DV video capturing using iMovie (Mac)

This document describes how to capture video and export audio from a DV recording using Apple iMovie. You should know whether your recording is in PAL or NTSC format. iMovie does not copy the time code from the DV tape while capturing. This means that it's not possible to re-capture exactly the same piece at a later point unless you manually look up the correct time codes on the tape. Final Cut Pro does copy the time code from the tape.

Requirements:

• Apple Macintosh with Mac OS X 10.2 or higher
• Enough free hard disk space (about 250-300 MB for 1 minute of video)
• Apple iMovie software
• DV camera suitable for your video format (PAL/NTSC)
• FireWire cable (4 to 6 pin)

1. Capture a DV tape

• Connect the DV camera (iLink connection) to the computer (FireWire connection) using a FireWire cable.
• Put the camera in Playback or VCR mode.
• Set the right preferences for iMovie in iMovie->Preferences...
      • Deselect "Automatically start new clip at scene break"
      • Deselect "Filter audio from camera"
      • Choose PAL or NTSC for new projects
• In iMovie, select File->New project ..., give it a name and select a destination.
• Put iMovie in Camera mode (switch button from "scissors" to "camera").
• Locate the beginning of the recording using the controls and click "Import" to start capturing.
• Cick "Import" again to stop capturing.

2. Export WAV audio

• Put iMovie in Edit mode (switch button from "camera" to "scissors")
• Drag a clip from the Clip viewer (right) to the Timeline (bottom)
• From the File menu, select "Share..."
• Click on QuickTime and select "Expert settings" in the "Compress movie for" menu
• Click "Share".
• Select "Sound to Wave" from the Export menu and click on "Options"
• As Sound Settings, use Compressor: None, Rate: 48.000 kHz, Size: 16 bit, Use: Stereo. Click "OK"
• Give the output file a name, select a destination and click "Save".