BRUNO VALERIN ESTEVÃO

FAST CUT

PRACTICAL GUIDE TO OPTIMIZE VIDEO EDITING BY THINKING LIKE OSCAR-NOMINATED EDITORS
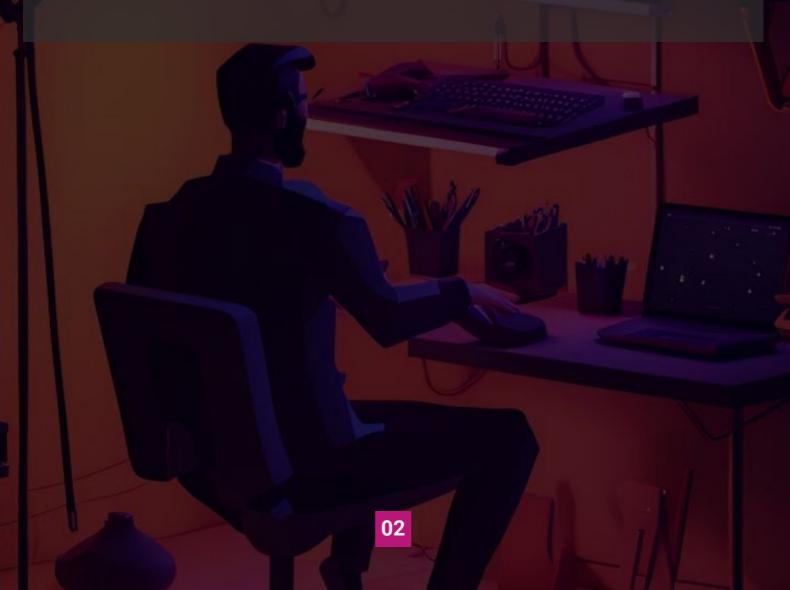
Introduction

The Art of Quick Editing

Video editing is where raw content is transformed into a cohesive and engaging story, but that doesn't mean it has to be a long and tedious process. As video production grows, tight deadlines are becoming more common, requiring agility and efficiency from editors. If you've seen the Oscar-nominated "Saving Private Ryan", you know how editing can intensify a narrative and immerse the viewer in a unique experience. In this e-book, we'll share tricks to help you master your timing and achieve fast, quality editing that can be applied to any software.
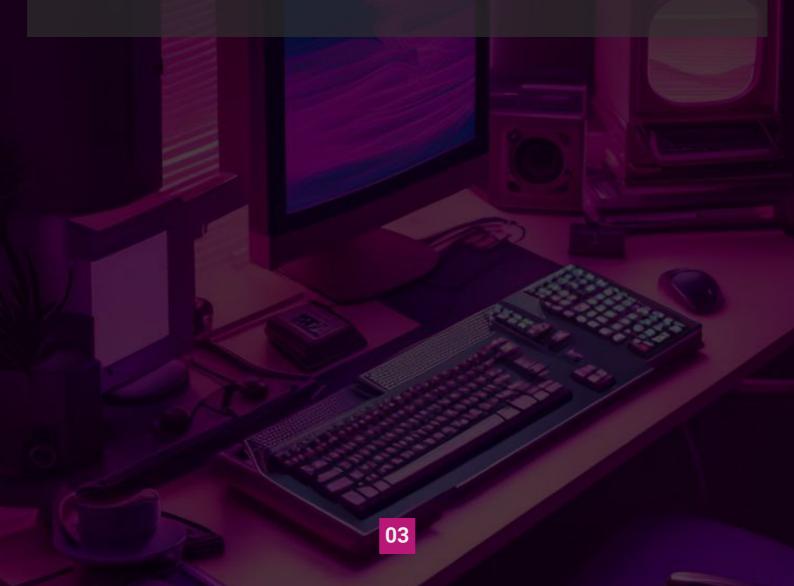
Chapter 1

Planning Before Editing

Before touching your editing software, create a script and think about the purpose of your video. Films like "Parasite", which won four Oscars in 2020, are not only well-edited, but also impeccably planned, with each scene built to flow into the next. Having a clear vision before you edit can help you stay focused and avoid wasting time. Organize your files into folders like "Raw Footage," "Audio," "B-Roll," and "Music." If possible, create a storyboard or list of scenes and their estimated lengths. The more prepared you are before you start editing, the more efficient the process will be.

