

Preference Manager 2.0.4



User Manual

Preference Manager gives you everything you need to manage your Final Cut Studio preference files. Preference files contain user settings, window positions and other information. Sometimes these can become corrupt, preventing Final Cut Pro from launching or producing unexpected behavior. Preference Manager allows you to trash these which will restore settings to their defaults when the application is relaunched.

Even more useful is the ability to backup and restore preferences, or lock them to prevent unintended modification. You are not limited to just preferences either – Preference Manager allows you to backup and restore keyboard layouts, button bars, window layouts and more, storing them in a single file to ease transition between computers. Now it is incredibly easy to take your custom preferences wherever you go.

Version 2.0.x is a complete redesign that allows you to assign categories to organize your backups and automatically assign preferences on a per-project basis.

What's new in this version (2.0.4)

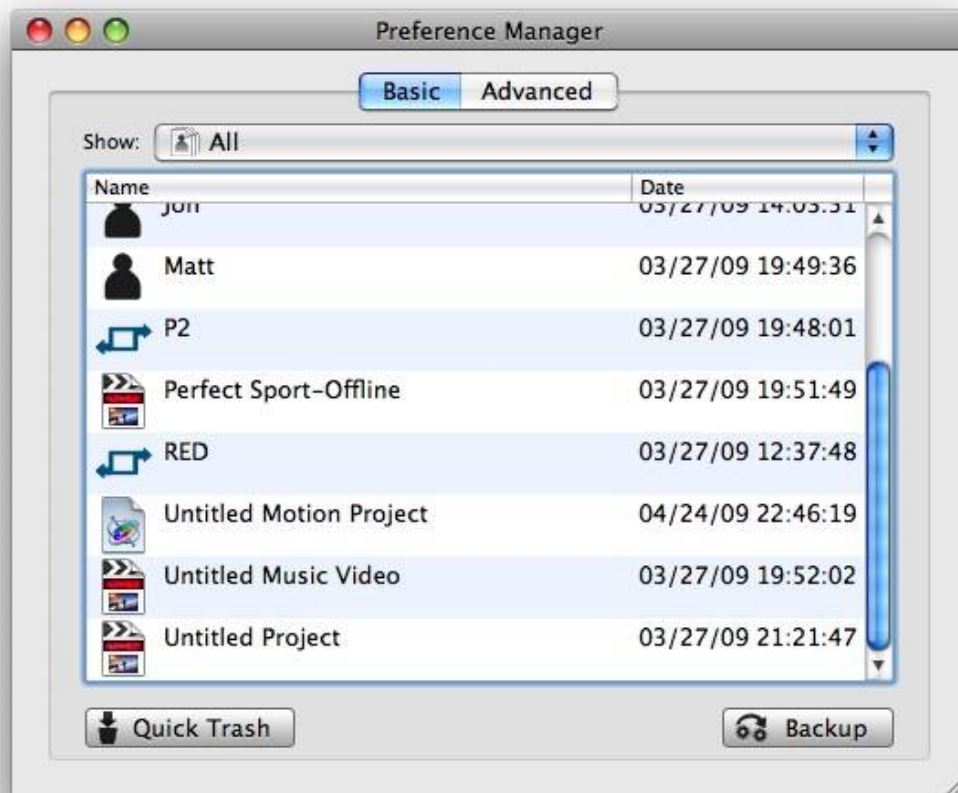
- **Feature:** Final Cut Express support.
- **Improvement:** Snow Leopard compatibility.
- **Improvement:** Improved compatibility with FCS Maintenance Pack.

Quick Start

Trashing All Preferences

1. Launch Preference Manager.
2. Click **Quick Trash**.

Note: this only trashes preferences, not button bars or other files.



Trashing Selected Preferences Only

1. Launch Preference Manager.
2. Click the **Advanced** tab.



3. Select the applications for which you would like to trash preferences.

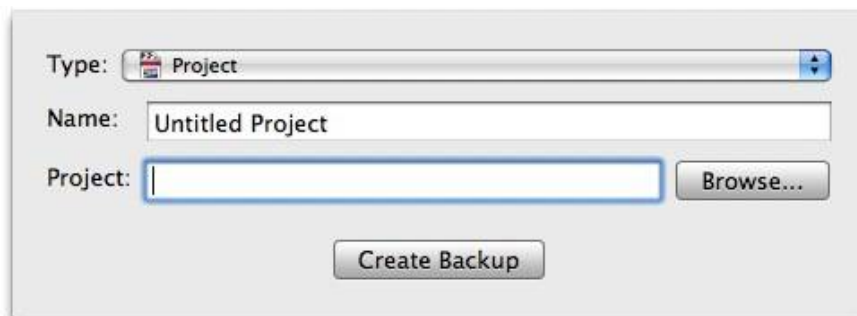
Note: some applications, like Final Cut Pro and Compressor, have additional options such as button bars and custom settings that will also be deleted if you do not deselect them.

