

TIMEBOLT

QUICK START MANUAL

Everything you need to go from first launch to finished edit. This manual covers the same ground as the Quick Start video on timebolt.io/download — written for people who'd rather read than watch.

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SECTION 01

The Timeline at a Glance

When you first open TimeBolt with a video file, you'll see the timeline already cut up. This is normal — TimeBolt has already analyzed your audio waveform and detected every silence.

Green segments = kept. This is the audio TimeBolt determined is speech.

Red segments = cut. These are silences, pauses, and dead air that have been automatically removed.

These cuts come from waveform-based silence detection — roughly twenty times more precise than edit-by-text tools that rely solely on transcription. TimeBolt analyzes the actual audio signal, not a transcript's best guess at where words start and stop.

You haven't lost anything. Every red segment can be toggled back on. The original video file is never modified.

SECTION 02

Preview at Speed

The first thing you should do: change your preview playback speed to **1.5x**. There is no reason to watch your own video back at normal speed.

Step 1: Click the playback speed dropdown (top of the interface) and select 1.5x.

Step 2: Click anywhere in the waveform to position the playhead.

Step 3: Hit the spacebar.

Now you're previewing at 1.5x speed while every red segment (silence) is skipped automatically. It's like the dead air never existed. This alone will change how you edit.

SECTION 03

Run UmCheck First

Before you touch a single cut manually, run UmCheck. This is the workflow: let AI do the heavy lifting first, then do your manual cleanup.

UmCheck works on both scripted and unscripted video. It costs roughly **three cents per minute** — about what we pay to process it. Your first three minutes are free with a paid account.

What UmCheck does:

- **Removes filler words** — ums, uhs, you knows — automatically cut from the timeline.
- **Flags bad takes** — repeated phrases and false starts are identified.
- **Generates word-level captions** — every caption is timestamped, clickable, and editable.

What you get back:

A precision-edited timeline with captions you can burn directly into your video export, or download as an SRT file for any NLE. You're getting edited, word-stamped captions far faster than you could ever produce by dragging caption boxes in design software.

Tip: Go to Settings Find/Replace All Captions to create a caption dictionary. For example: "Time Bolt" "TimeBolt." It auto-corrects every time UmCheck runs.

SECTION 04

The Four Keys: U S O B

After UmCheck handles the automation, you sculpt what you keep. The entire manual editing workflow runs on four keys. Learn these and you never need to click the timeline buttons.

- U UNWIND**
Jumps the playhead back 3 cuts so you can re-listen to what you're keeping.
- S SPLIT**
Divides the timeline at the current playhead position into two segments.
- O ON / OFF**
Toggles the next scene on or off. Green = kept. Red = cut.
- B BACK CUT**
The most powerful key. Cuts everything behind the playhead instantly.

The workflow in practice: hit spacebar to start playback. When you hear something you want to cut, hit **S** to split, then **O** to toggle it off — or hit **B** to back-cut everything behind the playhead in one keystroke. If you make a mistake, **U** unwinds and jumps you back so you can re-listen.

You don't have to stop the playhead. No dragging, no clicking timeline bars. This is a rapid timeline editor — you make cuts at the speed of listening.

Never click the bar above the playhead to toggle scenes on/off. That's a waste of time. Use the O key instead. The only time you click the bar above the playhead is to apply fast-forward to a specific segment (covered in Power Features).

SECTION 05

Export Your Video

Once you're happy with your cuts, click **Export Video**. TimeBolt renders your edit as an MP4 file. That's it.

Export options:

- **MP4 Video** — the default. A finished, rendered file.

- **XML for NLEs** — export for Premiere Pro, Final Cut Pro, or DaVinci Resolve. Your cuts, punch-in values, and turbo adjustments all carry over.
- **WAV audio-only** — export just the edited audio track.
- **Clips to folder** — splits your edit into individual clip files.
- **SRT captions** — download your UmCheck captions as an SRT subtitle file.

If you ran UmCheck, make sure the **Export with Captions** checkbox is enabled to burn captions directly into the video. Otherwise, download the SRT separately.

SECTION 06

Save Your Work

Before you close the project, save two things:

- 1. Save Timeline Cuts** — this creates a JSON file containing every cut, toggle, and edit you made. Next time you open the project, drop the original footage back in, click Apply Timeline Cuts, select your JSON file, and your cuts reload instantly.
- 2. Save UmCheck File** — if you ran UmCheck, save the results so you don't have to re-process.

SECTION 07

Power Features

Once you're comfortable with the basics, these features make TimeBolt ridiculously fast.

