

# iMovie Basics



## **We'll cover:**

- What is iMovie
- Creating a New Project
- Uploading Video
- File Types
- iMovie Layout
- Moving to the timeline
- Editing
- Adjustments
- Audio
- Transitions
- Titles
- Exporting

iMovie is extremely user-friendly which makes it great for those who are new to video editing or need to complete a quick project. (That being said, always budget at least 4-5 hours to complete a short project.)

The basics of iMovie are a great introduction to more advanced video and audio editing including Adobe Premier and Final Cut Pro which offer more detailed editing options.

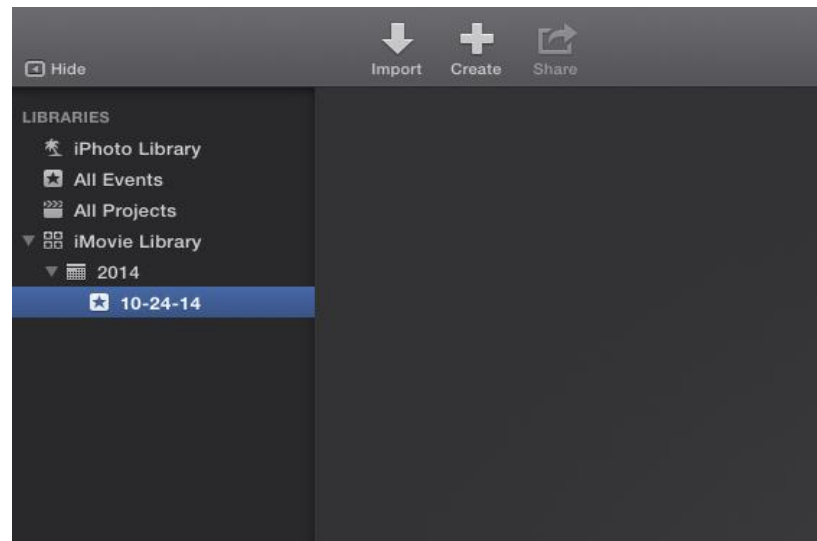
## WHAT IS iMovie?

iMovie is Apple's user-friendly video editing software available on all Macs. iMovie is modeled after more professional video editing software such as Apple's other product, Final Cut Pro, which often makes iMovie a perfect gateway into higher-end video editing products. While it was originally released in 1999, the software has changed through numerous versions and is barely recognizable from its original form. This, however, means that iMovie is more user-friendly than ever before.

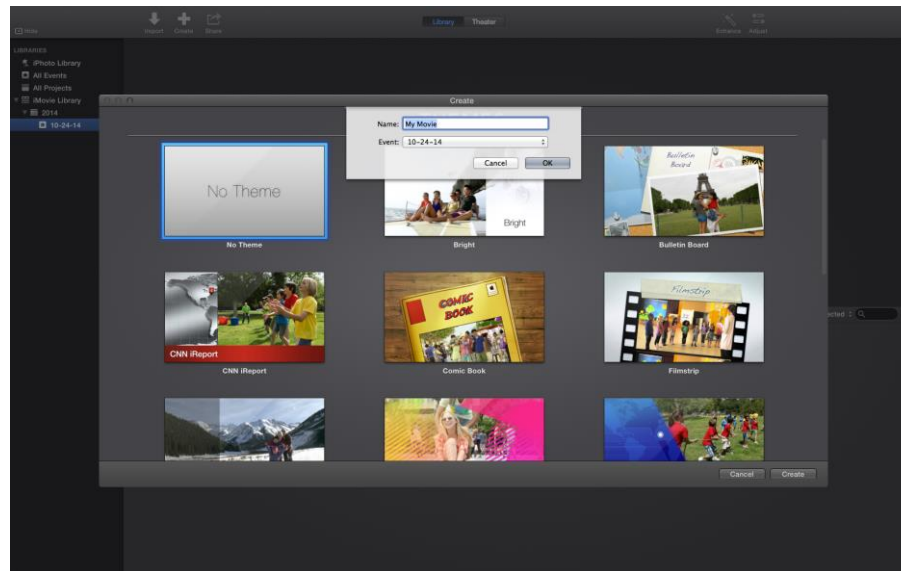


## CREATING A NEW PROJECT

Unlike other applications, several projects are available to view and work on in iMovie. These projects will then be displayed on the left-hand side with a project name. To view or edit, simply click on the project name to begin.



However, for this class we will be creating a new project. To create a new project, select the large “+” symbol in the top left corner. You will then be prompted to name the project.



