

Operation Manual

Media Express 2.0

Blackmagicdesign 



Mac OS X™

Windows™

September 2009

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Introduction

4 Introduction

Welcome to Media Express 2.0.

Blackmagic Media Express 2.0 is a sophisticated software application which enables DeckLink, Multibridge and Intensity users to capture, play back and preview video and audio via Blackmagic capture hardware. DeckLink and Multibridge users can also master to tape, using insert or assemble edit, with frame accurate RS-422 device control.

This Media Express 2.0 manual supplements the DeckLink, Multibridge and Intensity manuals. Media Express 2.0 replaces all previous versions of Blackmagic Deck Control and Blackmagic Media Express. We hope you love the new interface and features.

Media Express has an intuitive interface and requires a 1920x1200 pixel computer display, or larger, to compliment its uncluttered appearance. The capture, playback and master views are color-coded so you will know at a glance which mode is being used.

Media Express uses many of the same keyboard shortcuts which are standard in the video industry so there is little to learn. Use **j**, **k**, **l** to shuttle backwards, pause and shuttle forwards, or use **i** and **o** to mark in and out points when batch capturing or mastering to tape. Hold down the control and shift keys to reveal a jog wheel and then use your mouse, with the jog wheel, for precision control of your tape deck.

VITC timecode is supported via RS-422 and RP188 timecode is supported via SDI.

DeckLink and Multibridge users can use the Media List feature to log multiple clips for batch capture or to seamlessly play back multiple clips from a playlist and master them to tape.

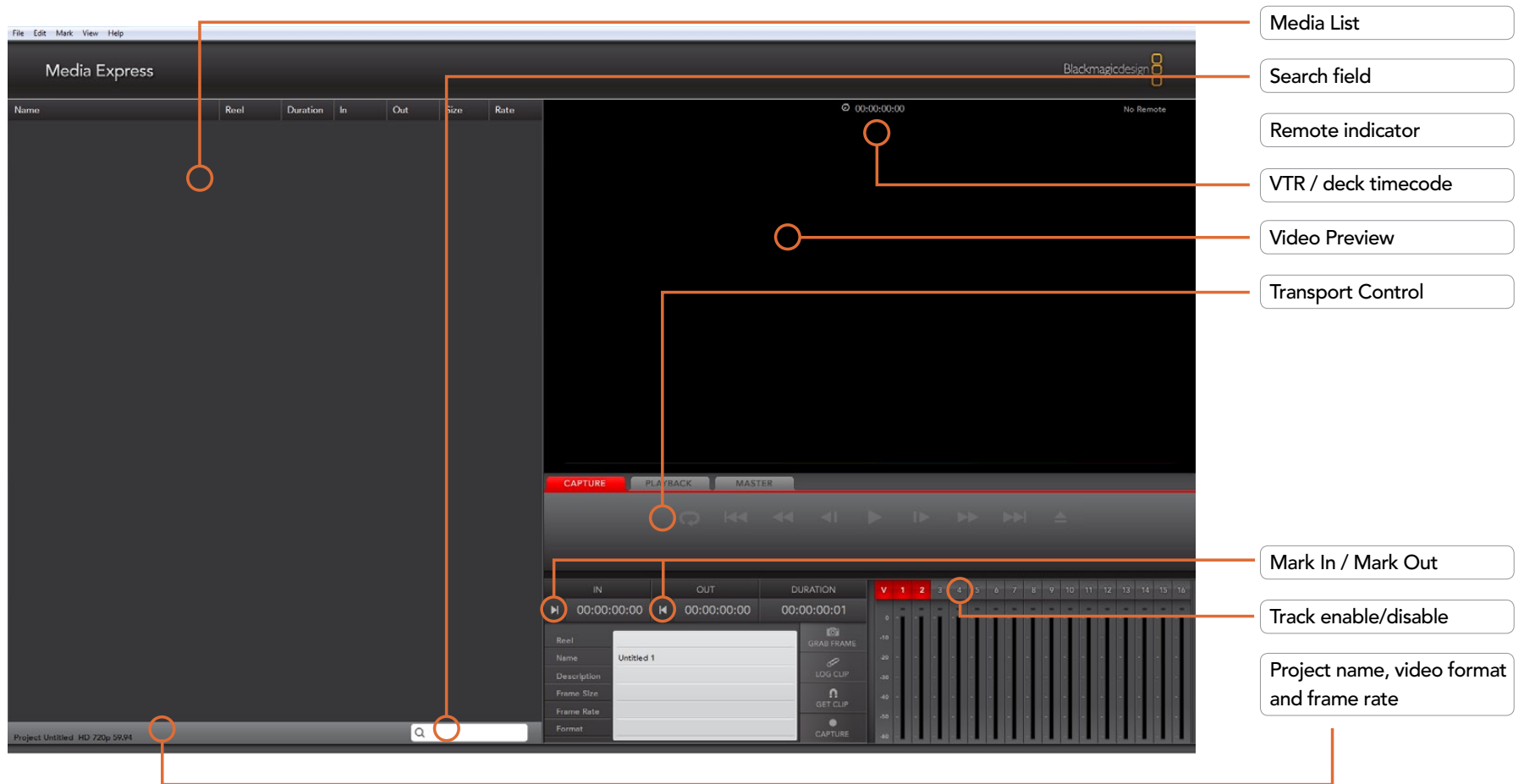
Media Express can directly capture to, and play back from, DPX files or movie files.

