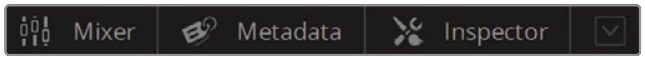
Viewing Clip Metadata

In addition to audio and video content, clips can also include information called *metadata* that describes the content of your clips. Metadata can identify the format, frame rate, and resolution, among other data. Some metadata is added automatically to a clip by the camera and audio recorders. You can also add custom metadata, such as keywords, that you can use to help organize your projects more efficiently.

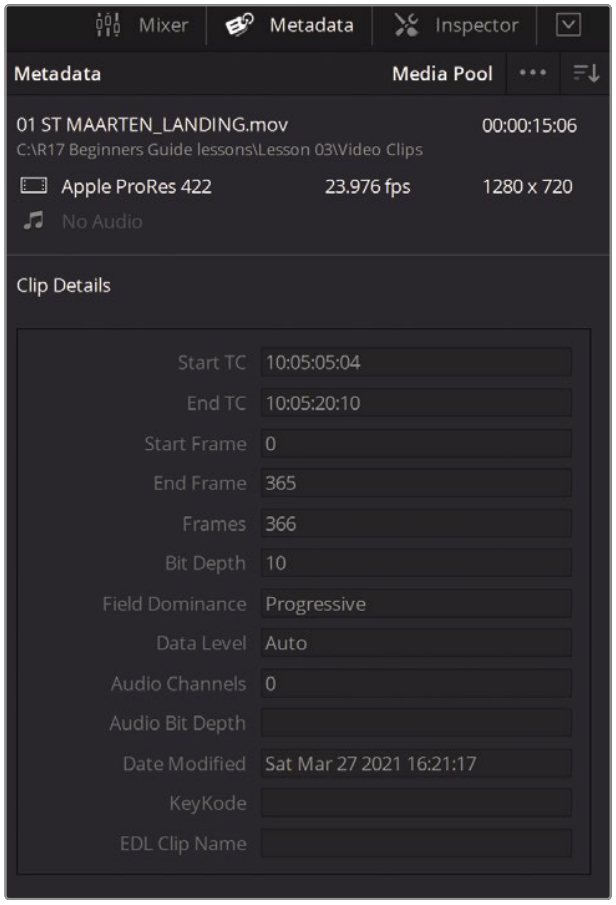
You can view the metadata for a clip and add additional information using the Metadata Editor.

1 Open the Metadata panel found in the top-right of the edit page.



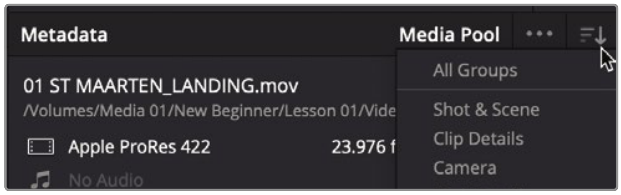
2 In the Master bin, click a clip to load it into the Metadata panel.

Detailed information about the selected clip appears.



The upper section of the Metadata Editor displays some essential clip information such as name, duration, and frame size. However, because a production can include an enormous amount of metadata for every clip, a drop-down menu in the upper-right corner of the Metadata Editor lets you choose other categories of metadata.

3 In the upper-right corner of the Metadata Editor, in the drop-down menu, choose Shot & Scene.



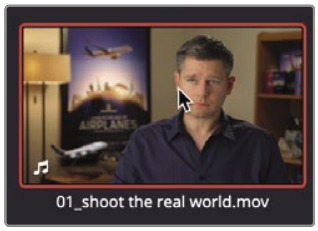
Each category in the drop-down menu contains additional fields and checkboxes. Some may display metadata entered automatically by the camera or other devices, whereas other fields allow you to add custom information that may be helpful in organizing your clips. In the next exercise, you'll add some metadata to clips that will make it easier to locate them later.

Adding Custom Metadata

Standard metadata that is captured or created automatically on set during production is certainly helpful when organizing clips, but adding your own metadata is also important. In almost every project, you'll organize content using some form of metadata. Some forms of custom metadata specific to your show can be added manually in DaVinci Resolve.

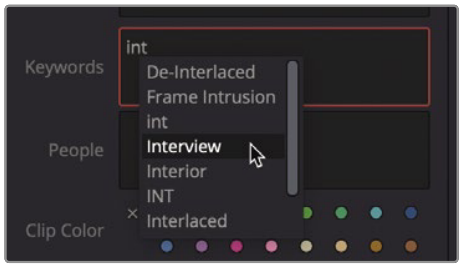
The current lesson has only a few clips from one small scene, so it's not very difficult to stay organized. However, when you're working on larger projects with hundreds, or even thousands, of clips, adding and using metadata can help you save countless hours searching and sorting through clips as you build your edit.

