

Chapter 5 - The Beginning User

This chapter is designed to walk you through Movie Cleaner if you are new to desktop video compression. If you are familiar with compression, you may want to skip to Chapter 6 - Opening Movies and Using Settings.

Starting up

To launch Movie Cleaner, double-click on the Movie Cleaner icon in the Finder. After the splash screen, the Easy Settings window comes up.

The Movie Expert is now ready to guide you through the compression process. First you must select a movie to work with. To do this, click the "Open a movie..." button. Movie Cleaner will open a dialog box allowing you to locate the movie you want to work with. After you select a movie, Movie Cleaner will analyze and open it. A Source Movie window will then appear on your screen. We'll talk more about that window a bit later.

The Movie Expert - Interview

The Movie Expert will now ask you a series of questions. These questions will help Movie Cleaner determine specific information about the movie you want to compress and the computer system you will be playing the movie back on later. Each page of questions is grouped by topic.

There are two buttons at the bottom of the Easy Settings window to help you navigate through The Movie Expert's questions. "Go Back" will back up one page at a time, so that you can change your answers. "Continue" will accept the current answers and move on to the next page.

Notice that on the left side of the window the Movie Expert explains some general information about the questions it is currently asking you.

Compression Time!

After you've answered its questions, the Movie Expert creates the appropriate settings for your movie. You are then ready to begin compression of your movie. Click the Compress button in the Movie Cleaner Status toolbar to begin the compression process.

Suspending and Resuming Compression

Once the compression begins, the "Suspend" and "Resume" buttons in the Movie Cleaner Status toolbar will become active. Chapter 12 - Suspend & Resume explains in detail how to use the Suspend & Resume features of Movie Cleaner, and tells you how to view the

partially compressed video while compression is suspended.

Watching your movies

You can view your movie before and after it is compressed by using the standard QuickTime controls below the movie.

- The audio volume button on the left lets you adjust the volume for

playback in this window.

- The play button next to the audio button starts the movie playing,

and will become a pause button during playback.

- The slider in the middle lets you move to any point in the movie.

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The frame rewind and frame advance buttons will rewind and

forward the movie one frame at a time.

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Remember - uncompressed video may not play smoothly, depending on your capture hardware and the format of the uncompressed movie.

Getting more Information

For information about the source movie you are going to compress, look at the section at the bottom of the Source Movie window. Clicking on the "more info triangle" will give you more details on specific audio and video settings. See Chapter 9 - Compressing Movies for more information on this movie data. Clicking on the "more info triangle" a second time will "close up" the information back into one line.

Saving Your Settings

Once the Movie Expert has created settings for you, you can save them for future use. This is particularly useful if you have several similar movies to compress. To save your settings, select "Save Setting As..." from the Settings menu. You will be prompted for a name.

The settings the Movie Expert makes for you are not saved automatically — you must save them if you want to use them again.

Using Existing Settings

You can apply existing settings to your movies. Movie Cleaner comes with several common settings built in. You can also use settings you have saved yourself.

To apply saved settings, simply select the setting you would like from the Settings menu. As soon as you do this, the Movie Expert will go to the last interview screen and indicate that you've selected an existing setting.

If you are in the middle of an interview, selecting an existing setting will end the interview and replace the settings the Movie Expert was creating with the settings you selected.