UserMatic™ (for Final Cut Pro)
User Guide

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Introduction

There's no doubt:
Final Cut Pro and Final Cut Studio have revolutionized and democratized the entire video post-production industry.
It's hard to imagine such a concentration of video and graphics firepower at that or any other price.

However, FCP was designed to be used within certain constraints: among them, that a single set of user preferences would suffice per Mac OS X user login. For some, this works great.

But if you're operating in a professional, multi-user environment — or simply like the versatility of different sets of preferences, or have ever had a need to troubleshoot them or roll them back — you may have found this limitation to be inconvenient.

No longer. EditGroove's UserMatic™ is here to help.

We hope you find it to be a great productivity enhancement tool for FCP.

User Interface / Features

Create an unlimited number
of custom *"preset"* configurations for FCP

Trash FCP's preferences
when needed for diagnostics,
or to return to the factory defaults

Hidden "safety net" feature:
Overwritten & deleted preferences
are actually moved to "Deleted" folder
… just in case!

One-button backup
of your *entire* Profiles library
(to a convenient date/time-stamped .ZIP file)
… all with a single click

EditGroove Software
UserMatic™ … for Final Cut Pro

LOAD

SAVE

TRASH

Manage Profiles

✻ Rename

⊘ Delete

⁺ Duplicate

↓ Backups

Profiles
Deb – multicam
Deb – singlecam
Mike (Avid–style layout)
Mike (FCP layout)
Rick (v6.04; rev. 10–24)
Rick (v6.05; rev. 12–05)
Ron (Color Correction – Bay 1)
Ron (Offline – Bay 3)
Ron (Online – Bay 7)
Terry – HD [DVCPro]
Terry – HD [HDV]
Terry – SD

The most recent Profile accessed
is highlighted with a green icon

Manage your entire Profiles library
from the UserMatic™ interface
… or from the Finder

Access from *multiple edit bays*!
Easily access your FCP preferences
… over a **SAN**, or even from a **USB drive**

Launch (or switch to) FCP
… from the same convenient window

Launch FCP

Note: Due to ongoing improvements to the application, its appearance & functionality are subject to change.

Other tips:

- **Context-sensitive pop-up "tooltips"** are available by holding the mouse pointer over many of the controls.

- **Keyboard shortcuts** are also available for most of the controls. Feel free to explore the File and Library menus accordingly.

Quick-Start / Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Which do I fire up first — UserMatic™ or FCP?

The short answer is: *fire up **UserMatic™** first.* Then:

- To **save** FCP's existing preferences first, press **Save**, and name that set of preferences (your new "Profile").

- If you want to start FCP with a clean slate — no customization at all — press **Trash**.
  This returns FCP's settings to the factory default. You can then launch FCP and customize from there.

- If you want to **load** a previously-saved set of preferences from your UserMatic™ library into FCP, select the desired Profile, and press **Load**. All of the corresponding user/project preferences are then ready & waiting for you when you launch Final Cut Pro.

Whichever profile you've accessed *most recently* is highlighted with ***a green icon*** — and as a convenience, is selected automatically whenever you return to UserMatic™.

NOTE: Changes you make within FCP are retained within FCP itself, but not saved in your UserMatic™ library until you press SAVE.
So if you make any changes to FCP preferences *that you want to keep for later on*, be sure to **Save** those in UserMatic™.
[This is analogous to saving word processing (or other) documents, for later recall.]

And to make it easier still, just use the "**Launch FCP**" button (in the lower-right corner) when you need to run FCP.
The "Launch FCP" button appears automatically if Final Cut Pro is at its default location in your Applications folder.

What data does UserMatic™ store?

Simply put: UserMatic™ stores and recalls "supersets" of any settings that can be customized within Final Cut Pro.

That includes items like your User Preferences, System Settings, Audio/Video settings, and choice of Easy Setup …
it also encompasses all of your Favorite effects, Keyboard Layout(s), Button Bar(s), Window Layout(s), and more.

In short, it saves whatever you've customized within FCP … that helps make it your own!

Why can't I Save or Load a different profile while FCP is running?

While some of FCP's data is stored on the hard drive, some of it *exists only in RAM* — and isn't saved to disk until you quit out of FCP. For that reason (as well as avoiding any possible interference with FCP), the Load, Save and Trash buttons are disabled while FCP is running.

… For other up-to-the-minute info, and tips & tricks, please see the online FAQ.

Basic Operation

At its basic level, you may find UserMatic™ to be fairly self-explanatory.

But to help you get the most out of it, here's a more explicit description of what each function does:

LOAD (⌘↑): Loads the selected profile into FCP

Loads the selected profile into FCP's active preferences. You'll then find them in place when you run FCP.

