

tech note: capturing footage with FCE

1. SETUP

You can capture footage directly from the camera or by using one of the 2 DV decks in each lab. If you're using a capture station, turn the power on and insert your miniDV tape. If you're capturing from a camera, connect a 4-to-6-pin Firewire cable from your camera to the computer. Turn the camera ON to PLAY/ VTR (or VCR) mode.

2. FCE SETTINGS

Open FCE and start a new project (or open one). Set the scratch disks to your Drive (**Final Cut Express > System Settings**); change the setting for Scratch Disks (top row only), Waveform, Thumbnail and Autosave. If you miss this step, you'll lose work; also make sure the project is saved to your hard drive.

3. CAPTURE

Click **File > Capture...** Use the playback controls on the Capture window to find the footage you want to capture.

There are two ways to capture: Capture Now and Capture Clip — use **Capture Clip** unless you have a break in your time code or you're capturing at the very beginning or end of the tape; then use **Capture Now** (click the Play, click Capture Now to start and the **esc** key to stop.)

Capture Clip is better because it saves the in & out points in your FCE project file — if you ever lose or delete your source files, all you have to do is open the project and click '**Capture Project**' to re-capture.

To set the in & out points, scroll to a place a few seconds before the footage you want, click the 'Mark In' button. Then scroll to a few seconds after the end of the footage you want and click the 'Mark Out' button. Click **Capture Clip**. Name the clip and click 'OK' - this will be the name of the clip in your browser and also the name of the source file, which is captured and saved to the **Capture Scratch** folder on your hard drive).

