

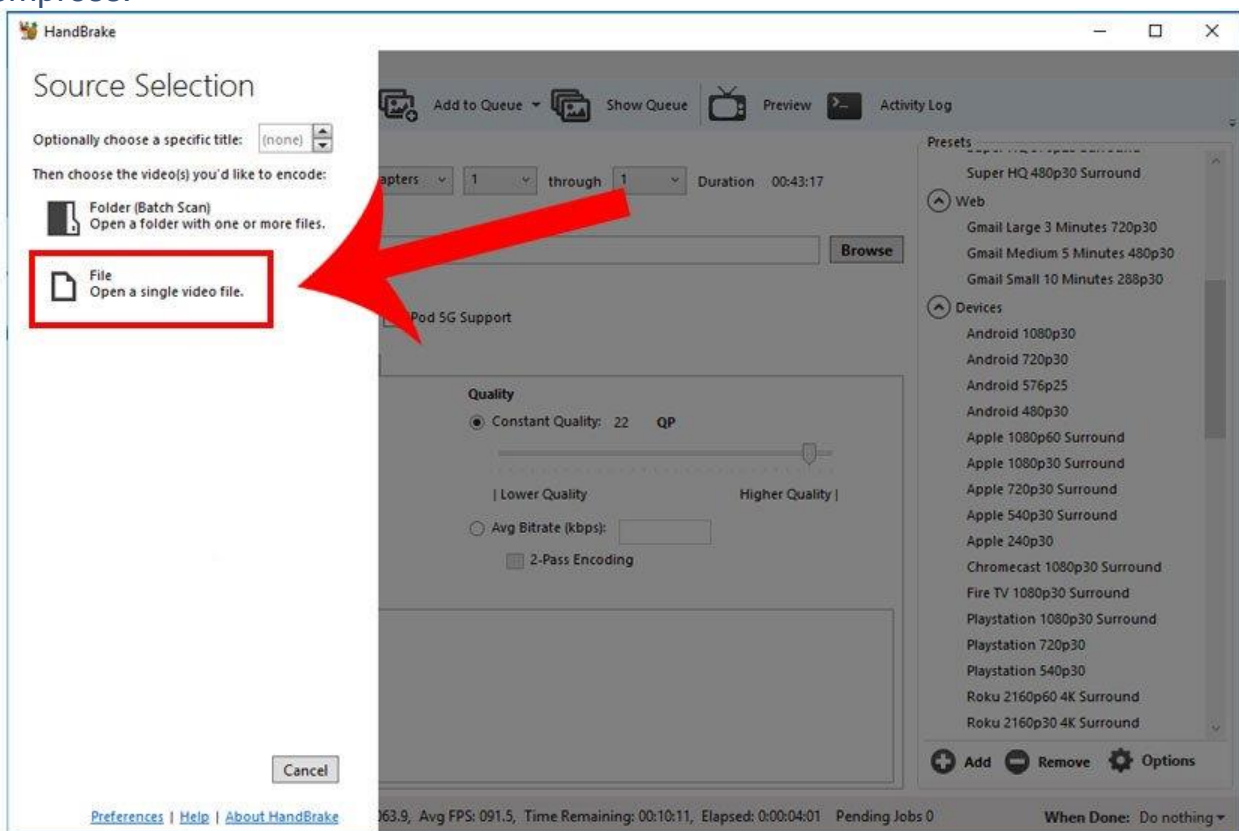
How to Reduce Video Size with Handbrake

While the theory behind video compression can appear to be an endless quagmire of confusion – you don't need to know any of it to reduce video size. Handbrake is a free, open source program available for Mac, Windows, and Linux. Below is a step-by-step guide on how to create an MP4 with handbrake.

[Download Handbrake](#) – this link takes you to Handbrake's website. This open source program is free to use, and distribute under the terms defined in the GNU public license version 2.

