

FootTrack 1.02 README

April 30, 2003
<http://foottrack.com>

If you have downloaded a previous version of FootTrack please check out the **Changes since 1.01** section close to the bottom to see what's new.

What is FootTrack?

FootTrack allows you to catalog your digital video tapes so you can easily find what you are looking for when you want to plan a movie or just find something you've taped. Once you import your footage you can group the clips, assign descriptions for each video clip, and then do searches when looking for specific clips on your tapes. You can also compress the clips so you can remove the original DV footage and still be able to watch the much smaller compressed movie (3MB/minute instead of 3.5MB/second with DV). Though FootTrack works better when the DV footage came from a digital source, it also makes allowances for handling footage that came from an analog source (ie: no timecode information). Just import the clips from iMovie and then split them up the way you want (double click on the clip, drag the scrub bar and split).

Try it out!

Currently you need to use iMovie to import your footage. You can import the whole tape at once or do it in chunks if you want. Create a new iMovie project for each tape and import your tape. Make sure to have the iMovie preference "Automatically start new clip at scene break" enabled so your tape will be broken into clips for you. Once imported into iMovie, don't do any editing of the clips. Splitting clips within iMovie will have no effect when you import it into FootTrack. Start up FootTrack, create a new tape (make sure to specify whether it is analog footage or DV) and then import the footage into FootTrack. The type of tape will be used by FootTrack in the future.

As long as you don't erase the original clips FootTrack keeps a pointer to it and you can view the video clip by double clicking on it. When you double click on a clip you can also move through the movie and change the image representing the clip. You can also split the clip in two if you want (good if your DV originally came from an analog source). Once you choose to archive your clips you can erase the original DV footage and you'll see the archived movie instead.

To edit a clip click the Edit button on the far right side of the "clip info view" (bottom right corner).

The FootTrack catalog is located in your home folder in Library/Application Support/FootTrack. You can check the folder in Finder if you want to see how much disk space your catalog is using up. I've found it uses around 180MB per 60 minute tape.

Organizing in FootTrack

Within each video tape you can have groups of clips organized in whatever way you want. Within those groups you can have more subgroups (as deep as you want, but I generally don't see the need for deep grouping). Here's what some of my tapes look like after they've been cataloged:

Just create a new group and drag clips from the tape (or parent group) into the group. Groups currently can only contain clips from their parent.

Tape #1: May-July 2002

 Trip to Whitefish

 The condo

 Going for a boat ride

 Some waterskiing

 Playing behind the condo

 Logan's Pass

 A mountain goat

 The big descent

 At Home

 Girls Playing in the basement

.....

As you'll see below, how you group your clips will aid when you do searches.

Searching

When you search for video clips the clip's description as well as the group names and descriptions within the selected tape/group are used in the search. Using my tape listing above, if you had Tape #1 selected and did a search for "waterskiing" it would match every clip in the group "Some waterskiing" whether or not it also matches because the clip description contained "waterskiing". It would also match any other clips on tape #1 that had "waterskiing" in the clip description.

Clip searching is done lazily. If you type something the textfield only the selected tape/group is searched. If you choose a new tape/group then the search will also be executed before the clips are displayed.

To clear the search field click the "X" in the right corner of the field (ala Mail and Finder).

Compressing

Compressing your tapes can be a lengthy operation. On a powerbook 667 it still takes about 50 minutes to compress 60 minutes of video. There's not much I can do to speed it up though. At least once you compress it you won't have to do it again.

Known Problems

- Splitting clips requires the original DV footage to be accessible (for rereading the timecodes and date recorded). I'll remove this requirement in a future release.
- If you split a clip that already has an compressed movie then it should be split too (but

currently isn't). If you are importing DV footage that came from an analog source then don't generate your clip compressed movies until you've split up all your clips.

Changes since version 1.01 (April 30, 2003)

- Full Dutch language support for everything including the help files. Thanks very much to Paul Bánsági <localization@bansagi.nl> for the translation.
- The dates displayed in the inspector (ie: date recorded) should now be displayed in a format used by your date preference settings. The date's time zone is also no longer shown.
- Fixed a bug where under certain circumstances, when you edited values in the clip inspector it would apply changes to the clips that were last selected (instead of the current selected clips).

Changes since version 1.0

- New metal look to match the iLife applications we are complementing.
- Full PAL support: now reads the timecode and date recorded info from PAL DV footage.
- Dutch language support for everything but the help files (they are coming). Thanks very much to Paul Bánsági <localization@bansagi.nl> for the translation.
- More robust when importing non DV footage (ie: QuickTime files). Importing non DV files is still not officially supported yet though.
- The tape/group view in the main window now remembers it's width between application launches. It also no longer shrinks if you keep resizing the main window.
- Fixed a bug where sometimes when the window was resized to be smaller the clips would end up being clipped.
- When you select the clip, group or tape description textfield in the inspector window and it was empty sometimes "No description yet" appeared in the field. This no longer happens.
- Fixed a bug where double clicking on an unselected clip would not select it before trying to open it's movie.
- Fixed a bug where selecting some cells and then resizing the matrix would unselect the clips.
- Fixed a bug where sometimes after deleting a group from a tape the change wasn't immediately saved.

Changes since 1.0 Beta

- Cool new application icon (thanks again to Michael Matas - michael_m@mac.com)
- The clip inspector now displays date recorded correctly when multiple clips are selected.
- Fixed a bug where you could not sort sub clip groups using the menu "Sort clip groups by clip date"
- You can now cancel importing. If you compress during importing the status line now updates the compression percentage too.

- If you move the original DV footage for clips you've imported you can now update the clips to point to the new location using the new menu "Tape -> Change Tape Original DV Location.."
- Most sheets and windows now have help buttons on them that open the Help Viewer for that page
- If you don't enter a new tape or group name then the default is used (instead of being blank).
- Using "Edit -> Delete" from the menu now works for deleting clip groups or tapes.
- The movie viewer window now displays "Compressed" or "Original DV" depending upon the movie footage available to play.
- You can use the arrow keys to move around the clip images.
- Visual improvements when dragging clips.
- Improved help.

Price

A single user license to FootTrack costs \$29.95USD. Goto <http://foottrack.com/buy.html> to see the current payment options.

Any problems/suggestions should be sent to support@foottrack.com. Thanks for downloading our app. We hope you like it!

t-squared software
<http://foottrack.com>