Use the Grab Frame feature to capture still images during capture, playback or when mastering to tape. Frame grabs are saved in the targa (.tga) graphic file format.

Blackmagic Media Express 2.0 is not NLE software and does not have a timeline. It is a great tool when you don't need the complexity of NLE software but simply want to capture, play back and output clips to tape, especially when working with video compositing software.

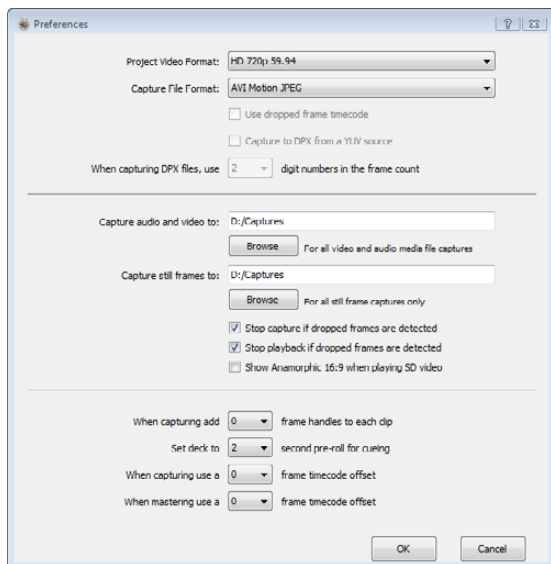
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Blackmagic Media Express 2.0 Interface

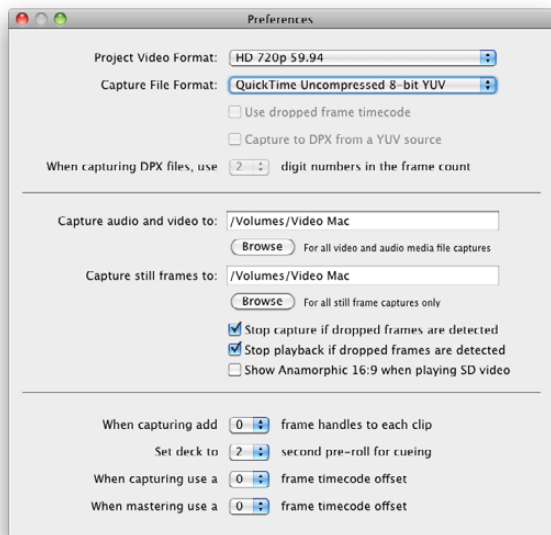


Preferences

7 Preferences



Preferences in Windows



Preferences in Mac OS X

Media Express preferences are accessed from **Media Express>Preferences** on Mac OS X or **Edit>Preferences** on Windows.

