

At first you will find it convenient to do all of your Igor programming in the built-in Procedure window. In the long run, however, it will be useful to organize your procedures into categories so that you can easily find and access general-purpose procedures and keep them separate from special-case procedures.

This table shows how we categorize procedures and how we store and access the different categories.

Category	What	Where	How
Experiment Procedures	<p>These are specific to a single Igor experiment.</p> <p>They include procedures you write as well as window recreation macros created automatically when you close a graph, table, layout, control panel, or Gizmo plot.</p>	<p>Usually experiment procedures are stored in the built-in Procedure window.</p> <p>You can optionally create additional procedure windows in a particular experiment but this is usually not needed.</p>	You create an experiment procedure by typing in the built-in Procedure window.
Utility Procedures	<p>These are general-purpose and potentially useful for any Igor experiment.</p> <p>WaveMetrics supplies utility procedures in the WaveMetrics Procedures folder. You can also write your own procedures or get them from colleagues.</p>	<p>WaveMetrics-supplied utility procedure files are stored in the WaveMetrics Procedures folder.</p> <p>Utility procedure files that you or other Igor users create should be stored in your own folder, in the Igor Pro User Files folder (see Igor Pro User Files on page II-31 for details) or at another location of your choosing. Place an alias or shortcut for your folder in "Igor Pro User Files/User Procedures".</p>	<p>Use an include statement to use a WaveMetrics or user utility procedure file.</p> <p>Include statements are described in The Include Statement on page IV-166.</p>
Global Procedures	These are procedures that you want to be available from all experiments.	<p>Store your global procedure files in "Igor Pro User Files/Igor Procedures" (see Igor Pro User Files on page II-31 for details).</p> <p>You can also store them in another folder of your choice and place an alias or shortcut for your folder in "Igor Pro User Files/Igor Procedures".</p>	Igor automatically opens any procedure file in "Igor Pro 7 Folder/Igor Procedures" and "Igor Pro User Files/Igor Procedures" and subfolders or referenced by an alias or shortcut in those folders, and leaves it open in all experiments.

Following this scheme, you will know where to put procedure files that you get from colleagues and where to look for them when you need them.

Utility and global procedures should be general-purpose so that they can be used from any experiment. Thus, they should not rely on specific waves, global variables, global strings, specific windows or any other objects specific to a particular experiment. See **Writing General-Purpose Procedures** on page IV-167 for further guidelines.

After they are debugged and thoroughly tested, you may want to share your procedures with other Igor users via **IgorExchange**.

WaveMetrics Procedure Files

WaveMetrics has created a large number of utility procedure files that you can use as building blocks. These files are stored in the WaveMetrics Procedures folder. They are described in the WM Procedures Index help file, which you can access through the Help→Help Windows menu.

You access WaveMetrics procedure files using include statements. Include statements are explained under **The Include Statement** on page IV-166.

Using the Igor Help Browser, you can search the WaveMetrics Procedures folder to find examples of particular programming techniques.