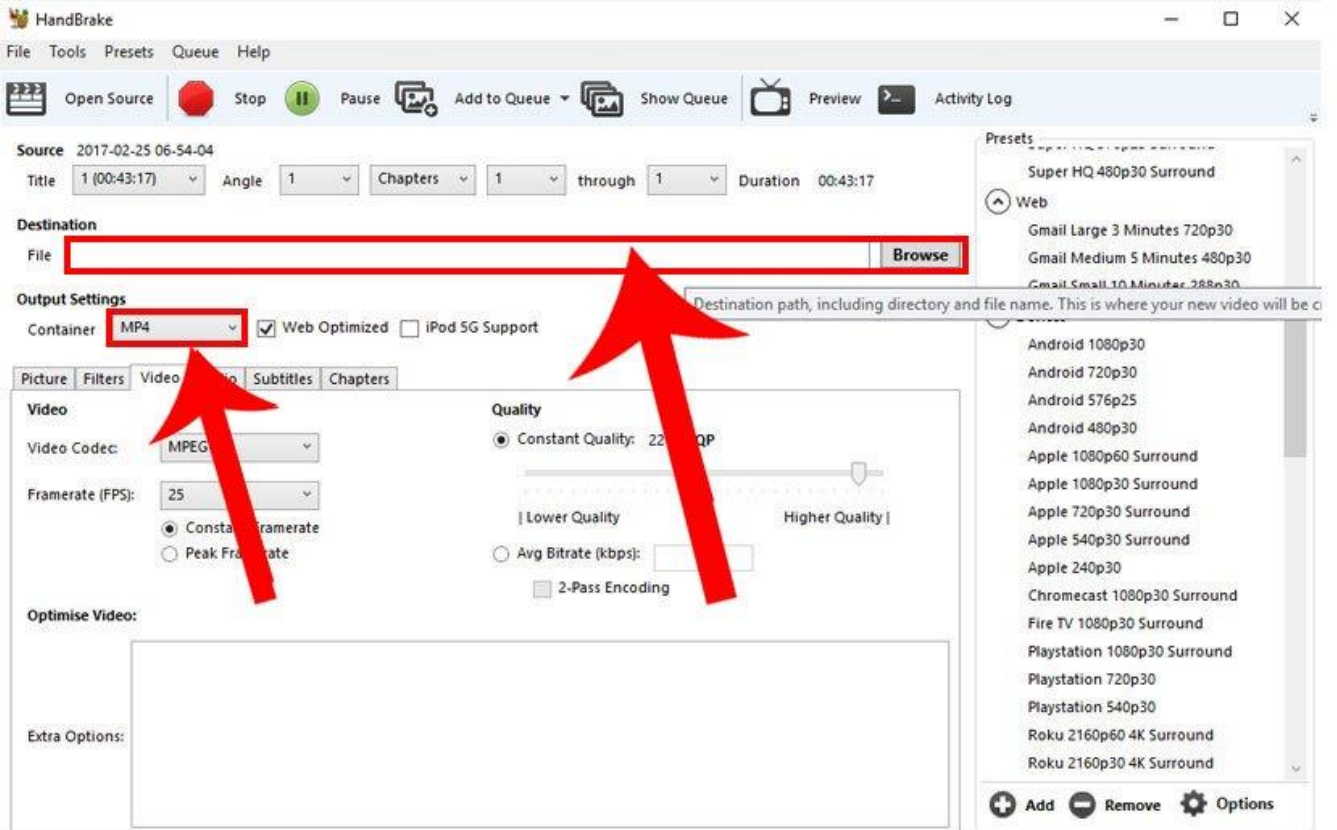
Step 1 – Choose Your File

I have a 3-minute long MP4 screencast that I would like to upload to my website. It's 58.3 MB, which is much larger than I need it to be. Once you open HandBrake, you can get started by choosing the video file you'd like to compress.