Chapter 2

Organizing Files and Settings

Starting your project with a well-structured setup saves you time and effort in the future and prevents errors down the road. For a consistent project, set your frame size, frame rate (FPS), and resolution up front, especially if you're working with multiple cameras. In "The Shape of Water," director Guillermo del Toro used a consistent color palette to tell his story. Similarly, setting up your timeline with consistent colors and resolution keeps your editing smooth. Save these settings as presets and avoid repeating them, which will help keep your workflow streamlined.
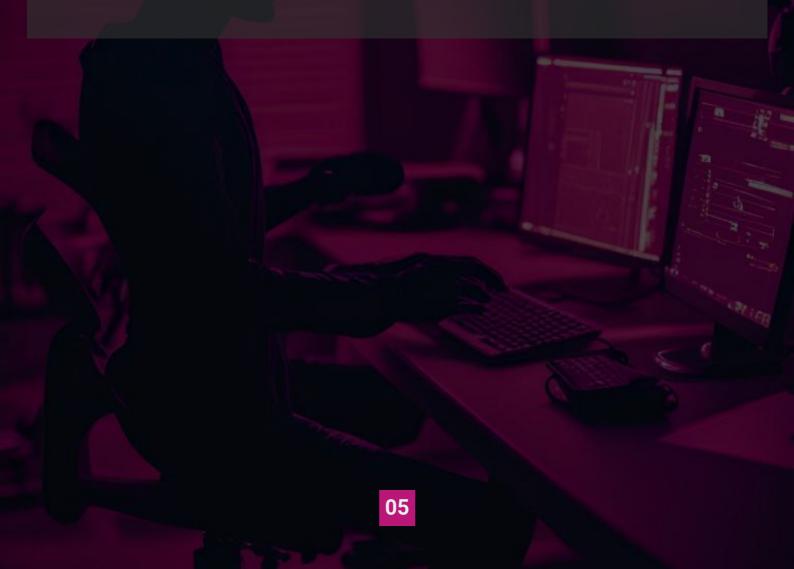
Chapter 3

Essential Shortcuts and Tools

To speed up your editing, activate and customize keyboard shortcuts for the actions you use most, such as cutting, deleting, saving, and aligning clips. In the Oscar-nominated "Dunkirk," each scene is made up of quick cuts and precise movements. By mastering these shortcuts, you can navigate and perform actions in your project without taking your hands off the keyboard. Tools like Ripple Delete (which deletes the clip and joins adjacent ones) and Trim Mode (which adjusts the start or end point of the clip) are real editing speedups. These tricks can reduce the total time of a project by up to 30%.
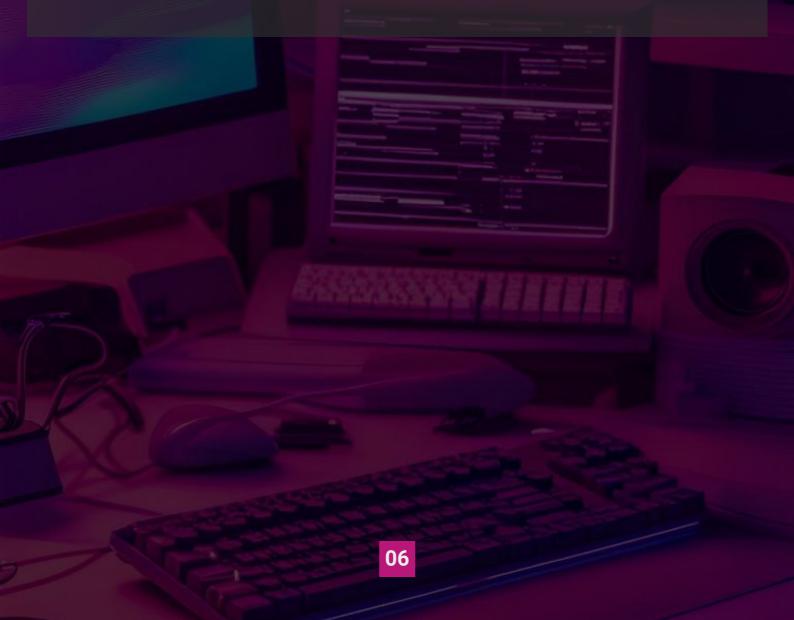
Chapter 4

