



Chapter Tool 2.0 User Manual

Final Cut Pro Workflow Extension and standalone FCPXML utility

Version 2.0 • macOS

Overview

Chapter Tool is a lightweight macOS utility that converts Final Cut Pro Chapter Markers into a YouTube-ready chapter list. Version 2.0 can run directly inside Final Cut Pro as a Workflow Extension and can also open exported FCPXML files as a standalone app.

The app reads the project data, prepares valid timestamps, reports issues that require attention, and copies the finished list to the macOS clipboard. Processing is read-only: Chapter Tool never changes the Final Cut Pro project or its markers.

What Chapter Tool Does

- Detects Chapter Markers from a Final Cut Pro project.
- Adds a Start chapter at 00:00 when one is not present.
- Rounds marker positions to whole seconds for YouTube output.
- Automatically shifts chapters when needed to maintain at least 10 seconds between timestamps.
- Checks chapter count, titles, timing, and the duration of the final chapter.
- Copies a clean chapter list ready for a YouTube video description.

What Chapter Tool Does Not Do

Chapter Tool 2.0 does not rename, delete, merge, or manually reposition chapters. Make those editorial changes in Final Cut Pro, then drag the project into Chapter Tool again. Standard markers are ignored; only Chapter Markers are included.

System Requirements

- macOS 14.0 or later.
- Apple silicon and Intel Mac compatibility.
- Final Cut Pro is required for the Workflow Extension. It is not required when using exported FCPXML files in the standalone app.

Installation and First Launch

1 Install Chapter Tool

Install the app from the Mac App Store. The application is placed in the Applications folder and includes the Final Cut Pro Workflow Extension.

2 Open Chapter Tool once

Launch the standalone app after installation. This allows macOS to register the bundled extension.

3 Restart Final Cut Pro

If Final Cut Pro was open during installation or an update, quit and reopen it.

4 Open the extension

In Final Cut Pro, open the Workflow Extensions menu and choose Chapter Tool. When several extensions are installed, Final Cut Pro may display a generic puzzle icon in the toolbar; Chapter Tool remains available in the menu.

Important The standalone Chapter Tool window does not need to remain open while you use the Workflow Extension.

Using Chapter Tool in Final Cut Pro

1 Open the Workflow Extension

Open Chapter Tool from the Workflow Extensions menu in Final Cut Pro.

2 Choose the source

In the Final Cut Pro browser, select a project, event, or library.

3 Drag it into Chapter Tool

Drag the selected item into the drop zone in the Chapter Tool extension window.

4 Select a project if required

If the dropped item contains more than one project, use the Project menu to choose the timeline you want to process.

5 Review the result

Chapter Tool lists the detected chapters and reports whether the list is ready for YouTube.

6 Copy the chapters

Click Copy YouTube Chapters. The button briefly changes to Copied to confirm that the list is on the clipboard.

Using FCPXML Outside Final Cut Pro

The standalone app supports the same chapter-processing workflow without opening the Workflow Extension.

Supported Formats

Format	Description
.fcpxml	Final Cut Pro XML document
.fcpxmld	Final Cut Pro XML bundle containing Info.fcpxml

Importing an FCPXML File

1 Open Chapter Tool

Launch Chapter Tool from the Applications folder.

2 Import the file

Drag an .fcpxml or .fcpxmld file into the window, or click Open FCPXML and select it.

3 Choose the timeline

If the document contains multiple projects, select the required project from the Project menu.

4 Copy the result

When the status reads Ready for YouTube, click Copy YouTube Chapters and paste the text where needed.

Libraries and multi-project XML files When a dropped library or XML document contains several projects, Chapter Tool displays every detected project in the selector. Choose the intended project before copying the output.

Chapter Detection and Processing

Chapter Markers Only

Chapter Tool 2.0 detects Final Cut Pro Chapter Markers only. Standard markers are intentionally excluded, so the exported list reflects the chapter structure prepared in the Final Cut Pro timeline.

Automatic Start Chapter

YouTube chapter lists must begin at 00:00. If the project does not contain a Chapter Marker at the beginning, Chapter Tool automatically inserts an entry named Start at 00:00 in the generated list. This does not create or modify a marker in Final Cut Pro.

