

MC101 2019/20 Addendum

What's New in MC2020.4

28-Sep-20



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1. Overview

In the short time since the *Media Composer Fundamentals I* course release in the fall of 2019, Media Composer has undergone several updates – most notably the major 2020.4 release in April. As you navigate the course materials and work with new features, you may find some updates like the new Select Project window induce confusion. To minimize this, we created this handy guide.

Quick Navigation Tip: Click the links in the table of contents to jump to a specific topic.

1.1 Does this guide apply to me?

Great question. This guide applies to you if Media Composer 2020.4 or later has been installed on your computer. A quick way to check this is to launch Media Composer and look at the splash screen (See Figure 1).



Figure 1 Splash screens for Media Composer 2020.8 (Left) and Media Composer 2019.9 (Right)

If your splash screen looks like the image on the right, then this guide applies to you.



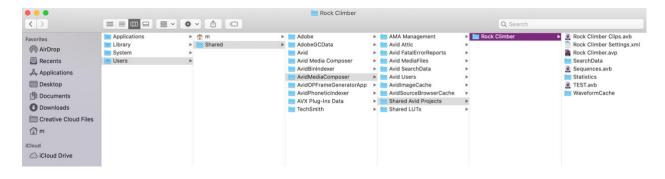
1.2 Course Media Setup

Media Composer 2020.4 supports the latest macOS Catalina, which introduces a major change: you can no longer store files on the root (top) level of the Macintosh HD.

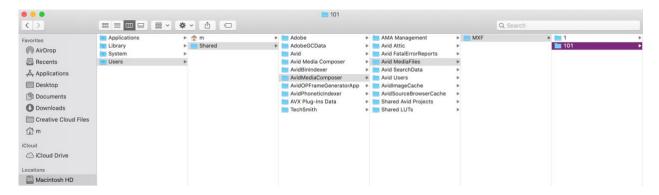
If you plan to store the media associated with this course on an external hard drive, refer to the **Using the Course Materials** section in the **Introduction** of the **Media Composer Fundamentals I** book.

If you plan to store all the course materials on your Macintosh HD, refer to the **Using the Course Materials** section of the **Media Composer Fundamentals I** book for guidance but place the downloaded assets in the following locations:

• "Rock Climber" Project Folder (located in the Avid Projects_Student folder): Users\Shared\AvidMediaComposer\Shared Avid Projects



Avid MediaFiles: Users\Shared\AvidMediaComposer\Avid MediaFiles\MXF\101





			🚞 Jacuzzi QT			
< >		· • • • •		Q Search	h	
Favorites AirDrop Facents Applications Desktop Documents Documents Documents Documents Creative Cloud Files m iCloud Cloud Cloud Drive Locations	Applications Library System Users	m Shared	Creative Cloud File Creative Cloud File Creative Cloud File Documents Documents Movies Music Pictures Public	s blocktop Files	O06 O07 Music Tone	9 9 9

• Jacuzzi QT: Users\username\Desktop or another convenient location

Attention Windows Users: The default location for the Avid MediaFiles folder on the boot drive has changed to: drive:\Users\Public\Documents\Avid Media Composer

The remaining topics in this guide cover new Media Composer 2020.x features and nuances that are relevant to this course.



2. The Select Project Window

When you launch Media Composer 2020.4 or later, the software will load the new feature-rich Select Project window. This looks quite different from the Select Project dialog box presented in *Lesson 1: Introduction to Media Composer*.

Since you'll be accessing and using this project management window throughout the MC101 course, let's take a quick tour.

