

MC-20PRO II “Quick Tutorial” with Apple Final Cut Pro

Overview

FutureVideo’s MC-20PRO II is a powerful, flexible, multi-function professional Jog and Shuttle Control surface designed to make your audio and video editing easier, faster, and vastly more comfortable. The MC-20PRO II has been designed to work with the most popular audio and video editing packages such as Apple Final Cut Studio, including Final Cut Pro (FCP). The MC-20PRO II connects to the Mac through the USB port, and optionally directly to an RS-422A controlled VTR or DVR. After a quick setup procedure to identify the MC-20PRO II as a USB keyboard device to your Mac (see MC-20 Series QuickStart Guide instructions), you’re ready to start editing with Apple Final Cut Studio. The MC-20PRO II also comes with other pre-defined key maps for other professional editing applications which may be loaded into its flash memory via the included KeyAssigner program using a Windows based OS.

Working with Apple Final Cut Pro

In this application, we will illustrate how to create an edited program quickly and effortlessly using the MC-20PRO II. The controls may be mapped into 4 tasks that are commonly used in Final Cut Production Studio application software:

- Logging & Capturing (FCP)
- Video Editing (FCP)
- Audio Recording/mixing (SoundTrack Pro)
- Output to DVD (Studio)

For each task an overlay template label has been provided of the keys that have been mapped to various functions in each task. The MC-20PRO II factory fresh unit has all the key maps pre-installed into its flash memory for each of the above 4 tasks. If you would like to change the default key assignments, then use the supplied Window’s based KeyAssigner software to make your own key maps or changes, and Install the new key maps to the MC-20PRO II from a PC. (See the “MC-20 Series Installation and Setup Manual” for more details on how this is done). Keep in mind, there is no “right” way to assign the keys, as each user may have a particular liking. The KeyAssigner program allows users to customize the layout and choice of functions in any way they may prefer.

The MC-20PRO II has its own built-in RS-422A VTR control port. There are two possible conditions under which this direct control can be used for optimal logging and clip capture:

- 1) If you wish to log and capture multiple clips and the VTR has both an RS-422A port and firewire port, which can also be controlled together by the MC-20PRO II and FCP system, or
- 2) If you wish to the capture all or part of a tape as one clip and use only the MC-20 **Capture Now** (or there is no RS-422A device interface or firewire available that can be controlled by the FCP system.)

If any of the above is the way you will be using the system, then connect both the USB and RS-422A VTR to the MC-20PRO II. Otherwise, connect only the USB cable to the MC-20PRO II and connect the VTR to the Mac system via RS-422A or Firewire cable.

If you are using (1) or (2) above, then install the keymap “Apple Final Cut Studio 5 (PRO II) VTR-A (RS-422) Shuttle.jst” found on the KeyAssigner CD. Otherwise, the default keymap Apple Final Cut Studio 5 (PRO II).jst has already been installed, and no action is necessary.

Customizing FCP Keyboard Assignments

This is done only once and we recommend that you set the FCP’s keyboard assignments for the following 4 keys so that the transport and logging functions work properly:

F2 key: This is normally used for display brightness and should be disabled from the Apple System preferences, under the tab Keyboard settings. In the tab Keyboard, uncheck “Use F1, F2, etc keys as standard function keys.....”

Transport Stop, Rewind, and Fast Forward keys: These are not normally assigned keyboard shortcuts as a default. In order to have the correct transport functions work, assign these keys within the FCP Tools > Keyboard Layout>Customize panel as follows under the Transport row section:

Fast Forward = Ctrl-Command+L
 Rewind = Ctrl-Command+J
 Stop = Ctrl-Command+K

Logging and Capturing Clips

For this example, we will concentrate on the log and Capture tasks using batch clip capture method.

In the next section we will create a simple movie by adding some clips to the timeline, adding transitions, and rendering.

Note: MC-20's Alt-1 and Alt-2 functions are set to "auto release" so that its action for that key will occur only once after each press of another non-Alt key.

The colors and the type in this example (*italicized*) were purposely chosen to identify MC-20 Alt-1 functions (*blue = press Alt key once*), Alt-2 functions (*green = press Alt key twice*), Shift (*orange= press MC20 shift key once*) or normal (do not press Alt or Shift keys prior to pressing the key) which are non-italicized (**black**) key names.

Try out the Log and Capture mode task, via the following procedure (ensure the "Log/Capture" template label is applied):

- Press the MC-20 **Log/Capture** mode key on the top row and observe the FCP Log and Capture window opens. (Note: If this window was open already, it will close - in which case press the button again to re-open)
- Use the MC-20 **STOP, RW, PLAY, FF**, and **Jog/Shuttle** controls to preview the tape.
- Use the **Mark In** and **Mark Out** keys to roughly "mark" a clip on the tape.
- Press the MC-20 **Log Clip** key to Log the clip. A dialog box will come up to allow you to enter a Name. Use either the MC-20 **Enter/OK** key to accept the clip name or the main keyboard Enter key.

Repeat above 3 steps until you have reviewed and logged the clips and are ready to capture the clips onto the hard drive. Change tapes, if necessary to log more clips.

