

FamilyMediaWorks

Built by a graduate for families

User Guide

Version 0.2.1 — Windows & Linux

<https://fmmvault.co.uk>

1. What is FamilyMediaWorks?

FamilyMediaWorks is a free desktop application for converting, compressing, and preparing video and audio files. It wraps the powerful ffmpeg tool in a simple, friendly interface — no command line needed.

It was built for families who shoot video on phones, cameras, and action cams and want a simple way to make their footage smaller, convert it to a different format, or prepare it for editing in DaVinci Resolve.

Key facts

- Free to download and use — register with your email to unlock the full version
- Works on Windows 10/11 and Linux (Fedora, Ubuntu, Debian)
- ffmpeg is bundled — no separate installation needed on Windows
- No cloud — everything runs on your own computer
- No subscription — free forever

2. Minimum Requirements

Tab	What it does
Operating System	Windows 10/11 (64-bit) or Linux (Fedora, Ubuntu, Debian)
RAM	4 GB minimum — 8 GB recommended for large video files
Disk Space	200 MB for installation + space for your video files
Processor	Any modern 64-bit CPU — faster = faster encoding
Display	1280 x 768 minimum screen resolution
ffmpeg (Linux)	Must be installed separately — see Section 3

3. Installation

Windows

1. Download FamilyMediaWorks.zip from <https://fmmvault.co.uk/download.html>
2. Extract the zip and double-click FamilyMediaWorks.exe
3. Windows may show a SmartScreen warning — click More info then Run anyway. This is normal for new software.
4. Register free at fmmvault.co.uk/fmw/register.php to get your unlock code

Tip — ffmpeg is bundled inside the Windows EXE — no separate download needed.

Linux

1. Download FamilyMediaWorks-Linux.zip from <https://fmmvault.co.uk/download.html>
2. Extract the zip and open a terminal in the extracted folder
3. Install dependencies if needed:

```
sudo dnf install ffmpeg python3-tkinter (Fedora)
```

```
sudo apt install ffmpeg python3-tk (Ubuntu/Debian)
```

4. Run: `python3 app.py`
5. Register free to unlock the full version

4. Registration — Free

FamilyMediaWorks is free but requires a one-time registration. This lets us keep you updated and helps support future development.

How to register

1. Open FamilyMediaWorks — you will see an amber banner at the top
2. Click Register Free
3. Click the link to open `fmmvault.co.uk/fmw/register.php` in your browser
4. Enter your name and email address
5. Your unlock code (FMW-XXXX-XXXX-XXXX) is shown on screen and emailed to you
6. Paste the code into the app and click Activate
7. The banner turns green — you are fully unlocked

Tip — One code per household. Share it with family members using the same computer.

Unregistered mode

The app works fully without registering, but output filenames will include `_UNREGISTERED` until you activate your code. Registration removes this permanently.

5. The Tabs — Quick Overview

Tab	What it does
Compress	Reduce video file size — single file, multi-file, or whole folder
Convert	Change video format — MOV to MP4, MKV, WebM and more
Audio	Extract audio from video, or convert audio format
iPhone Ringtone	Create an iPhone-ready .m4r ringtone from any audio or video file
DaVinci Safe	One-click presets to make footage compatible with DaVinci Resolve
Help	Plain-English explanations of codecs, formats, and quality settings
Settings	ffmpeg path, default output folder, and compression defaults

6. Compress Tab

Reduce the file size of video files without losing visible quality. Useful for sharing, storing, or uploading footage from phones or cameras.

Modes

- Single file — compress one video at a time
- Select files (2-3) — pick a handful of files to compress together

- Batch (whole folder) — compress every video in a folder in one go

Quality (CRF)

CRF controls the balance between quality and file size. Lower numbers = better quality but bigger file.

Tab	What it does
CRF 18	Near lossless — very large file, maximum quality
CRF 23	Default — good quality, good compression (recommended)
CRF 28	Smaller file — some visible quality loss on close inspection
CRF 35+	Very small file — noticeable quality loss

Tip — For sharing family videos online, CRF 23 with Medium preset is the right starting point.

Audio codec

- PCM 16-bit (DaVinci safe) — uncompressed audio, best for editing in DaVinci Resolve
- AAC (smaller file) — compressed audio, good for sharing and playback
- Copy (no change) — keep the original audio exactly as-is

7. Convert Tab

Change the container format of a video file. Useful when a device or application only accepts a specific format.

Format	Type	Notes
MP4 (H.264+AAC)	Output format	Best for sharing, streaming, and general use
MP4 (H.264+PCM)	Output format	Best for importing into DaVinci Resolve
MKV (copy streams)	Output format	Keeps original video and audio — just re-wraps
MOV (copy streams)	Output format	Apple QuickTime format — fast, no re-encoding
AVI (xvid+mp3)	Output format	Legacy format — only use if specifically needed
WebM (VP9+Opus)	Output format	Web video format — YouTube, browsers

Tip — Copy streams options are very fast — they do not re-encode the video, just change the container.

