

INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPTION

in DaVinci Resolve, with Claude

Transcribe interviews automatically, clean up the audio,
create PDFs with quotes and build best-of timelines –
without ever touching an original.

VERSION

1.0 · October 2026

TESTED WITH

DaVinci Resolve Studio 21

PRICE

free

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NOTE

In short: You attach a single file (the workflow MD) to a conversation with Claude, answer five short questions with numbers – and Claude does the rest directly in your Resolve project. For every interview you get a transcript timeline with subtitles, a PDF with summary and quotes, and a best-of timeline.

CHAPTER 01

What the workflow does

The workflow is a set of instructions for Claude, written as a Markdown file (MD). It describes step by step how Claude processes interviews in a DaVinci Resolve project. It was developed and tested on the documentary *Such(t)en* with 15 interviews in Swiss German, and on an English test interview.

What you get

- **Transcript timeline** per interview – a 1:1 copy with cleaned-up audio and subtitles, timecode-identical to the original
- **Subtitles** in the spoken language and, if you like, translated as a second track (plus SRT file)
- **One PDF per interviewee** with header data, summary, the 10–15 strongest quotes, topic overview and the full transcript with timecodes
- **Best-of timeline** per person in the bin ZITATE: the strongest quotes with picture, cleaned-up audio, markers and subtitles
- **Meaningful names** for all transcript timelines (shoot date + headline)

NOTE

Golden rule: Originals are never changed. Claude only works with copies. Your edit timelines, clips and audio tracks stay untouched.

Who is it for?

For editors, documentary filmmakers and videographers who have to review many or long interviews and want to jump to the good parts quickly. For the edit, **everything** matters – so Claude transcribes everything and only flags sensitive passages instead of leaving them out.

CHAPTER 02

Requirements

WHAT	WHAT FOR	NOTE
DaVinci Resolve Studio (version 21 or later)	External scripting, AI subtitles	The free version does not allow external scripting.
Claude desktop app (Mac or Windows)	Claude works directly on your computer	Give it access to your project folder.
Computer use in the Claude app	Operating the menu “Create Subtitles from Audio...”	There is no script command for this.
Claude–Resolve connection (MCP server)	Claude runs scripts in Resolve	See chapter 03.
Python with ReportLab	Creating the PDFs	Claude sets this up itself if needed.
A paid Claude plan	Long work sessions	Many or long interviews need a lot of usage.

IMPORTANT
Menus and script commands may change with new Resolve versions. Export a project backup before every run (Project Manager > right-click > Export Project, .drp).

CHAPTER 03

One-time setup

You only do these steps once. After that, just open Resolve and give the MD to Claude.

01 Enable external scripting in Resolve

DaVinci Resolve > Preferences > System > General > **External scripting using: Local**. Restart Resolve afterwards.

02 Install and sign in to the Claude desktop app

Download the app from claude.ai. In a new conversation, share the folder with your project (or the folder for the PDFs).

03 Connect Resolve to Claude

In the Claude app, add and enable the connection (connector / MCP server) to DaVinci Resolve. Test: ask Claude “Which project is open in Resolve?” – if it names the right project, the connection works.

04 Allow computer use

The first time, your system asks for screen recording and accessibility permissions. Allow both for the Claude app.

05 Keep the workflow MD handy

Save the file `davinci-resolve-claude-interview-workflow_EN.md` (or `_DE`) in a fixed place, e.g. your Documents folder.

TIP

Test your setup with a short interview first (5–10 minutes). That way you quickly see whether everything works before you let Claude process a whole project.

CHAPTER 04

Starting the workflow

01**Open the project in Resolve**

Load the right project. If only one interview should be processed: open that interview timeline.

02**Start a new conversation with Claude**

Attach the MD file and write: *"Please follow this workflow for my interviews."*

03**Answer five questions with numbers**

Claude asks all questions at once. You answer with numbers only, for example: 1, 1, 1, 1, 1.

04**Check the summary and start**

Claude summarizes what it will do and asks: **1 Start** • **2 Cancel** • **3 Ask again**. Nothing happens until you choose 1.

05**Approve the first PDF**

Claude finishes one interview completely first and shows you the PDF. If the format is right, the others follow.

IMPORTANT

While Claude starts subtitle recognition through the menu, please don't use mouse or keyboard. Computer use briefly needs the whole screen for this.

CHAPTER 05

The questions explained

QUESTION	ANSWERS	TIP
1 · What should be processed?	1 the timeline currently open 2 all timelines in a bin	With 2, Claude asks for the bin name and whether to skip any timelines.
2 · Which language is spoken?	1 English · 2 German · 3 French · 4 Italian · 5 Other	Required. Dialect (e.g. Swiss German): choose German, Claude then uses the extended language mode.
3 · Language for subtitles, PDF, quotes?	same as question 2	If it differs from question 2, Claude translates and adds a second subtitle track.
4 · Remove background noise?	1 Yes · 2 No	Yes = Voice Isolation 60, 80 for heavy noise. Only applies to the copy, never the original.
5 · Where should the PDFs go?	1 Suggestion: project folder/Transcripts 2 another folder	With 2, Claude asks for the path.

If an answer is missing, Claude uses sensible defaults (question 1 › 1, question 3 › same as question 2, question 4 › Yes, question 5 › 1). Only question 2 must always be answered.