4. Click **Trash**.

Backing up All Preferences

When you first launch Preference Manager, it will automatically create a backup of your current preferences under the current username. If you want to create a new backup, follow the steps below.

1. Click **Backup**.
2. In the dialog that appears, select the type of backup.

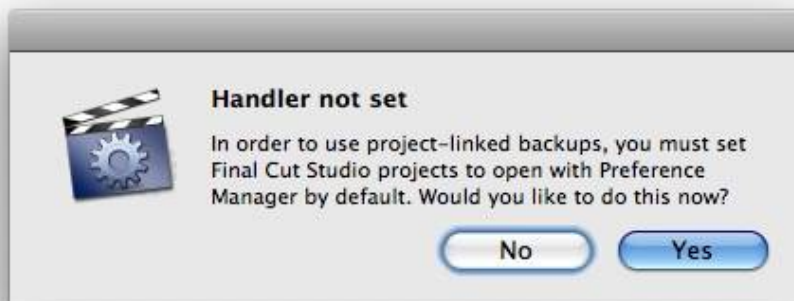


User – a backup of a particular user's favored settings
Project – custom settings for a particular project
Workflow – custom settings for a particular workflow

3. If you selected **Project**, an additional text box will appear allowing you to select a project to link the backup to. This is optional and will automatically load the current backup whenever the project is launched from disk (**note**: this does not function if you open the project within Final Cut Pro).
4. Click **Backup** to create the backup or press **Escape** to cancel.

If you selected Project as the backup type, you may receive the following prompt:

For correct operation of project-linked backups, click **Yes**. For more details, see the [Project Handling](#) section of this manual.



Important: if you previously trashed your preferences, you will need to relaunch your Final Cut Studio applications in order to generate new preference files, otherwise there will be nothing to backup.

Project backup icons

If you choose Project as the backup type and then link the backup to a project file, a linked chain icon will appear underneath the backup icon to indicate it is linked to a project. Hovering the mouse over the icon will reveal the name of the project it is linked to. If the project cannot be found, a broken chain icon will appear.



Unlinked project backup



Linked project backup



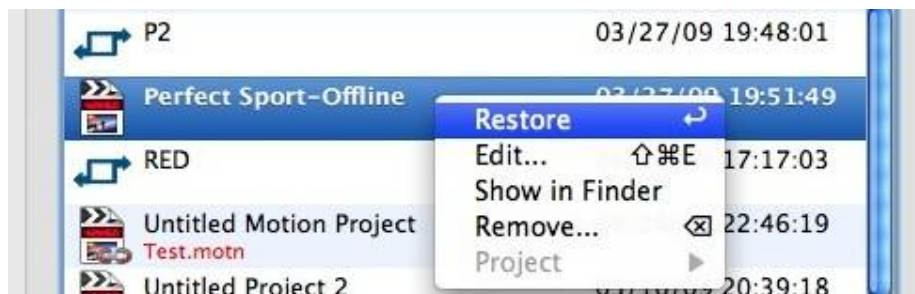
Invalid project backup

Backing up Selected Preferences

1. Click the **Advanced** tab.
2. Select the files you would like to backup.
3. Click **Backup** and follow the steps above in the [Backing up All Preferences](#) section from step 2 onwards.

