

Lesson 5

Moving Clips in the Timeline

Like the cut page, the edit page timeline is much more than just a view of the edits you make. Once you start putting a project together, the timeline quickly becomes the hub of all activity. It is the place where you will move segments around, split clips in half, and delete segments altogether. Knowing how to operate in the timeline will improve your editing skills.

Time

This lesson takes approximately 40 minutes to complete.

Goals

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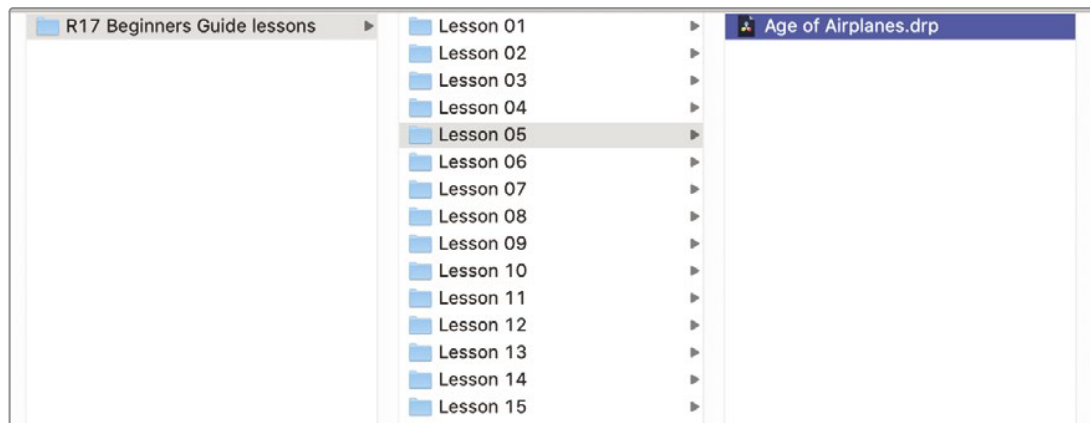
Importing Projects and Relinking Media

When someone sends you a DaVinci Resolve project from another computer or you want to move a project with all its timelines and bins from one computer to another, you need to import the project file and relink the media.

For instance, if you were moving from a desktop computer to a portable laptop to edit on-the-go, you would export the project from the desktop computer and import it on the laptop.

In this lesson, you'll import a project that contains a pre-made timeline based on the timeline you created in the previous lesson. The timeline in this project is set up so you can learn how to move, delete, and split clips.

- 1 Open DaVinci Resolve, if necessary; or, if DaVinci Resolve is already open, choose File > Project manager.
- 2 In the Project Manager, right-click in an empty area, and in the contextual menu, choose Import Project.
- 3 In the open dialog, select R17 Beginners Guide lessons folder > Lesson 05 > Age of Airplanes.drp, and then click Open.

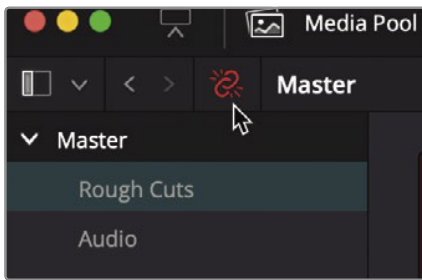


- 4 Double-click the Age of Airplanes project to open it.

The project is imported, but the media is not yet linked to the clips. The project contains only the metadata for clips and timelines. It has no media associated with it. Links between the clip and timeline metadata and the media can break when media is copied or moved from one computer to another or when folder names are changed.

You need to guide DaVinci Resolve to the locations of the media so it can relink the media and clips to the project. Resolve makes this easy by providing a Relink button at the top of the media pool when it senses that media is offline.

- 5 At the top of the media pool, click the relink button.



- 6 In the Relink Media dialog, click the Locate button for Media 01 and navigate to Documents > R17 Beginners Guide lessons folder. Click OK.

