

Winthrop University – Compressing Your Video Using Handbrake

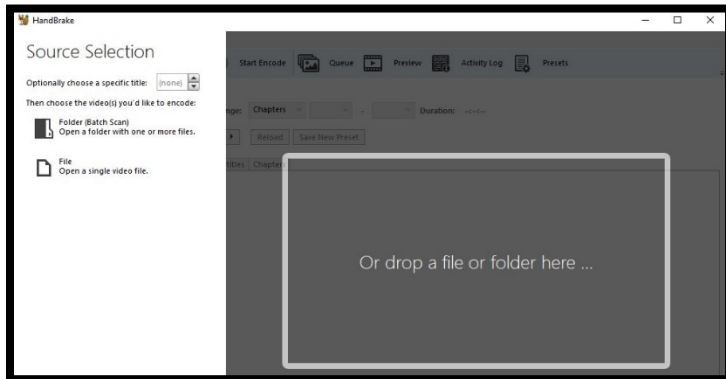
Compressing Files

File compression is used to reduce the file size of one or more files. Usually the file is reduced by at least 25%.

Choosing a Compression Program

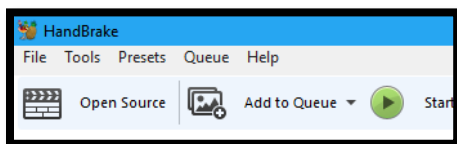
edTPA and LiveText recommend using Handbrake to compress video files. HandBrake is available for both the PC and the Mac. HandBrake can be downloaded at <https://handbrake.fr/downloads.php>. To install this program, you will need to download to your computer, then walk through the basic installation options. HandBrake is a free program, so there is no need to purchase additional items if you are asked to during the install process.

Adding your video file to be compressed



When opening HandBrake you may be directed to make a source selection, where you can add your video. Drag your file in the middle of the window or choose File to browse to the location of your file.

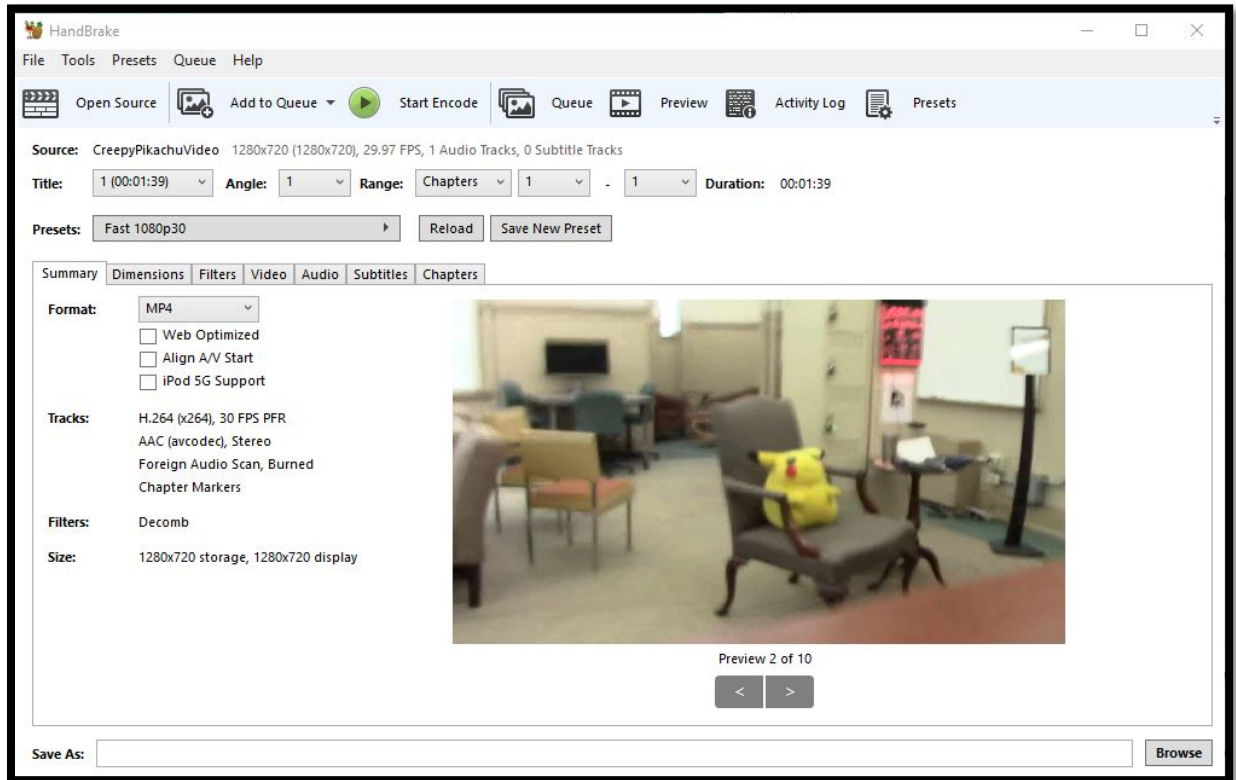
At the bottom of the window, you will see that HandBrake is importing the file.