Step 2 – Choose the Destination

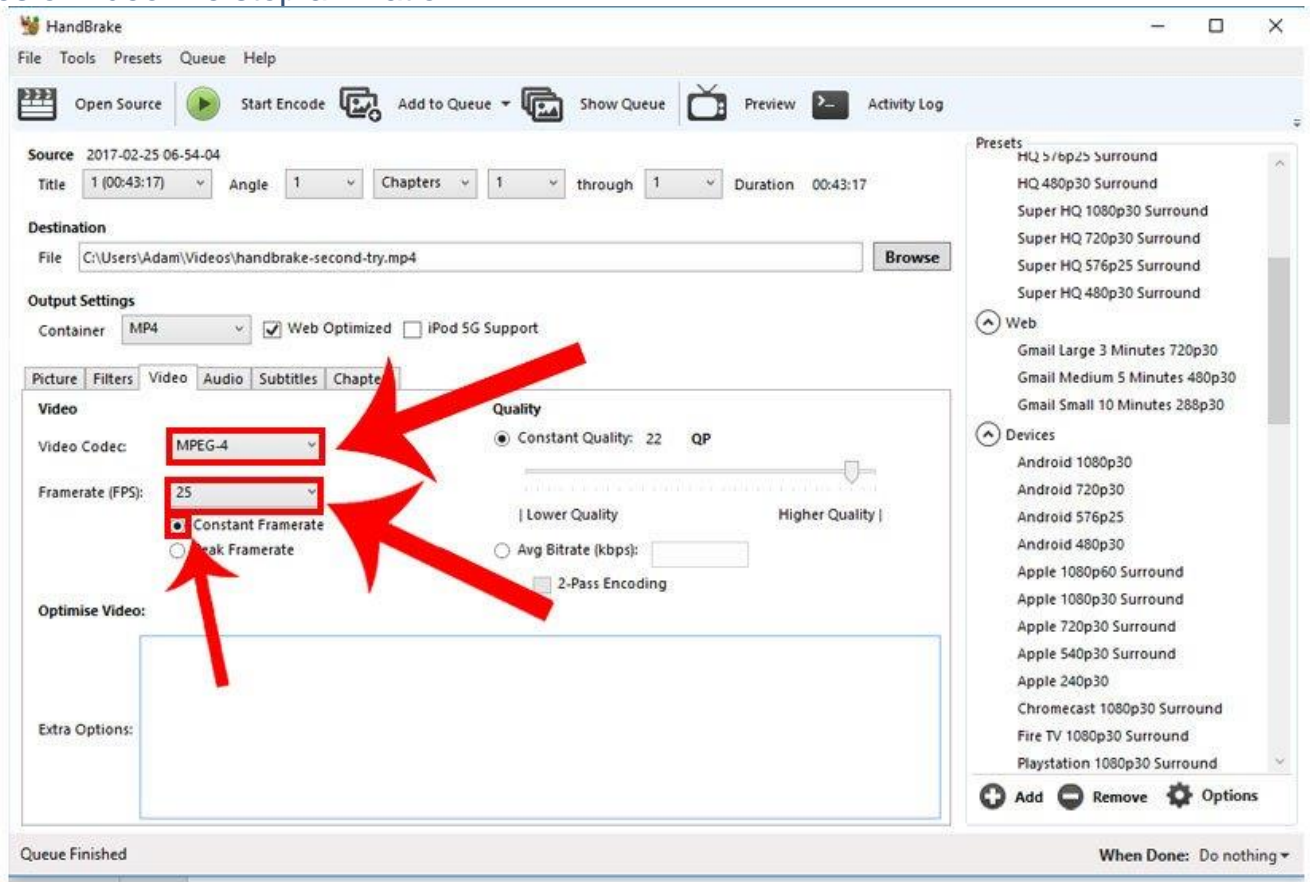
Next choose where you want to save the new video. You can also choose which container you would like to use. I choose MP4.



