

# iMovie 8.0 Help



## Synchronizing video with music

You can synchronize video clips, still images, titles, and other elements with specific points in music or other audio clips in your project by adding “beat markers” to the music and then aligning the elements to the beat markers.

For example, you could add a beat marker at a powerful moment near the beginning of your favorite song, and then set the title of your movie to appear at exactly that moment. Or, you could add beat markers consistently throughout a song, and then make a music video with still images and video clips that appear in rhythm with the song.

You can add beat markers to any sound clips, including background music, sound effects, voiceovers, and audio detached from video clips.

To add a beat marker:

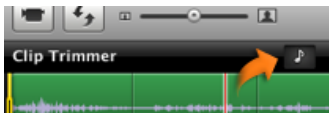
1. From the Action pop-up menu (looks like a gear) in an audio clip in your project, choose Clip Trimmer, or select the audio clip and choose Window > Clip Trimmer.

The Clip Trimmer opens below, showing a magnified view of the sound clip. A waveform line running through the clip represents the sound in the clip; the louder parts are broader and the softer parts are narrower.

2. Drag a beat marker (see below) to the audio waveform.

To add a beat marker at the playhead, you can also press the M key to tap out the beats as you skim or play the audio.

By default, when you add a beat marker to audio that’s already covering a video clip, the clip is split at the beat marker. This way, you can easily replace just the portion of the clip between beats with new video of the same duration (see “To replace video clips in your project, keeping existing beat markers aligned” below).



3. To reposition a beat marker, drag it to a new position.

If “Snap to Beats” is turned on, repositioning a beat marker lengthens or shortens clips on either side of the marker, so that the transition point between the two clips is still aligned with the marker.

To synchronize video and other elements in your project with beat markers:

Beat markers appear as thin vertical lines in the audio clip in your project. To synchronize elements in your project with beat markers, do one of the following:

- Drag video or a still image to a project that contains music with beat markers. If the clip overlaps a beat marker, it automatically shortens or lengthens to align with the next beat marker.

For example, you can quickly create a music video by adding a background song to a project before adding any video, adding beat markers throughout the song, and then dragging several video clips and still images to the project. At each marked beat, a new video clip or image plays.

Note: If you don't want a clip to automatically shorten or lengthen so that it ends at the next beat marker, turn off "Snap to Beats" (see "To turn off 'Snap to Beats'" below).

- Drag an element in your project, such as a title, a cutaway clip, or a voiceover, so that its beginning aligns with a beat marker.

By default, elements "snap" to beat markers. As you drag an element near a beat marker, it snaps to alignment with the marker.

- Drag an audio clip containing a beat marker so that the marker aligns with the beginning of a clip or another element in your project.

This also repositions where the audio begins and ends in the project.

- In the Precision Editor, click the Extras button, and then drag an element to align it with a beat marker.

#### About the Precision Editor

To replace video clips in your project, keeping existing beat markers aligned:

If you want to replace a video clip in your project after you've synchronized video with beat markers, you can use the "Replace," "Replace from Start," "Replace from End," or "Replace at Playhead" function so that the new clip is the same duration as the one it's replacing. That way, all the subsequent clips in the project stay aligned with the beat markers.

If you use the "Replace" function to replace video that intersects with a beat marker, iMovie replaces the clip in the project with video of an equal length from the Event, starting from the beginning of your selection in the Event Browser.

#### Replacing a video clip in your project

To turn off "Snap to Beats":

Choose View > "Snap to Beats" (make sure the command is deselected in the menu).

When you add a clip to your project that overlaps a beat marker, it no longer shortens or lengthens so that it ends at the beat marker. When you add a beat marker to audio that's already covering video, the video clip doesn't split. And as you drag elements already in your project near beat markers, they no longer snap to alignment with the markers.

When "Snap to Beats" is off, you can still add beat markers and use them to manually align elements to the beat.

To remove a beat marker:

In the Clip Trimmer, drag the beat marker out of the audio clip.

You can also delete all the beat markers from an audio clip at once by holding down the Control key as you click the audio clip in the Clip Trimmer, and then selecting Remove All Beat Markers.

Note: Certain links that this article refers to may not be available in this context; please consult the relevant product Help guide page on your computer for full access to these links.

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