Relinking automatically relinks all the clips in all the bins, as well as the timelines in those bins.

- 7 In the Rough Cuts bin, double-click the CH05 Move timeline to load it into the timeline viewer.

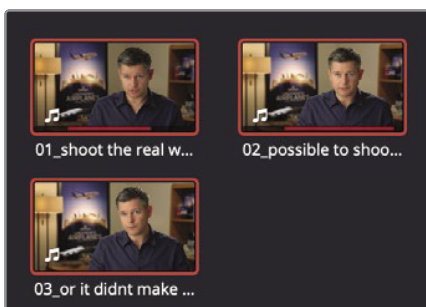
- 8 Play the timeline to review the cuts that you will work with in this lesson.

This timeline is almost identical to the one you created in Lesson 4. It does, however, include an ending credits clip and a new music track that, as you will see, can cause some hurdles when you start cut, copy, and pasting clips in the timeline.

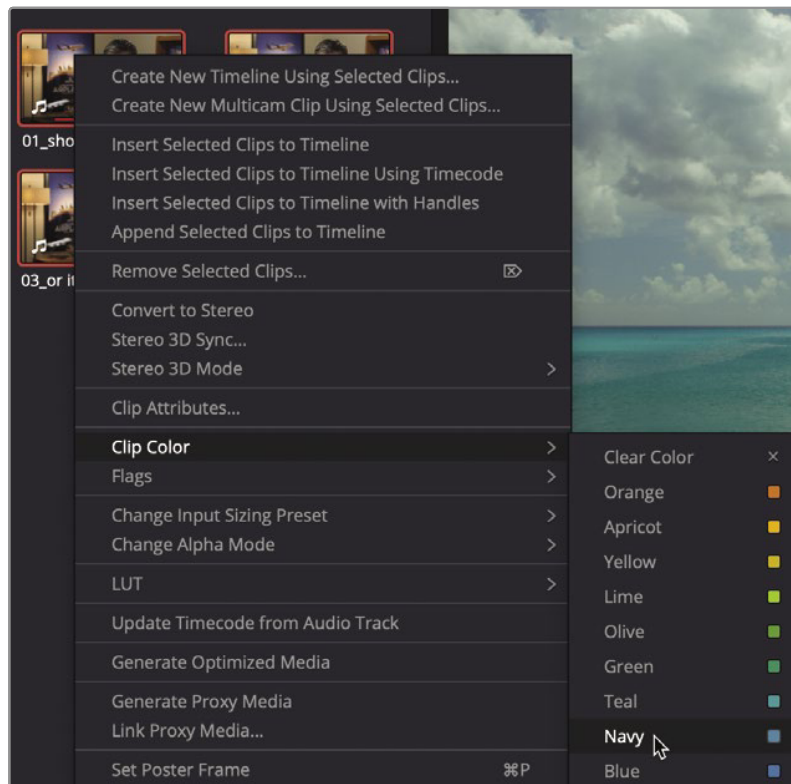
Color-Coding Clips

Additional clips within a timeline can slow you down when trying to locate a single shot. You can make it easier to find that shot by assigning a color to different clip groups. The assigned color will appear in the timeline whenever a clip from that group is used.

- 1 In the Bin list, select the Interview smart bin.
- 2 Click any clip in the media pool and choose Edit > Select All or press Command-A (macOS) or Ctrl-A (Windows), to select all the clips in the bin.