1 In the Master bin, select the "01_shoot the real world" clip.



This clip is one of three interview clips that you'll use. It's a good idea to identify it as an interview clip, so let's add that information as a keyword.

2 In the Keywords field of the Metadata Editor, enter **Int**.

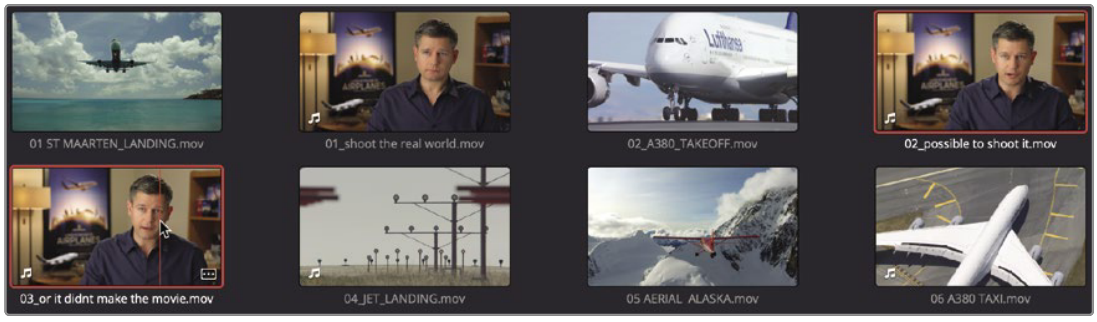


A list of standard keywords and previously entered keywords that start with I-n-t is displayed. It's helpful to select keywords from the list if they are available, rather than running the risk of misspelling.

3 In the drop-down menu, choose "Interview" to add that keyword.

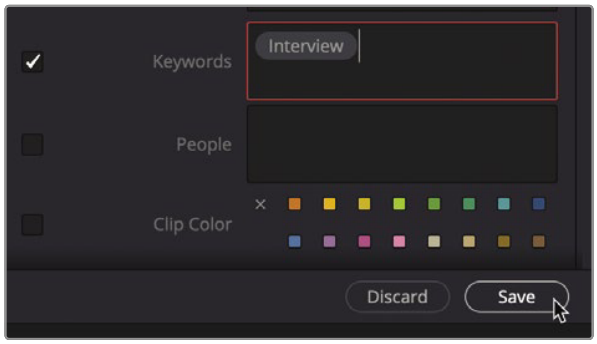
Two other interview clips could also use that "Interview" keyword. You can be more efficient by entering the keyword for both clips at the same time.

4 In the Master bin, select "02_possible to shoot it" and then Command-click (macOS) or Ctrl-click (Windows) the clip "03_or it didn't make the movie" to select it, too.



5 With both clips selected, in the Keywords field of the Metadata Editor, enter the letters **Int**.

6 At the bottom of the metadata panel, click Save to apply the keyword to both clips.

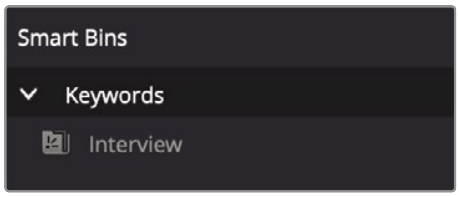


You have tagged interview clips with some important information about their contents. Metadata added this way can be used throughout DaVinci Resolve to improve clip organization. Next, you'll learn how to put that metadata to use as you begin organizing your clips.

Displaying Keyword Smart Bins

Smart bins search your entire project to group clips based on metadata that you define. For example, you can create a smart bin that automatically finds all the audio clips in your project or all the clips captured using a specific camera. Best of all, a smart bin's contents will continually update as new footage is added to your project. That means you don't have to manually organize footage when using metadata and smart bins. Smart bins are automatically created for any keyword you tag to a clip. They are displayed at the bottom of the bin list.

1 At the bottom of the bin list in the media pool, click the disclosure arrow to reveal the Interview smart bin.



2 Select the Interview smart bin to display the clips

The smart bin appears at the bottom of the media pool and displays all the clips that contain the keyword. Any new keywords applied to clips will automatically create a smart bin and display in the smart bin section of the bin list.

