



DaVinci Resolve Overview

DaVinci Resolve is a free-to-download professional-grade video editing software; as well as editing, you can colour grade, add & edit VFX, motion graphics, and audio. It works with almost all 8-bit video formats up to 60FPS shot in resolutions up to Ultra HD (3840×2160). DaVinci Resolve Studio is the paid version which supports higher-quality video and has many more editing abilities,

This document will guide you through the basic process of editing using DaVinci Resolve, how to add files, move the files to a timeline, cut & move them around, overlay them, and basic audio editing, before rendering & exporting the finished file.

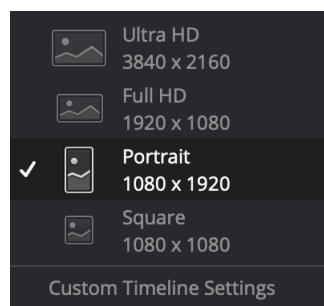
To keep page count low, I've kept screenshots to a minimum – there is little that can't be undone on a computer, and even less that can't be hovered over to get a label, so feel free to play around and explore to learn things outwith this guide. It's also worth noting that any screenshots come from a Mac, so may look slightly different to the Windows display; additionally, where I note to press 'Command + ...', that corresponds to 'Control + ...' on Windows.

If, as you're working on your file, you notice that playback is slow, disconnected from the audio, jittery or stops & starts, you may have older hardware that's struggling with playback, or it may simply be that your footage was recorded using a device that wasn't intending for it to be edited (e.g. GoPro, some smartphone formats). To remedy this, run the original file through [HandBrake](#) or a similar piece of software to re-encode it, then start again with the new file.

With DaVinci open, you can either select 'Untitled Project' from the splash screen, or navigate to File > New Project. In the top left section of the screen that loads, it will say 'No clips in media pool. Add clips from Media Storage to get started'. You can either drag & drop files into this space, or navigate File > Import > Media to add video, photo, and audio to your project.

Once you've added files, you may be asked if you want to change your project frame rate, always select yes.

If you want to change the aspect ratio or resolution of your video, you can do this from a button in the top left of the 'Cut Screen', clicking this will open a menu where you can select from a few presets, or enter your own custom settings.



The next step is to add your files to your timeline, you can add them in the more basic 'Cut' tab which is intended for more simple edits or to discard larger sections of video before moving on.



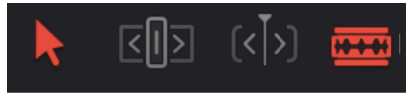
Or you can go straight to the 'Edit' tab, which is intended for more detailed edits, where you can add multiple visual & audio files and more precisely manipulate them.





You may notice that your timeline doesn't start at zero (0) – this is the default within DaVinci, and can be changed either for individual projects, or for all projects. [This link](#) shows you how to change the timecode for your project, as well as for every project, if you so desire.

To edit your clips, you can either manually switch between the arrow & blade tools (shown below at each end of one section of the toolbar above your timeline) or use the shortcuts A (for selection mode/the arrow) and B for blade edit mode, or to cut.



An even quicker way to cut clips is to place the playhead (the red line/marker) where you want to trim the clip and press 'Command + B'.

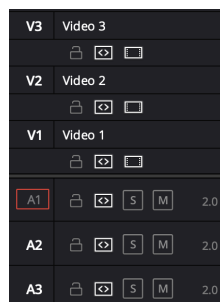
To do things like change the speed of a clip or reverse it, zoom in or out & move the clip around the screen, you will need to use the 'Edit' tab, and have the inspector panel open in the right hand side of the screen



'Transform' lets you zoom & reposition your selected clip; 'Position' changes the location of the file; 'Cropping' increases the size of the named black bar(s); and 'Speed Change' lets you choose the direction & speed your clip plays at.

Once you've cut & moved your clips to your liking, you may wish to add in a logo or other graphic for branding purposes, or overlay another video to give a picture-in-picture effect. To do this, it's easier to use the 'Edit' tab, so that you can zoom in & out of your timeline.

If you haven't already, drag the file(s) to your timeline – alongside your other clips is fine, or you may notice that further video (and/or audio) tracks are added if you drag files above V1 & below V2 – to overlay files, this is where you want them. You can also drag files above or below as appropriate.



Once the file is on its' own track, simply select it, and use the 'Inspector' tools to alter it as appropriate – the assumption being that 'Transform' will hold all the tools you require to size & place the additional file(s) as desired.