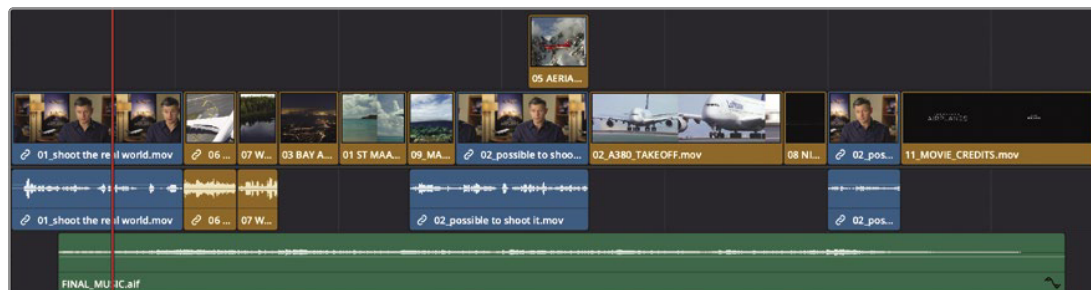


- 3 Right-click any one of the selected clips, and in the menu, choose Clip Color > Navy.



The clips are assigned a navy blue color, and the color is displayed in the timeline. Now let's color code all the B-Roll clips.

- 4 In the bin list, select the B-Roll smart bin.
- 5 Click any clip in the media pool, and choose Edit > Select All or press Command-A (macOS) or Ctrl-A (Windows), to select all the clips in that bin.
- 6 Right-click any one of the selected clips, and in the contextual menu, choose Clip Color > Brown.

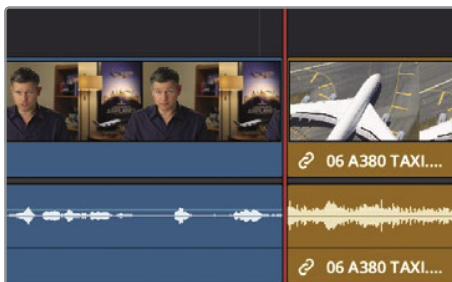


All the timeline clips from the Interview and the B-Roll bins are now color coded to navy blue or brown. As you make changes in the timeline, the differentiation in color will make it easier for you to locate these categories of clips.

Deleting Clips from a Timeline

Knowing when and how clips should be deleted is almost as important as knowing where to place clips in the timeline. You can delete clips and leave a gap, or you can delete clips and automatically close the gap. In your timeline, if you were trying to line up the last clip to the end of the music, you might seem to have too many clips. You'll need to delete at least one and possibly more.

- 1 In the timeline, position the playhead at the end of the first interview clip.

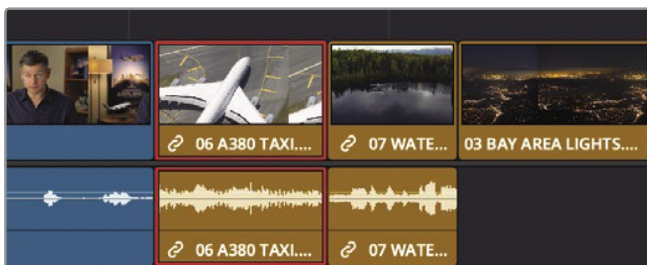


- 2 Press Spacebar to play until the start of the second interview clip.

Because we have a lot of plane clips in a row, let's work on spreading them out. We even can start by deleting one and removing it from the timeline altogether.

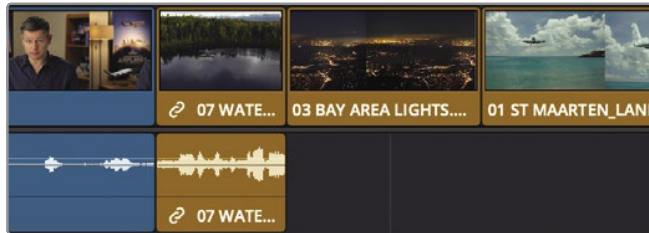
The most likely one to delete is the least interesting clip, "06 A380 TAXI." To remove a selected clip from the timeline in the edit page, simply press the Delete or Backspace key and it will leave a gap in the timeline. But what if you wanted it to act more like the cut page, and not leave a gap? In this situation, you want to remove the clip but have all the clips to the right move left to close up the gap. This type of deletion is often called a *ripple delete* because the change ripples through the rest of the timeline.