If you are not prompted to import your video upon launching the program, then once you open HandBrake, click the Open Source button in the upper left corner of the window. In the Source Selection window, click File to browse to the location of your file.

Note: This screen may appear differently on Macbooks.

HandBrake Main Screen



Choose Where to Save Your Video and Name the Video

To compress your video, there are a few settings that need to be changed.

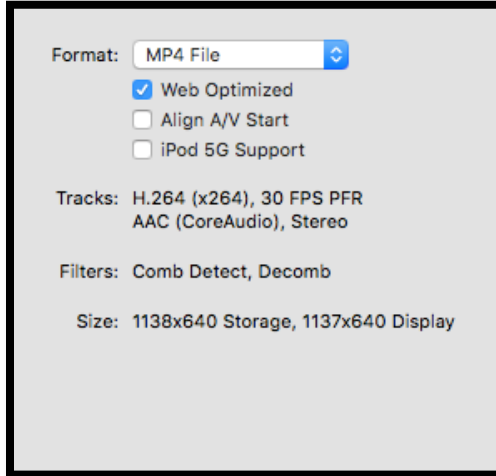
At the bottom of the window there is a Save As option. Click the Browse button to choose the location and name for your file when it is exported. Then click Save.



Note: This option will appear slightly different on Macbooks. In the Save As box, a name option for the file will already be created as shown below. The name can be changed but do not change the .mp4 file type at the end. Click browse to choose the location where you would like to save the file.

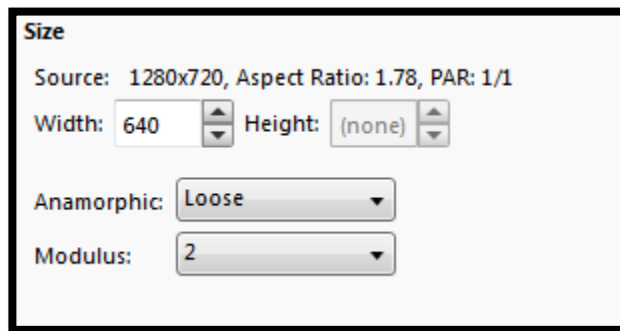


Change the File Format and Video Size



Click on the Summary tab.