What Claude does not ask but figures out itself

- Names of interviewer and interviewees (from greetings and introductions in the conversation)
- Whether both audio channels are identical or contain two different microphones
- The target bin: always <source bin>_TRANSCRIPT

CHAPTER 06

What Claude does next

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- 01** **Preparation**
Checks the project, lists all interviews with duration, cameras and microphones, and shows you the list.
-
- 02** **Copy the timeline**
Creates a 1:1 copy ..._TRANSCRIPT in the target bin. Timecodes stay identical.
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- 03** **Clean up the audio**
Measures the channels, creates clean mono tracks, matches loudness (a quiet interviewer is raised) and removes background noise.
-
- 04** **Create subtitles**
Runs Resolve's AI recognition in the spoken language, checks the result and translates if needed.
-
- 05** **Clean up the text**
Fixes recognition errors, assigns speakers and marks uncertain passages with [].
-
- 06** **Create the PDF**
One PDF per person with summary, quotes, topics and the complete transcript.
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- 07** **Name the timelines**
Renames the copy using the pattern YYYYMMDD_Headline_TRANSCRIPT.
-
- 08** **Build the best-of**
Creates one timeline per person with the strongest quotes in the bin ZITATE – with markers and subtitles.
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- 09** **Final report**
Tells you what is done, where everything is and what you should check.
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CHAPTER 07

Results and where to find them

RESULT	LOCATION	NAME (EXAMPLE)
Transcript timeline	Bin <source bin>_TRANSCRIPT	240315_Life-by-the-Lake_TRANSCRIPT
Best-of timeline	Bin ZITATE	anna-sample-best-of
Interview PDF	Folder from question 5	240315_Interview-Anna-Sample.pdf
Translated subtitles	Folder from question 5	..._EN.srt

Structure of the interview PDF

- Header table: person, shoot date, location, interviewer, duration, timeline name
- Headline and summary
- Strongest quotes (10–15) with timecode and topic keyword
- Topic table with all relevant passages
- Cleaned-up, complete transcript with timecodes and speakers

NOTE

Sensitive passages are **not cut**, only flagged: **SENSIBEL** (sensitive, e.g. violence, addiction of third parties), **PAUSE / VORGESPRÄCH** (break / pre-talk) and **NICHT VERWENDEN** (do not use) when someone explicitly asks for it in the interview. The decision stays with the editor.

IMPORTANT

The timecodes in the PDF match the timecodes of the original timeline. Don't move or trim the originals afterwards, or the references will no longer match.

CHAPTER 08

Limits of this version

IMPORTANT

Timelines only: So far the workflow only works with **timelines** – either the one that is open or all timelines in a bin. Single clips in the Media Pool or a bin full of clips are not supported directly yet.

How to use it with single clips anyway

01**Select the clips**

In the Media Pool, select one person's interview clips (picture and sound, synced if needed).

02**Create a timeline from them**

Right-click › **Create New Timeline Using Selected Clips...** and give it a clear name (e.g. the person's name).

03**Put them in a bin**

Put all interview timelines created this way into one bin and choose “2 all timelines in a bin” for question 1.

Other limits

- Works only with **DaVinci Resolve Studio**, not with the free version.
- Resolve does not detect speakers. Claude assigns them by content and audio level – please proofread.
- Recognition quality depends heavily on the audio. Very quiet or reverberant recordings lead to more gaps [].
- Resolve does not translate subtitles; Claude does the translation.
- Large projects take time and a lot of Claude usage. Best to process one interview after another.

CHAPTER 09

Troubleshooting

PROBLEM	CAUSE	SOLUTION
Subtitles consist of hundreds of identical phrases (“Thank you.”)	Recognition listened to an old, muted audio track on top.	Claude checks this itself. If not: the cleaned-up tracks must be on top; delete old tracks in the copy.
Dialect is barely recognized	Extended language mode off or language set to “Auto”.	Claude should enable “Enable Extended Language Support” and then select the language again.
The interviewer is barely in the transcript	Their channel is much quieter.	Claude raises the quiet channel specifically. Ask whether the level was checked.
Claude stops in the middle	Time limit on long scripts.	Just write “continue”. Claude first checks how far it got and then carries on.
Claude reports: no connection to Resolve	Resolve closed, scripting off or connection not active.	Open Resolve, check the setting from chapter 03, enable the connection in the Claude app.
Language list in the subtitle dialog can't be operated	Computer use is running in the background.	Give Claude full computer use and don't interfere for a moment.

CHAPTER 10

Privacy, responsibility, license

Privacy

For the transcription, Claude reads the subtitles and parts of the audio data. This content is sent to Claude (Anthropic) for processing. For confidential interviews, check beforehand whether this is acceptable to your interviewees and clients.

Responsibility

Use at your own risk. Export a project backup before every run. Check names, uncertain passages [] and flagged sensitive passages before you use or share quotes.

License

This workflow is **free**. You may use it for your own and paid client projects and adapt it for yourself. Please don't pass the file on under your own name – link to videograf-bodensee.de instead.

TIP

Questions, bugs, ideas? I'm happy to hear from you: videograf-bodensee.de › Contact. More Claude workflows for DaVinci Resolve are listed there under “More MDs”.