Smart Clip Selection and Trimming

One of the most time-consuming parts of editing is deciding which parts of the video to keep. In a film like "Birdman," where timing and rhythm are key, each cut is designed to follow a continuous flow. When reviewing your footage, make notes of essential sections and discard unnecessary clips early on. Tools like Match Frame (which searches for the exact frame of the clip in the timeline) make it easier to make precise cuts and ensure continuity, while using J-Cut and L-Cut helps you transition between scenes without breaking the rhythm. Good selection at the beginning eliminates rework later on.
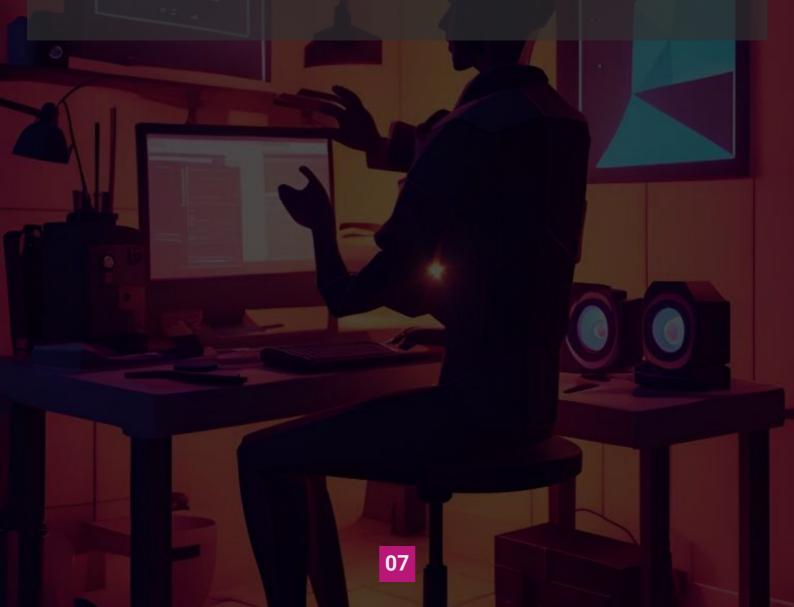
Chapter 5

Audio and Video Synchronization

Synchronized audio is essential to viewer immersion. In "Bohemian Rhapsody," each song is perfectly scored to enhance the visual narrative. Many software programs have auto-sync tools that automatically align the audio and video peaks. Once synced, make small adjustments manually to ensure there are no delays or glitches. Also consider using a gentle fade-in or fade-out between clips for a smooth transition in the audio, saving time on details like harsh cuts or unnecessary echoes.
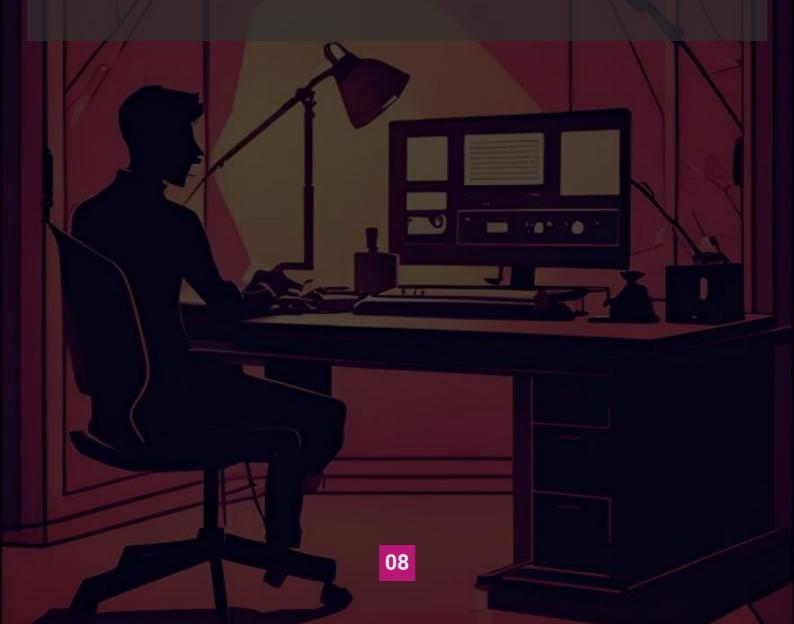
Chapter 6