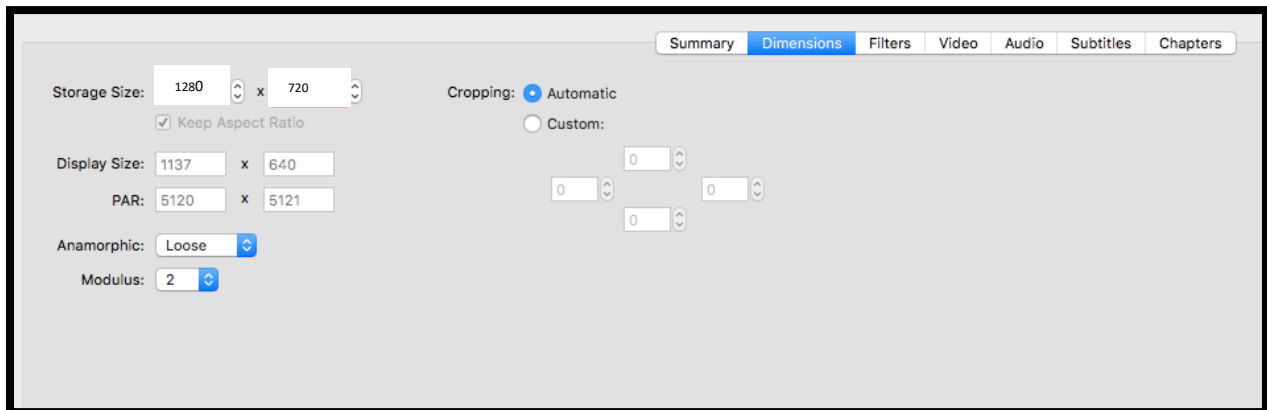
To the left of the video, change the format to MP4 File and check the box for Web Optimized. Make sure the other boxes are unchecked.



Click on the Dimensions tab.

First, change the Anamorphic setting to Loose then change the width to 640.

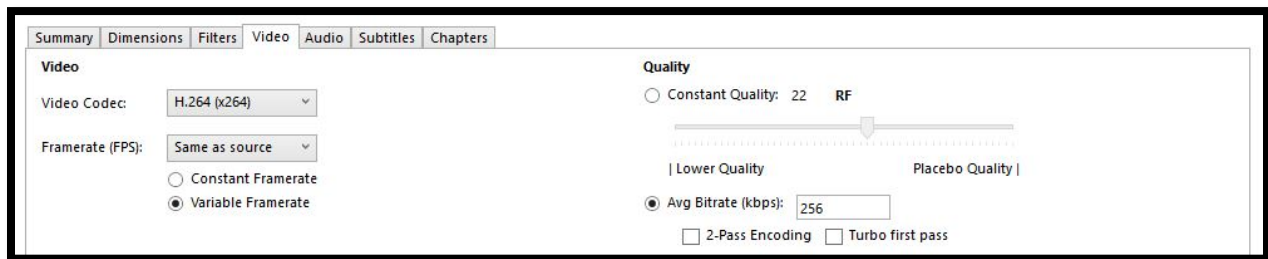
Note: This will appear slightly different on Macbooks. Look beside the Storage Size and there will automatically be a setting of 1280 and 720. Change 1280 (the width) to 640 and the height will automatically change.



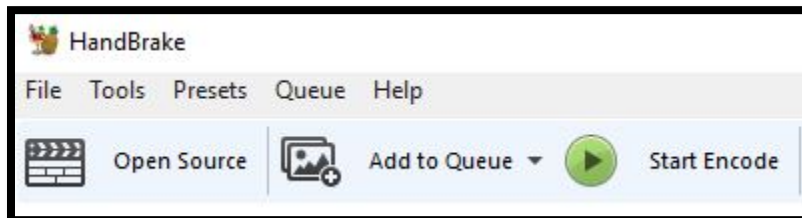
Click on the Video tab.

On the left side of the window, change the Framerate to Same as Source

On the right side of the window, click the radio button for Avg Bitrate and then type 256 in the box to the right. Uncheck the 2-Pass Encoding and Turbo first pass checkboxes directly below.



Note: The Variable Framerate that is clicked may also show as Peak Framerate on different computers. 2-Pass Encoding and Turbo first pass are only displayed in the newest version of HandBrake.

Compressing and Saving the Video

Click the green Start Encode button in the menu bar to start the process of compressing the file.

The Start Encode button will turn to a red stop sign as the file is compressing. You will see the progression of the compression at the bottom of the window as the software is working.

Wait as HandBrake works to compress the video. The larger the file, the longer it will take to compress. You will see a *Queue Finished* message at the bottom of the window when the file is finished being compressed.

Note – A 1.6 GB file took about 20 minutes to compress to a file size of 181 Mbs

Opening the New File

When your video is finished compressing, it will be saved to the location you chose when you set the destination path. Open the file from here to check the video.