Timestamp Conversion

Final Cut Pro stores timing with frame-level precision, while YouTube chapters use whole seconds. Chapter Tool rounds each detected position to the nearest second and formats it as MM:SS or HH:MM:SS when the project is longer than one hour.

Automatic YouTube Spacing

YouTube requires each chapter to be at least 10 seconds long. If two rounded timestamps would be closer than 10 seconds, Chapter Tool moves the later timestamp forward to the earliest valid position. Every automatic adjustment is shown in the interface before copying.

Non-destructive processing Automatic timestamp shifts affect only the generated YouTube text. The original Chapter Markers and the Final Cut Pro timeline remain unchanged.

Validation Rules

Check	Chapter Tool response
First chapter	Adds Start at 00:00 when required.
Chapter count	Requires at least three chapters in the generated list.
Minimum duration	Maintains at least 10 seconds between chapter timestamps.
Empty title	Requests that the Chapter Marker be named in Final Cut Pro.
Final chapter	Warns if less than 10 seconds remain before the end of the project.
Project duration	Stops copying if automatic spacing would place a chapter beyond the project end.

Resolving Warnings

When Chapter Tool displays Action required in Final Cut Pro, the Copy YouTube Chapters button is disabled. Correct the project in Final Cut Pro and drag it into the extension again.

Fewer Than Three Chapters

Add enough Chapter Markers in Final Cut Pro to produce at least three chapters, including the 00:00 entry, then reload the project.

Empty Chapter Title

Give every Chapter Marker a descriptive title in Final Cut Pro. Chapter titles should be concise and should describe the section that begins at that timestamp.

Final Chapter Is Too Short

Move the last Chapter Marker earlier, remove it, or adjust the edit so at least 10 seconds remain between the marker and the end of the project.

Automatic Spacing Exceeds the Project Duration

Nearby chapters cannot be made valid without moving a timestamp beyond the end of the project. In Final Cut Pro, move or remove a nearby Chapter Marker, or consolidate the chapter structure, then reload the project.

No Chapters Detected

Confirm that the markers are Chapter Markers rather than standard markers. Check that you dragged the intended project, and select the correct project if the source contains multiple timelines.

Exporting for YouTube

Click Copy YouTube Chapters when the status reads Ready for YouTube. Paste the clipboard contents into the video description in YouTube Studio. The output follows this format:

```
00:00 Start  
00:18 Introduction  
01:42 Editing workflow
```

Troubleshooting

The Extension Is Not Listed in Final Cut Pro

- Confirm that Chapter Tool is installed in the Applications folder.
- Open the standalone app once.
- Quit and reopen Final Cut Pro.
- Install the latest App Store or TestFlight build if the problem continues.

The Extension Remains on Loading

Quit Final Cut Pro, launch Chapter Tool once, and reopen Final Cut Pro. Ensure that the installed app has not been moved, renamed, or replaced by an older development build.

The Wrong Project Appears

If the source contains multiple projects, use the Project menu in Chapter Tool to select the correct one. Dragging an event or library can legitimately expose several projects.

The Chapter List Looks Different from the Timeline

Chapter Tool rounds frame-based positions to whole seconds and may shift later timestamps to preserve YouTube's 10-second minimum. Any adjustment is listed in the interface and does not alter the timeline.

Privacy and Security

Chapter Tool processes project information locally on the Mac. It does not upload FCPXML data or transmit project information to an external service. The standalone app accesses only files explicitly selected or dropped by the user.

Scope of Functionality

Chapter Tool performs the workflows described in this manual. Marker editing, chapter deletion, chapter merging, manual timestamp editing, and changes to the Final Cut Pro timeline are outside the scope of Chapter Tool 2.0.

Quick Reference

Task	Action
Process a Final Cut project	Drag the project into the Workflow Extension.
Process a library	Drag the library, then choose a project.
Open exported XML	Use the standalone app and open an .fcpxml or .fcpxmld file.
Fix marker content	Edit the Chapter Marker in Final Cut Pro and reload.
Copy the result	Click Copy YouTube Chapters, then paste into YouTube Studio.