(Keyboard shortcut [Command-up arrow] — analogous to "uploading" to FCP.)

SAVE (⌘↓): Saves your most recent FCP preferences

Saves your most recent FCP Preferences in a new or existing profile in the UserMatic™ library.

(Keyboard shortcut [Command-down arrow] — analogous to "downloading" from FCP.)

- If *nothing* is already selected when you press Save, it will create a new profile.
- If *something* is already selected, you'll be asked whether to create a new one, or overwrite the existing one.

Note 1: Profile names are limited to 40 characters, and may not include symbols such as "/", "\", ":", "*", and/or a leading period "."
(If you do enter any of those, UserMatic™ will automatically substitute an underscore "_" instead.)

Note 2: If the Save button is grayed out, it means there aren't any FCP preferences to save.
Simply run FCP, customize as needed, Quit FCP, then return to UserMatic™ to save the new configuration.

TRASH (⌘T): Trashes FCP's current Preferences

Trashes FCP's *active set* of user preferences.
Valuable step for basic troubleshooting, or for resetting FCP to its factory defaults.

RENAME (⌘R) / DELETE (⌘-Delete) / DUPLICATE (⌘D): Managing your profiles

Renames, Deletes, or Duplicates the selected profile. (Also accessible by *right-clicking* on a profile name.)

Note that "deleting" a profile actually stashes it away (just in case), by instead *moving* it to UserMatic's *Deleted* folder.

BACKUPS (⌘B): Backs up your Library of profiles

One-button backup of your *entire* UserMatic™ Library of profiles:

- Makes a single .ZIP file of the entire Library of UserMatic™ profiles (everything that's in the Library's "Profiles" subfolder).
- Names it with a unique time- and date-stamp — for easy reference, and to avoid overwriting other, previous backups.
- Puts that .ZIP file in the *EditGroove UserMatic Library > Backups* folder, for safe-keeping.

Your backup .ZIP file(s) are safely stored out of harm's way, deliberately inaccessible to FCP.

Should you ever need to retrieve something in one of your Backups, simply:

- Double-click on it in the Finder.
  It will automatically expand back out to a new folder, containing the entire Library of profiles from that point in time.

- From there, just cherry-pick the specific fie(s)/folder(s) you need, and copy or move them back into the *EditGroove UserMatic Library > Profiles* folder.

  When you return to UserMatic™, its listing of profiles is immediately updated.

The .ZIP backup file(s) can also be conveniently copied onto a USB drive for archiving, or transporting to other edit facilities, if needed.

LAUNCH FCP: Start (or switch to) the Final Cut Pro application

If your Final Cut Pro application resides at the usual location on your hard disk (namely, Applications > Final Cut Pro), UserMatic™ automatically recognizes this, and provides a convenient "Launch FCP" button on the lower-right corner of the user interface. Once you've done any Saving or Loading of profiles, you can simply launch FCP from there.

If Final Cut Pro is already running, the button says "Switch to FCP" instead.

Special Note — When FCP is Running

When Final Cut Pro is running, you'll notice that the Load, Save and Trash buttons in UserMatic™ are *disabled*.
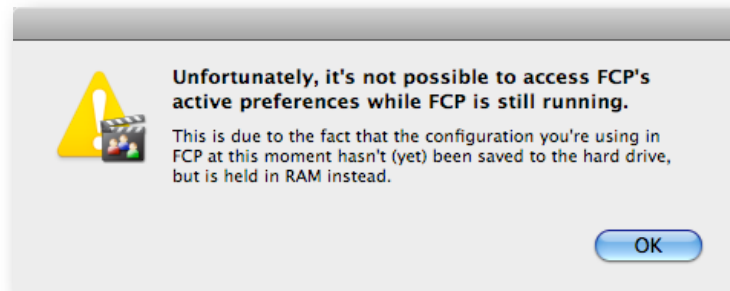
This is actually a safety feature, and is intentional by design.

While it's true that FCP stores some of your Preference files on disk for ready access, the configuration that is *currently active* within FCP exists in memory (RAM), and *not* on the hard drive. Thus, it's not possible (or desirable) to attempt to manage this data externally while FCP is running.

UserMatic™ knows this, and keeps a low profile itself until FCP is Quit. At that point, it "wakes up," and reverts to full functioning.

In the meantime, you can still manage your *existing* Library of profiles within UserMatic™.

Advanced Operation

Preferences (⌘,) > Library Folder Location;
or Library > Customize Library Location (⌘L)

Allows you to customize the location of the EditGroove UserMatic master folder, which contains all the various profiles.

