

So You're Editing a Video?

Hey folks, this is a quick guide of popular video editing software, along with linked tutorials on how to use them.

Basic Video Editing

Before we get into the different software, there are a few basic things you need to do regardless of any program you use.

1. Have all of your footage (videos/pictures/graphics/audio) in one place and **labeled**. It will make things so much easier in the long run.
2. **Create a Storyboard**. If you've never edited a video before, it's useful to create a rough draft of your video beforehand. I use Google Slides, but any slideshow program will work. More on that [here](#).
3. Clipping is your best friend. There will inevitably be those few seconds at the beginning/end of the video where you're starting or stopping the video. Always take those pieces out. You can also use clipping to take out awkward pauses in an otherwise smooth video. Each program does it slightly different, so take a look at the program-specific tutorials.
4. Make sure you have the storage to export your video once you are done! I use a hard drive, but you can use a thumb drive or just your device storage. Just remember, the longer the video, the more storage it will take!
5. If you're uploading to YouTube, you'll probably want to make a thumbnail. I would recommend Canva (Basic). The website is here: <https://www.canva.com/>
 - a. There is also an app available for iPhone and Android

InShot

If you would prefer to do the video editing on your phone/iPad, then this is the app for you. The basic version is free on the App Store, and it is by far the best video editing software I have seen for a non-computer device. It's simple and easy to use, so it's easy for beginners.

InShot Tutorial: <https://youtu.be/1opcVKmjKt4>

iMovie

Chances are, you'll encounter this software if you own a Mac/ Apple product. It comes pre-installed on all Macs. If you have an iPhone or iPad, you can download iMovie from the App Store. This is one of the easiest programs for beginners.

iMovie computer tutorial: <https://youtu.be/ljAWrpmEFoU?t=158>

iMovie phone/iPad tutorial: https://youtu.be/a7sjT_BySf8?t=98

Open Shot

Open Shot is an open-source video editing software that is free to download. Open-source software is often unique because multiple programmers from all over the world add their own modifications to the software, which can be included in a later update of the software.

You can download Open Shot on Linux, Mac, or PC hardware, they support it all. The website to download it is [here](#).

It supports all video/photo types (.mov, .mp4, .avi, .jpeg, .png, etc.) and can export in multiple video types.

Here is my tutorial on how to use this software: <https://youtu.be/5YzgK5gChgk>

PowerDirector

If you own a PC, chances are PowerDirector comes pre-installed on your computer. I would really only recommend using this if you have some video editing experience and have a good understanding of video editing software. This is better if you are doing more complicated videos with effects and overlays (.png images laid over your video, typically). This app can also be installed on Android and Apple devices!

PowerDirector (PC) Tutorial: <https://youtu.be/SvWuiw3vfw4>

PowerDirector (Android) Tutorial: <https://youtu.be/V4Sd80roEfw?t=70>

Adobe Premiere or Final Cut

If you have access to this software and you are not familiar with video editing, I would **not** recommend using these programs. These are **professional video editing programs**. However, if you're familiar with video editing software and want a challenge, then these programs are for you. With these, you can make high-quality, professional videos that are a step above other videos.

However, if you are a) a beginner, or b) not planning on doing video editing professionally or as a part of your job, these programs just aren't worth the hassle. That said, if you feel like you need to learn how to use this software, tutorials are linked below.

Adobe Premiere (PC) Tutorial: <https://youtu.be/fgH-aw7tkng?t=37>

Final Cut (Mac) Tutorial: <https://youtu.be/hNWLw0hiX5Y>