FAST FORWARD SILENCES

Instead of cutting silence completely, you can speed it up — up to 4x. This is perfect for tutorials where you're showing, not telling. Click the fast-forward option, set a minimum silence duration (e.g., 0.5 seconds), and every silence longer than that threshold gets sped up instead of removed. To apply fast-forward to a specific segment, click the bar above the playhead for that segment — this is the only scenario where clicking that bar makes sense.

PUNCH-IN ZOOM

Hold **Alt** (Windows) or **Option** (Mac) and use arrow keys to position the focus area. Click spacebar to start playback, then hit **P** — TimeBolt remembers your last punch value and applies it without stopping the playhead. Punch-in values also export to XML, so your zooms carry into Premiere, Final Cut, or DaVinci.

TURBO MODE

Talk up to 12% faster without sounding like a chipmunk. Ships at 1.125x. Perfect for tightening pacing or hitting strict time limits — if you need a 62-second clip down to 60, Turbo compresses it. You can also set a target duration and let TimeBolt calculate the speed.

STITCH

Drop multiple video files in, apply the JSON cuts you already made, and export as a single file. Also useful for converting 4K footage down to 1080p or 720p for web without opening another editor.

SEND A BANGER

Click the Banger button and TimeBolt creates an unlisted video link with a GIF preview. It's everything you need to get someone to click and watch. Like Loom, but it doesn't suck to watch.

CAPTURE

TimeBolt includes a built-in screen and camera recorder. 4K capture, live camera switching, and your recording drops directly into the editor. One tool, every workflow.

SECTION 08

Dial In Your Settings

The defaults work for most videos. But if you want to fine-tune, here's what to adjust and what to leave alone.

THE MAIN CONTROL

Filter Below Sound Level decides what counts as silence. For most videos, the sweet spot is between **-30 dB** and **-42 dB**. Lower values (e.g., -30) keep more audio. Higher values (e.g., -42) cut more aggressively. The suggested value is almost always correct.

SCRIPTED VIDEO — tighter cuts, less breathing room

Silence Cut	0.2 seconds
Left Padding	0.10
Right Padding	0.15

Protects trailing consonants from clipping

UNSCRIPTED VIDEO — messier audio, needs aggressive start-of-speech

Left Padding	0.01
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Aggressive — speech starts with a hard attack

Right Padding	0.15
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Same as scripted — protects consonants

IGNORE DETECTIONS SHORTER THAN

Default: **0.75 seconds**. This catches random ums, ahs, mic strikes, and mic bumps — the tiny fragments that pop up mid-sentence. TimeBolt automatically removes these and re-chunks your cuts so everything stays tight. Leave this alone.

See a question mark next to a setting? Click it. A video opens explaining exactly what that feature does. If you get lost, hit Reset to restore defaults.

SECTION 09

Troubleshooting

Three things trip up first-time users. All three are easy fixes.

1. SPECIAL CHARACTERS IN FILE NAME OR PATH

On Mac especially, symbols in your file name or folder path can prevent the file from loading correctly. If you see a preview warning, close TimeBolt, rename the file or folder to remove special characters, and reopen. Problem solved.

2. VARIABLE FRAME RATE (VFR) VIDEO

Some phones and screen recorders record in variable frame rate. TimeBolt detects this automatically and offers to convert to constant frame rate. Click convert and let it run. This is a one-time conversion — the resulting file works perfectly.

3. LOW AUDIO RECORDINGS

If your audio came in quiet, you'll see a Low Volume Audio Warning. Go to Settings and enable **Audio Normalization**. This boosts the waveform amplitude so silence detection and editing work correctly. It does not affect your final export — it's a preview enhancement only.

Make an adjustment next time you record. Once you understand how important clean audio is to the editing workflow, you'll never see this warning again.

SECTION 10

Keyboard Shortcut Reference

You can find the full shortcut list inside TimeBolt under the menu. Here are the essentials:

KEY	ACTION	WHAT IT DOES
Space	Play / Pause	Start or stop playback
U	Unwind	Jump back 3 cuts to re-listen
S	Split	Divide timeline at playhead
O	On / Off	Toggle next scene on or off
B	Back Cut	Cut everything behind playhead

P	Punch-In	Apply last punch value at playhead
Alt/Opt + ↑↓	Move Punch	Reposition punch-in focus area
1.5x dropdown	Preview Speed	Change playback speed for review

That's your Quick Start Manual for the last timeline editor you'll need to learn.

TimeBolt is all we used to make the Quick Start video. Join us for live office hours every Thursday at 9:00 AM Central on Zoom to talk workflows.

Now go make something watchable.

timebolt.io/download · timebolt.io/features · help.timebolt.io

Keep It Real. — TimeBolt