

Working with the DaVinci Resolve Database

Up until this point, you may have been unaware that DaVinci Resolve keeps all your projects in its own container, called a database. Unlike most applications you may be familiar with, your projects are not saved to a location of your choosing. They are all kept within the database. And while that may suggest a process that's more complicated than you may be accustomed to, it brings a lot of benefits. A database adds a level of organization to your projects without you doing a thing. You don't spend time keeping track of projects and bins because they already exist in the database.

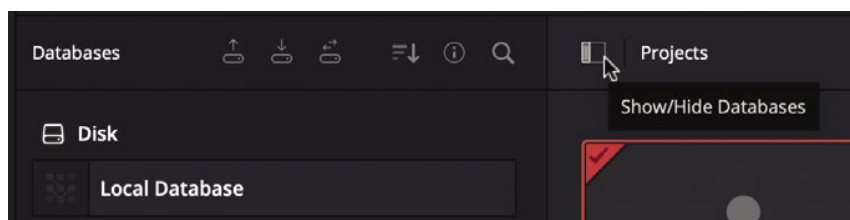
Also, because projects are kept in a database, they can be stored on a server that can connect to multiple DaVinci Resolve workstations with the flexibility to access any project on any computer or work collaboratively on any project.

Creating and Switching Databases

When you first open DaVinci Resolve, it automatically creates a disk database, so it is largely transparent to you that a database is in use. In macOS, the database is stored in the Library folder, whereas in Windows, it is in the Program Data folder. Even though you know where the database is stored, the first rule of databases is to not rename or modify any of the folders or files in a database and certainly not to delete them!

In this exercise, you'll learn the right way to switch between databases, create your own database, and back up a database without ever altering it at the operating system level. You'll start by creating a new database.

- 1 In the upper-left corner of the Project Manager, click the Databases button to open the list of available databases.

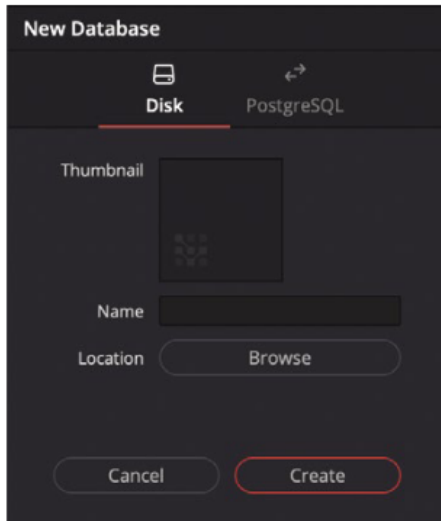


The Databases sidebar displays a single Local Database by default. It's the current default database that DaVinci Resolve created when you first started.

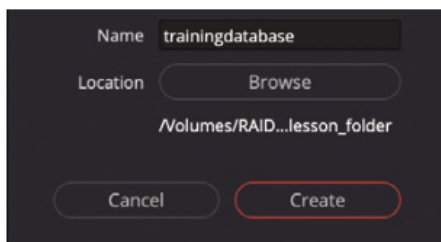
You can either Connect to an existing database that you have not previously connected to, or you can Create a new database. Creating a new database can be

useful for organization; for instance, you might create a new database at the start of every year or at the start of each school semester. We'll create a new database as if we are starting a new year.

- 2 At the bottom of the Databases sidebar, click the New Database button to create a new database.

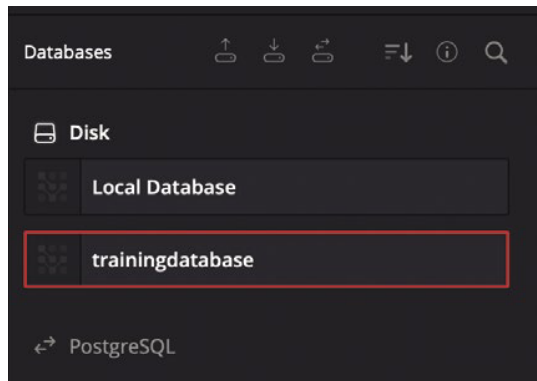


- 3 In the Name field, enter **trainingdatabase**.
- 4 Click in the Location field to locate where you want to save the database.
Clicking the Location field opens a file browser.
- 5 Navigate to Documents > R17 Beginners Guide lessons > Lesson 15.
- 6 In the file browser window, click the New Folder button and name the folder **training_lesson_folder**.
- 7 Click Open to create the folder.



