

CHAPTER

4

LAYERS AND SUPERIMPOSITION

The technique of layering video clips is often used in instructional or news-related videos. In this technique, an additional frame of video displays a separate segment of video that can complement the main subject matter. You typically see this technique every night on the evening news as the announcer is presenting the day's events, with an illustration or video clip playing in an inset frame just over the presenter's shoulder.

It's easy to add layers of video onto another track in order to achieve a number of interesting effects such as:

- An inset frame of video on top of another frame of video.
- An inset frame of video for an “over the shoulder” newscast-like effect.
- An inset frame of video that demonstrates a complementary tutorial or additional instructions to the main video content.
- Your production artwork or show logo overlaid on top of the video image.

Layering media in Final Cut Express can be as simple as dragging and dropping media into your Timeline



or Canvas windows. Final Cut Express allows you to control how the inset media behaves with features such as opacity and motion.

TEXT OVERLAYS



18.1



18.2 (CP11)

This technique shows you how to add text tracks to a video clip layer, as shown in **Figure 18.2 (CP11)**. Like other elements in Final Cut Express, the layering model works similarly with text as it does with other video elements.

In this example, you add text to an existing clip and find out different ways to modify that text in order to accomplish specific functions, such as title tracks, credits, or item descriptions.

STEP 1: OPEN THE PROJECT MEDIA FILE

- Open the bin **Text Overlays Demo** that you find in the **insetdemo.fcp** folder, as shown in **Figure 18.3**.
- Make sure the yellow play head is at the first frame, as shown in **Figure 18.4**.

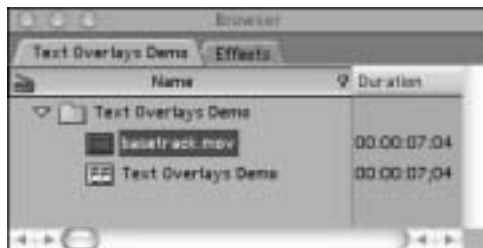
STEP 2: CREATE THE TEXT OBJECT

- Click the **Generator** button at the lower-right corner of the Viewer window. The Generator button looks like a piece of film with the letter A inside it.
- Hold down your mouse and select **Text** from the pop-up menu.
- Select **Text** from the pop-up submenu, as shown in **Figure 18.5**.

You see the Viewer window now has the words **Sample Text** within it.

NOTE

The **Impact** typeface is part of the standard Macintosh default type collection. If your computer does not have **Impact**, choose your favorite bold-faced, sans-serif font.



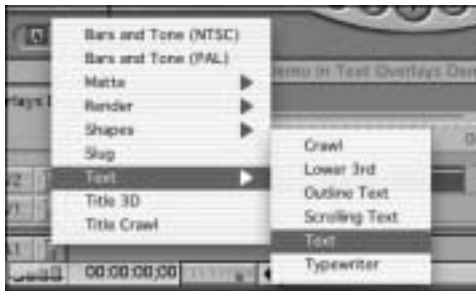
18.3



18.4

STEP 3: MODIFY THE TEXT ATTRIBUTES

- Separate the **Controls** tab by dragging it away from the Viewer window, as shown in **Figure 18.6**, so that you can see both the video image and the Controls tab window.



18.5



18.6

- Choose **Impact** from the **Font** pop-up selection menu.
- Highlight and type in the number **76** in the Size selection area.
- Change the Alignment setting to **Left**.
- Change the origin values to **-222** and **66**.
- Replace the words Sample Text with the words **Fly THIS!**
- Press the **Return** key between the words “Fly” and “THIS!” to force each onto its own line.
- Click the **Video** tab again to see the text changes that you made to the words Fly THIS!, as shown in **Figure 18.7**.

STEP 4: ADD TEXT TO CANVAS

- Toggle the view of this window so that it appears without wire frames (choose **View > Image**).
- Click and drag the **Fly THIS!** text into the Canvas window.



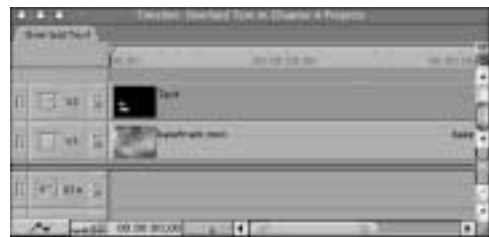
18.7

- Drag your text selection into the purple overlay area named Superimpose, as shown in **Figure 18.8**.
- After you release the mouse, you now see your Fly THIS! text appear in the Canvas window and a text track added to your Timeline.

You now see that a text track is added to your Timeline along within a new video track entitled V2 in **Figure 18.9**.



18.8



18.9

STEP 5: RENDER THE SEQUENCE

- From the **Sequence** menu, choose **Render All**, as shown in **Figure 18.10**, to see results of the changes that you made.



18.10