## UPLOADING VIDEO

Now that we have our project created and saved, we'll need to add the footage we would like to edit. There are two ways to do this:

**Upload from a camera-** After plugging in a camera and turning it to the playback setting, it will show up in iMovie, where you will be prompted to upload the video on the camera.

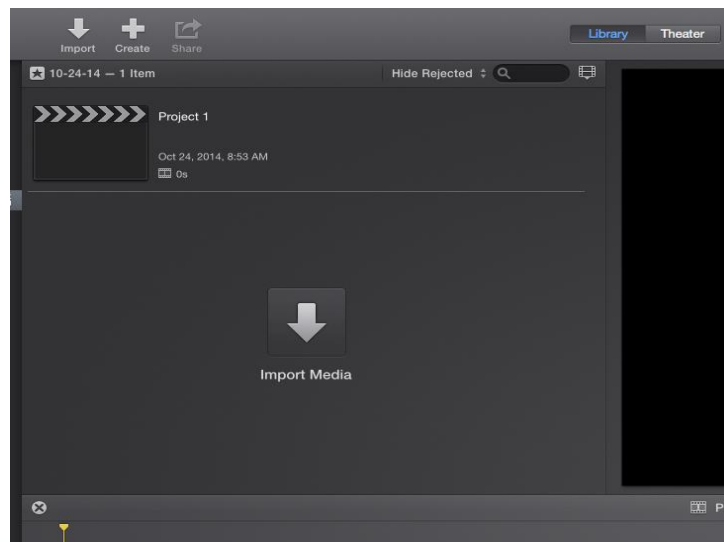
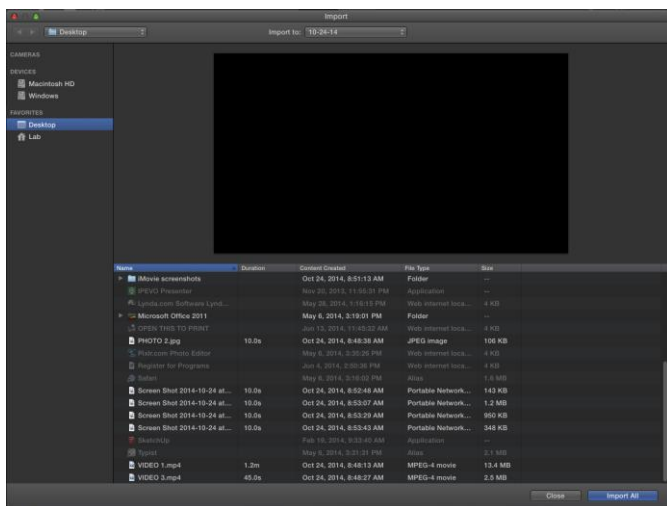
**Upload files-** If there are video files located on the computer, these can be uploaded in iMovie and used to edit. iMovie works particularly well with videos located in iPhoto and these videos will be available without needing to upload them directly.

**Photos-** Photos can be added to iMovie projects as well and iMovie is often a great choice to create a DVD slideshow.



For our exercise today, you'll find two videos on the desktop labeled **VIDEO 1, VIDEO 3** and a photo labeled **PHOTO 3**.

To upload, either drag and drop the file onto the upload area or click the upload arrow and find and select our media on the desktop.  
We'll want to upload both of our videos and the photo.





## COMPATIBLE FILE FORMATS

It is important to note that not every file format is compatible with iMovie, however. This makes working between Mac and Windows sometimes difficult as Windows Media Player files, “.wmv” will not play or open with iMovie.

