

What is CapCut?

[CapCut](#) is a free, easy-to-learn, easy-to-use video editing software that makes a great companion for anyone who works with high-quality audio and video! Whether it's producing video segments accompanying interviews and live sessions to showcasing the faces of your awesome podcast guests, there are so many reasons to utilize CapCut as a CFRC volunteer!

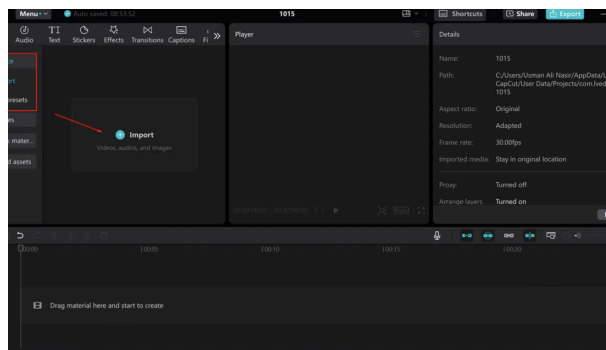
You can access the site at capcut.com, but for best results, consider downloading the program on your Mac or PC! This is a brief, step-by-step guide for importing and editing video/audio on the *desktop* version of CapCut.

NOTE: a mobile (smartphone) version does exist, but you'll get the cleanest results from using a laptop or monitor!

If you're more of a visual learner, this [YouTube video tutorial from Gavin Herman](#) is very helpful for Mac and PC users. For a text breakdown of the software, read on!

Step One: Upload Video

Open the CapCut desktop editor. It's free to create an account (there is a paid Pro version available, but it's not necessary for basic video editing). Creating an account is optional– you can access without signing in– but recommended for the online version in particular to ensure you can save your progress and access from different devices!

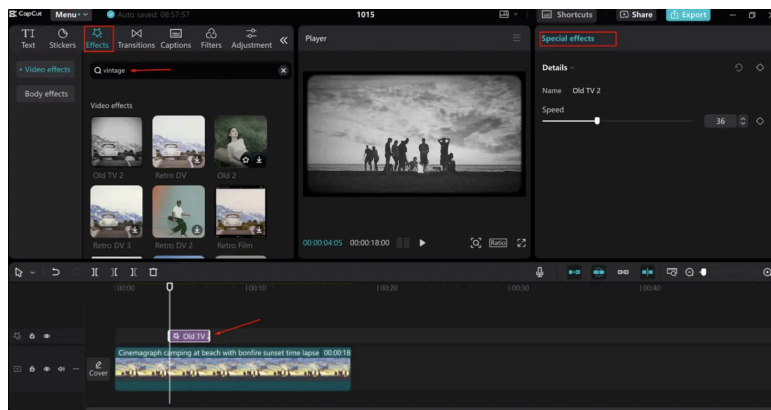


First, click “+ **Create New**” and select “**New Video.**” Upload all the audio and video files you’ll need from your personal computer by clicking “**Import.**”

CapCut has a lot of free, fun templates and stock videos you can use to enhance your project. You can peruse these to your liking under “**Templates**” or “**Start with templates**” if you want some inspiration for formatting, adding images, and more.

Step Two: Video Editing

The video editing software on CapCut is very similar to other free platforms like Canva and iMovie. If you have ever used these programs, CapCut will probably look familiar! Once you have imported your files, drag them into the timeline in the bottom half of your workspace to arrange them in the correct order. There are a couple important functions that will help you edit the video itself:



The “**Split**” function can be accessed with this icon:][

It allows you to split any selected video segment at the cursor so you can make precise, quick video cuts. After splitting the video to remove unwanted content, you can right click and select “**Merge Clips**” to repair the video into one unbroken segment, if you wish. Don’t forget to add **Transitions** between clips to help the video run smoothly.

You can add text on top of the video using the “**Text**” function with the icon TI, right next to the “**Stickers**” and “**Effects**” tabs. You can choose from a wide range of fonts offered by Capcut, as well as add animations to the text in the far left window of the screen.

PRO TIP: To fade a video to black, add a black screen at the end of your desired clip and then access the “Fade Black” transition under the “Transitions” tab!