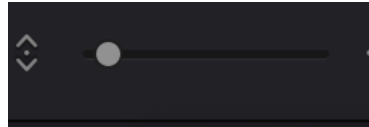
From the 'Edit' tab, basic audio edits can be made. If you have a file that has audio you don't want used, simply select it, and either right click to deselect 'Link Clips', or select the link icon from the toolbar above your timeline, then click away, before selecting the audio (green) track and deleting it.



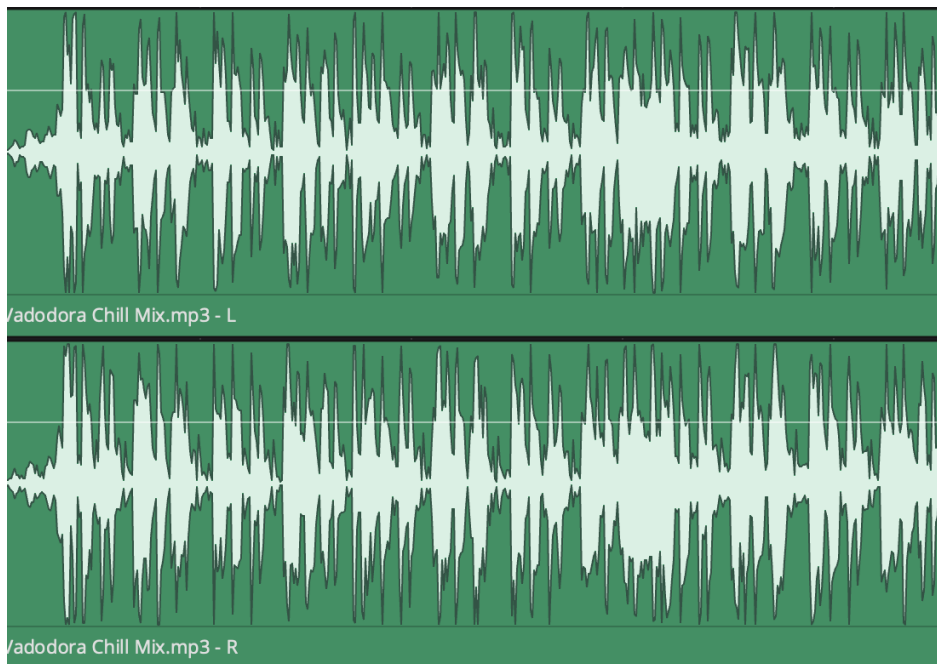


It's wise to select them all, then right click and choose 'Normalize Audio Levels' from the menu before proceeding with any further editing. Using the 'Sample Peak Program' is fine, and after this has completed, set your PC audio to a normal volume, and play your video. If the audio is too quiet or loud, select the track(s) and change it from the 'Audio' menu in the 'Inspector' before checking again.

For more precise audio editing e.g. where you need to cut out external noises picked up in error by your mic, use the 'Fairlight' tab; from here you can use the 'Vertical Slider' to increase the size of the sound waves on screen, so you can more easily spot where the extra noises are, and more precisely track through the audio with your left & right arrow keys.



Moving the 'Vertical Slider' to the right to see more detail, as below




Finally, if you want to colour grade or sharpen your clips, you can do this on the 'Colour' tab. Most non-RAW video formats are unlikely to need colour graded if shot in good lighting



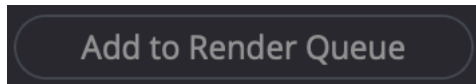
As with photography, however, you may like to colour grade your video a certain way or to "improve" certain aspects e.g. if your lighting was a little dark or bright leading to colours being mis-represented; also as with photography, colour grading is very much down to personal preference, and there are a large number of tutorials online to take you through the process whether you want a basic level of knowledge, or something more in depth.



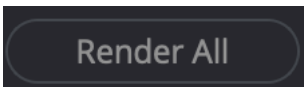
Once you're happy with your video, it's time to render it, using the 'Deliver' tab. 

Along the top on the left-hand side there are presets to choose from (including social media presets such as YouTube, Twitter, Vimeo, etc), or you can export audio only, or again choose a custom export.

They all work in much the same way – set the filename & location under your selection, make any further changes you may want from the options below, then select 'Add to Render Queue'.



If you've worked on multiple Timelines, or want multiple versions of your final video, you can add them all to the queue, before selecting 'Render All'.



Rendering time will vary based on how many files you're rendering, the size of each one, as well as your hardware capabilities.