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Preparing Your Project

Rather than having you import clips again, this lesson's project has been partially prepared for you. But because iMovie doesn't give you the option to Save or Open a project (your work is saved automatically, and projects are always available to you in the project browser), bringing in the pre-prepared iMovie project means copying the Events and project files onto your hard disk from the included DVD in a way that makes them visible to iMovie.

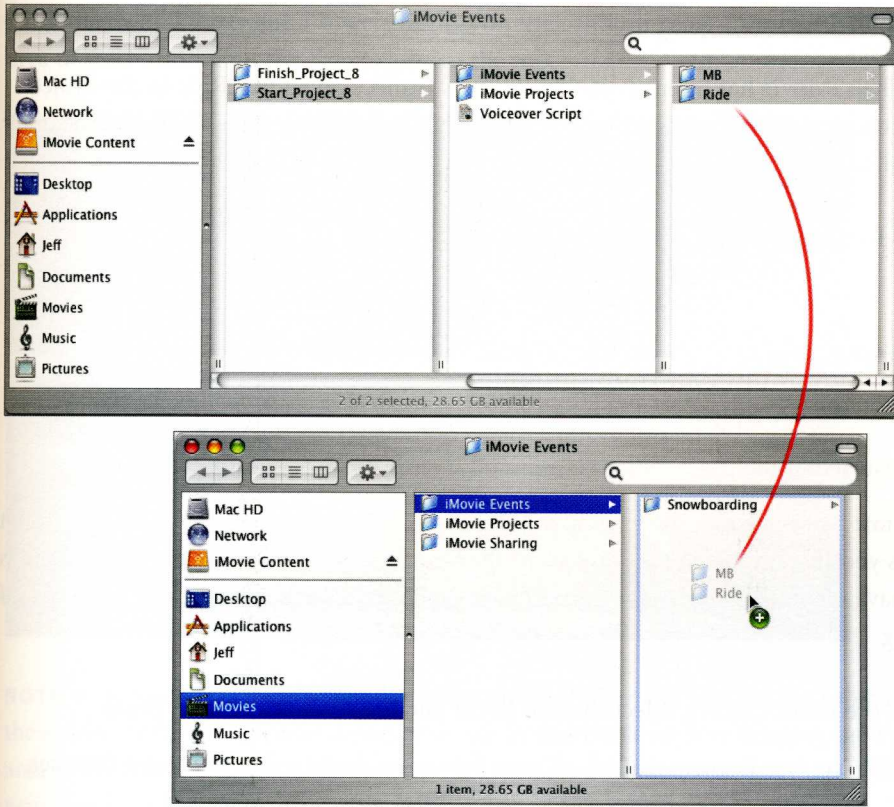
So let's go behind the scenes, and discover how to move a full iMovie project, as you prepare the files for this lesson.

- 1 Close iMovie.
- 2 Open a new Finder window, and select the column-view layout.



- 3 Press Command-N to open a second Finder window, and position them one above the other on your screen, resizing the Finder windows if necessary.
- 4 In the top Finder window, navigate to the **Lessons > Lesson08 > Start_project_8 > iMovie Events** folder. You'll find it on the DVD or on the hard drive if you moved everything over earlier. Inside, you'll see two folders: **MB** and **Ride**. In the bottom Folder window, navigate to the **User > Movies > iMovie Events** folder. Holding down the Option key, drag *both* folders from the top Finder window into the folder in the bottom Finder window.

NOTE ► If you're copying the files directly from the DVD, don't hold down the Option key.



This will make copies of the prepared Events where iMovie can see them.

TIP iMovie recognizes the iMovie Events folder on any FireWire-enabled hard drive. To save space on your hard drive, you can create an iMovie Events folder on your FireWire drive, and copy the files there.

- From the top Finder window, navigate to the **Lessons > Lesson08 > Start_project_8 > iMovie Projects** folder. Inside, find the **BikeRide** file, and Option-drag it to the **User > Movies > iMovie Projects** folder in the bottom Finder window.



- 6 Open iMovie.
- 7 When iMovie has opened, you'll see a new project called BikeRide in the Project browser, and two new Events in your Event Library—one called MB and the other called Ride.

You're now ready to get started on the project.

Organizing Your Workspace

When you're working with a lot of footage, taking the time to organize your material before you start editing is essential. It enables you to locate clips when you need them, and ensure that the perfect shot isn't forgotten.

Let's start by organizing the workspace. Because you'll only be using the footage from the Events you just imported (and not from the Snowboarding Event or any other Event you may have on your hard drive), you can hide the Event Library to give you more space for editing.

- 1 In the Event Library, select the MB Event and Shift-select the Ride Event.

With the two Events selected, all your footage is displayed in the Event Browser.



- 2 Click the Show or Hide Events button at the bottom left of the Event Library to hide the Event Library.



Because this project will be considerably larger than the SnowTrip movie you made in Lesson 5, you'll need to give yourself a bigger Project area, too. You'll do this by swapping the Project and Events areas of the interface to give more space to the Project area.

- 3 Click the Swap Events and Projects button on the center toolbar to move the Project area to the bottom and the Events area to the top.



NOTE ► Although iMovie's default setting places the Project area on the top half of the screen, during the video editing exercises in this book we'll be keeping the Project area at the bottom of the screen because it gives us additional space to build a more complex project.

Finally, you'll need to maximize space for your Project area by closing the Project Library, the same way you closed the Event Library.

- 4 In the Project Library, select the BikeRide project, and click the Show or Hide Projects button.



- 5 To further avoid confusion, set the zoom sliders of both the Project Browser and the Event Browser to 10s, so you'll see the same thumbnails as presented on the screenshots in this lesson.

Skimming Your Video to Select Shots You Want

Once your footage is in iMovie, the first step is to watch it. You'll want to watch yours several times to familiarize yourself with the shots you have. As you look through the material, always be on the lookout for story—what's happening here, where is it happening, to whom is it happening, and why?

The basic structure of all stories is "Beginning, Middle, End." In the beginning, we meet the characters and set up the situation. In the middle, we watch the characters acting on their situation. And in the end, the situation is resolved.

As you watch the material, think about how you can shape the interview footage into a story. Look for a natural story within the Tour de Cure bike ride footage. Is there a natural beginning, middle and end? Is there an order that might help you convince a potential sponsor to give Michael a donation? Even though your editing will be directed in this exercise, think about the editing choices made in the exercise and how you might craft the story differently once you know how to use the iMovie tools.

Selecting Your Favorites

As you familiarize yourself with your footage, you can mark Favorites, reject footage you know you'll never use, and organize clips with Keywords. You'll start by marking Favorites.

- 1 Select the clip of the cyclist wearing a US Postal Service jersey.



- 2 Click the star button to mark your selection as a Favorite.



Whenever you mark a clip as a Favorite, a green line appears at the top of the clip.