Project Video Format

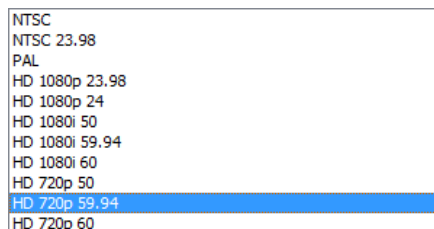
Project Video Format defines the frame rate and frame size of the current project. The formats displayed are those supported by your model of DeckLink, Multibridge or Intensity. The screenshots on this page show the video formats supported by a DeckLink SDI card. If a DeckLink HD Extreme 3 card had been used, additional formats would have been displayed including HD 1080p 50/60 and 2K.

Capture File Format

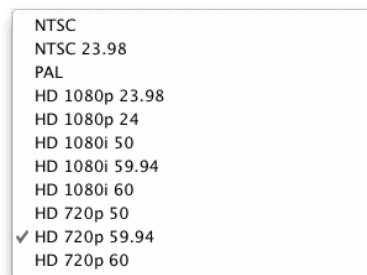
Capture File Format sets the video codec and file format when capturing in the current project.

On Mac OS X, the capture file format options are either QuickTime movies or DPX files. If Apple Final Cut Pro is installed, Media Express can capture QuickTime movies with DVCPRO/DVCPRO HD and ProRes codecs as well as Apple Uncompressed codecs.

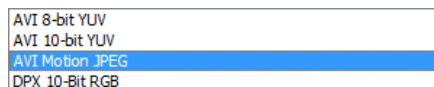
On Windows, the capture file format options are either AVI movies or DPX files. A choice of Blackmagic Uncompressed or Motion JPEG codecs can be made when capturing to AVI movies.



Video formats in Windows



Video formats in Mac OS X



Capture file formats in Windows



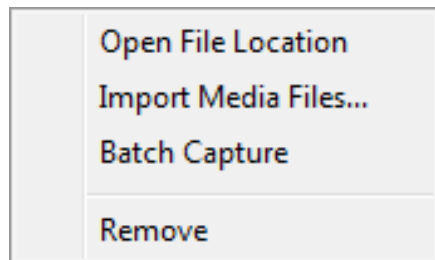
Capture file formats in Mac OS X

Media List

9 Media List



Contextual menu in Mac OS X



Contextual menu in Windows

The Media List holds a list of clips used in a project. When in Capture view, the Media List can be a list of clips to be batch-captured. Media List becomes a playlist when used in Playback or Master view. These views are explained later in the manual.

The Media List can contain clips that are of different codecs as long as they are of the same frame rate and size. The Media List is a project which can contain clips of the same frame size and frame rate.

The list can be sorted by each column heading. Columns can be rearranged and widened if desired.

The order of the clips in the list can be sorted manually by dragging and dropping within the list. Single or multiple clips can be dragged and dropped together.



The film strip icon on the left of the list shows whether a clip has linked media. If a clip has no linked media, the film strip icon displays a red "X" and selecting the clip will show a "Media Offline" message in the Video Preview Window.

Clips can be added to the list by:

- double-clicking on an empty area in the list
- selecting **File > Import > Media Files**
- right-clicking on the list and selecting 'Import Media Files'
- capturing a clip from tape.

Right-clicking in the Media List will open a contextual menu. Depending upon the menu item chosen, Media Express will switch to the appropriate Capture, Playback or Master view that fits the operation. For example, right-clicking on a clip, and selecting "Batch Capture" while in Playback view, will cause Media Express to switch to Capture view and carry out the batch capture operation.

Media Express can play back files of different codecs, in the same playlist, as long as they are of the same frame rate and size. For example, you may have a mix of 1080p23.98 MJPEG and 1080p23.98 Uncompressed video clips in the same playlist and Media Express will play them out seamlessly.