Creating Custom Smart Bins

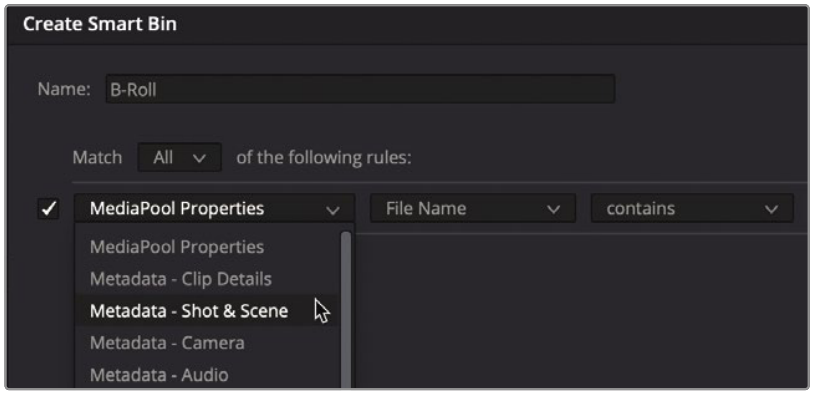
You just displayed a simple keyword smart bin. But smart bins can be much smarter! You can create custom smart bins that use multiple layers of criteria for more advanced clip selection.

1 Right-click under the Interview smart bin, and in the menu, choose Add Smart Bin.

The Create Smart Bin dialog appears. In this dialog, you set up the rules that determine which clips are automatically added to this custom smart bin. The criteria options are many, enabling you to create smart bins that group clips based on a wide range of auto-generated and manually entered metadata. For this smart bin, you'll look for all the clips that are not interview clips.

2 In the Create Smart Bin dialog, in the name field, enter **B-Roll**.

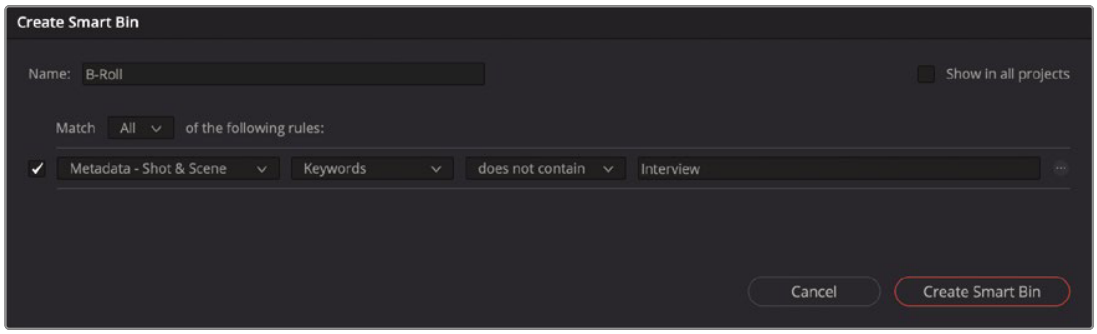
3 Click Media Pool Properties, and in the menu, choose Metadata - Shot & Scene because this was the metadata category chosen when you entered the Interview keyword.



4 Change the metadata type drop-down menu from Description to Keywords.

5 Change the third metadata criteria drop-down menu to “does not contain”.

6 In the text entry field, type **Interview** and click Create Smart Bin.



You now have a smart bin that includes all the clips that do not have the keyword Interview applied to them. That identifies most of the clips that you want, but the bin also contains the audio clips in your project. You’d like to narrow down this smart bin even further to exclude those audio clips.

7 To edit the smart bin criteria, double-click the B-Roll smart bin.

You can add additional layers of criteria for a smart bin, which will result in a more selective choice of clips.

8 To the far right of the dialog, click the Add Filter Criteria button to add an additional field for criteria.

9 Change Metadata - Shot & Scene to MediaPool Properties.

10 Change File Name to Clip Type.

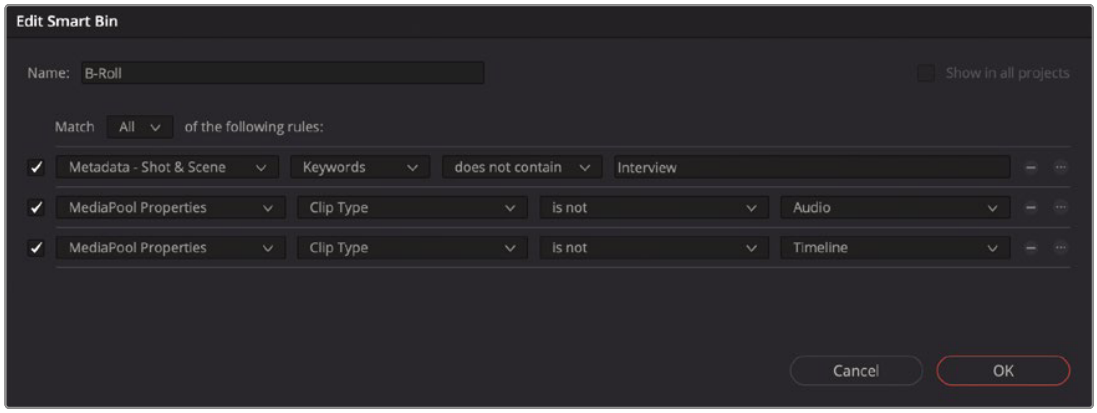
11 Set the last two filtering menus to “is not” and “Audio.”