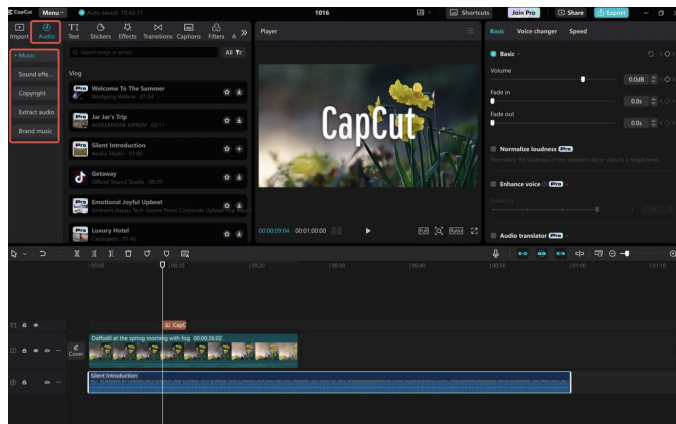
You can use the “**Effects**” (selected in this screenshot), “**Filters,**” and “**Adjustments**” features to change things like the color grading of your video, the lighting, the image quality, and more! Play around with these options until you find a style that works for your video! This is another reason I highly recommend creating a free account and saving your progress; you can save the video pre-settings you like to use in future projects so they share the same visual features!

A note on saving: CapCut automatically saves frequently, similar to Microsoft Suite programs like Word and Excel. However, you should get in the habit of manually saving your progress every few minutes to ensure you don’t lose any progress if your computer crashes!

Step Three: Audio Editing

This step can take place at the same time as video editing. If you’re like me,

however, you might have a separate audio file recorded using CFRC’s hardware. If you’re planning to use a program you mixed in Reaper, make sure you have it saved as an .mp3 file so you can easily import it into CapCut!



You can add audio underneath the video to edit it more easily. If you’re using audio from the original video,

right click on the timeline to “**Separate audio**” in order to edit it individually, more easily! As you can see in this screenshot, Canva also has a library of free (and Copyright) sounds available under “**Audio,**” including fun sound effects which make a great addition to podcast episodes and/or humorous YouTube videos.

If you're using audio recorded separately from the imported video, highlight both the audio and video clip you want to sync in the timeline and right click (with both clips highlighted), then select **"Synchronize clips."** In the free version of CapCut, this feature isn't perfect. However, the waveforms for both clips should be available underneath the video display (or in the main body for the audio clip). You can manually adjust the position of audio and video clips so the waveforms are synchronized, ensuring the audio is synchronized with the audio from your video!

A couple extra notes on this point:

- Record all video you intend to mix with professional audio using some kind of microphone, no matter how imperfect (smartphone microphone, videocamera microphone, etc). This will give you waveforms to work with when you sync with the .mp3 file!
- Prematurely trim both the audio and video (before attempting to synchronize) so they're as similar as possible beforehand. This means using the "Split" function to delete dead airspace at the beginning/end of your program audio, and cutting any video recording which took place before you started recording audio in Reaper, for example!

When you have synched audio and video, make sure to **"Mute"** the video by clicking the volume icon on the far left of the timeline. Then, consider using the **"Balance audio"** function to ensure background music and separate audio clips all blend well together on their own, especially now that you can only hear the non-video, audio tracks!

This is really where CapCut shines above platforms like Canva and iMovie. For precisely synchronizing audio and video, and for the ability to make tiny edits quickly and easily, it earns a gold star from this radio volunteer!

Step Four: Export

In the previous screenshot, note the **"Export"** blue button on the top right corner of the screen. Here, you can export your finished video in your preferred quality,

format, and resolution to your computer! I recommend saving it as an .mp4 file and uploading it yourself to platforms like TikTok, YouTube, and Instagram. However, if you wish, you can upload to TikTok and Youtube *directly* through CapCut's platform, without exporting the video to your computer first.

PRO TIP: Before exporting, use the “**Preview**” feature to view the video just as you would if it were playing on your computer! This will help you catch final snags in the presentation (missing transitions, wonky captions) that may not be obvious from the crowded timeline.

Final Note

There are so many other fun features CapCut offers, like creating and assigning a thumbnail for your video, adding captions, inserting stickers, and more! So much of CapCut is free to use without upgrading to the Pro version. Take your time exploring the platform and seeing what you can add to your video(s)! Happy editing!