

Reviews



Elasty HD 2.0β

by L. Davenport

If you are a professional or an avid amateur film maker, you probably own high-end editing software like Apple's Final Cut Studio. But if you are a hobbyist who makes the occasional movie, you probably don't want to spend the big bucks for editing or special effects software. Now with iMovie and the Elasty HD software you can have the next best thing for a reasonable price.

What is Elasty HD? It is a program that lets you manipulate your movie in quite a few different ways:

Stabilize: Many of us have experienced the dreaded shaky movie which often happens when you are filming from a bumpy moving vehicle or if your hand is shaking. Elasty HD removes the shaking to give you a steady video.

Cropping: Occasionally you notice that there is something that you want cropped out or something that you want to zero in on - eliminating the un-needed extra video. When you click on the Crop button, four white dots appear. Click and drag on these to crop your movie.

Retiming: Have you ever filmed something that was moving by so fast that it was hard to really see it? Conversely, have you had scenes that just dragged by? Then Elasty HD's Retiming feature is just what you need. It will let you speed up or slow down your video and audio. The Speed Editor window has a horizontal timeline that represents the normal speed of the movie. After adding "Keys" to the timeline you can drag the whole timeline or just parts of the timeline up (to increase the speed) or down (to reduce the speed). It is very simple to do.

Rotate: Currently I can't think of a need for a rotate feature, but if you need to rotate or flip your video (horizontally or vertically). - Elasty HD can accommodate you.

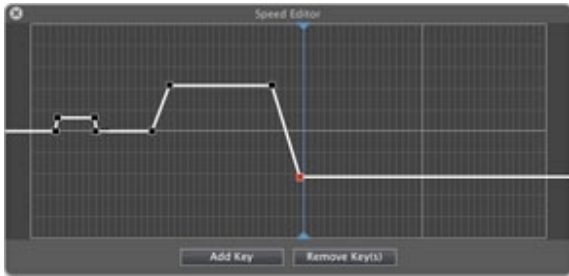
Special Effects: Elasty HD comes with eleven Special Effects that you can apply to your movie:

- Blur
- Color Effects (Thermal Vision, X-Ray, Monochrome, Posterize, Hue Adjust, False Color)
- Distortion (Bump, Circle Splash, Glass, Hole, Pinch, Twirl, Vortex)
- Halftone Effects (Color Pattern, Dot Screen, Line Screen, Circular Screen)
- Beating Heart (4 different shapes)
- Image (JPG, PNG, TIFF, PSD, PDF and most other file formats)
- Lens Flare
- Light Streak
- QuickTime™ Movie
- Particles Stylize Effects (Bloom, Crystallize, Edge Work, Edges, Gloom, Height Field, Pixellate)



Top Image: The Preview window showing a lens flare being applied. **Bottom left:** The Effects Library window. **Bottom right:** The Effects info window showing that the Blur effect is applied to the first probe.

Motion Tracking: Applying the effects is a two step process: you start by placing a Probe on the object or person that you want modified. When you preview your movie, this probe will track or follow the object. I placed a probe on the nose of a speaking man. The probe (represented by a small pink box), stayed on his nose as he bobbed and weaved his head around. If he made a sudden move that caused the probe to loose track of his nose, I simply repositioned the probe on his nose, hit the Track button and it adhered to his nose once again.



The Speed Editor lets you change the speed of all or part of your movie.

successfully add these effects.

Input:

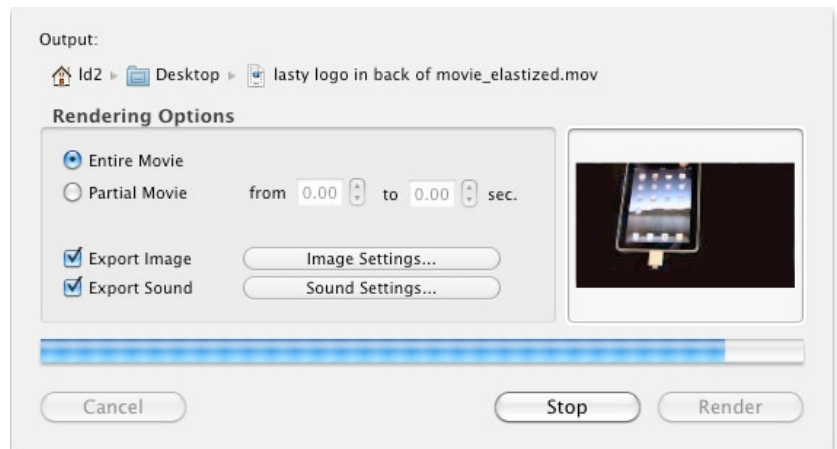
- QuickTime movies, MPEG1-2-4, AVI, DV stream or images from the iSight.

Output:

- QuickTime movies - export either part or all of the movie - with or without the sound.
- A separate sound file.

After the probe was set, I needed to attach an effect. I decided to pretend he was a secret informer and used the Blur effect to obscure his face. When I previewed the movie, the Blur square remained over his face as he moved his head all around.

Once I successfully set the first probe, I decided to set three more. I added a image, a beating heart and a particle effect. It took some trial and error, but I was able to



You can render/export your entire or partial movie, movie with sound or sound alone.

The Skinny

Evaluation: The Special effects and Retiming features worked well, but I wasn't too pleased with the stabilization feature. It made black bars surrounding the image that required cropping of the movie to remove them. Though it is a minor thing, I took exception to the manual. It seemed like it was more of a quick start guide rather than a full manual. I was only able to figure out how to do some of the things from watching the tutorial videos on Creaced's web site. But once I understood how to use the program, I was satisfied with it.

Wish list for future updates: Elasty HD will not let you place the probes under the play/preview controls. I would like an option to temporarily remove these controls or be able to place them below the preview window rather than taking up the bottom fourth of the preview window.

Requires: Snow Leopard, any Intel Mac with a minimum of 64MB of VRAM (128MB of VRAM is recommended)

Company: [Creaced](#)

Street Price: \$39.95 (for the current Beta version) \$59.95 (for the final version - soon to be released)