

## **Build Elegant Transitions Fast with Final Cut 7's Alpha Transition**

By Marianne Post, Certified Instructor

Editors have described working with Apple's Final Cut Pro 7 as faster and easier.

New features like re-arrangeable tabs, color markers and the ability to apply transitions to multiple edits make the editing process, well, easier.

Then there's the new **Alpha Transition**, a quick Logo or object based animated wipe that eliminates the need for multiple tracks and keyframes.

This tutorial shows how to use this new addition.

### **How does the Alpha transition work without layers?**

#### **[image\_01.jpg]**

You drag pre-built animated matte elements to three clip wells. The pre-built elements include:

1. An animated logo or object that moves through the screen
2. An animated matte that isolates the logo or object
3. An animated wipe pattern that smoothes the clip transition underneath the moving logo or object.

See the Final Cut User Manual for source element creation guidelines.

#### **[image\_02.jpg]**

**Note:** This tutorial utilizes **Countdown (90 Frames)** media, one of many free Alpha transition assets available on Apple's website.

Go to [www.apple.com/finalcutstudio/resources/](http://www.apple.com/finalcutstudio/resources/) to download this media while following this tutorial.

### **Build elegant transitions in under a minute.**

**Step 1:** Add the Alpha Transition (Video Transitions > Wipe category) to an edit in the Timeline. Double-click the transition icon to load the Alpha Transition into the Viewer.

#### **[image\_03.jpg]**

**Step 2:** Drag an animated logo or object source clip from the Browser to the

top “**Clip**” clip well. This example uses the **Countdown – Clip** from the Countdown (90 Frames) media.

**[image\_04.jpg]**

**Step 3:** Drag the black and white matte element to the middle “**Clip Alpha Matte**” clip well. This example uses the **Countdown - Clip Alpha Matte** from the Countdown (90 Frames) media.

**[image\_05.jpg]**

**Note:** If the source clip element contains a straight alpha channel, skip step 3. For highest quality results create a separate Alpha Matte element.

**Step 4:** Drag the animated wipe pattern to the bottom “**Wipe Matte**” clip well. This example uses the **Countdown - Wipe Matte** from the Countdown (90 Frames) media.

This element creates a seamless wipe from the outgoing clip to the incoming clip. No one will see it because the logo or object animation covers it.

**[image\_06.jpg]**

**Hint:** The animated wipe matte clip should begin with a full white screen and transition to a full black screen. The outgoing clip shows through the white areas while the incoming clip shows through the black areas.

**Quick variation:** Create an elegant wipe by dragging the wipe matte animated source to the “**Wipe Matte**” clip well and leave the other two clip wells empty.

**[image\_07] [image\_08]**

**Bonus Tips:**

Add the finished Alpha transition to the Effect tab’s Favorites bin for re-use.

Or re-apply the effect by option-dragging the Alpha Transition effect icon to another cut in the Timeline.

Pretty fast and easy, huh? Sshhh, there’s no need to let our clients in on this little secret.

Happy editing.