×			Select	Project			
Г		Welcome to Media Composer					
l	Select Project	m		2			
			Ρ	rojects			
			/Users/Share	d/AvidMediaCompos	ser/Shared Avid Projects/	•	3
							○ ▦ ☷ =
		Name 🗸 Frame	Project Type	Frame Rate	Color Space	Raster Dimension	s Stereoscopic
		Rock Climber	720p/23.976	23.976	YCbCr 709	1280×720	Off
		Jacuzzi	1080p/25	25	YCbCr 709	1920x1080	Off
		-				_	
		MediaCentral Login					
							Open

The following image (Figure 2) highlights key Select Project features:

Figure 2 Select Project window in MC2020.4 and later

- **1. Select Project Button:** Click this to access existing projects or create a new project.
- 2. Project Tab: Activate this tab to access projects loaded on your system.

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3. Project View: Click these buttons to display your current projects in list or frame view.

In **Lesson 1: Introduction to Media Composer,** you'll work with bin view options. The Select Project window offers the same features.

In the New Project tab of the Select Project window, project locations can be accessed by clicking the Locations pop-up menu.

All projects for this course will be placed in the Shared location shown below (see Figure 3).

×		Select	Project			
	Welcome to Media Composer					
	m					
Select Project						
What's new?			rojects	New Project		
			TOJECIS	New Floject		
	User Profile:				▼	7
	Location:			ser/Shared Avid Project	s/ 🔻 🏲	
		/Users/Shared/AvidMed /Users/m/Documents/A	vid Projects/	Avid Projects/		
						○ ▦ ☷ =
	Name 🗸 Frame	Project Type	Frame Rate	Color Space	Raster Dimensior	ns Stereoscopic
	Rock Climber	720p/23.976	23.976	YCbCr 709	1280x720	Off
	Jacuzzi	1080p/25		YCbCr 709		
	•				-	
	MediaCentral Login					
	MediaCentral Login					
					Quit	Open
					Quit	

Figure 3 Location pop-up menu and Browse button

If you click the Browse folder icon (highlighted in pink), you can place new projects anywhere on your system. In previous versions of Media Composer, saving a project to a custom location activated the radio button labeled "External". In Media Composer 2020.4 and above, there is no button labeled "External", but all customer locations are automatically added to the location list, making it easy to keep track of your projects.



Lesson 2: Inputting Media introduces creating a new project. In Media Composer 2020.4, you'll click the New Project tab to access the project setup options covered in that lesson (see Figure 4).

×	Select Project					
		Welcome to Media Comp	boser			
		m				
	What's new?		Projects New Project			
		User Profile:	m			
			/Users/Shared/AvidMediaComposer/Shared Avid Projects/ 🔹 📂			
		Project name:	Untitled Project			
			1080p/23.976			
		Raster dimension:	1920 x 1080 Frame rate: 23.976 fps v			
		Aspect ratio:				
		Color space:	YCbCr 709			
			Film			
		Stereoscopic:	Off •			
		Search data folder:	Other 🔻 🕞 /Users/Shared/AvidMediaComposer/Shared Avid Project			
			Manage Presets Save Preset			
		MediaCentral Login				
			Quit Create			

Figure 4 New Project interface in the new Select Project window

We've covered the Select Project options that align with the MC101 course. In addition, you'll want to explore a couple of new features: The **What's new** button and **Set Poster Frame** option.



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If you click the **What's new** button, you'll gain access to information about updates added to Media Composer since the 2019.6 release (see Figure 5).

×	Select Project
	Media Composer 2020.8
Select Project What's new?	Media Composer 2020.6
	Media Composer 2020.5
	▶ Media Composer 2020.4
	Media Composer 2019.12
	Media Composer 2019.11
	Media Composer 2019.9
	Media Composer 2019.8
	Media Composer 2019.7
	Media Composer 2019.6

Figure 5 What's new interface in the Select Project window

Clicking a version reveals update details as well as a link to information about the features (See figure 6).