The location is added into the database dialog where you can now add it to DaVinci Resolve.

- 8 Click Create in the database dialog.



The trainingdatabase now appears in your list of disk databases. Clicking any of the databases listed will switch to that database. The newly added trainingdatabase is already selected and ready for your new projects.

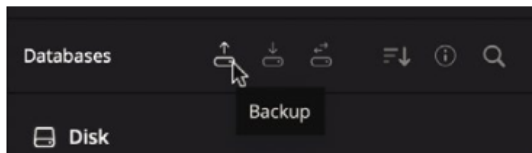
TIP Databases with fewer and smaller projects will save and operate faster than databases with a greater number of large projects.

Backing Up Databases

Although it is more likely that you will back up a project by exporting it from the Project Manager as a DRP file, you can create a backup of a database. The database does not include your media; however, creating a backup will save every project, bin, clip, and timeline in the database. Conveniently, you can back up your database within the Databases sidebar.

NOTE The following exercise uses a second hard drive or cloud-based storage to store your database backup. If you do not have access to a second hard drive or cloud storage, you can still read through the exercise to gain an understanding of the process.

- 1 In the list of databases, make sure the trainingdatabase is selected.
- 2 At the top of the window, click the Backup button.



Generally, databases range in size from a couple of hundred megabytes to a couple of gigabytes, but unlike media, they can easily be saved to a cloud backup storage system or a small local hard drive.

- 3 Navigate to the hard drive or cloud-based storage where you want to back up your database and click Backup.
- 4 Once the save is completed, click OK in the confirmation dialog, and click the Databases button to close the database window.

After saving a backup, a .diskdb file is created. This file contains your entire database, which you can simply copy to another drive if, for instance, you purchase a new computer and want to move your existing projects to the new hard drive. On the new computer, you can click the Restore button in DaVinci Resolve to open and use the database.

Lesson Review

- 1 True or false? The Media Manager manages clips, timelines, and bins.
- 2 What two operations can be performed on selected media in the Media Manager?
- 3 When using the Project Manager, what's the difference between exporting a project and archiving a project?
- 4 How do you view the databases in the Project Manager?
- 5 What's the advantage of having multiple databases?

Answers

- 1 False. The Media Manager manages only media; it does not manage bins.
- 2 In the Media Manager, selected media can be copied or transcoded.
- 3 Exporting creates only a DRP (DaVinci Resolve Project) format file, which contains only the project metadata. Archiving creates a folder with the DRA extension that includes a DRP file for the project, along with all the media files contained in that project.
- 4 To view the databases connected to DaVinci Resolve, in the upper left of the Project Manager, click the Databases sidebar button.
- 5 You can create different databases to separate projects by year, by client, or by student/semester in an educational setting, for example. Whatever criteria you use to create a new database, it is a best practice to back up databases daily.

Congratulations!

You have completed *The Beginner's Guide to DaVinci Resolve 17* and are ready to explore more editing, visual effects, color grading, and audio mixing functionality using the additional certified books in this series. Completing all the lessons in this book has prepared you to become a certified DaVinci Resolve user. You can take the online exam by following the link below to earn your certificate.

We also invite you to become part of the DaVinci Resolve community by joining the web forum on the Blackmagic Design website. There, you can ask further questions about the creative aspects of editing, color correction, and audio mixing.

We hope that you have found DaVinci Resolve 17's professional nonlinear editing and world-class color correction tools to be intuitive to learn and a perfect fit to become the hub of your entire creative workflow.

Test your skills by taking the online assessment located on the Blackmagic Design DaVinci Resolve Training page—*The Beginner's Guide to DaVinci Resolve 17* Online Exam: www.blackmagicdesign.com/products/davinciresolve/training