8. Audio Tab

Extract the audio track from a video file, or convert an audio file from one format to another.

Extract audio from video

Select a video file and choose an output audio format. The video is discarded and only the audio is saved.

Audio formats

Tab	What it does
WAV (PCM)	Uncompressed — largest file, best quality, works everywhere
MP3	Compressed — small file, widely compatible
AAC	Compressed — better quality than MP3 at same bitrate

FLAC	Lossless compressed — smaller than WAV, perfect quality
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9. iPhone Ringtone Tab

Convert any video or audio file into an iPhone-ready .m4r ringtone file. Trim, set volume, and preview before converting.

iPhone ringtone rules

- Maximum 40 seconds — enforced automatically by this tool
- Format: .m4r (AAC audio in M4A container)
- Sample rate: 44100 Hz, stereo, 128 kbps

How to use

1. Select your source file — any video or audio format works
2. Set Start time (HH:MM:SS) — the point in the file to begin the ringtone
3. Set Duration using the slider — maximum 40 seconds
4. Adjust Volume if needed — 100% = no change
5. Click Preview Trim to hear it before committing
6. Click Create Ringtone — saves as a .m4r file

How to install on iPhone

- Email: email the .m4r file to yourself, open on iPhone, tap to set as ringtone
- Cloud: upload to iCloud Drive or Google Drive, open on iPhone
- GarageBand: import into GarageBand on iPhone, Share as Ringtone
- Windows iTunes: drag .m4r into Tones section, sync to iPhone

10. DaVinci Safe Tab

DaVinci Resolve on Linux and Windows can be picky about video formats. These one-click presets convert your footage into formats Resolve handles reliably.

Why this matters

DaVinci Resolve often refuses to play audio from iPhone MOV files, rejects certain codec combinations, or shows video without sound. These presets fix the most common problems automatically.

Presets

Tab	What it does
iPhone MOV Fix	Re-encodes to H.264 + PCM audio + rotation fix. For iPhone footage that plays silently in Resolve.
General DaVinci Safe	H.264 CRF 18 + PCM 16-bit. Good all-round fix for any camera footage going into Resolve.
Extract Audio as WAV	Pulls the audio track as a PCM WAV file. For when you want to edit audio separately.

Tip — PCM audio (uncompressed) is the format DaVinci Resolve always accepts. If in doubt, use General DaVinci Safe.

11. Settings Tab

- `ffmpeg` path — path to `ffmpeg`. On Windows this is set automatically. On Linux, change this if `ffmpeg` is not on your PATH.
- `ffprobe` path — path to `ffprobe` (used for file analysis).
- Default output folder — where converted files are saved. Leave blank to save alongside the source file.
- Default CRF — the starting quality value in the Compress tab.
- Default preset — the starting speed preset in the Compress tab.

Tip — On Windows, `ffmpeg` and `ffprobe` are bundled inside the application — you do not need to change these paths.

12. Supported Input Formats

Format	Type	Notes
.mp4	Video	H.264, H.265, AV1 and more
.mov	Video	iPhone, GoPro, camera footage
.mkv	Video	Common container — many codecs
.avi	Video	Legacy format — older cameras
.m4v	Video	iTunes video format
.mts / .m2ts	Video	AVCHD — Sony/Panasonic cameras
.wmv	Video	Windows Media Video
.webm	Video	Web video format
.mp3	Audio	MPEG audio
.wav	Audio	Uncompressed PCM audio
.aac	Audio	Advanced Audio Coding
.m4a	Audio	iTunes audio format
.flac	Audio	Lossless compressed audio
.ogg	Audio	Ogg Vorbis

13. Troubleshooting

Compression fails immediately with an error

On Linux, `ffmpeg` may not be installed or not on PATH. Check Settings tab and set the correct path, or install `ffmpeg` using your package manager.

Output file is larger than the original

Lower CRF values produce higher quality but larger files. If the original was already well compressed, re-encoding at CRF 23 may produce a larger result. Try CRF 28 or higher.

DaVinci Resolve still has audio problems after conversion

Use the General DaVinci Safe preset which forces PCM audio. PCM is uncompressed and always accepted by Resolve. If the problem persists, try Extract Audio as WAV and import the audio track separately.

iPhone ringtone does not appear on iPhone

The .m4r file must be transferred to the iPhone using one of the methods in Section 9. Simply copying the file via USB without using iTunes or a supported app will not work.

Browse button opens in the wrong folder

Set a Default output folder in the Settings tab. This becomes the starting point for all browse dialogs.

14. Privacy — Your Data Stays With You

FamilyMediaWorks was built because family videos deserve to stay private.

FamilyMediaWorks privacy commitment

- All processing runs entirely on your own computer
- No video or audio files are ever uploaded anywhere
- No internet connection is required to use the application
- Registration only collects your name and email address
- FamilyMediaWorks does not collect analytics
- FamilyMediaWorks does not phone home
- FamilyMediaWorks does not store anything outside your own computer