- 3 In the timeline, select the "06 A380 TAXI" clip.



Because the audio and video tracks are part of the same clip, they are both selected in the timeline.

- 4 Choose Edit > Ripple Delete or press Shift-delete (macOS) or Shift-Backspace (Windows).



Both the audio and video tracks of the clip are removed, or extracted, from the timeline, but not deleted from the bin or your hard drive. In addition, the gap is closed up because all the clips positioned after the “06 A380 TAXI” clip shift to the left.

Deleting Video or Audio Content Separately

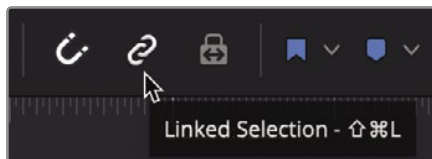
As you played over those first few clips in the timeline, you heard some ambient sound of the crew talking. What if you wanted to delete only the audio contents from a clip in the timeline and leave its video contents in place?

- 1 In the timeline, position the playhead at the end of the first interview shot.
- 2 Play the timeline and listen carefully to the audio during the “07_WATER_TAXI” shot.



You can hear directions being called out, along with some undesirable helicopter noise. You’ll want to retain the video of this clip in the timeline but remove its audio. In the previous exercise, you found that when you select a clip, DaVinci Resolve automatically selects both its video and audio tracks. To remove the crew noise but leave the clip’s video track in the timeline, you’ll need to unlink the two tracks so you can select them separately.

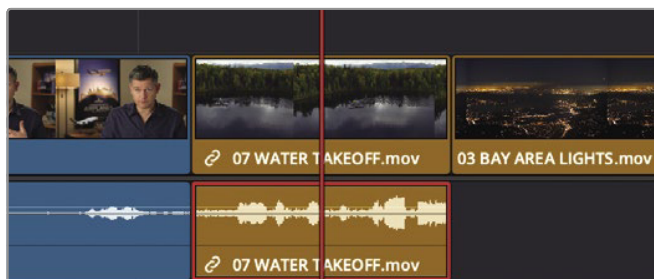
- 3 In the toolbar, click the Linked Selection button, or press Command-Shift-L (macOS) or Ctrl-Shift-L (Windows).



The linked selection is no longer highlighted, indicating that the function is disabled. With the association between video and the synced audio track temporarily disabled, you can move and delete them independently.

TIP You can temporarily disable the Linked Selection button without going to the toolbar by Option-clicking (macOS) or Alt-clicking (Windows) a clip.

- 4 In the timeline, select the audio track of the “07_WATER_TAXI” clip.



Only the audio track is outlined in red.

- 5 Press delete (macOS) or Backspace (Windows) to remove the audio track.

The audio is now removed from the timeline, but the video track remains.

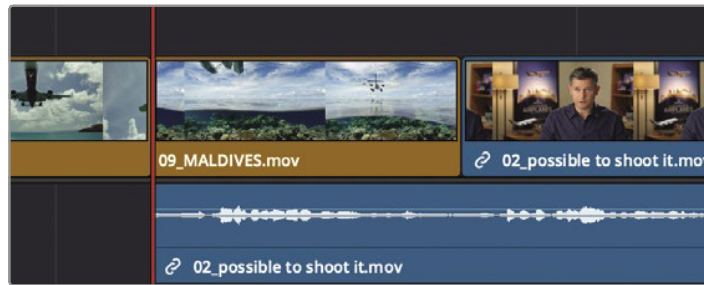
- 6 In the toolbar, click the Linked Selection button or press Command-Shift-L (macOS) or Ctrl-Shift-L (Windows), to re-enable the link behavior.

It’s usually a good idea to keep the Linked Selection button enabled so that clips that have audio and video in sync are not accidentally separated.

