



Increased throughput for your Baselight system with macOS software-only productivity solution

With the increasing complexity involved in conforming and reconforming projects - from multiple versions of VFX and different cameras - we recognise that our customers need to perform these tasks on a low-cost, general purpose workstation. Baselight CONFORM is a scalable software solution for just this scenario. The application runs on macOS and is available to all customers with a current annual support package for Baselight.

Preparing for the grade

Baselight CONFORM allows Baselight scenes to be set up and conformed while the main system is busy generating revenue. The application goes further than this, though.

In today's productions, with multiple cameras using different formats, colour space and decode settings, preparing a scene to be graded efficiently can require a number of technical decisions to be made up front. Baselight CONFORM allows that process to occur efficiently away from the eyes of clients in the main grading suite.

Full scene editing capability

Helping the colourist to be effective goes beyond simply providing a project that is ready to start grading. As a production progresses, new VFX shots and cuts from the editor have to be incorporated on a regular basis.

With Baselight CONFORM, Baselight scenes can be amended by dropping revised material in, and adjusting keyframes and grades as needed. New edits can be conformed and grades can be multi-pasted to prepare for the next session. You can even perform typical Baselight ASSIST roles, such as rotoscoping and tracking.

Grade from the raw source

Some DI workflows have evolved a pragmatic process where the cut is rendered flat, using basic software, into a sequence of DPX files. Although this keeps the distraction of handling the editorial side of a production away from the colourist, the increasing demand for RAW camera workflows makes it less desirable. Baselight CONFORM addresses this issue by making it viable for every conform assistant to be sitting at a Baselight system - with full access to Baselight's unrivalled colour space management and support for all professional formats.

Dedicated conform workstation

Baselight CONFORM is a near-complete version of the Baselight software that runs on macOS. It supports control via a standard three-button mouse and keyboard and uses standard Mac or even HD-SDI monitoring - all to enable you to prepare scenes for full Baselight systems with dedicated control panels.

You can also set up rendering tasks and send them to the queue on a full Baselight system.

While the full system is incredibly powerful and configurable, mounting removable drives can require technical knowledge, connectivity or filesystem support that isn't available under the Linux FilmLightOS operating system. As Baselight CONFORM runs on a Mac, however, it can also act as an easy-to-use gateway to present attached storage to the Baselight Cloud.

Professional monitoring

Baselight CONFORM can drive an SDI display as an alternative to the Mac display via a third-party display device - see the specifications section for details.

Key Features

- » Software-only solution that creates Baselight scenes in the common jobs database, shared immediately to all Baselight/ASSIST/CONFORM stations
- » Uses core Baselight technology on macOS platform
- » Import CMX3600, AAF, FilmLight EDLs, Autodesk DLEDLs, or FCP XML
- » Filter media on template, file type and/or metadata
- » Reconform from revised EDL maintaining grade events and keyframes
- » Detect cuts in long-form content
- » Adjust keyframes for all controls
- » View offline and conform timelines of any resolution side-by-side or with split screen wipe
- » Perform simple compositing including green screen keys and/or external mattes
- » Set up renders to queue on Baselight/ASSIST stations
- » Reframe/reformat with dynamic pan and scan
- » Perform complex colour space transforms with Truelight Colour Spaces
- » Access local storage of other Baselight systems, or FLUX Store, in a networked cloud
- » Conform and prepare media on remote systems with optimised streaming access to high-resolution images
- » Manage image data across network via FLUX Manage
- » Organise complex projects in Job Manager: create folder hierarchy for jobs, filter items, rename/delete scenes
- » Browse source media easily in the Sequence Browser, view sequence details and play back sequences

Easily deployable

As the processing requirement of the conform role is normally low, the software-only macOS application allows even older Mac workstations or iMacs to be used in this role.

Baselight CONFORM integrates the Baselight cloud image server technology on macOS for high-performance image streaming from a full Baselight or FLUX Store system over 1GbE, or with real-time playback of high-resolution images if 10GbE network fabric is available.

Specifications

- » macOS 12 - 14 on Intel, or Apple Silicon

Minimum Mac specification

- » 1TB internal SSD (for image cache)
- » 1GbE connection to Linux Baselight system
- » Intel with 4GB VRAM + 8GB RAM or Apple Silicon with 16GB unified memory

For the new machine learning features in Baselight 6.0, it is required to use:

- » Apple Silicon only with at least 24GB of unified memory

Recommended options

- » External high-performance disk system for local playback
- » SDI video monitoring (for higher playback performance):
- » Supported devices include AJA: Kona, Io4k/Plus, T-Tap/Pro BMD: Ultrastudio Mini/HD/4k, Decklink 8k Pro
- » 10/25/100GbE connection to Linux Baselight system

Scalability

Baselight CONFORM is available for a low subscription price on top of the normal Baselight support contract. This means that conform departments that handle complicated projects can have as many assistants as they need, all in discussion with VFX and edit houses, all with access to Baselight CONFORM and all helping to bring the project together without impacting the main suite.

Baselight CONFORM at Home

Since the worldwide pandemic began, there has been greater demand to be able to grade at home. Now when the Baselight system in the facility is not in use, Baselight CONFORM can use that licence to become an enhanced Baselight HOME system, with support for a control surface and the ability to render locally.

All you need is a VPN to your facility - so the licence can be checked out from the main system - and a HOME licence, which can be provided free-of-charge on request from baselight-support@filmlight.ltd.uk.

This applies to Baselight ASSIST as well, which gains the capability to have a control surface connected.

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