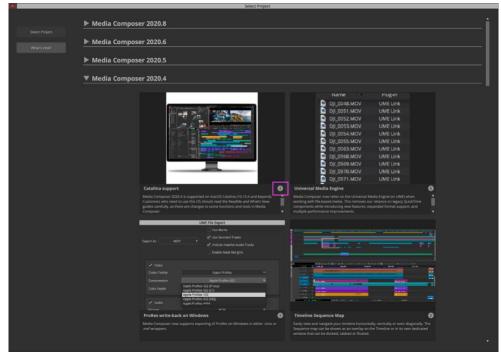


Figure 6 Click the "i" icon to access additional feature details

In addition, you can create a poster frame that will show up as a thumbnail in Frame or Text view of the Select Project window (See figure 7).

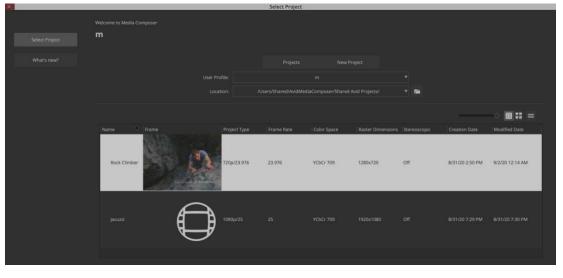


Figure 7 Poster Frame in the Select Project window

You can create a Poster Frame from either a source clip or sequence that's loaded in the Composer window. Just navigate to a frame that best represents your project, right-click in the Composer monitor, and select **Save as project poster frame**.

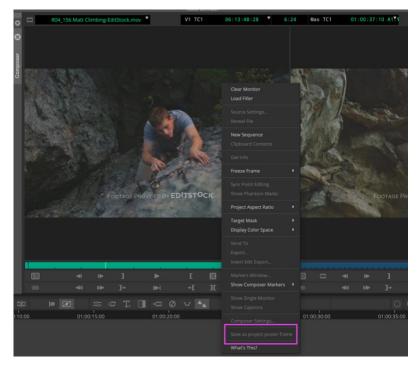


Figure 8 Right-click in the Composer window to save a project poster frame



3. Audio and Video Media Changes

Lesson 2: Getting Started covers ingesting video and audio media into Media Composer. The processes outlined in this lesson apply to both Media Composer 2019.x and 2020.x, with a few minor adjustments and considerations highlighted in this section.

In addition, with the release of 2020.4, Avid ended Media Composer's reliance on Apple QuickTime libraries. This impacts the material covered in **Lesson 11: Exporting Your Video** and is addressed in this section as well.

3.1 Importing the Jacuzzi Project Media (Lesson 2)

In lesson 2, you'll import H.264 formatted QuickTime movie files into a newly created project called Jacuzzi. When you follow the instructions outlined in the lesson and click the Import button, you'll receive this message:

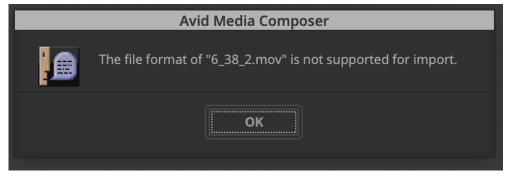


Figure 9 Not Supported for Import message

Click **OK**. Then click either **Yes** or **Yes to All** to the following message:

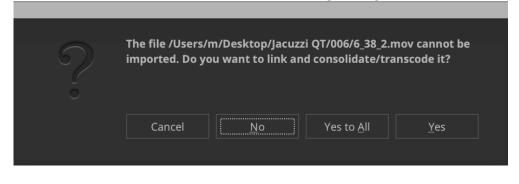


Figure 10 Do you want to link and consolidate/transcode message

Media Composer will create clips and Avid-native media based on the import settings you set up during the lesson.