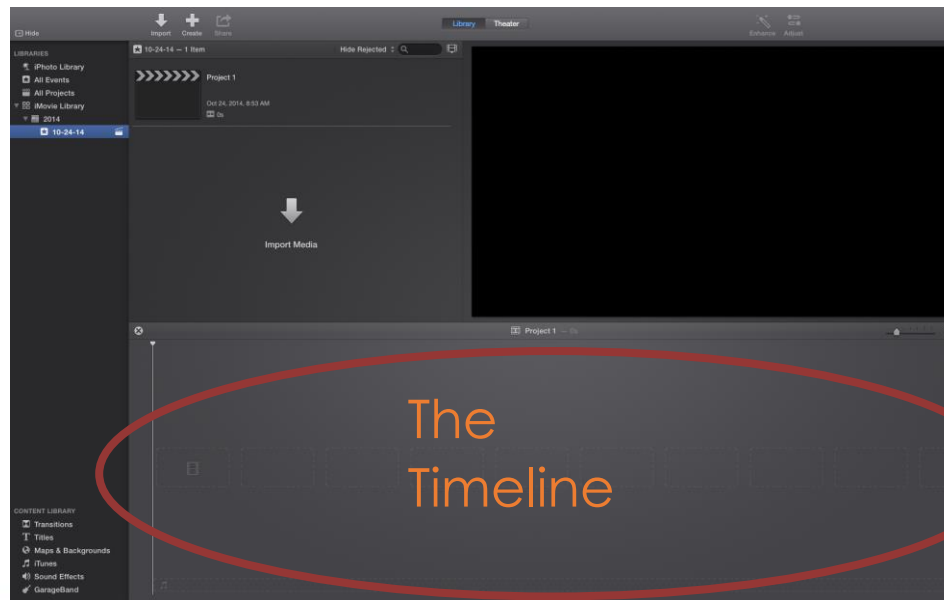
Here is a list of several of the file formats readable in iMovie:

MPEG-4 (.mp4)	Also MPEG-4 Part 14 or MP4, a digital multimedia format used to store video and audio, but also store subtitles and still images. It will be the best video format for iMovie, in case you want a smaller video file size.
QuickTime Movie (.mov)	This file format specifies a multimedia container file containing one or more tracks, each of which stores a particular type of data: audio, video, effects, or text (e.g. for subtitles).
MPEG-2	aka H.222/H.262 as defined by the ITU, it is the core of most digital television and DVD formats.
AVCHD	Short for Advanced Video Coding High Definition, it is a file-based format for the digital recording and playback of high-definition video.
DV&HDV	The format for storing digital video recorded by camcorder. If you want video for better quality, believe it will be the best video format for iMovie as it is uncompressed (or compressed with a lossless format).

If a file is not supported, or does not open, it can be converted using several of the free online conversion websites including <http://www.clipconverter.cc>

## iMovie LAYOUT

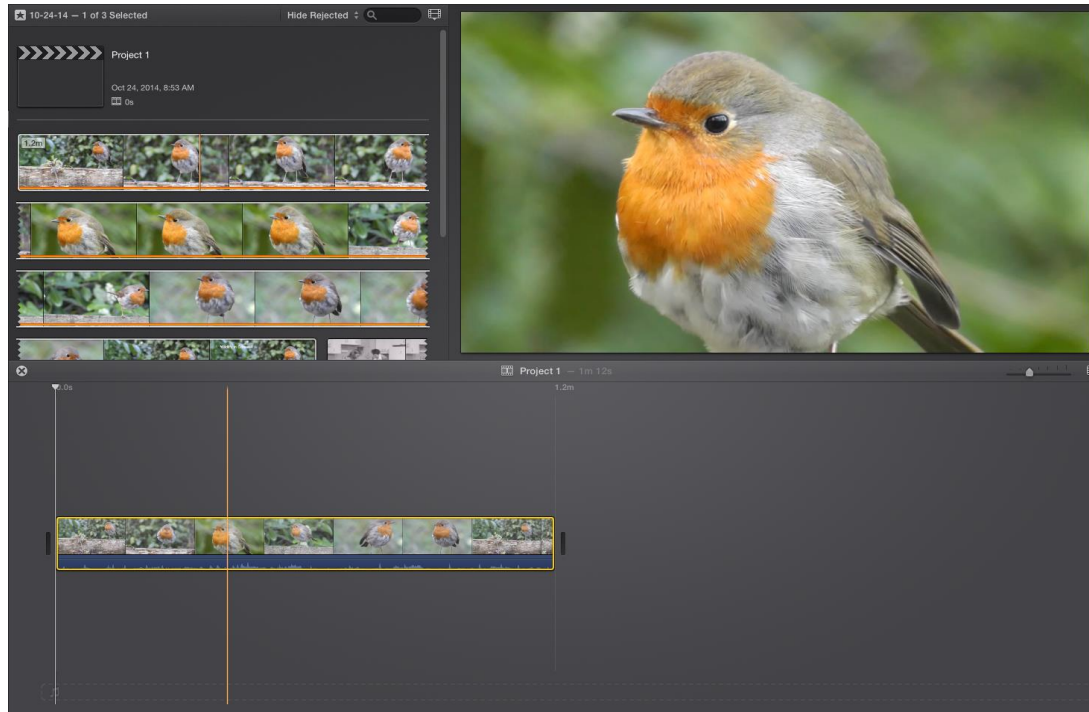
This is the iMovie layout. As you can see, multiple projects and library folders are displayed on the left-hand side. In the top middle section is where our unedited clips are located. Next to it is the playback window, which plays the clip or video project, and below is the timeline.