Step 3 – Choose Codec and Frame Rate

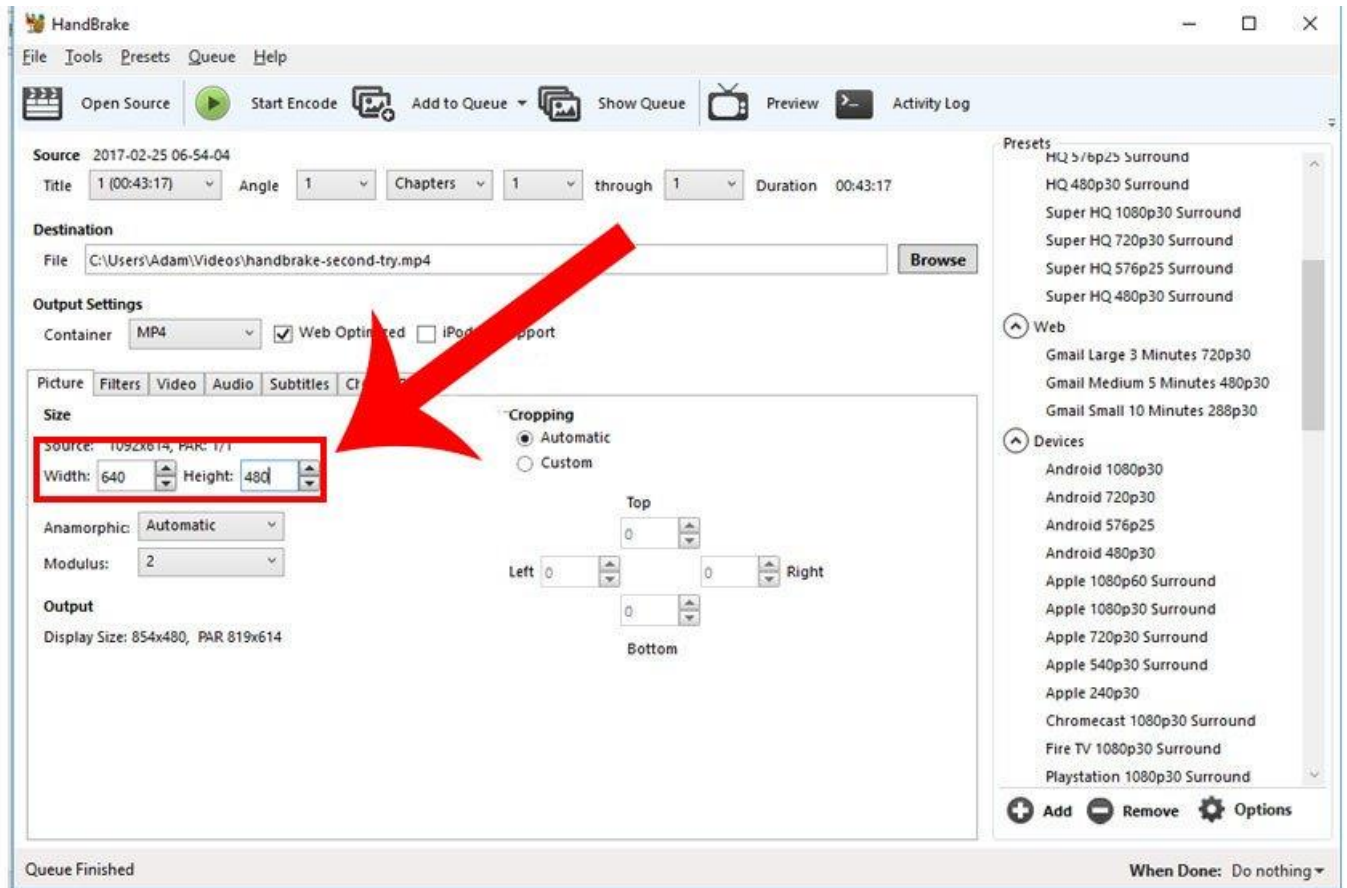
Choose which codec you would like to use to compress the video. I chose MPEG4 here. I kept the frame rate the same at 25 frames per second. If your file is 60 FPS, you may be able to get away with lowering that frame rate for certain

types of video like stop animation.



