

# Recording In The Studio

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# Live Shows

## Pre-Recording Stage

### 1. Planning and Scripting:

- **Outline the Show:** Plan the flow of the show, including segments, transitions, and key moments. Create a detailed script or run-down sheet.
- **Technical Rehearsal:** Conduct a full rehearsal to check timings, transitions, and ensure everyone knows their cues.

### 2. Equipment Setup:

- **Audio:** Ensure microphones are tested for sound quality, and any backup recording devices are set up. Test levels and reduce background noise.
- **Video:** Set up cameras and check angles, focus, and framing. Consider the lighting conditions and adjust accordingly.
- **Streaming/Recording Software:** Configure OBS or other recording software. Set up scenes, transitions, and sources. Test all settings.
- **Network Check:** For live streaming, ensure a stable and robust internet connection. Consider using a wired connection instead of Wi-Fi.
- **Backup Plan:** Always have a backup plan for technical failures. This includes backup recordings, extra cables, and alternative streaming options.

### 3. Environment Preparation:

- **Location Scouting:** Ensure the recording environment is quiet, well-lit, and free of distractions.
- **Set Design:** Arrange the set, including backgrounds, props, and lighting. Ensure that the space reflects the theme of the show.
- **Test Recording:** Do a short test recording to check all settings, including audio, video, and lighting. Make adjustments as needed.

### 4. Team Coordination:

- **Roles and Responsibilities:** Clearly assign roles to your team members, including director, audio engineer, camera operators, and producer.
- **Communication:** Set up a communication channel (e.g., intercom system, walkie-talkies) for real-time coordination during the live show.
- **Briefing:** Conduct a final briefing with the team to review the show's flow, technical setup, and emergency procedures.

## Recording Stage

### 1. Go Live:

- **Countdown:** Start with a countdown to synchronize the team and signal the beginning of the recording or stream.

- **Monitor Performance:** Continuously monitor audio levels, video feeds, and streaming quality. Make real-time adjustments as needed.
  - **Engage the Audience:** If live streaming, interact with your audience through chat, polls, or Q&A sessions to keep them engaged.
2. **Content Capture:**
    - **Redundancy Recording:** Use multiple recording devices or software to ensure that you have backup recordings in case of failure.
    - **Audio Monitoring:** Keep an eye on audio levels to avoid clipping or distortion. Use noise gates or compressors if needed.
    - **Camera Control:** Ensure smooth camera transitions, avoiding sudden movements or jerky footage. Use multi-camera setups for dynamic angles.
  3. **Live Directing:**
    - **Scene Management:** Switch between scenes and sources smoothly, following the script or run-down.
    - **Real-Time Problem Solving:** Address any technical issues immediately. Have backup equipment ready if needed.
  4. **Backup Procedures:**
    - **Save Frequently:** If recording locally, save your work periodically to avoid losing any data.
    - **Monitor Stream Health:** For live streams, monitor the stream's health on the platform to catch any issues early.

## Post-Recording Stage

1. **File Management:**
  - **Backup Footage:** Immediately back up all recordings to multiple locations, such as external hard drives and cloud storage.
  - **Organize Files:** Name and organize files systematically, separating raw footage, audio, and any other assets.
2. **Editing:**
  - **Initial Review:** Watch the entire recording to note any issues or points of interest that may require editing.
  - **Video Editing:** Use professional video editing software (e.g., Adobe Premiere, Final Cut Pro) to trim, cut, and adjust the footage. Add titles, lower thirds, and other graphics as needed.
  - **Audio Editing:** Clean up audio by removing background noise, equalizing levels, and syncing audio with video.
  - **Color Correction:** Apply color correction to ensure consistent and professional-looking visuals.
  - **Final Review:** Conduct a thorough review of the edited video to catch any errors or inconsistencies.
3. **Post-Production:**
  - **Add Effects and Graphics:** Insert any additional effects, animations, or branding elements.

