

Making Files for Peg Media

Peg Media wants to get an MPEG2 file with MPEG2 video and MP2 audio in the same file with 720 x 480 (standard definition) resolution. They want any leading and trailing black stripped off of the show. There are two ways to create the needed file, depending on the tools at your disposal:

- If you know Premiere or Final Cut Pro X, you can use the regular H.264 show file that the Tricaster records and follow the directions below.

Note that the directions for Premiere and Final Cut Pro X assume a general level of knowledge of these programs. They are not 'cookbook.'

- *Note that iMovie doesn't create the needed files without iDVD, and we don't have iDVD at the Media Center. If you happen to have both programs and know them, the instructions for using them to create the needed file are at <http://www.pegmedia.org/index.php?q=node/21>.*
- If you know neither program, the studio can record a DVD of your show at the same time that the show is recorded. The techs know how to do that, and the tools in our classroom make it easy to convert the DVD into a suitable Peg Media file. The cookbook directions for that are below.

If you know Premiere

Premiere makes the process about as simple as it can get, because Premiere will create the file Peg Media needs directly. The steps are:

- Start Premiere and start a project.
- Import your show into the project.
- Create a timeline and put your show on the timeline. Trim the leading and trailing black off of your show.
- With the timeline highlighted, choose File->Export->Media... from the menu.
- When the dialog box comes up, find the "Format" dropdown box and pick "MPEG2."
- Then go to the "Preset" dropdown box immediately under the "Format" box and pick "NTSC DV."
- Click on the file name and pick a name and a directory on which to put the finished file.

Note that there is an "Aspect Ratio" box under the "Video" tab. The default is "Standard 4:3," which will letter box your 16:9 show for Peg Media. You can

also choose “Widescreen 16:9,” in which case your show will fill up the screen on Peg Media ... but ... it will fill it by distorting it, stretching it vertically to fit.

- Click the “Export” button at the bottom of the dialog box; then go drink coffee while the file exports.

If you know Final Cut Pro X

Final Cut Pro X won’t make the file that you need, but it will make a DVD image; from that you can use a utility that will read the DVD image file and create the file you need.

Note that if you have the compressor that is a companion piece of software to Final Cut Pro X, rumor has it that it will build exactly the file you need, but we don’t have the compressor at the Media Center. If you have it, give it a try.

The quickest way to Peg Media with Final Cut Pro X

- Start Final Cut and start a project.
- Import your show into the project.
- Create a timeline and put your show on the timeline. Trim the leading and trailing black off of your show.
- Choose File->Share.>DVD... from the menu
- The system will bring up a dialog box with various choices, all irrelevant. Click “Next...”
- The system will bring up a dialog box that allows you to choose the name of the file to be created and the folder on which to store it. Make your choices.
- Click the “Save” button at the bottom of the dialog box; then go drink coffee while the file exports.

You will have created an “image file” or “image folder” on your hard drive, a file or folder that has the entire folder layout of a real DVD. Using this file, follow the instructions in the section below, using this file or folder in place of the DVD.

If you have a DVD of your show

If you have a DVD of your show or a DVD image file from Final Cut Pro X:

- Open the DVD as a data disk (or the image file) in the MacIntosh Finder or the Windows File Explorer.
- Go into the Video_TS folder on the DVD (or in the image file) and open the "VTS_01_1.VOB" file with a program called "Mpeg Streamclip." (Right-click the file,

choose “Open with...” from the popup menu, and pick Mpeg Streamclip. Note that there are likely to be several similarly named files; be careful to choose the right one!) The program will ask “Do you want to open the stream as a DVD.” Tell it ‘yes.’

Mpeg Streamclip is loaded on all of the classroom computers at the Media Center. If you want it at home, it's free. Go to <http://www.squared5.com>.

- You can get rid of leading and trailing black by setting an inpoint and an outpoint in Mpeg Streamclip. To do this, position the “playhead” cursor found below the picture at the start of your actual show and press “I”. Then position the playhead at the end of your actual show and press “O”.
- Use the File->Convert to Mpeg Video with MP2 Audio menu option to create a file. The system will bring up a dialog box that allows you to choose the name of the file to be created and the folder on which to store it. Make your choices.