For a Single, Standalone Workstation

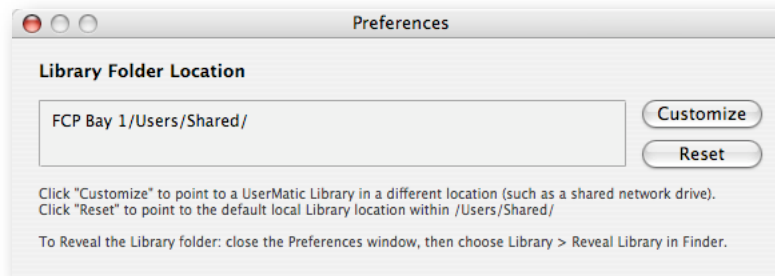If you're using FCP on just one machine, you can leave the Library Folder Location set as-is.

Or, if you prefer, you can change it as follows:

Press *Customize*. Then choose an alternate location for the EditGroove UserMatic™ Library master folder.
Press *Select*, and then close the Preferences window (by hitting the *ESCape* key, or "OK").

- If a Library *already* exists at that location, UserMatic™ automatically updates to show you that list of Profiles.
- If a Library *does not* exist at that location, UserMatic™ automatically creates a new, empty library there.

By default, the library location is *shared* across all users (logins) of that machine.

However, you could easily, for example, give each Login its own entirely separate library of profiles:
Simply *Customize* the Library location, and choose that user's Home directory (*Command-Shift-H*); then press *Select*.
(Or choose some other location unique to each Login. NOTE: You must have both *read* and *write* access for a given library location.)

This added dimension of UserMatic™ allows you to tailor it uniquely to your own individual workflow requirements.

Sharing Profiles across Multiple Final Cut Pro workstations

If you're working in a facility or other networked (e.g., SAN) environment, you may find it very helpful to be able to access the same Profiles among *multiple* workstations.
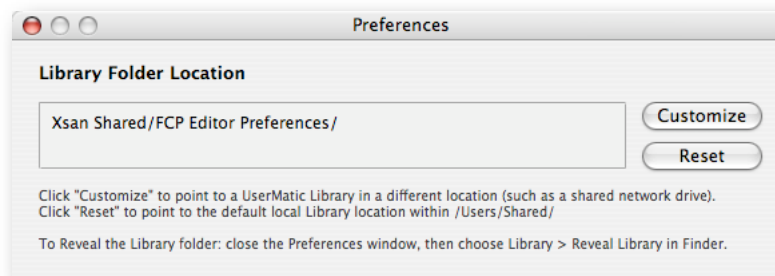
This opens up a whole new dimension to your use of Final Cut Pro.

There are no special restrictions as to where the "Library Folder Location" is located.
As long as that partition or location can be mounted on the Finder level, and you have permissions to *read* and *write* to it, you can create or access a UserMatic™ Library there. This could potentially be on the local machine — or on a LAN, SAN, WAN or VPN.

Then, just by pointing more than one workstation to the same location, you can share and access the same Profiles across *multiple FCP workstations*, and even from separate facilities or geographic locations. UserMatic™ poses no artificial limitations in this regard. Your ability to share user profile data between multiple workstations and locations is completely configurable to suit the needs of your workflow — and can also be quickly and easily changed.

NOTE: If you don't have access to somewhere you think you should, please see your network administrator.

The EditGroove UserMatic™ Library: a closer look

During normal, day-to-day use, there's no need to venture beyond UserMatic's friendly interface.

But should you ever need to, there's more to be found "underneath the hood."
Just select *Library > Reveal Library in Finder*, or press ⌘F.

Inside the "EditGroove UserMatic Library" folder, you'll see three subfolders:

Profiles: Contains all of the Profiles you see in the UserMatic™ window.

> If you like, you can do any file/folder management (incl. renaming, duplicating and deleting) at the Finder level, as needed. UserMatic™ will update its list of profiles automatically when you return to the application.

NOTE: Deleting profiles directly in the Finder *does not* provide UserMatic's automatic "safety net" (*Deleted* folder) feature.

Deleted: Contains any profiles/preferences that would otherwise have been overwritten during normal operations.

> These folders contain a descriptive prefix, along with a date/timestamp.
> **If you need to resurrect one of the "DeletedUserProfile" folders, simply move *its contents* back into the main Profiles folder.** UserMatic™ detects this automatically and updates its list accordingly.

NOTE: **"OverwrittenFCPPrefs" and "TrashedFCPPrefs" folders themselves can simply be renamed and moved back to the Profiles folder, as desired.**

Backups: Contains the date/timestamped "snapshots" of the Profiles library, made using the *Backups* button.