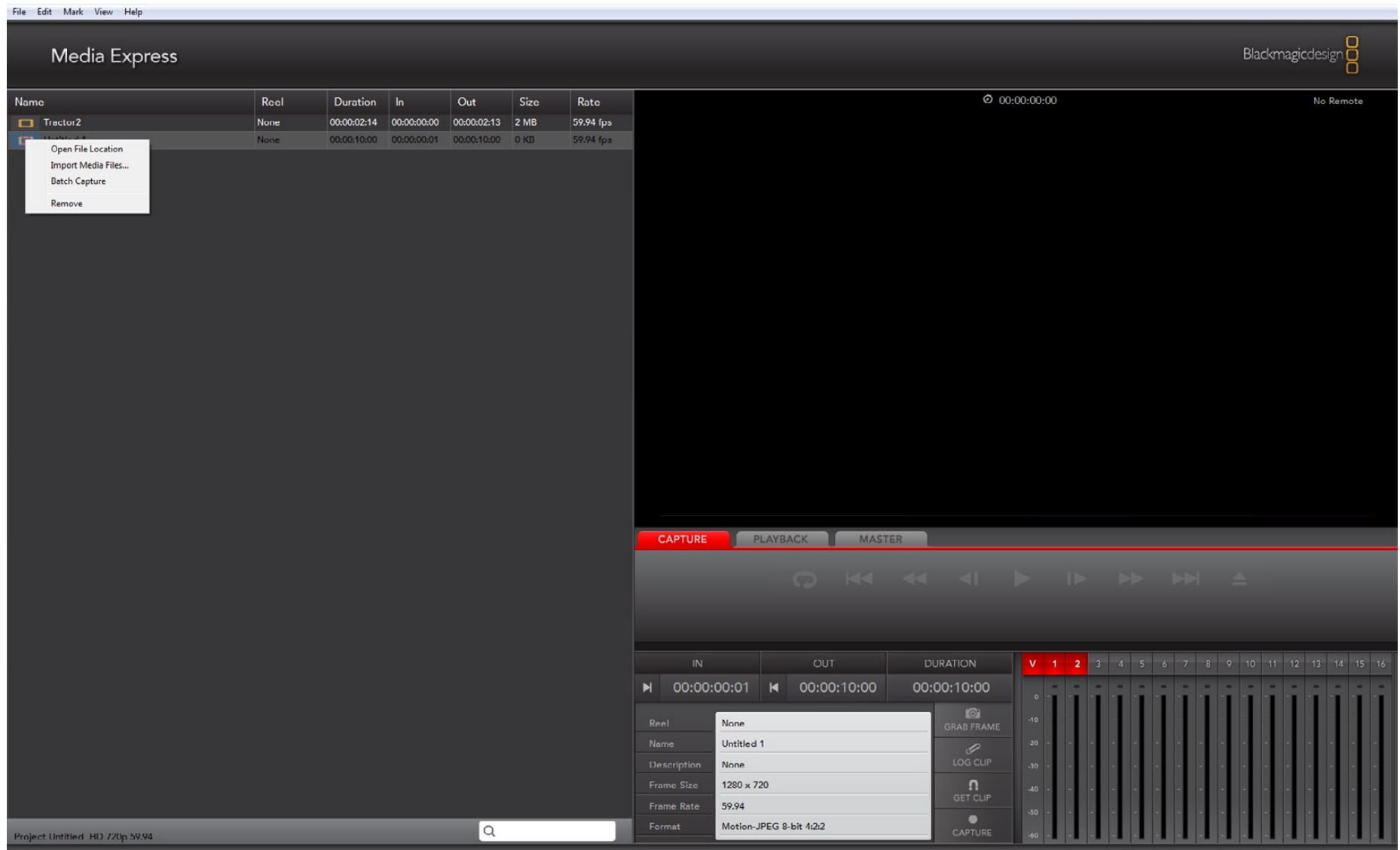
Name	Reel	Duration	In	Out	Size	Rate
 Tractor2	None	00:00:02:14	00:00:00:00	00:00:02:13	2 MB	59.94 fps
 Untitled 1	None	00:00:10:00	00:00:00:01	00:00:10:00	0 KB	59.94 fps

Media List showing an untitled clip which is not linked to any media. Right-clicking on the missing media icon will reveal a contextual menu from where Batch Capture can be selected.