You’ve now removed all the audio clips from this smart bin, but you also need to eliminate any Timelines.

12 Click the Add Filter Criteria button to add another criteria field.

The new fields use similar criteria as the previous one, so you need to change only the last item.

13 Change the last item from Video to Timeline.



14 Click OK to close the dialog and update the smart bin.

In the future, when you add the “Interview” keyword to new clips in this project, those clips will be added to the Interview smart bin automatically and excluded from the B-Roll smart bin. That’s the beauty of the smart bin. It collects clips based on whatever criteria you identify and continually updates your clip organization.

Saving Custom Bin Views

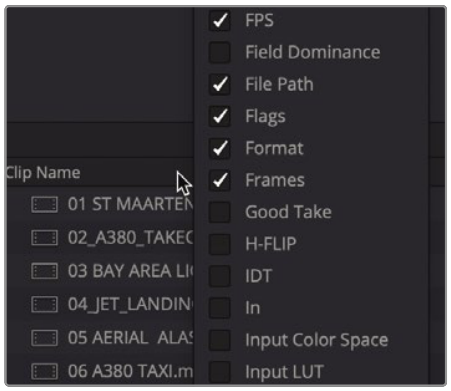
Beyond organizing clips into bins, you can organize how content appears in those bins. Clips in bins can be shown in List view as well as Thumbnail view and can display as much or as little metadata as you'd like.

1 Select the B-Roll bin.

2 At the upper right of the media pool, click the List View button.

The media pool switches from showing the clips as thumbnails to showing clips in a text list. In every project, some of the columns in List view will be more important than others. To ensure that you can see the information you'll need most, you can hide and show columns in a bin and then save that customized view as a layout.

3 Right-click any column heading to display the bin headings contextual menu.

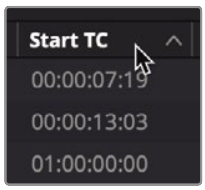


The contextual menu lists all the columns that you can display in a bin. The headings with a check mark are the currently displayed columns.

4 In the contextual menu, deselect all the checkboxes except for Audio CH, Duration, Resolution, and Start TC.

The columns you deselected are removed from the bin's List view. You can also sort columns, and therefore the clips, based on the information found in a column.

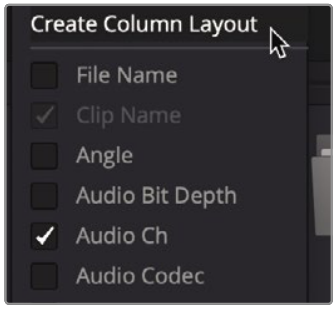
5 Click the heading for Start TC so that the small arrow next to the name points up.



Clicking the heading for any column sorts that column based on its criterion. Clicking the Start TC heading sorts the bin contents in ascending order based on the starting timecode number for each clip. A small arrow pointing up is shown next to the column heading name to indicate that this column is used for sorting as well as indicating the order of the sort.

After making these changes, you have a nice, slimmed-down number of columns that display only the essential information that you might want to see. You can save as many different bin views as necessary and recall them from the menu later. To save a bin view, you can use the same contextual menu.

6 Right-click one of the bin column headings, and in the contextual menu, choose Create Column Layout.



7 Type **Basic View** as the column layout name and click OK.

You have now set up all the bins, sorted the clips, and created a few smart bins based on metadata. You are ready to begin editing your movie trailer. In the next lesson, you'll move to the edit page, where you begin assembling clips into a Timeline.

Lesson Review

1. True or false? When restoring a DaVinci Resolve Archive, you must also relink the media.
2. True or false? Smart bins are created automatically for any keyword you apply.
3. True or false? Custom metadata can only be added to one clip at a time.
4. True or false? You must first create a bin before you can add clips to the media pool.
5. True or false? You can drag-and-drop clips into Smart Bins just like any other bin.

Answers

1 False. When restoring a DaVinci Resolve Archive, media does not need to be relinked.

2 True. Smart bins are automatically created for keywords.

3 False. Metadata can be added to single or multiple clips simultaneously.

4 False. If no other bin is created in the media pool, clips are added to the Master bin.

5 False. The content of a Smart Bin is defined by metadata parameters such as a keyword.

Lesson 4

Assembling a Rough Cut

With your content organized in bins, you are ready to start editing. The first pass at developing a timeline is called the rough cut. The goal is to place clips in the rough order you'll want them in your final program. It is the equivalent of sketching a picture rather than precisely drawing one. Once you begin your Rough Cut, you will learn how to quickly add additional pieces of video to your story and how to replace a clip with an alternate take.

Time

This lesson takes approximately 60 minutes to complete.

Goals