3.2 Avid-native Media Resolution Name Changes (Lesson 2)

When you import media in **Lesson 2: Getting Started**, you'll need to select an import format. The suggestions in the lesson and exercise (DNxHD60 and DNxHD85) won't be listed in the Source Browser. In Media Composer 2020.4 and above, resolutions names have been simplified and are no longer listed by data rates such as 60 and 85. Instead, you'll see the following list:

× -										
0	← → ↑	AVC-Intra 100	1	m >	Des	ktop 义 🛄 Ja	acuzzi QT >	00)6 >	
3	Explore	H.264 800Kbps Proxy				Nama		۵	Cine	Kind
0		XDCAM EX 35Mbits				Name			Size	Kina
-		XDCAM HD 50Mbits		6_38_	_2.mov				20.1 MB	mov File
2		1:1		6 39	_2.mov				23.4 MB	mov File
в		1:1p 10b								
Source Bro		DNxHD LB	J							
šõ		DNxHD SQ								
~		DNxHD HQ								
		DNxHD HQX								
		Apple ProRes 422 (Proxy)								
		Apple ProRes 422 (LT)								
		Apple ProRes 422								
		Apple ProRes 422 (HQ)			_				_	
		XAVC HD Intra CBG Class 100		L C)			•	<	Þ
		XAVC HD Intra CBG Class 200								
		AVC Long GOP 6								
		AVC Long GOP 12								
	• Source b	AVC Long GOP 25								
		AVC Long GOP 50								
		AVC Long GOP 35		_1	Cle	ose Source Bro	wser after l	Link or In	nport	
	Doi	DNxUncompressed 4:2:2 8bit DNxUncompressed 4:2:2 10bit		<u> </u>	Cle	ear Source Mor	nitor Upon (Closing S	ource Brows	ser
		DNxUncompressed 4:2:2 12bit								
		DNxUncompressed 4:2:2 1201 DNxUncompressed 4:2:2 16(2.14)bit								
	🔿 Link 🕧	DNxUncompressed 4:2:2 32bit float								
		J2K HD								
		J2K IMF YCrCb								
					V	ideo Drive:	7	Macinto	sh HD 🔻	
	Resolution:	DNxHD SQ								
					A	udio Drive:				
				_	-					
				<u>il</u>	Target B	in:	Jacuzzi E	Bin		Import

Figure 11 Simplified Avid-native resolutions names in the Source Browser

Select DNxHD SQ during this course. To review a table that compares the new and old HD resolution names, check out this resource:

http://resources.avid.com/SupportFiles/attach/WhatsNew_MediaComposer_v20.4.pdf



3.3 Exporting to QuickTime Movie (Lesson 11)

In **Lesson 11: Exporting Your Sequence**, you'll quickly discover that the export dialog box shown in the lesson has changed considerably in Media Composer 2020.4 and above. The reason? As mentioned at the beginning of this section, Avid ended its reliance on QuickTime libraries by developing a Universal Media Engine (UME).

No need to worry. We don't need to dig into the technical aspects of Media Composer to output a sequence. Just refer to the lesson and exercise for a detailed export strategy. Use the screenshots below as a guide for successfully outputting a file that's optimized for YouTube or Vimeo.

When directed to make a selection in the **Export Settings** drop-down menu, choose **Untitled** (See figure 12).

Export As							
	Save /	As: Rock Climber Opening.aaf					
		Web Outputs	\$	^	Q Sear	ch	
Favorites Applications Desktop Documents Downloads Creative Cloud m iCloud	Desktop Files Jacuzzi QT Web Outputs	Avid Pro Tools LE (002) Avid Pro Tools LE (Mbox-AAF) Avid DS Consolidate Audio To Folder Consolidate-Embed Audio Only Consolidate-Link Audio and Video Export To Pro Tools Link To Audio Only Link To Audio and Video Link To Audio and Video Link To Effects Mixdown Macintosh Image NTSC					
	Export settin 🗸	Macintosh Image PAL					
New Folder						Cancel	Save
Fig	ure 12 Export Set	ings drop-down options in	the	Expo	ort As dial	og box	



In the Export Settings dialog box, Select MOV from the Export As drop-down menu (See figure 13).