Deleting a Range within a Clip

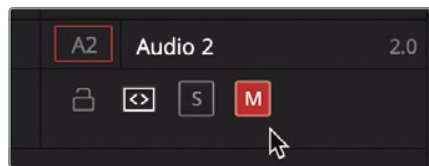
Often with interview clips, or “talking heads,” you won’t want to delete an entire clip as often as you’ll want to remove repetitive sentences or fumbled words. For this, you need to delete just a portion of audio somewhere within the clip.

- 1 In the timeline, position the playhead at the start of the “09_MALDIVES” clip.



To hear the words of the interview clearly, we can turn off the music track in the timeline using the Mute button.

- 2 In the timeline header, click the Mute button on audio track 2.



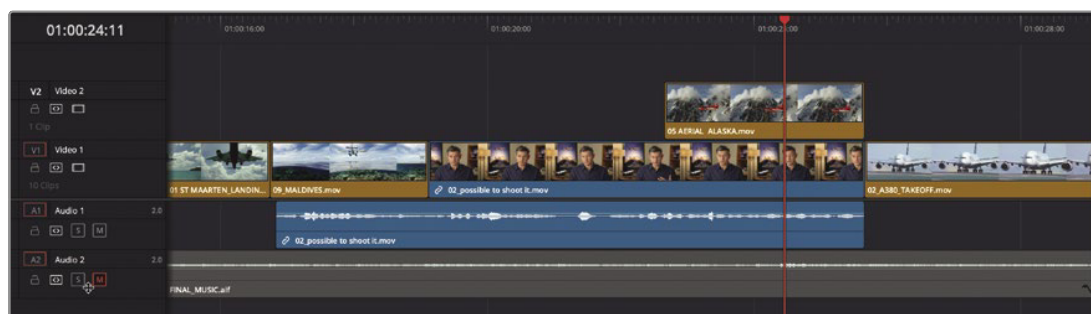
TIP If you do not see Audio track 2, you may need to scroll the timeline view using the scroll bar on the right side of the audio tracks.

Now when you play the timeline, the music track will not be audible.

- 3 Play the timeline and listen carefully to the audio during the interview shot.

You can tighten up this interview by removing the redundant statement, “stay at that location longer.” When deleting small ranges within a clip, it is best to zoom in to the timeline area you will be working on.

- 4 In the toolbar, drag the zoom slider to the right until the “02_if it was possible” interview clip almost fills the entire timeline window.



Zooming in will help you identify the sentence by giving you a more detailed view of the audio waveform. Using the waveform as a guide, you'll mark the range you want to delete using In and Out points.

- 5 Use your J-K-L keys to slowly play back and forth over the interview clip until you locate the start of the line, "stay at that location longer."
- 6 When the playhead is located before the word "stay," press I to mark an In point. This is the start of the range you will delete. Now let's look for the Out point.
- 7 Press your J-K-L keys to slowly play back and forth over the interview clip until you locate the end of the line, "stay at that location longer."
- 8 When the playhead is located after the word "longer," press O to mark an Out point.

With the range identified, you can delete it or, more precisely, ripple delete it so you don't leave a gap in the timeline. However, if you deleted the range right now, you'd run into a problem. To see the problem, let's delete the range, observe the problem, and then figure out how to solve it.

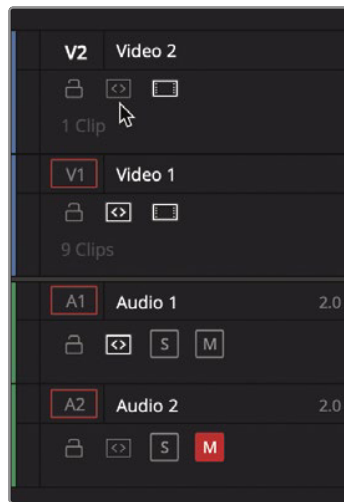
- 9 Press Shift-delete/Backspace to remove the range.



The range between the In and Out points is deleted on the interview but is also deleted on the music track and the "05 AERIAL ALASKA" clip above it. You need to not only identify the range, but also identify the individual tracks in which you want the deletion to occur. DaVinci Resolve includes auto select buttons on each track to help with this situation.