- **Render and Export:** Render the final video in the appropriate format for its intended use (e.g., YouTube, social media, or broadcast).
- **Quality Check:** Perform a quality check on the exported video to ensure there are no issues such as glitches or encoding errors.

#### 4. **Distribution:**

- **Upload:** Upload the final video to the desired platforms, ensuring all metadata (titles, descriptions, tags) is optimized for search.
- **Promotion:** Create promotional materials such as teasers, thumbnails, and social media posts to drive engagement.
- **Archiving:** Store all final versions and project files in an organized archive for future reference or repurposing.

#### 5. **Post-Event Review:**

- **Debrief:** Conduct a team debrief to discuss what went well and what could be improved for future recordings.
- **Audience Feedback:** Collect feedback from the audience or stakeholders to assess the show's success and areas for improvement.
- **Update Workflow:** Make any necessary updates to your workflow based on the debrief and feedback.

# Detailed Editing

## Pre-Editing Stage

### 1. Project Planning:

- **Define Objectives:** Clearly define the goals and purpose of the project. Understand the target audience and the message you want to convey.
- **Storyboard and Script:** Develop a detailed storyboard and script that outlines the flow of the content, including key scenes, dialogue, and visual effects.
- **Asset Collection:** Gather all necessary assets, including raw footage, audio, graphics, and any additional media required for the project.

### 2. Technical Preparation:

- **Hardware Check:** Ensure that your editing workstation is optimized for performance. Check storage capacity, RAM, and GPU performance to handle large files and complex edits.
- **Software Setup:** Install and update all necessary software (e.g., Adobe Premiere Pro, DaVinci Resolve, After Effects). Configure project settings according to the final output requirements (e.g., resolution, frame rate).
- **Backup Plan:** Establish a backup system to automatically save your work and create copies of all raw materials on multiple storage devices.

### 3. Organizing Materials:

- **Folder Structure:** Set up a clear folder structure to organize assets, such as video clips, audio files, graphics, project files, and exports.
- **File Naming Conventions:** Use consistent and descriptive naming conventions for all files to make them easily identifiable during the editing process.
- **Initial Review:** Watch and listen to all raw footage and audio to become familiar with the material. Take notes on key moments, best takes, and any issues that may need addressing.

## Editing Stage

### 1. Initial Assembly:

- **Rough Cut:** Begin with a rough cut by assembling the main elements of the project in the timeline. Focus on the overall structure and flow, without worrying about fine details.
- **Sync Audio:** Sync all audio with video, ensuring that dialogue and sound effects match the visuals.
- **Placeholder Graphics:** Insert placeholder graphics, titles, and effects where necessary to maintain the flow of the edit.

### 2. Detailed Editing:

- **Scene Refinement:** Go through each scene or segment carefully, trimming unnecessary footage and tightening edits to enhance the pacing.
  - **Multicam Editing:** If using multiple camera angles, carefully switch between them to maintain visual interest and coherence.
  - **Transitions and Effects:** Add transitions, visual effects, and motion graphics where appropriate. Ensure they enhance the story without overpowering the content.
  - **Color Correction:** Perform color correction to balance exposure, contrast, and white balance across all clips. Apply color grading to achieve the desired mood and aesthetic.
  - **Sound Design:** Enhance the audio by cleaning up noise, equalizing levels, and adding sound effects or background music. Ensure that dialogue is clear and consistent throughout.
  - **Titles and Graphics:** Design and integrate titles, lower thirds, and other on-screen text. Ensure that the typography and style are consistent with the project's theme.
3. **Complex Compositing (If Needed):**
- **Visual Effects:** For projects requiring advanced VFX, composite elements in After Effects or similar software. This could include green screen work, CGI, or advanced transitions.
  - **Keyframing:** Use keyframing to animate elements such as text, images, or video clips, ensuring smooth and precise motion.
  - **3D Elements:** If incorporating 3D graphics, render them carefully and integrate them seamlessly into the project.