## THE TIMELINE

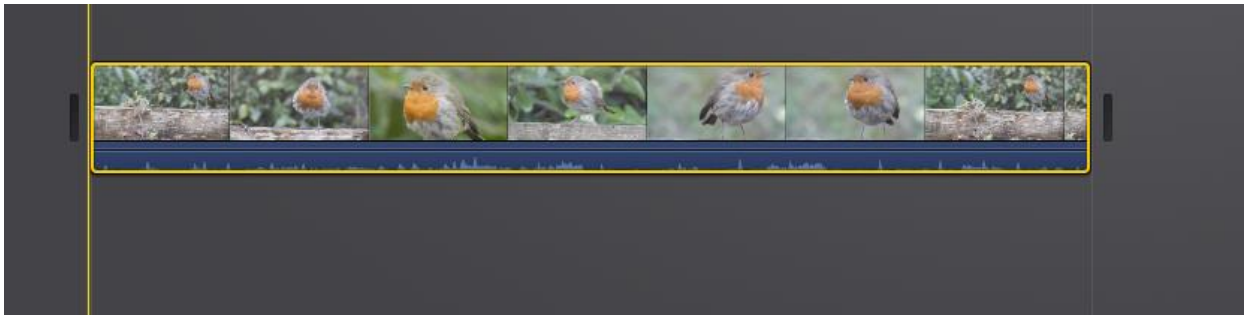
Since digital editing has been created, almost every application has used a timeline format for video editing. The timeline displays the order in which the clips are organized and played. This is the construction of the final product, so clips and effects not seen on the timeline will not be included in the final product. To introduce an element onto the timeline, simply pull them down until they slide into place.

Now let's drag all our video clips and picture onto the timeline in numerical order. (i.e., video 1, photo 2, video 3)



## EDITING

Often enough the footage captured onto the camera is rough or includes mistakes. Usually these errors are on the start or end of a clip. To edit the start or the end, double-click to select a clip (this will put a yellow border around it). You'll notice that when you move the mouse to one of the edges, the mouse pointer changes to two arrows. By left-clicking and holding and pulling to the left or the right, the clip will become longer or shorter. Note: the clip cannot be made longer than the original file length.



## ADJUSTMENTS

One of the nice features of iMovie is the ability to make adjustments to a clip. Selecting a clip brings up an adjustment menu above the playback.

In the adjustment menu there are the options to crop, adjust colors, reduce camera shake, adjust audio, and more.



For our project you'll notice that some of our clips are in black and white, while others are in color. Select the color clip Video 1 and select the color palette above the clip, then desaturate the colors by **dragging the slider to the right**.



## AUDIO

Audio is one of the hardest things to get right in home video production. Incorrect levels of audio can end up with DVDs that are too quiet, too loud, or greatly inconsistent between clips. You will notice that clips on the timeline have a line running through them. This line indicates the audio level of a clip. To adjust the levels, simply move the mouse over the line until the pointer icon changes and then drag the line up or down.

*NOTE: Remember to have your computer's sound volume settings in the middle so that you are getting a normal view of the sound of each clip*

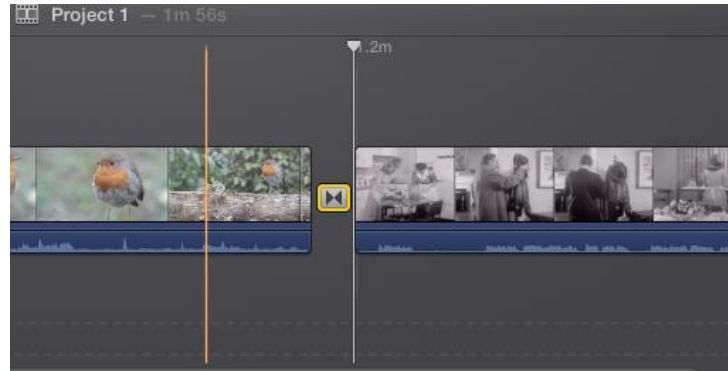


More advanced sound options including noise reduction are located in the previously discussed adjustment tab.



## TRANSITIONS

Although people rarely notice the transitions between film clips, there are several ways to switch between clips. Usually the best kind of transition is one that the audience never notices! iMovie has a variety of transitions to use. Clicking the transitions tab brings up a gallery of transitions. To preview, click on the transition and the play button on the preview screen. Once you find the perfect transition, click and drag the transition into place before, after, or between clips. Note: Some transitions such as “cross dissolve” must be placed between clips to function properly.