- Press the MC-20 **Browser** (window) key to bring up the browser window of the logged clips. Here you can select or deselect certain clips using the computer's mouse & keyboard, or if you do nothing it will select all.
- Press the MC-20 **Batch Capture** key.
- Press MC-20 **Ok/Enter** key when Batch Capture Window appears.
- Press MC-20 **OK/Enter** key when the Insert Reel pop up appears (and prompts continue).

To capture a single clip after previewing and logging the clip:*

- Press the MC-20 **Batch Capture** key.
- Press MC-20 **Ok/Enter** Key
- Press MC-20 **Ok/Enter** key when the Insert Reel pop up appears (and prompts continue)

To capture from the tape without logging while previewing the tape:

- Press the MC-20 **Capture Now** key to start capturing.
- Press the MC-20 **Cancel** key (Alt-1 Cancel) to stop capture.

Once all the clips have been captured, press the **Log/ Capture** Mode key to close the Capture window.

** Currently, Final Cut does not have a short-cut key defined for the Capture Clip, alternatively, pressing the MC-20 **Log** key, followed by the MC-20 **Batch Capture** key will do the same as the Capture Clip button".*

You'll notice that the Jog dial in the capture mode uses the "smooth" style, so that it averages the rotational speed of turning the knob and outputs a speed value corresponding to the deck command to move the tape at a specific speed. This is a better way to assign the jog because most tape devices cannot accept a series of step commands, nor can the application software do so without creating a long queue of commands which will run when you want the deck to stop.

Video Editing

Try out the Edit mode task, via the following procedure (ensure the “Edit” template label is applied).

The colors and the type in this example (*italicized*) were purposely chosen to identify MC-20 Alt-1 functions (*blue*), Alt-2 functions (*green*), Shift (*orange*) or normal non-italicized (**black**) key names.

- Select the video Edit mode by pressing the MC-20 **EDIT** key on the top row
- Press the MC-20 **Browser** key to make the Browser window the active window

To import some additional clips into the browser window at this time (or you may skip this step):

- Press the MC-20 **Import Clip** key (Alt-2 Import clip).
- Repeat above until all clips you want to import have been put into the Browser window.

Ensure the Browser window display is in the “View List”:

- Press the MC-20 **Prev Edit** or **Next Edit** keys to scroll up or down among the clips in the Browser window
- Press the MC-20 **OK/Select** key to bring the highlighted clip into the Viewer window.
- When the clip is in the Viewer window, use the MC-20 **Play** key to preview the clip or use the **jog/shuttle** dials to locate the precise “In” point and press the MC-20 **Mark In** key.
- Locate the precise “Out” point in the same fashion using the same controls, press the MC-20 **Mark Out** key.
- Press the MC-20 **Insert Clip** key to “add” the clip to the timeline.
- Repeat the above 3steps with the same clip using different In and Out points, or select another clip from the Browser window until you’ve added all the segments to the timeline.

Once several such clips have been inserted into the timeline:

- Press the MC-20 **Canvas** key to see the program side of the monitor window.
- Press the MC-20 **Play In-Out** key to review the clips added to the timeline.

Add a cross dissolve (or the default transition) at an edit point:

- Use the MC-20 **Prev Edit** or **Next Edit** keys (or **Goto In** or **Goto Out**) to locate the point at which to add a default transition.
- Press the MC-20 **Add Video Transition** key (Alt 2 + Video Transition).
- Apply at the same point an Audio Fade in by pressing the MC-20 **Add Audio Transition** key (Alt 2 + Audio Transition).
- Use the MC-20 **Next Edit** key, to locate the next edit point to add your next video or audio transitions.

*Tip: You can directly insert clips into the timeline with the default audio/video transition from the Viewer window by pressing the **Insert w/ Trans** key* – a useful macro we’ve pre-defined.*

- When you’re done, press the MC-20 **Render** key and you have quickly created an edited program.

** Customize FCP “insert w/transition” keyboard as shift+cmd+f9 (otherwise Shift+F9 calls an OS function)*

Trimming Clips in the Timeline

You may also trim an edit in the Trim monitor window by doing the following:

- Press the MC-20 **Timeline** key and locate a point between two edits
- Pressing the MC-20 **Trim Edit** key, which will bring up the trim monitor window
- Press the **Trim On/Off** key to switch the command keys and the left and right round keys to the trim functions (*-5 frames, -1 frame, Trim Play, + 1 frame, + 5 frame, Trim Cycle*).

*Note that the Red LED below the **Trim On/Off** key will go on when these keys are trim function keys.*

- When the trim window is first opened, both incoming and outgoing are selected, so you can change this by pressing either of the **Trim Cycle** keys.
- Once trimming is complete, press the MC-20 **Trim On/Off** button so the LED goes off and then press the MC-20 **Close Window** key.

Other Editing Functions

Try the other keys as well, such as **Goto In/Goto Start**, **Goto Out/Goto End**, **Clear In**, **Clear Out**, **Remove Gap**, **Delete Marker**, **Show Match Frame**, **Ripple Delete**, **Add Edit**, **Lift**, **Overwrite Clip**, etc.

This has been a brief example of how to the MC-20PRO II with Apple Final Cut Pro and how to make the best of it to improve your productivity and comfort in the edit suite.