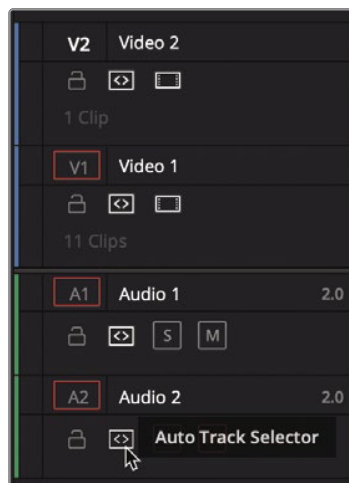
- 10 Choose Edit > Undo or press Command-Z (macOS) or Ctrl-Z (Windows), to undo the previous operation.

- 11** In the timeline track header, on the Audio 2 track, click the auto select control to disable that track. Then click the auto select control for Video 2.



The auto select controls are incredibly important buttons to be aware of because they perform so many different functions when editing in the timeline. For your current purposes, you only need to be aware that these buttons will identify the tracks to operate on when they are enabled and will exclude the tracks on which they're disabled.

- 12** Press Shift-Delete/Backspace to remove the range on tracks V1 and A1.
- 13** In the timeline track header, on the Audio 2 track and Video 2, click the auto select controls to enable them so you don't forget to do so later.

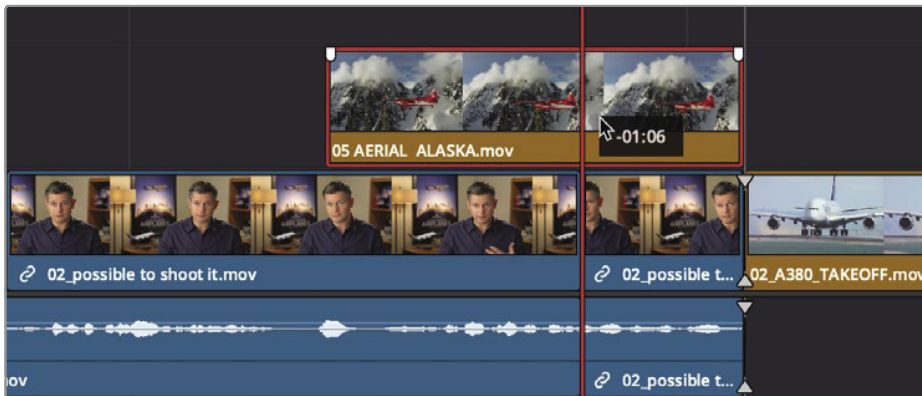


Now, let's review the deletion.

- 14** Move the playhead to the start of the "09_MALDIVES" shot, and press the Spacebar to play over the deleted region.

Since you disabled the auto select on video track 2 and shortened video track 1 by deleting the “06 A380 TAXI,” the “AERIAL ALASKA” cut-away on video track 2 is no longer aligned with the end of the interview. Without switching any tools, you can easily move clips in the timeline.

- 15 Drag the “05 AERIAL ALASKA” clip so the end of the clip aligns with the end of the interview.



Now, let’s review the fixed timeline.

- 16 Move the playhead to the start of the “09_MALDIVES” shot and press the Spacebar to play over the deleted region.

Although creating a backup isn’t all that critical in this training project, when you start making dramatic changes to any rough cut, such as deleting lots of clips, it’s a good idea to duplicate your timeline so you can return to a previous version if necessary.

Splitting Clips

In some cases, you might want to create space between sentences to improve pacing. In this example, instead of identifying the range you want to delete, you’ll identify a frame where you want to split a sentence. The easiest way to do so is using the Blade edit mode.

- 1 At the bottom of the timeline, drag the scroll bar to center the cut between the “09 MALDIVES” and the “02_if it was possible” interview clips in the window.