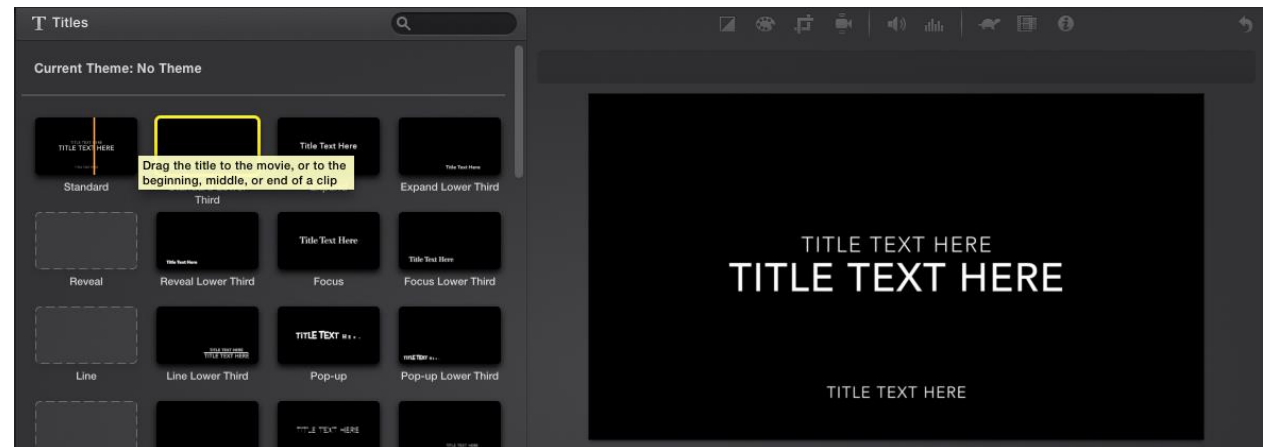


Let's add a few transitions to our project now. First let's place fade in/outs at the beginning and the end of the timeline. Next, let's place a cross dissolve between PHOTO 2 and VIDEO 3.

To edit the length of a transition, double-click on the transition. A new entry box will open above the transition itself, and you can then enter a new time (in seconds).

## TITLES

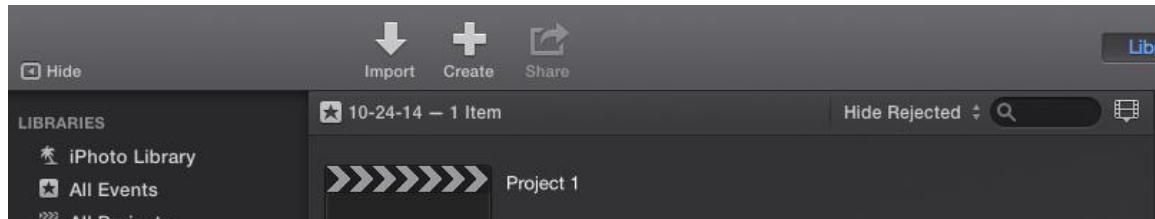
Titles are often an easy way to make a video more professional and include important information. Using titles is extremely similar to transitions. Different types of titles are displayed to the left and a preview of the title is shown on the right. Once you have selected a title, drag it down onto the clip you would like it to appear over. To create a title over a black screen, drag the title onto the timeline directly. To edit a title, double-click on the clip itself to edit the text, duration, and other features.



## EXPORTING

Once you have finished editing a project you'll be ready to export! Thankfully, iMovie (unlike a lot of editing software) makes exporting extremely user-friendly.

By hitting the share button or going to 'File' – 'Share' you can select one of various output formats, depending on your needs.



Finally, always remember that exporting and burning to a DVD can take time. Usually allocate a few hours for exporting and burning, depending on how long your project is and how many transitions and titles you have used.

## CONCLUSION

By now you should have a great working knowledge of the basic features of iMovie. Every project will be a little different, but with this packet you should be able to work the major elements of video editing. If you are interested in learning more of the Mac specific software mentioned in this class, look for our upcoming classes listed in Fine Print or available on our website:

<http://elmhurstpubliclibrary.org/adults/events/computer-classes/>

Thanks so much for attending and we hope to see you again!



Additional iMovie Resources  
Located at:



**lynda.com**

You can learn it.™



Lynda.com