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Capture

11 Capture



Capture View showing the contextual menu, in the Media List, can be used to start a Batch Capture. This performs the same function as clicking the Get Clip button.

12 Capture

Capture operations are performed in the Capture view (ctrl-1, cmd-1)

Capturing on the fly with DeckLink, Multibridge and Intensity.

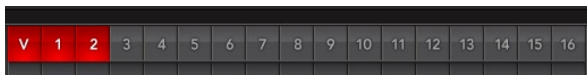
Ensure the Project Video Format is set to the format of video you wish to capture.

Ensure the Capture File Format is set to the format you wish to capture.

Connect a video source to an input of your DeckLink, Multibridge or Intensity. Ensure the desired input has been selected in the Blackmagic control panel (Windows) or Blackmagic system preferences (Mac OS X).

If deck control is required (with DeckLink or Multibridge), ensure an RS-422 serial cable is connected and "remote" has been selected on the deck. If an RS-422 cable is not connected, or "remote" is not selected on the deck, the transport controls will be grayed out and "No Remote" will be displayed in the top right corner of the Video Preview Window.

Enter Reel and Name information into the information area. The Name will be applied to the clip(s) which are about to be captured.



Before capturing, the audio channels to be captured can be switched on or off via the track enable/disable buttons. The video track cannot be turned off.

Click on the "Capture" button to commence capturing.

To end capture, click on the "Capture" button again or press the "Esc" key.

Logging Clips for future batch capture with DeckLink and Multibridge.

Click the Mark In button to mark the In point, or use the shortcut key **i**.

Click the Mark Out button to mark the Out point, or use the shortcut key **o**.

Click the Log Clip button to log the clip, or use the shortcut key **p**. The entry should now appear in the Media List window.

Continue logging other clips.

When logging is completed, select the clips in the Media List and either:

- Click on the 'Get Clip(s)' button.
- Right-click on the selection and select 'Batch Capture'.

13 Capture

Capturing a clip with precise In and Out timecode with DeckLink and Multibridge.

Click on the Mark In button to mark the In point or use the shortcut key **i**.

Click on the Mark Out button to mark the Out point or use the shortcut key **o**.

Click on the Get Clip button.

Media Express will cue the tape and precisely capture the clip from the In to the Out timecode points, including any handles specified in the application preferences.

While capturing, if the file name (Name) of a clip already exists on the selected capture drive, the user will be prompted if they want to over-write the file or not. If 'No' is selected, the file name will be auto-incremented with a number.

Playback

15 Playback

Media Express

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Name	Reel	Duration	In	Out	Size	Rate
Trector1	None	00:00:07:11	00:00:00:00	00:00:07:10	9 MB	59.94 fps
Trector2	None	00:00:02:14	00:00:00:00	00:00:02:13	2 MB	59.94 fps
Untitled 1	None	00:00:10:00	00:00:00:01	00:00:10:00	0 KB	59.94 fps

00:00:00:00

CAPTURE PLAYBACK MASTER

IN OUT DURATION

00:00:00:00 00:00:02:13 00:00:02:14

Reel: None

Name: Trector2

Description: None

Frame Size: 1280 x 720

Frame Rate: 59.94

Format: Motion-JPEG 8-bit 4:2:2

GRAB FRAME

Project Untitled HD 720p 59.94, clips 2, duration 09:25

Playback View

16 Playback

Playback operations are performed in the Playback tab (ctrl-2, cmd-2)

Importing clips into the Media List

Import media into the Media List using one of the following methods:

- Double-click on an empty area of the list.
- Select **File > Import > Media Files**.
- Right-click on the list and select 'Import Media Files'.
- Capture a clip from tape.