	Export 5	Settings	- Untitled
Export As:	AAF		Use Marks
			Use Selected Tracks
🖌 AAF	/ AAF		Include Inactive Audio Tracks
Pro -	HDV		Enable Mask Margins
	Audio		
Include All Vi	Graphic	nce	
Include Audic	scc		All Tracks 🔻
Video / Data Deta	TTML		
Export Method	Avid Log Exchange	ixport)) Media
_	Tab Delimited		
	AS-11		
	DPX		
Render V	IMF		
Mixdown	MXF OP1a		
Transcod	OpenEXR	-	
	MOV K	\otimes -	-0
Media Destination			
Data:			
Audio:			
Save As			Cancel Save

Figure 13 Export Settings Dialog Box



	UME File Export		
	Use Marks		
Export As: MOV	Use Selected Tracks		
	Include Inactive Aud	io Tracks	
✓ Video			
	Project raster	1280x720	
	Enable Mask Margins		
	O Crop to mask margins	1280x720	
Image			
	HD 1280x720		
Image size	W 1280 🔒 Н 720		
	Display Raster 1280x720		
Aspect Ratio			
Pixel Aspect Ratio	1.000:1	*	
Source Scaling	Stretch	*	
Compression			
Codec Family	H.264	*	
Compression	H.264		
Color Depth	8 bit		
Encode Mode	Constant Bit Rate		
Target bit rate			
Target Dit Tate		0 12.00 Mbps	
✓ Audio			
	PCM		
Sampling Rate	48000 Hz	*	
Bits per Sample	16		
Mix Mo		Direct Out	
		OBRECEDUE	
Save As		Cancel	Save

Figure 14 Export Settings

Note: Export to QuickTime Reference is no longer an option in Media Composer 2020.4 and above.



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4. Timeline Sequence Map

Media Composer 2020.4 and later includes a new Timeline Sequence Map. This feature is similar to the Bin Map mentioned in **Exercise 2: Inputting Media**. The Timeline Sequence Map allows you to easily view and navigate your timeline horizontally, vertically, or diagonally.

You can configure the Sequence Map functionality by right-clicking in the Timeline window and selecting Timeline Settings.

In **Lesson 4: Drag-and-Drop Editing**, you'll configure the **Timeline Settings** to optimize the drag-anddrop editing experience. The book's screenshot can cause confusion due to the addition of the Sequence Map setting in MC2020.4. Refer to the following screenshot comparison while configuring the Timeline's Display Settings:

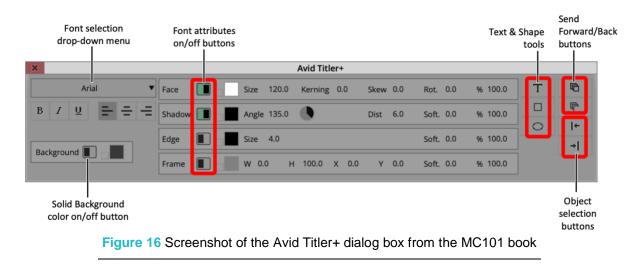
×	Timeline Settings - Current	X Timeline Settings - Current
	Display Edit	Display Edit
	Show Toolbar	Show Toolbar
	Show Marked Region	
	Show Marked Waveforms	Show Marked Region
	✓ Highlight Suggested Render Areas After Playback	Show Marked Waveforms
	Double-Click to Show Nesting	Highlight Suggested Render Areas After Playback
	☑ Use Fast Scrub	Double-Click to Show Nesting
	Wireframe Dragging	Use Fast Scrub
	Sequence Map:	Wireframe Dragging
	Open Sequence Map as overlay on Timeline	Display During Segment Drag:
	✓ Clicking Elsewhere Hides the Sequence Map	Position Bar
		Four-frame
	Display waveforms	○ None
	Display effects	Movement During Play:
	Display During Segment Drag:	Page
	Position Bar	Scroll
	Four-frame	○ None
	None	
		Timeline Text Color:
	Movement During Play: Page	White Timeline Text
		Black Timeline Text
	O None	Dynamic Play Acceleration:
		3 steps
	Timeline Text Color:	Slow start speed:
	White Timeline Text Black Timeline Text	3 steps
	White and Black Timeline Text	
	Dynamic Play Acceleration:	
	5 Steps	
	Slow start speed:	
	3 steps	
		OK
	OK Cancel	

