If you are going to be capturing video from MiniDV tapes make sure to connect the camera or deck to the computer first.

Make Sure:
- the Deck is On
- the Firewire cable is connected to both the deck and computer
- The DV button is lit/or Camera on Play
Open Final Cut Express...

Click on Final Cut Express in the dock or Applications folder

If this box appears Click "OK"
IF these windows below do not appear

Browser: access Project files & Effects
Viewer: edit Video, audio, effects for active clip
Canvas: display project as edit it

Timeline: Assemble and edit project as a whole

From the "Windows" menu select "Arrange" and click "Standard"
From "FINAL CUT EXPRESS" menu
CLICK "SYSTEM SETTINGS..."

The following screen will pop up.

CLICK ON "SET".
Back at the "system settings" window, CLICK "OK"

Click "Desktop" then "New Folder"

Give the Folder a name, Click "Create", then "choose"
Its best to save your project to the desktop or an external hard drive before moving on.
From "FILE" select "Capture..."

THIS SCREEN WILL POP UP.
Clicking the **Now** button should start playing and capturing the video from the position tape is at.

Fill in the **Reel** (name for the tape currently working with) and **Description** (name of the clip currently capturing) information.
A window showing the video being captured appears. HIT "ESC" button on the keyboard to stop capture at any point.

The clip will get added to the browser window.
To use video taken with an SDHC Camera, connect the camera to the computer and choose log and transfer in the file menu.

A log and transfer window will pop up and the clips from the camera will load. Drag the desired video clips to the browser. You can close the log and transfer box after all desired clips are moved.

The viewing option must be selected on the camera before files will be transferred.
Importing Files

First, make sure the files are stored in the same folder as the rest of the project.

From the file menu, select "import" and click on "Files...".

Locate the file and click "Choose".

It will appear in the browser window.
The file will appear in the Browser.

And you can drag it over to the Viewer.
you can pick specific parts of the file to show by using the "Mark in and mark out" buttons
Without changing the actual clip

Mark in and mark out buttons
You can now drag the shortened clip into the timeline.

You can now add effect or trim the clip in the timeline.

You will see changes here.
By clearing the "Mark in and Mark out" buttons you will revert the main clip back to its original form.
if u wish to add in a clip without the audio, go to the lock in the audio section and click on both locks to lock the audio. the clip will come in sound free.
to add an effect click on the effects tab

and pick from the list of effects
Pick an effect and drag it over the clip you wish to add it to.
Do not forget that if you wish to play what you already have in your timeline you must render everything. Do this by clicking on sequences.

Then go to render selection or all, and select both.
The red lines over your clips in the timeline should now be blue, indicating it has rendered.
to add a transition in between clips go to the effects tab and select video transitions

choose which transition you want
Drag the effect in between the two clips you want to transition.

And a box will show up in between them.
place the timeline marker over the transition

And you can see a still of how it looks
Double click on the transition box to edit it

You need to render to play the transition

But you can also click and hold the wheel here and move it frame by frame to see what it looks like without having to render it.
you can import a music or sound file and drag it to the audio timeline

Make sure the audio timeline is unlocked when you drag it in and it will appear
you can then lock it back if you do not wish to have other clips audio interfere with the music.