Step 4 – Reduce the Resolution

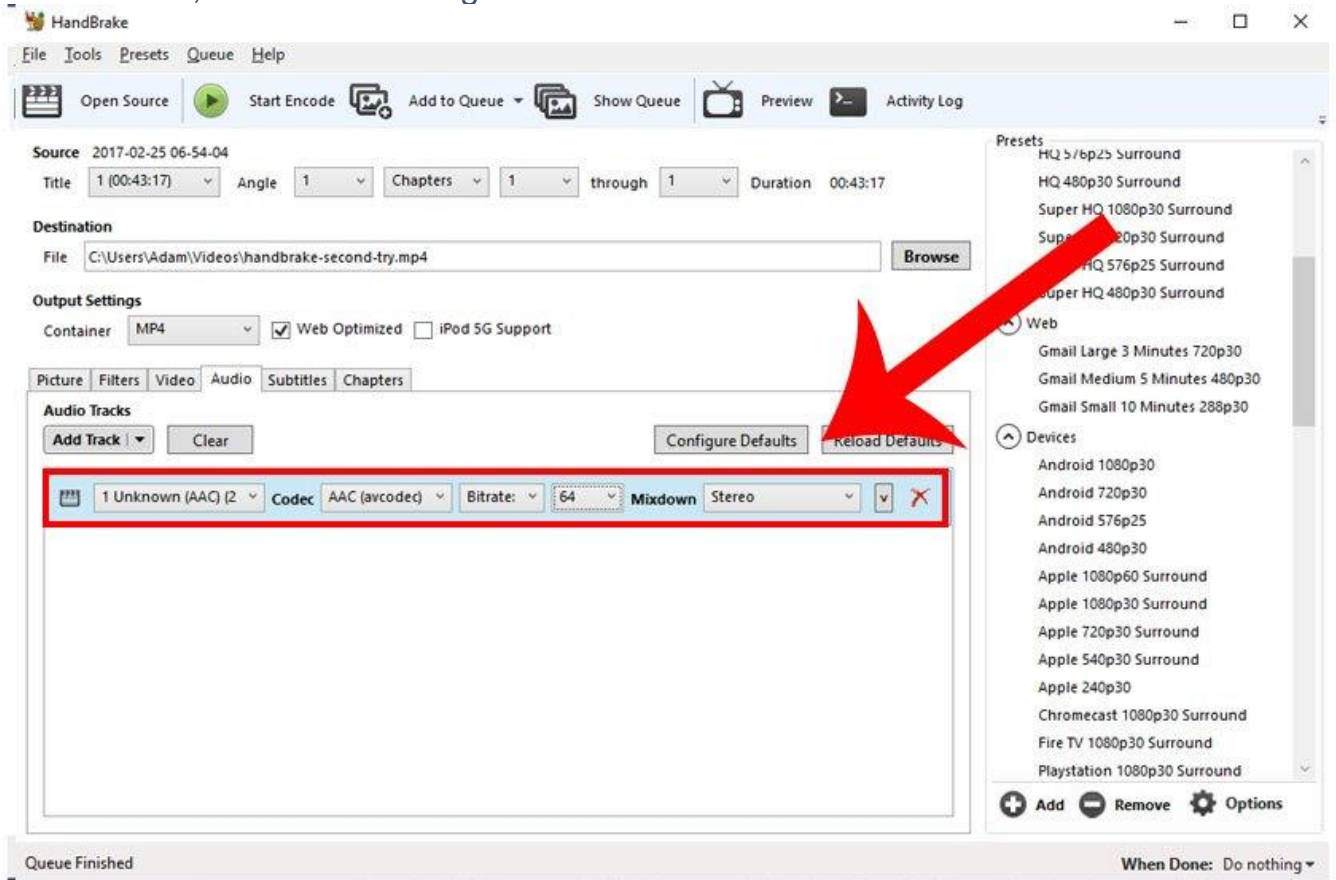
I don't need full screen resolution for my new video, so I will reduce it to 640x480.



