This documentation uses Final Cut Pro for capturing DV footage.

1. Locate the **FIREWIRE port(s)** on the back of the computer.

2. Connect the **Firewire cable** to the computer. The Firewire cable is provided with the DV camera and is usually found in the bottom part of the case.

3. Locate the **DV terminal** on your camera. The camera has a protective rubber cover protecting the terminals. Gently lift this cover and connect the other end of the Firewire cable to the DV terminal.

Make sure the camera is on a flat and safe surface to avoid any accidental drops that may damage both the camera and its terminals.
Before beginning the capture process your camera will need external power or a full battery charge.

1. On top of the camera locate the function selector and set it to VCR.

2. Lift the plastic cover located on the camera’s handle to reveal the VCR function keys.

3. On the computer launch FinalCut pro from your Applications/Video menu.

4. During the launch of FCP you should not see any error messages. If an external video error appears your camera has not been plugged properly into the computer. Double check your connections and select Check Again. The camera must be ON under the VCR mode during the startup of FCP.

5. When the Choose Setup window appears, set your scratch disk to external FIREWIRE drive (if you have one) or “Local Scratch”.

**NOTE:** Never capture directly to your homespace only to local scratch or your external firewire drive.
Basic Steps

1. From the top menus select FILE/NEW PROJECT. Give the project a name that you’ll remember. FCP creates massive amounts of files and folders for each project so make sure you remember the original name for easy future reference.

2. VERY IMPORTANT! You must set your SCRATCH DISKS. Scratch Disks are the drives where your video, audio, render clips and project will be saved.

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On the preferences window, go to the far-top-right and click “SCRATCH DISKS”.

You will find several buttons with “SET” on top. Click on all of them and select the disk and/or folder where you want your data to be stored. In this example is the computer’s local scratch. If you have a FireWire drive, make sure you select it under all “SET” categories.

It is recommended that you make a folder with your name for capturing. That way all the FCP files and folders won’t be mixing with whatever else is stored on the hard disk.
Log and Capture

To start capturing your video clips select from the top menu FILE / LOG and CAPTURE.

A window will pop up with a screen inside of it. This screen is a mirror of your camera’s VCR. Whatever you do in your camera will be projected in this window. Press play on your camera and check if your clip is playing back properly on the computer screen.

Cue up your tape

Once you have your tape ready press the NOW button located on the bottom right of the Log and Capture window. Press play on the camcorder. FCP will begin capturing immediately. Whatever is being played on the screen will be captured.
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During capture window will popup. It will say Capturing Clip - Now Capturing on the bottom of the window. When your clip is done (or when you decide to stop the capture) press ESCAPE on the keyboard, this will close the capturing window and you will end up with an unsaved movie clip.

NOTE: If during capturing the video is dropping frames or automatically stopping, make sure you close all other applications running (Photoshop, Illustrator, etc). If this is not your first capture session and you have some other clips open make sure you save them and close them down, this will free up memory and processor stress for a smoother capture.
After you are done capturing you should have a window like the one on the right. This is called a “clip”. You can identify clips by the VCR controls on the middle-bottom of the window.

Once you have your clip you need to save it as a file. To do so, click on any area of the clips image the drag and drop it to your open project window.
When prompted, save your clip to your previously created folder.

After you’ve saved your clip it is now ready to be placed on the timeline.

To create a sequence, drag and drop the file from your project directory to the timeline. This is the first step on creating a FCP movie. Make sure you save your process frequently.

To learn more about the true magic of FCP we recommend taking the elective Digital video class. There are also a few books available for checkout in the library.