Restoring Preferences

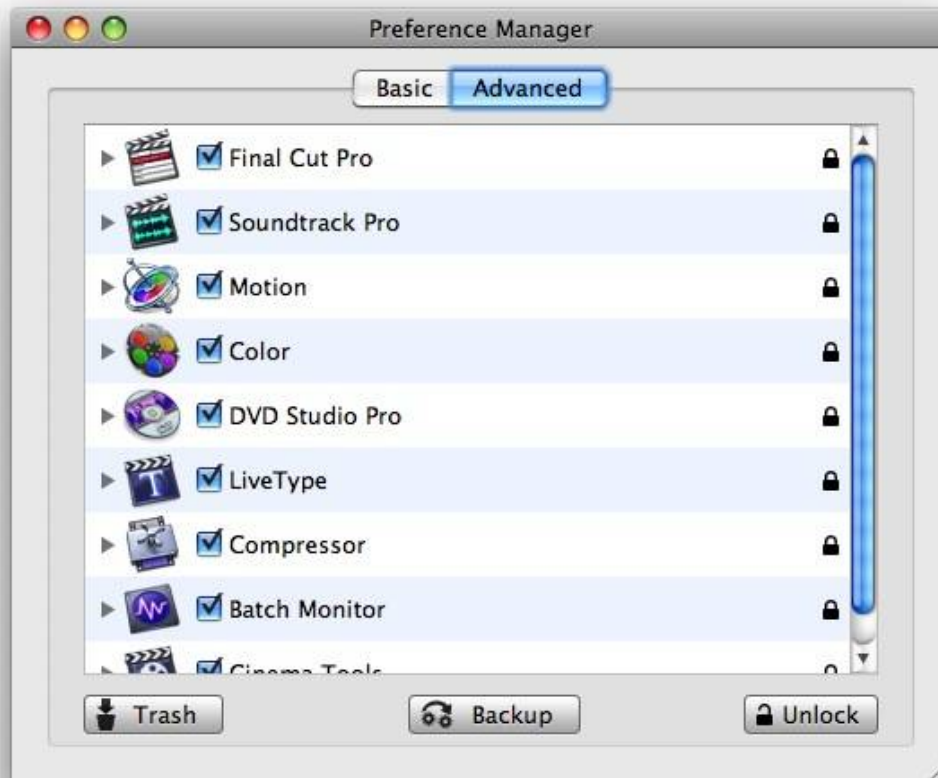
1. You will first need to have backed up your preferences using the steps above.
2. In the **Basic** tab, double-click the backup you would like to restore, or ctrl-click it and select **Restore** from the menu.



Locking Preferences

Locking your preferences is a good way to prevent corruption or modification by the user.

1. Click the **Advanced** tab.

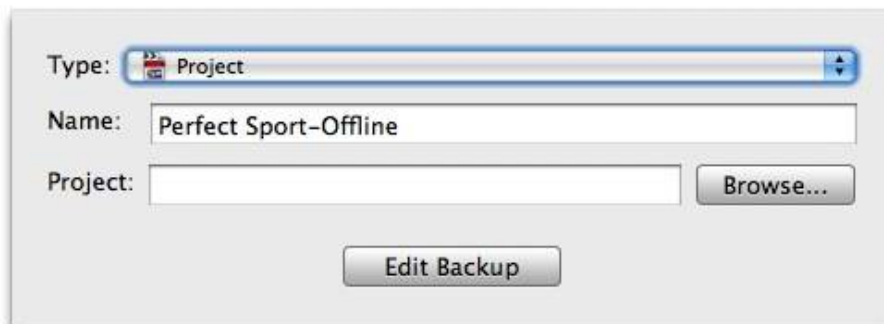
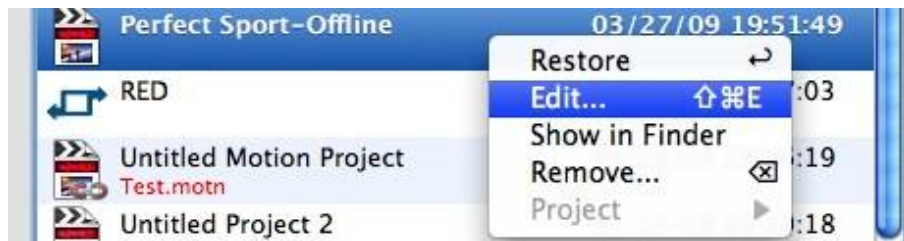


2. Either click the right-hand column next to each item to lock it, or select a group of items and click the **Lock** button.
3. If the lock icon does not appear next to an item, this means that Preference Manager could not find a file to lock. If you previously trashed preferences, you must relaunch the application(s) in question to generate new preference files.

Note: If you trash your preferences, you will need to lock the regenerated files again.

Editing Backups

You can edit backup settings by going to **Edit > Edit Selected Backup** or by ctrl-clicking on a backup and selecting **Edit**. The dialog that pops up is identical in appearance and functionality to the Create Backup dialog.



However, not all editing actions need to be performed in this dialog. You can rename a backup simply by clicking on the name again after it has been selected, just like most OS X applications.