Step 5 – Lower the Audio Bitrate

Lucky for me, this video is a throwback, with some 8-bit type sounds reminiscent of the original Super Mario Brothers soundtrack. So I have no problem reducing

the audio to 64, the lowest setting.

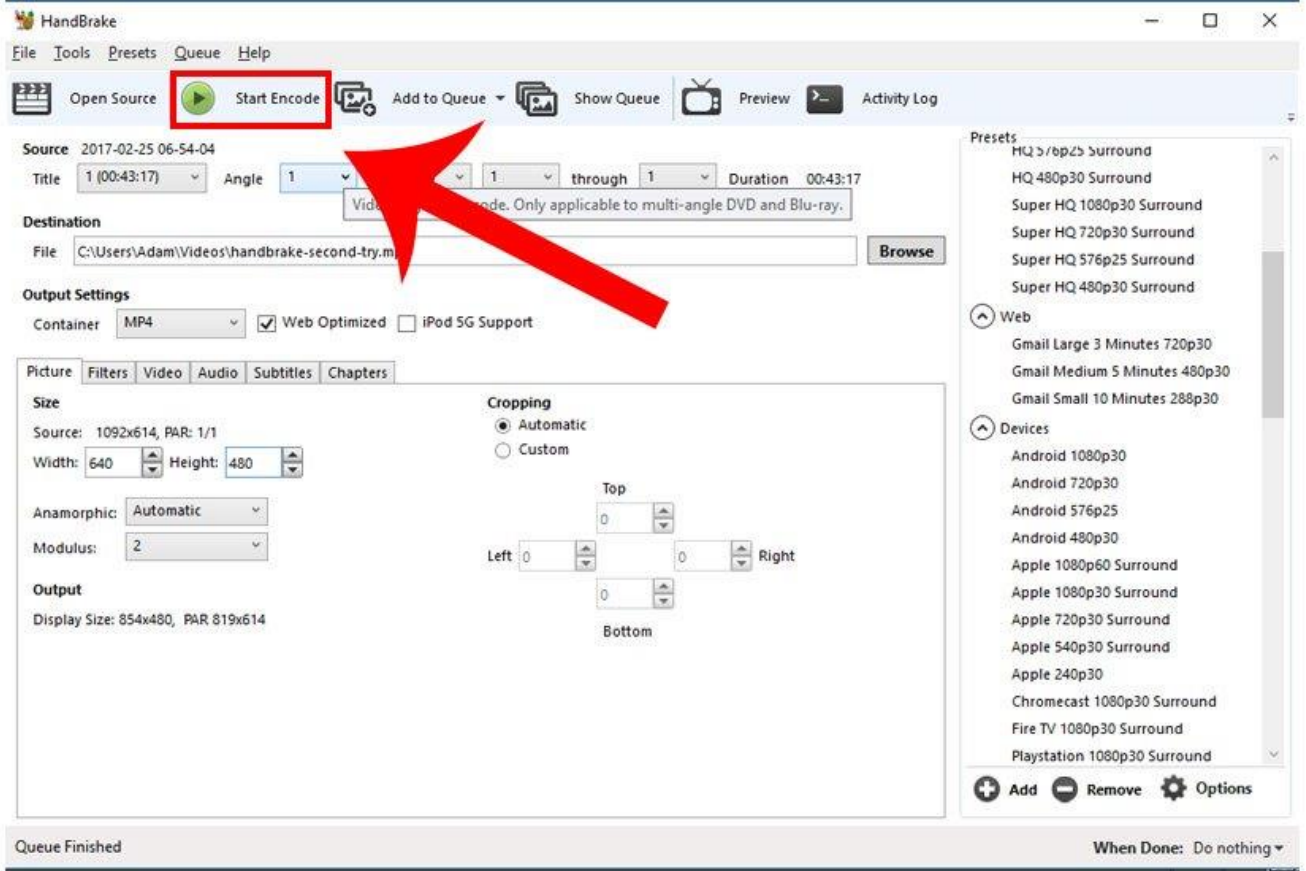


Tip: Audio tracks come in Stereo (Separate left and right channels). If music or high quality sound isn't important, you can switch to Mono (a single audio track) to reduce video file size .

Final Step – Start Encode

Once you are happy with the settings, you can go ahead and hit **Start Encode**. I did this on a notebook with 8GB RAM and it only took HandBrake around 10 minutes to finish encoding the file. When all was said and done I was able to

reduce my file from 58.3 MB to 6.33 MB! And the file is still very watchable.



Tip: Handbrake has lots of useful presets for specific devices. It's still a good idea to check a certain device's specifications before optimizing video for playback on it. You can learn a lot about how to configure your output settings by studying different

presets.

The screenshot shows the HandBrake application window. The main interface is dimmed, but the 'Presets' menu is open on the right side, highlighted with a red border. The menu is organized into sections: 'General', 'Web', and 'Devices'. The 'General' section is expanded, showing a list of video quality and resolution presets. The 'Fast 1080p30' preset is currently selected and highlighted. Other visible presets include 'Very Fast 1080p30', 'Very Fast 720p30', 'Very Fast 576p25', 'Very Fast 480p30', 'Fast 720p30', 