



LateNite Rebels Guide

The tech basics you need to know to get your story told. well.

Thought Process:

WOW!

You find an idea / cause / project / person (=story) which you need to share with the world.

oh.

You have no idea where to start.

woah...

You make the decision that this is something you NEED to do - and start.

GO!

Step One.

NO! It's not about the camera.

You need to commit. Schedule in WHEN will you work on this project and give yourself a deadline for when you want it finished.

E.g.

1 week of filming.

1 week of wrangling / scripting / logging / motivating.

2 weeks of editing.

(insert period of time for reflection - advice is to NOT TOUCH the project for this time, even if it's only 1 day or as long as 1 month - find clarity.)

Completion.

*whatever it takes to get it finished.

Pre-Production Basics -

- Developing the idea and team (long drinking sessions)
- Research
- Logistics - Who will you Interview (and how to access them)
- Logistics - Where are you shooting

Handy Resource -

<http://www.screenaustralia.gov.au/filmmaking/default.aspx>

You need to know...

There are LOTS and LOTS of filmmakers in the world. LOTS of them.

MANY OF THEM ALREADY HAVE GREAT FILMMAKING EQUIPMENT. Most of them love film, and some will be happy to help.

Plan A) Borrow

Plan B) Rent

Plan C) Buy

When Renting and Buying - trust in google. Here are some of your options:



Camcorder



DSLR



R3D



iPhone

Basic need-to-know TechTalk -

An image is made up of thousands of dots. These are **pixels**.

Resolution tells you how many pixels are in an image.

HD vs SD (High Definition VS Standard definition) = HD is a Higher resolution / more pixels.

A HD image size is : 1920 x 1080 / or / 1280 x 720.

A moving image is made up of thousands of **frames**.

In Australia, the footage we see on TV is 25 frames in a second. (**25fps**). This is called **PAL**.

In America, the footage you would see on TV is **29.967** frames in a second (fps). This is called **NTSC**.

THIS IS A SUPER IMPORTANT THING TO UNDERSTAND.

(Converting NTSC to PAL and vise-versa is a bitch)



< Focus

A non blurry image.



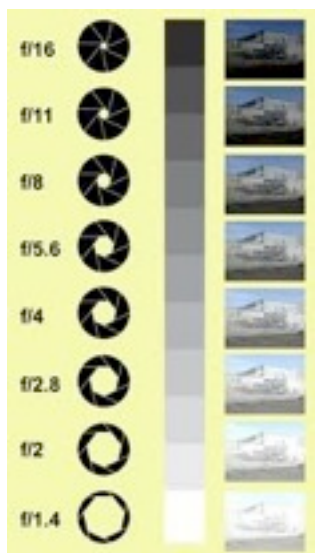
Zoom ^



Depth of Field ^

Distance between focus.

Camera Cheat Sheet.



Aperture

measured by "F Stops"

<<

Allowing less or more light through.

TIP:

Lower f stop gives greater depth of field.

Shutter

Speed >>



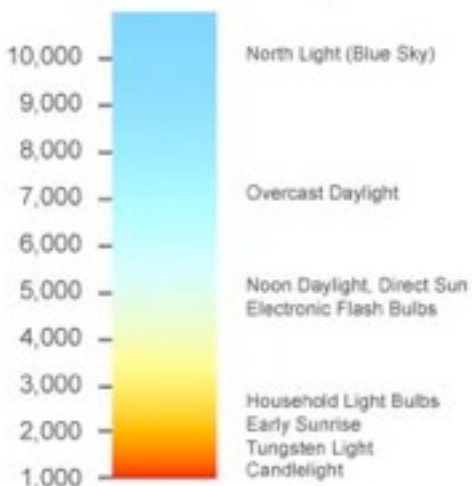
GAIN (ISO)

*Sensor sensitivity to light

>>



Colour Temperatures in Degrees Kelvin



White Balance !!!

You need to let your camera know "what is white?"

NEVER USE AUTO!!! (AWB)

Explained:
Light has a colour temperature - and certain lights will make your image a certain colour. See >>





ND Filter ^^

Get it right.

Keep your Gain or ISO as LOW as possible.

Keep your F Stop low for Shallow depth of field (lots of fuzzy and one point in focus)



Keep your F Stop high for Large depth of field (landscape shots where everything is in focus)

To capture FAST movement (Animals, Sport) - shoot with FAST shutter speed.

In super “hot” (high light) conditions - use an **ND filter** to block out light, instead of pushing up your F Stop and increasing your shutter speed.

Use AUTO to learn and understand different settings - but practice with MANUAL.

CHECK YOUR WHITE BALANCE! DON'T USE AUTO. (Cameras aren't that smart yet.)

-  **AUTO**
camera sets white balance
-  **DAYLIGHT**
camera adds warm tones
-  **CLOUDY**
camera adds warm tones
-  **SHADE**
camera adds warm tones
-  **TUNGSTEN**
camera adds cool tones
-  **FLUORESCENT**
camera adds warm (red) tones
-  **FLASH**
camera adds warm tones
-  **CUSTOM**
photographer sets white balance

Colour Temperature	Light Source	tech term
1000 - 2000 K	Candlelight	
2500-3500 K	Inside a House	Tungsten Bulb
3000 - 4000 K	Sunrise / Sunset (clear sky)	
4000 - 5000 K	Hospital / School lighting	Fluorescent Lamp
5000 - 5500 K	Flash	
5000 - 6500 K	Daylight (Sunny clear sky)	
6500 - 8000 K	Overcast Sky	
9000 - 10000 K	Shade	



XLR - The Connection / cable for Good Quality Audio ^^

Audio cheat sheet.