Any of these actions will reveal an Open Video Clip window where more where one or more files can be selected.

If the files being imported match the frame rate and size of those in the Media List, the import will be successful.

If the files being imported do not match the frame rate and size of existing clips in the Media List, the user will be prompted to create a new project and to save the current project.

If the current project has had no changes, and has already been saved, the user will only be prompted to start a new project as there is no need to save the existing project.

Playing back a single clip

Selecting a clip (single click) on the list will load it into the Video Preview Window.

To play back a single clip in the Media List, double click the clip and it will start playing in the Video Preview Window.

To loop the playback of the clip, click on the loop button in the transport control. The selected clip will now play back and loop until the user clicks on the pause button or presses the spacebar.

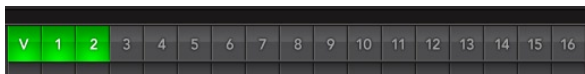
Playing back multiple clips

To play back multiple clips, select the clips in the Media Library and click the Play button or press the spacebar. Selected clips in the playlist will be played back in sequence. Unselected clips will not be played.

If no clips are selected, the whole playlist is played back, starting from the last-played clip.

Clicking on the loop button will cause the playback to loop.

During playback, the audio channels being monitored can be switched on or off via the track enable/disable buttons. The video track cannot be turned off.



Master

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Media Express

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Name	Reel	Duration	In	Out	Size	Rate
T tractor1	None	00:00:07:11	00:00:00:00	00:00:07:10	9 MB	59.94 fps
T tractor2	None	00:00:02:14	00:00:00:00	00:00:02:13	2 MB	59.94 fps
Untitled 1	None	00:00:10:00	00:00:00:01	00:00:10:00	0 KB	59.94 fps

00:00:00:00 No Remote

CAPTURE PLAYBACK MASTER

IN OUT DURATION

00:00:00:00 00:00:00:00 00:00:00:01

Number of Clips Selected: 2 clips
Duration of clips: 00:00:09:25

PREVIEW INSERT ASSEMBLE MASTER

Project Untitled HD 720p 59.94

Master View

Mastering to tape operations are performed in the Master view (ctrl-3, cmd-3)

Media Express can use DeckLink or Multibridge to master to tape via Insert or Assemble editing.

Only clips that are selected in the Media List will be output to tape. If no clips are selected, it is assumed that the entire Media List will be output.

To master to tape, click on the Master view and ensure RS-422 device control is connected.

Enter the In and Out points of the tape by entering timecode into the respective text boxes, or by cueing the tape to the desired point via the transport control and then clicking the Mark In button, or use the shortcut key **i**.

If no Out point is entered, Media Express will set the duration of the edit to the total length of the clips in the Media List. If an out point is defined, Media Express will leave edit mode once the Out point timecode is reached, even if some clips have not been output.

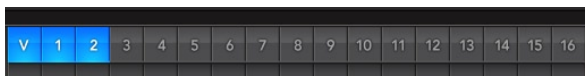
The Insert and Assemble buttons are mutually exclusive and only one mode can be selected at a time. This determines which mode Media Express will use to master to tape. Select the Insert or Assemble button as required.

The Preview and Master buttons are also mutually exclusive. Clicking on either button will instruct Media Express to proceed with the specified operation. Preview mode mimics the edit process but does not record to tape. This mode allows one to check the edit point is correct.

Preview edit operations should always be checked on monitors connected directly to the output of the deck to view the preceding video already on tape, the new video and the following video already on tape.

If Record Inhibit is enabled either on the deck or on the tape in the deck, Media Express will display a dialog box, when the user clicks on the Master button, informing the user that Record Inhibit is enabled. Check the deck/tape and disable Record Inhibit before trying again.

Before mastering, the audio channels to be put to tape can be selected on or off via the track enable/disable buttons. The Video track cannot be turned off.



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