Figure 15 Comparison: Timeline Settings 2020.x (Left) and 2019.x (Right)

5. Avid Titler+

In **Lesson 10: Creating Titles**, you'll create titles using Avid Titler+, Media Composer's newest titlecreation option. Everything you need to create the titles in this course can be found in lesson 10.

Why mention Avid Titler+ here? Because it's undergone several upgrades since its debut. In this section we'll take a quick look at additions made to the Avid Titler+ dialog box since this course was published.



Here's a screenshot of the Avid Titler+ dialog box from Lesson 10:

Refer to the lesson for a comprehensive tour of the overall interface, text formatting options, and title-creation instructions.

Figure 17 shows a screenshot of the Titler+ dialog box in Media Composer 2020.8, with the newest interface options highlighted in pink:

×			Avid Titler+				4.	
Arial 🔻	Face	Size 120.0	Kerning 0.0	Skew 0.0	Rot. 0.0	% 100.0	Т	D,
B I ⊻ Ξ Ξ Ξ	Shadow 🔲 🗖	Angle 135.0		Dist 6.0	Soft. 0.0	% 100.0		0
						0	G	۲¢
	Edge 🔲 🗌	Size 4.0			Soft. 0.0	% 100	<u>F</u>	-G
	Frame	W 100.0 H	100.0 X 0.0	Y 0.0	Soft. 0.0	% 100.0	←	→I

Figure 17 Screenshot of the Avid Titler+ dialog box in Media Composer 2020.8



Refer to the following descriptions to learn how to use the features called out in Figure 17.

- **1. Effect Grid:** Click this button to display Safe Title and Safe Action overlays in the Preview monitor. Right-click this button to access and configure Grid settings.
- Group and Ungroup layers Button: Lasso text and graphic objects you'd like to group together and click the Group Layers button (left). To ungroup, select the group and click the Ungroup Layers button (right).
- **3.** Save and Load Default Parameters: Click the Save current parameters as default button (left) to save properties like font, size, and color as the default for new titles. Click the Load defaults parameters button (right) to reload those properties.

6. Relink Offline Master Clips to Camera-Native Files

Lesson 12: Technical Fundamentals addresses essential technical concepts. The media management and troubleshooting tips covered in this lesson work as prescribed with one potential exception: relinking offline master clips to camera-native files. This section provides a recipe for solving this.

In lesson 12, The course recommends selecting the offline linked master clips in the bin, right-clicking one of the selected clips, and selecting the **Relink to File(s)** menu item. Often this option is grayed out.

When this happens, you can easily reconnect the offline clips in the **Source Browser** by completing the following steps:

- **1.** Go to File > Input > Source Browser (or access by right-clicking in the bin).
- 2. In the Navigation pane on the left side of the source Browser, locate your camera-native folder on your media drive.
- 3. Select a camera-native file and click Link.

All of the offline linked clips that were linked to files in that folder will reconnect. Be patient, this can take a moment. If a linked master clip remains offline, repeat the steps.

Alternatively, you can select the camera-native files in the OS window, press the Alt key (Windows) or Option key (Mac) as you drag the files to the bin containing the offline clips.



7. Conclusion

We hope you found this addendum helpful. To gain a deeper understanding of what's new in Media Composer 2020.x and gather up-to-date upgrade information, check out:

https://www.avid.com/media-composer/learn-and-support

A final note: The new features and processes covered in this addendum WILL NOT be covered on the Avid Media Composer User Certification exam. ALL of the questions were created from the topics covered in **MC101 2019/2020 Media Composer Fundamentals I** and Media Composer 2019.6 features.

