Final Cut Pro for Avid Editors

By Diana Weynand

If you’re an Avid Media Composer user who’s been hesitant to pick up Final Cut Pro, here’s help from someone who understands. Diana Weynand has been a producer, director, editor, and now the author of Final Cut Pro for Avid Editors, which teaches Final Cut Pro from an Avid user’s point-of-view. You already know the craft of editing. What you want to know is, How do I do that in Final Cut Pro? With the help of these excerpts taken from Diana’s hot new book, you’re about to find out!

Q & A with Avid Editors Who Made the Switch
Sharon Rutter: Feature Film—“Rules of Attraction” Directed by Roger Avary, Lions Gate Films

What features helped you the most?
I loved the audio within FCP. I was able to play with the tempo easily and reverse audio tracks. Also the rubberband feature enabled a strong mix within FCP. The other advantage of working in FCP was that we could easily and quickly export 24-fps QuickTime files to use to create digital effects.

Robert Moore: Hi-Definition Short film—FoxSearch Lab “The Mezzo”

How did Final Cut Pro work with Hi-Definition video?
I have found that Final Cut Pro with CineWave easily performs as well as Avid Symphony, except that FCP gave me the advantage of uncompressed HD. It allows me to work with all HD formats and all SD formats.

Steve Swersky: U.S. Navy SEALs documentary—Discovery

Why did you switch to FCP?
For the biggest bang for your dollars, you can’t beat FCP. Look how far the program has come, and it is still very young compared to the Avid software. The fact that you can configure the system any way you want is great. Whether you are working in offline resolution, DV, or online uncompressed, one system can do it all. And FCP is extremely powerful; it can do about 95 percent of what an Avid 9000 can do.
Lifting and Extracting

Lift and Extract work the same way in FCP as they do in Avid, though some of the terminology differs. The FCP terms are Delete (Lift) and Ripple Delete (Extract). FCP also provides some helpful selection tools you can use to choose the area you will lift or extract.

To lift material from the Timeline:
1. Select the clip, group of clips, or material range.
2. Press the DELETE key or choose Sequence > Lift.

To extract material from the Timeline:
1. Select the clip, group of clips, or material range.
2. Press SHIFT+DELETE or choose Sequence > Ripple Delete.

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