'Fast 576p25', 'Fast 480p30', 'HQ 1080p30 Surround', 'HQ 720p30 Surround', 'HQ 576p25 Surround', 'HQ 480p30 Surround', 'Super HQ 1080p30 Surround', 'Super HQ 720p30 Surround', 'Super HQ 576p25 Surround', and 'Super HQ 480p30 Surround'. The 'Web' section includes 'Gmail Large 3 Minutes 720p30', 'Gmail Medium 5 Minutes 480p30', and 'Gmail Small 10 Minutes 288p30'. The 'Devices' section is partially visible at the bottom.

HandBrake

Tools Presets Queue Help

Open Source Start Encode Add to Queue Show Queue Preview Activity Log

2017-02-25 06:49:28

1 (00:02:45) Angle 1 Chapters 1 through 1 Duration 00:02:45

Location: C:\Users\Adam\Videos\2017-02-25 06-49-28-1.m4v Browse

Output Settings

Container: MP4 Web Optimized iPod 5G Support

Filters: Video Audio Subtitles Chapters

Video

Video Codec: H.264 (x264)

Frame Rate (FPS): Same as source

Constant Framerate Variable Framerate

Quality

Constant Quality: 22 RF

Lower Quality | Placebo Quality

Avg Bitrate (kbps):

2-Pass Encoding Turbo first pass

Optimise Video:

Encoder Preset: Fast

Encoder Tune: None Fast Decode

Encoder Profile: Auto Encoder Level: Auto

Presets

- General
 - Very Fast 1080p30
 - Very Fast 720p30
 - Very Fast 576p25
 - Very Fast 480p30
 - Fast 1080p30**
 - Fast 720p30
 - Fast 576p25
 - Fast 480p30
 - HQ 1080p30 Surround
 - HQ 720p30 Surround
 - HQ 576p25 Surround
 - HQ 480p30 Surround
 - Super HQ 1080p30 Surround
 - Super HQ 720p30 Surround
 - Super HQ 576p25 Surround
 - Super HQ 480p30 Surround
- Web
 - Gmail Large 3 Minutes 720p30
 - Gmail Medium 5 Minutes 480p30
 - Gmail Small 10 Minutes 288p30
- Devices