THAT PAGE!**
- Wait for the playbar to fill.
- Navigate to (your user account)/Library/Caches/Firefox/Profiles/zatquojy.default (or whatever folder is in Profiles)/Cache.
- Look for a very recent file that is several MB, like 10 or 20 or some such. Copy and paste it into another folder (so you don't mess with Cache files).
- Add .flv to the copied file name. (Youtube uses Flash video: .flv)
- Drag the .flv file into MPEG Streamclip, and File: Export to MPEG 4. (Well, you can do .mov also if you want, but mp4 is small and plays everywhere.)

Youtube Playbar (not done yet)