## Post-Editing Stage

1. **Final Review and Adjustments:**
- **Full Project Review:** Watch the entire project from start to finish, taking notes on any final adjustments needed, such as timing tweaks, effect modifications, or audio levels.
  - **Client/Stakeholder Review:** If applicable, share a draft version with clients or stakeholders for feedback. Make necessary revisions based on their input.
  - **Consistency Check:** Ensure that the project maintains a consistent tone, style, and quality throughout.
2. **Rendering and Exporting:**
- **Export Settings:** Choose the appropriate export settings based on the intended use of the project (e.g., online video, broadcast, cinema). Pay attention to resolution, bitrate, and file format.
  - **Render Test:** Render a short segment to check for any issues such as glitches, artifacts, or synchronization errors.
  - **Final Export:** Render the full project. If the project is large or complex, consider exporting in sections and then combining them.
3. **Quality Assurance:**
- **Final Viewing:** Watch the exported video on different devices and platforms to ensure it looks and sounds as intended. Check for any discrepancies in color, sound,

or resolution.

- **Error Correction:** If any issues are found during the final viewing, return to the editing stage to correct them, and re-export as needed.
- **Backup Final Project:** Save the final version in multiple locations, including cloud storage, external drives, and project archives.

#### 4. **Distribution:**

- **Platform-Specific Optimization:** Optimize the video for each platform where it will be distributed (e.g., YouTube, Vimeo, social media), ensuring the best quality and performance.
- **Metadata and SEO:** Add appropriate metadata, tags, descriptions, and thumbnails to the video to enhance visibility and searchability.
- **Promotion and Launch:** Plan and execute a promotion strategy, including social media teasers, email campaigns, and collaboration with influencers or partners.

#### 5. **Archiving and Documentation:**

- **Project Archive:** Archive the entire project, including all raw materials, project files, and final exports, in an organized manner for future reference or edits.
- **Process Documentation:** Document the editing process, including any challenges faced and how they were resolved. This can be useful for future projects or team training.

#### 6. **Post-Mortem and Learning:**

- **Team Debrief:** Hold a post-mortem meeting with the team to discuss what went well, what could be improved, and lessons learned for future projects.
- **Feedback Analysis:** Review feedback from clients, stakeholders, and the audience to gauge the project's success and areas for improvement.
- **Continuous Improvement:** Use insights from the project to refine your workflow, adopt new techniques, or upgrade tools and software. .

# Clipped Segments

## Pre-Stream Setup

### 1. Content Planning:

- **Identify Key Moments:** Before the stream, think about the types of moments that would make great clips. These could include intense gameplay, funny interactions, high-stakes moments, or insightful commentary.
- **Create a Stream Agenda:** Outline the segments or activities planned for the stream where clip-worthy moments are likely to happen. Share this agenda with any moderators or team members.

### 2. Technical Setup:

- **Scene Management:** Set up different scenes in OBS with appropriate transitions. For example, you can have a “highlight” scene with zoom effects or overlays that make clip-worthy moments stand out.
- **Stream Deck/Hotkeys:**
  - **Clip Marking Hotkey:** Set up a hotkey or use a Stream Deck button to quickly mark moments during the stream that you think could become clips. This timestamping will make finding the moments easier during post-stream editing.
  - **Instant Replay Feature:** Configure an instant replay feature in OBS to save the last 30-60 seconds of footage with a single button press.

### 3. Communication with Moderators/Editors:

- **Assign Roles:** If you have moderators or an editing team, assign someone the role of monitoring the stream for clip-worthy moments. They can use commands or tools to mark these moments in real-time.
- **Use of Clip Tools:** Encourage moderators and viewers to use the platform’s built-in clip function (e.g., Twitch's "Clip" feature) to capture moments as they happen. This also serves as a backup to your local recordings.
- **Chat Commands for Clips:** Set up custom chat commands (like !clip) that viewers can use to notify you or the mods about potential clip-worthy moments.