Awesome free crash course in Audio Recording -

http://filmg.co.uk/uploads/pages_files/Audio_Resource_Notes.pdf



Lapel Mics ^^

Interview Mics



H4N Zoom ^^

Audio Recording Device



ShotGun Mic ^^

Directional Mic



<< Dead Cat

Wind softener



<< Blimp

Wind softener

Audio Basics;

RECCE! This means go and check out the location before you film - and choose somewhere as QUIET as possible. Be aware of buzzing air conditioners, airports, echo etc.

As a general rule, if you can, don't use the "on camera" mic, as they're usually poor quality.

LISTEN! Get good headphones and always check your levels aren't peaking.

IF YOU'RE NOT RECORDING INTO THE CAMERA, AND USING A SEPARATE DEVICE - YOU MUST CLAP TO SYNC THE AUDIO LATER!

GOOGLE IS YOUR FRIEND / CREATIVE COW WILL FIX YOUR PROBLEMS.

<http://www.creativecow.net/>

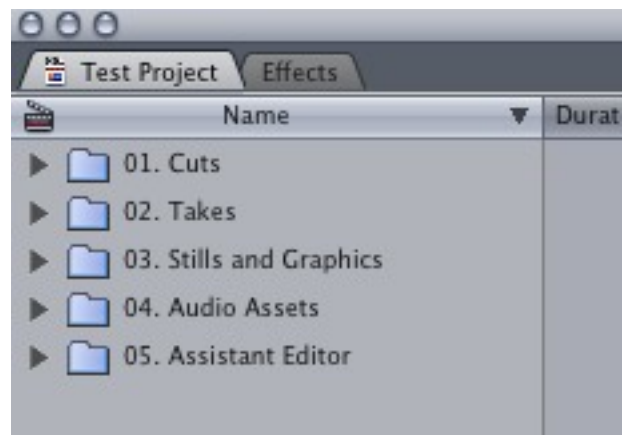
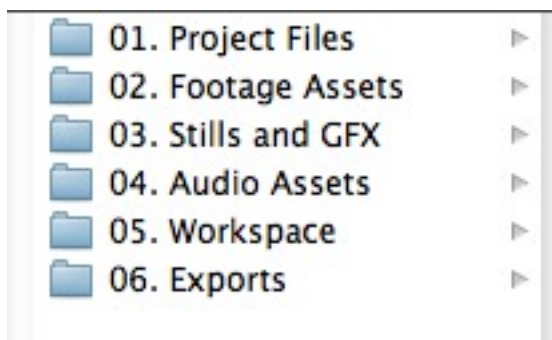
BEING ORGANIZED HAS NEVER BEEN MORE IMPORTANT - KEEP YOUR DESKTOP AND FOLDERS CLEAN - ALWAYS!

Post Production - (FCP) Editing.

What you need to do:

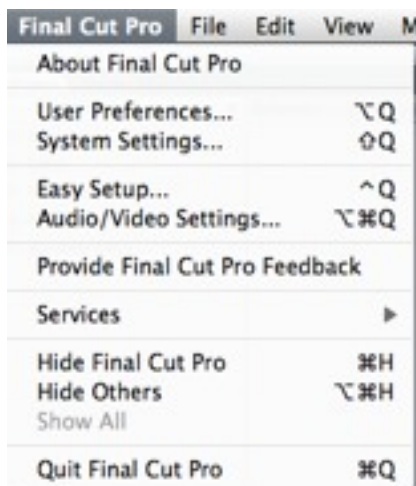
SET UP PROJECT > INGEST / CAPTURE > LOG > EDIT > EXPORT > COMPRESS...

01. SET UP PROJECT



Within finder ^^ Within Final Cut >>

SELECT YOUR WORKSPACE WHEN OPENING FCP - EVERY TIME!



<< System Settings.

Select the folder which you have named: "05. Workspace"

Everything FCP creates - such as render files, ingested media etc etc will automatically be saved in your workspace.

THIS IS IMPORTANT.

02. Ingest / Capture footage; (Convert to ProRes / HDV)



Batch Capture (Tape) ^^^

<< CF Card Log and Transfer

START LOGGING* AND EDITING! HAVE FUN!

Logging just means renaming and organizing your footage within FCP so you can edit it better. Organize however you like, chronologically / by sequence or by character and location. You must keep both the Finder and the Project tidy. For example.

Finder - Footage “Dumps” can be organized by;
Day / Reel (E.g. Day 01 Reel 01)

FCP - Clips are organized within the project by;
Scene / Shot / Take. (E.g. 01/02/03 - man walks into a bar)

Reference for compression is online -

<http://www.vx1000.com/fcpwebcompress.htm>

Personal Fav -

H.264 Codec as a QT or M4V (MP4) @ 1920 x 1080p with AAC audio.

For more local resources -



<http://rebels.latenitefilms.com/>

To wrap up -

“Very simply put - one of the great needs, maybe certainly one of the greatest needs in our world - is for us to know one another, to know whats really going on in the world around us and to feel a commonality of need and purpose with other people. People from different walks of life, other nations, other ethnic backgrounds, economic statuses, different philosophies, and religions... we need to find a common bond with the rest of humanity and the documentary allows us to do that...”

- Albert Maysles (Director)