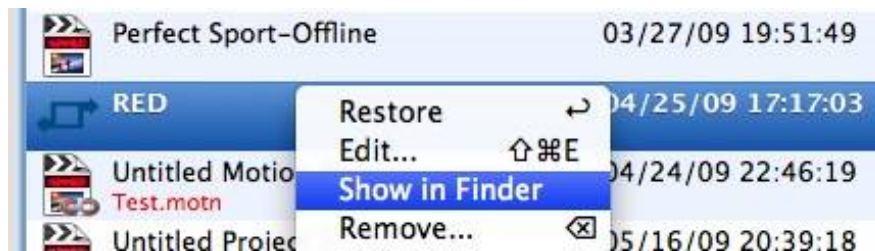
You can also quickly remove a project link by ctrl-clicking a backup and selecting **Project > Remove Link**.



Common Usage Scenarios

Transferring settings from one machine to another

1. Backup your preferences using the steps outlined in [Backing up All Preferences](#) or [Backing up Selected Preferences](#).
2. Ctrl-click on the backup and select **Show in Finder**.



3. A Finder window will appear with the file selected.



4. Transfer this file to the other computer. Possible methods include emailing the file, sending it via FTP, transferring it across a network, putting it on a CD or placing it on a USB thumb drive.
5. Install Preference Manager on the destination computer and double-click the .pmb2 file to open it in Preference Manager.



6. Click **Yes** to restore the backup.

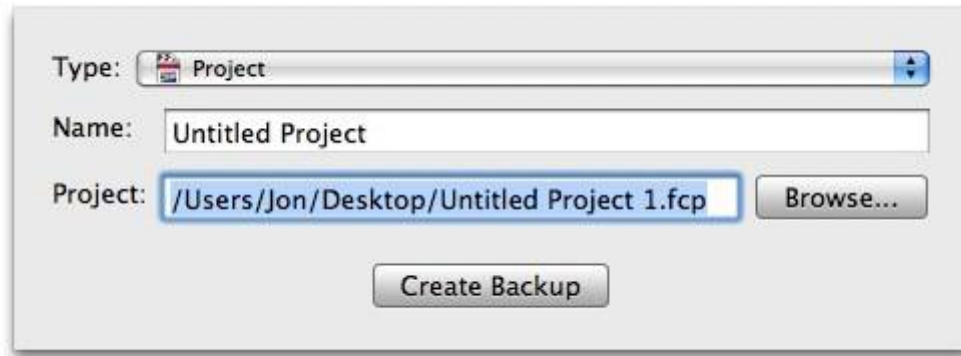
Assigning FCP scratch disk settings to a particular project

1. Click the **Advanced** tab and uncheck Select All to deselect all the items in the list.
2. Click the disclosure triangle next to Final Cut Pro and select Preferences.

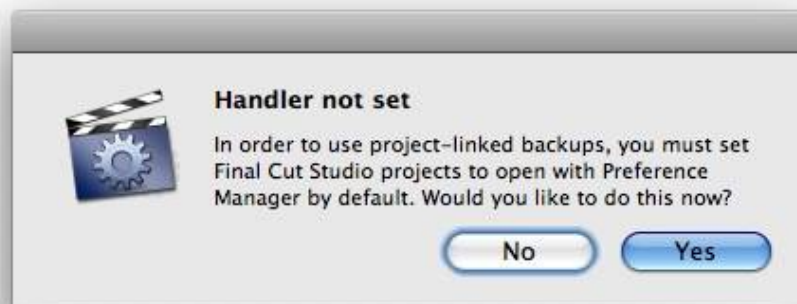


3. Click **Backup**.

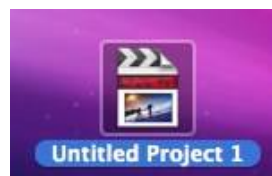
4. Select **Project**, type a relevant name in the Name field and click the **Browse** button to select the project in question.



5. Click **Backup**. If a prompt appears asking you to assign Preference Manager as the project handler for all Final Cut Studio projects, click **Yes**. For more details about this, see [Project Handling](#).



6. Double-click on the project file to open it. This will restore the backup and then launch Final Cut Pro automatically. This will not work if you drag the project into Final Cut or open it using the File > Open command.



7. To launch a different project, double-click the project file. Preference Manager will attempt to close Final Cut Pro, restore the backup and relaunch it again with the new project.

Preventing users from changing settings

1. Click on the **Advanced** tab.
2. With all of the items selected, click the **Lock** button.
3. Remove Preference Manager from the hard drive or use OS X's Parental Controls to limit access to it to prevent users unlocking these items.

Troubleshooting Final Cut Studio issues

1. Click **Quick Trash** to remove all prior preferences.
2. Open the relevant Final Cut Studio applications and set the user preferences to your liking.
3. Click **Backup** to create a new backup.
4. When your Final Cut Studio applications experience problems, just restore the backup instead of trashing preferences.