### 4. Viewer Interaction:

- **Clip Challenges or Highlights:** Consider setting up challenges or specific segments where viewers can anticipate clip-worthy moments. Engaging the audience this way can lead to a higher volume of good clips.
- **Real-Time Feedback:** Encourage viewers to mention in chat when something was particularly entertaining or noteworthy. This real-time feedback can help identify moments to clip.

## During the Stream



## 1. Highlighting Clip-Worthy Moments:

- **Emphasize Reactions:** Be mindful of your reactions to in-game moments or interactions. A strong, clear reaction (whether it's excitement, shock, or humor) makes a clip more engaging.
- **Narrate Key Moments:** Verbally highlight moments that are important, funny, or interesting. This helps signal to both viewers and editors that this is a moment worth clipping.
- **Use On-Screen Overlays:** Utilize on-screen graphics or overlays to draw attention to moments that could become clips. For example, a "Clip That!" overlay could flash when something clip-worthy happens.

## 2. Real-Time Clip Marking:

- **Use Hotkeys:** Press your clip-marking hotkey whenever you feel a moment could be a good clip. This will help you easily find these moments during post-stream editing.
- **Monitor Viewer Clips:** Keep an eye on clips created by viewers during the stream. Sometimes they catch moments you might miss. Engage with them by acknowledging the clips in real-time.

## 3. Stay Clip-Conscious:

- **Mind the Replay Buffer:** If using OBS's instant replay feature, remember that pressing the replay button will save the last 30-60 seconds. Use this for unexpected but great moments.
- **Engage with the Audience:** Encourage viewers to keep clipping and sharing their favorite moments. This creates a more interactive stream and provides more content for post-stream editing.

# Post-Stream Clip Extraction

## 1. Clip Review and Selection:

- **Review Marked Moments:** After the stream, go through the timestamps you marked during the stream. These are your primary candidates for clips.
- **Viewer Clips:** Review clips created by viewers on the streaming platform. Sometimes these user-generated clips capture moments you didn't mark.
- **Quick Scan:** Skim through the stream recording, focusing on segments where you know something significant happened. This can help you catch additional moments that may have been overlooked.

## 2. Editing the Clips:

- **Trim and Polish:** Use video editing software to trim the clips to just the essential moments. Remove any unnecessary lead-in or lead-out footage.
- **Add Enhancements:** Consider adding subtitles, zoom effects, or overlays to make the clip more engaging. A short intro or outro can also help contextualize the clip.
- **Consistent Branding:** Add branding elements such as your logo, stream handle, or a custom clip frame to ensure consistency across all your clips.

## 3. Export and Format:

- **Optimal Settings:** Export the clips in the appropriate format for the platform where you'll be sharing them (e.g., 1080p MP4 for YouTube or TikTok). Consider aspect ratio changes for different platforms (16:9 for YouTube, 9:16 for TikTok).

- **Metadata:** Write compelling titles, descriptions, and tags for each clip to improve discoverability. Include relevant keywords and hashtags.

#### 4. **Distribution and Promotion:**

- **Platform-Specific Upload:** Upload the clips to various platforms, including YouTube, Twitch, Instagram, and TikTok. Tailor each clip's format and presentation to the platform's audience.
- **Social Media Sharing:** Share the clips across your social media channels, tagging relevant parties, and using trending hashtags to maximize reach.
- **Clip Compilation:** Consider compiling the best clips from a stream or a series of streams into a highlights video. This can be uploaded as a separate video on platforms like YouTube.

#### 5. **Community Engagement:**

- **Clip Contests:** Engage your community by holding clip contests where viewers vote on the best clip from a stream. This can increase engagement and provide feedback on what content resonates most.
- **Feedback Loop:** Ask your community for feedback on the clips you produce. This can help refine what moments you focus on in future streams.