

BUYER'S **guide**

Video Editing Software

Just 20 years ago, video editing was unheard of from anything but multi-million-dollar movie studios because of the intense system requirements and high cost of video editing software.

Now, much software is available for less than \$100 and will run on a typical desktop or laptop configuration. The software profiled here runs the gamut from the video editing component of a suite of software tools (e.g., iVideo, which is part of Apple's iLife suite, and Nero Vision, which is part of the Nero Ultra Edition disc burning package) to a low-level professional package (i.e., Avid Liquid) that can prepare older students for the types of video editing software they would encounter in college and the workplace.

When choosing software, look first at your students' needs. Do they need to create video photo books to show their progression during the school year or to capture the joys of their summer vacation? Do they need to produce high-quality videos for their electronic portfolios? Or, do they need to learn real-world video editing tools to prepare them for the workforce? The answers to these questions will lead you to the features and price range you need to consider.

Next, you'll need to think about the platform your students will be using. Most of the high-end professional products (in the more than \$2,000 price range) are available for both Macintosh and Windows computers, but the products in the lower price ranges are platform specific. Check the System Requirements column in the table for the platform for each program.

Then, all you need to do is purchase the right software for your needs and set your students loose with it. You'll probably be amazed at what they can create using even the simplest tools.

The descriptions are not exhaustive—most of these systems simply offer too many features to list in one table—but they can help you decide what type of tool you need and what questions to ask of the vendors.

Product	Distributor	URL	Price	Features
Final Cut Express	Apple	http://www.apple.com/finalcutexpress/	\$299	Scrolling, crawling, and animated titles; still image import; time line editing; drag-and-drop editing; scoring; DVD burning
iMovie HD	Apple	http://www.apple.com/ilife/imovie/	\$79*	Cinematic titles, time line editing, drag-and-drop editing, predesigned themes, scoring with included GarageBand, DVD burning with included iDVD
Liquid	Avid	http://www.avid.com/products/xpresspro/	\$694	Time line editing, titles, multi-camera editing, color correction, supports multiple formats within one project, background rendering, Dolby Digital sound
Nero Vision	Nero	http://www.nero.com/nero7/enu/Nero_Vision_4.html	\$80*	Predesigned video effects, digital TV capture, burns Blu-Ray and HD DVD discs, Dolby Digital sound
Premiere Elements	Adobe	http://www.adobe.com/products/premiereel/	\$100	Drag-and-drop editing, one window editing and preview, stop-motion animation, multiple processor support, built-in effects and transitions, Dolby Digital sound
Studio Media Suite Titanium	Pinnacle	http://www.pinnaclesys.com	\$100	Analog and digital capture, DVD authoring, key frameable effects, Reg. and HD, Chroma Key, PIP
Video Studio Plus	ULead	http://www.ulead.com/vs/features_plus.htm	\$90	Time line editing, overlay tracks, predesigned title effects, preset or custom animations, built-in video filters, soundtrack creation tool, Dolby Digital sound
Video Wave	Roxio	http://www.roxio.com/enu/products/videowave/standard/overview.html	\$50	Time line editing, visual clip assembly, real-time previews, predesigned effects

* Part of a suite of software tools

Direct import from compatible camera?	Import/Export Formats	System Requirements
Yes	3GPP, 3GPP2, AIFF, AMC, AU, AVI, BMP, FLC, JPEG 2000, JPEG/JFIF, MacPaint, MIDI, MPEG-4, MQV, Photoshop, PICT, PNG, QCP (Mac OS 9 & Windows, import only), QuickTime Image File, QuickTime Movie, SGI, System 7 Sound, Targa, Text, TIFF, WAV Export Only: DV Stream, Image Sequence movie exporters Import Only: 3DMF, AMR, Animated GIF, Audio CD Data, CAF, Cubic VR, DLS, DV, FlashPix, GIF, GSM, Karaoke, MPEG-1, MP3, M3U, MPEG-2, M4A, M4B, M4P, M4V, PDF, PICS, PLS, Quartz Composer Composition, SD2, SDP, SDV, SF2, SMIL, TIFF Fax, VDU, Virtual Reality	Macintosh Power PC G4, G5, or Intel Core, 550 MHz, 512 MB RAM, OS X v10.4.6 or newer, 500 MB disk space, DVD burner or SuperDrive
Yes	DV, DV Widescreen, HDV, iSight, MPEG-4	Macintosh Power PC G4, G5, or Intel Core, 733 MHz, 256 MB RAM, OS X v10.3.9 or newer, 10 GB disk space, DVD burner or SuperDrive
No	DV, MPEG I-frame, MPEG IBP, uncompressed SD, Windows Media, DIVX, MPEG-4, HDV	1.8 GHz (3.0 GHz for HDV), Windows XP, 512 MB RAM (1 GB for HDV), DVD burner
Yes	AVI, MOV (QuickTime 4 or newer), WMV, ASF, MPG, HDV	800 MHz, Windows 2000 or newer, 128 MB RAM, DVD burner
Yes	MPEG-1, MPEG-2, MPEG-4, H.264, DV, AVI, Windows Media, QuickTime, 3GP, WAV, Dolby Digital Stereo, JPEG, DVD Import Only: JVC Everio MOD, ASF, WMA, PSD, PNG	1.3 GHz (3 GHz for HDV), Windows XP, 512 MB RAM (1 GB for HDV), 5 GB disk space, DVD burner
Yes	AVI, DivX, DV, HDV, MPEG-1, MPEG-2, MPEG-4 (AVI) Export Only: RealVideo, Windows Media Import Only: BMP, JPG, MP3, Non-encrypted DVD Titles, PCT, TGA, TIF, WAV, Windows Media Format, WMF	1.4 GHz, Windows XP, 512 MB RAM, DVD burner
No	3GPP, 3GPP2, AAC, BMP, EPS, JPG, MPA, MPEG-1, MPEG-2, MPEG-4, Real Media (export only), WAV, Windows Media Format Import Only: AVI, CLP, CUR, DVR-MS, EPS, FFX, GIF87a, ICO, IFF, IMG, JP2, JPC, MP3, PCD, PCT, PCX, PIC, PNG, PSD, PXR, QuickTime, RAS, SCT, SHG, TGA, TIF/TIFF, UFO, WMF	Intel Pentium 4, Pentium M, Pentium 4 Extreme Edition, or AMD Athlon 64 processor (3.0 GHz with hyperthreading technology for HDV); 256 MB RAM (1 GB for HDV); DVD burner
Yes	DivXHD, MPEG-2 HD, Windows Media Center Edition HDTV, WAV, WMA, MP3	1.6 GHz, Windows 2000 with SP4 or Windows XP with SP2, 256 MB RAM, DVD burner