Batch Editing: Work with Multiple Clips

When editing multiple clips with similar settings, apply effects in batches to save time. In "The Lord of the Rings," clips follow a cohesive look that's been maintained throughout the series. Use batch correction tools to apply color filters, audio effects, or stabilization to multiple clips at once. Apply LUTs and ready-made effect templates that can be replicated across multiple scenes to maintain a consistent look. One tip is to save frequently used presets to reduce setup time for future projects.
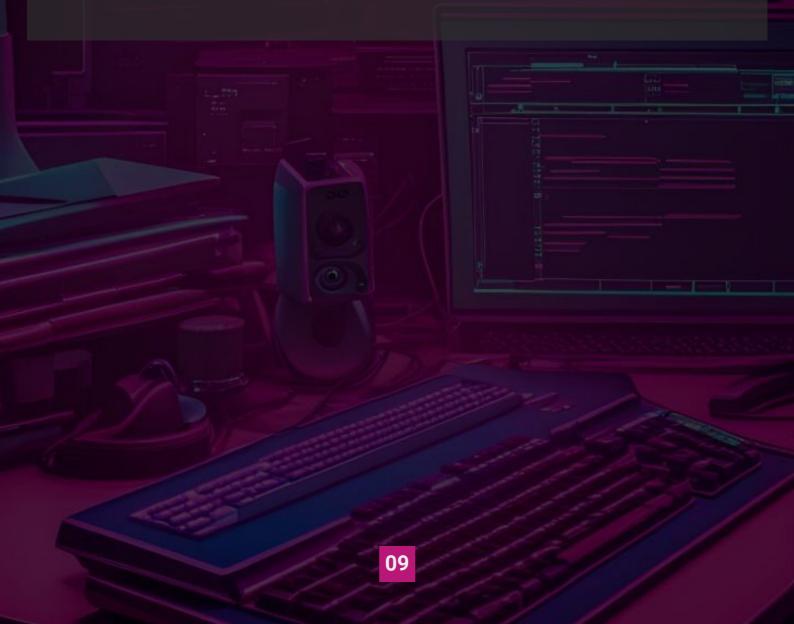
Quick Color and Style Fixes

Color corrections are essential to setting the tone of your video, but they don't have to be long and detailed. In "La La Land," the color palette helps set the tone for the story, and the same can be done with pre-made LUTs or quick adjustments to exposure and saturation. Tools like "Color Match" adjust the color of one clip to match another while maintaining consistency. Apply LUTs for a uniform look, and make subtle corrections like brightness and contrast to all clips at once to save time.
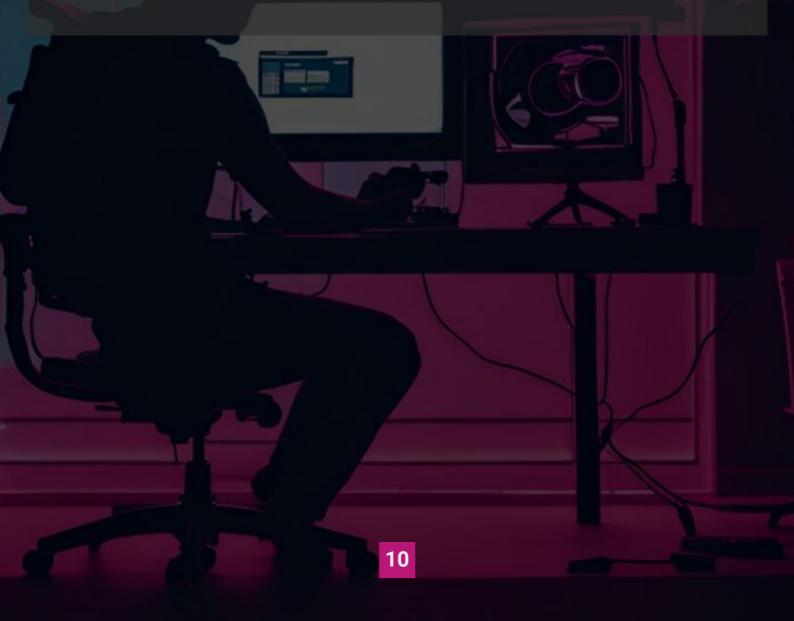
Chapter 8

Optimized Export

Export is where all the details of resolution, frames per second, and quality come together. In films like "1917," which were meticulously edited to maintain the "sequence shot" style, every frame was carefully exported to maintain the final quality. Use the export settings that best suit your final platform, such as MP4 (H.264 codec) for social media. Save export presets that you use frequently to maintain consistency between projects and avoid manual adjustments.

Conclusion

Maintaining Agility in Video Editing

Video editing is a job that requires both technique and a personal touch. Like in "Whiplash," where every second of the montage is precise and impactful, practice makes perfect. Keep updating your workflow, applying the most efficient techniques and incorporating new shortcuts and tools. With the tips in this e-book, you have everything you need to master quick editing, improve your style and maintain quality without wasting time, creating engaging, well-edited and high-impact videos.

THANK YOU FOR REACHING THE END OF THIS E-BOOK

Dedication and interest in improving your editing skills are essential to achieving mastery and transforming each project into a unique piece. Video editing is a field that is constantly evolving, with new tools, techniques, and trends emerging all the time. Therefore, continue exploring, studying, and seeking out sources of learning to further deepen your knowledge.

This material was developed by artificial intelligence as a didactic prompt engineering experiment. The content was reviewed and diagrammed by the author for a practical and enriching reading experience.

Good luck in your edits and future challenges!

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