> If you ever need to access the contents of one of these .ZIP files, simply *double-click* on it.
> The Finder will expand it back out into an *exact copy* of *all* of the Profiles, as of the time the original "snapshot" was taken. From there, you can move a particular profile back into the "Profiles" folder — or cherry-pick only the needed file(s) within.
> When you're through, you may safely delete this redundant copy; your original .ZIP backup remains intact, and can always be accessed again later on, if needed.

Recovering "Deleted" profiles & preferences

The goal of UserMatic™ is to help you save, experiment with, and *preserve* your investment of time, energy and creativity in creating and customizing various FCP preferences (and entire sets of those preferences).

But mistakes do happen. Whether that's under normal deadline pressures … in a multi-user environment … with possible turnover of personnel … and even with professional and conscientious editors. That's why we've taken the preservation of this (possibly-useful) data to another level.

Any time a Load, Save or Trash operation is done — and another configuration would have normally been overwritten or deleted in the process — it's *moved* instead to the Library's "Deleted" folder, a special-purpose "trash can" of sorts.

There, it's out of sight and out of mind … unless you (or someone) need them again.

In that case, simply select *Library > Reveal Library in Finder* (or press ⌘F) — to open up a Finder window which contains the "Deleted" folder. You can move, rename, delete or otherwise manage these and UserMatic's other files as needed.

NOTE: These preference files are relatively small (especially compared with the gigabytes and terabytes of media data that are now commonplace), and so don't take up a lot of space. But of course, you're free to prune the contents of the "Deleted" folder periodically, as desired.

Demo Version

If you've downloaded UserMatic™ as a free trial, welcome!
We hope you find it to be a great productivity enhancement tool for FCP.

During the first 30 days of the trial:

- You'll be able to freely Save an unlimited number of profiles, as needed.
- You'll be able to Load *the first three* of those profiles (in alphanumeric order) back into FCP. The rest are grayed out.

After the first 30 days of the trial:

- You'll be able to Save a limited number of profiles.
- You'll be able to Load *the first* of those profiles (in alphanumeric order) into FCP. The rest are grayed out.

At any time during or after your 30-day trial, registering your copy of UserMatic™ will allow you to freely Save and Load an unlimited number of profiles, including any which already exist in your Profiles library.

Registering the Application

To purchase a license — and unleash the full power of UserMatic™ (and with it, Final Cut Pro!) ...

- select either: *Help > EditGroove — Web Store*;
  or *Register Application* (under the *EditGroove UserMatic* menu), and select *Purchase*.
- or visit us online at: **www.EditGroove.com**

Then, select *Register Application* (under the *EditGroove UserMatic* menu), and then *Activate Serial Number*.

Each UserMatic™ license can be enabled on one machine at a time.
For more information, please see the EditGroove.com website.

Technical Notes

Special treatment of "Cache" files

UserMatic™ is designed to help you manage multiple sets of FCP user preferences, and do that easily and efficiently.

If you're a bit technically inclined, you might notice that there are two FCP files which UserMatic™ does *not* store or recall:

Final Cut Pro Obj Cache.fcmch, and *Final Cut Pro Prof Cache.fcpch*

Rest assured, this is quite deliberate by design.

These so-called "cache" files actually contain the results of an elaborate series of performance benchmarks. They're FCP's way of knowing precisely what types of effects can be generated on-the-fly, for the purposes of *RT Extreme* — for that particular configuration *of that particular machine*. If necessary, FCP will (re)generate this information itself, as needed, whenever the application is launched.

Remember, though, that we also wanted to make it easy to transport your FCP Preferences *from one machine to another.*

Thus, it's important to distinguish between user information that you've (painstakingly) created yourself, and the sort of internal "housekeeping" data that FCP does on its own — and which could unwittingly cause problems were it to mysteriously show up on another machine by mistake.

So we intentionally *exclude* these two files from UserMatic's Load and Save operations.

Once again, rest assured that this is not an omission — it's a "safety" feature, in effect, done specifically by design.

(And if you ever do want to "trash" those cache files on that machine, just hit the **Trash** button, and you're done. Just remember first to **Save** any preferences you might want to have access to later.)

System Requirements

UserMatic™ is a Universal Binary (for Intel and PowerPC). It requires Mac OS 10.3 or later.

Feedback

We love hearing your feedback: feature requests, bug reports, success stories — good, bad, indifferent. It's all good! :)
Please take a moment to drop us a line via the Contact page at:

www.EditGroove.com

Your suggestions help us … to help you *… stay in the groove!*

From your friends at EditGroove™ Software — **thanks**.

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