Importing old backups

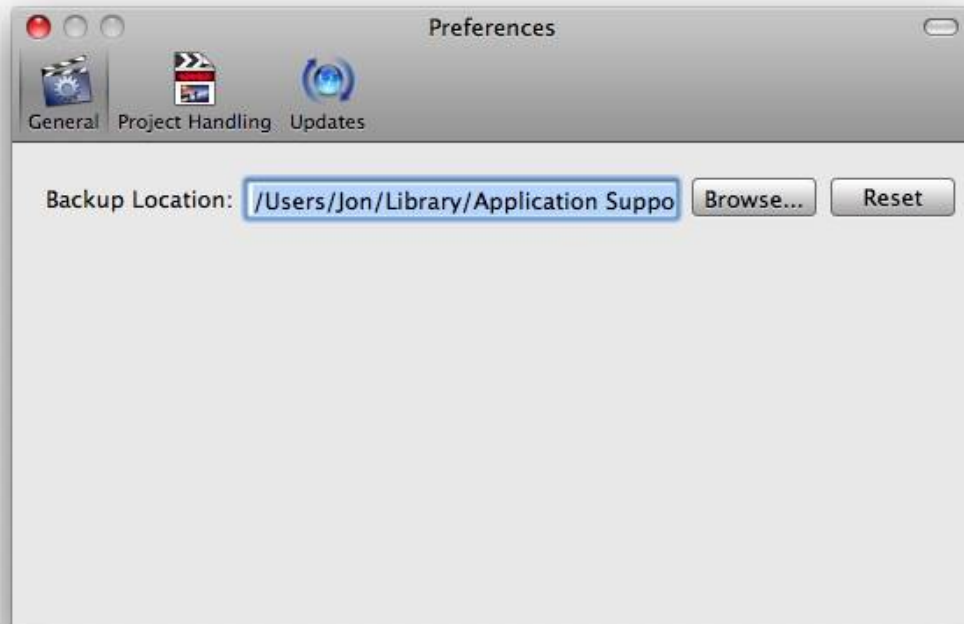
If you have .pmb backups from an older version of Preference Manager, you will need to convert them to .pmb2 files in order to use them with the latest version.

When Preference Manager starts up, it checks for .pmb files in your backup directory and automatically converts them to the newer format. However, if you wish to manually import (and restore) a .pmb backup, go to **File > Open Backup**.

Go to **File > Import Backup** if you wish to import and convert the backup without automatically restoring it.

Preference Manager Settings

General



Here you can change the location where backups are stored. Change this if you would like to store backups on an external drive or would like them available to all users (by default users can only see backups they created).

Click **Reset** to restore the default backup location.

Project Handling



In order for project-linked backups to work, Preference Manager must be set as the default handler for all Final Cut Studio projects (Final Cut Pro projects, Motion projects, Soundtrack Pro Multitrack projects, etc). This will cause these projects to open with Preference Manager instead of the relevant Final Cut Studio application. Preference Manager then launches in the background, restores the backup, launches the relevant application and quits. This is invisible to users and does not introduce a noticeable delay.

This functionality has many useful purposes, however it is acknowledged that users may not want this functionality switched on without their knowledge or permission so it is switched off by default.

You can switch this on either by creating a project-linked backup and clicking Yes when Preference Manager asks if you would like to enable this functionality, or by clicking the **Assign to Preference Manager** button in the Project Handling tab of the Preferences dialog.

It is very easy in this dialog to see the current status and switch it between Preference Manager and the default Final Cut Studio applications.



Remember to switch this off if you decide to uninstall Preference Manager. If you forget to do this before uninstalling, you can just ctrl-click on a Final Cut Studio project and select **Get Info**. In the dialog that appears, select the relevant Final Cut Studio application in the Open With section and click **Change All**.



Updates



This allows you to check for updates at startup. If you switch this off, you can still check for updates by going to **Preference Manager > Check for Updates**.

Alternatively you can subscribe to our appcast feed here:
<http://www.digitalrebellion.com/appcast.xml>

Keyboard Shortcuts

Trash - ⌘ + T

Backup - ⌘ + B

Restore – Enter

Open Backup - ⌘ + O

Import Backup - ⌘ + I

Edit Backup - ⌘ + ⌥ + E

Remove Backup – Delete

Support

Email support can be accessed directly within Preference Manager.

- To report a bug or any other issue, go to **Help > Report a Bug**.
- To request a new feature, go to **Help > Suggest a Feature**.