



vivo Log × ACES
Color Grading Workflow Guide

A step-by-step technical guide to integrating vivo Log footage into an ACES-compliant color management workflow — from camera input to final deliverable.

The **Academy Color Encoding System (ACES)** is the global standard for color management across motion picture, television, and commercial production. Developed by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in collaboration with leading cinematographers and color scientists, ACES provides a unified framework that preserves creative intent at every stage — from principal photography through editorial, visual effects, mastering, theatrical exhibition, and long-term archival.

By anchoring all color decisions to a single, device-independent reference, ACES eliminates the guesswork of cross-platform consistency: what you grade is what the audience sees, regardless of the display technology or delivery format.

vivo Log is officially ACES-certified. Having passed the Academy's rigorous technical review, vivo Log footage integrates seamlessly into any ACES pipeline and matches effortlessly with professional camera systems and broadcast standards worldwide.

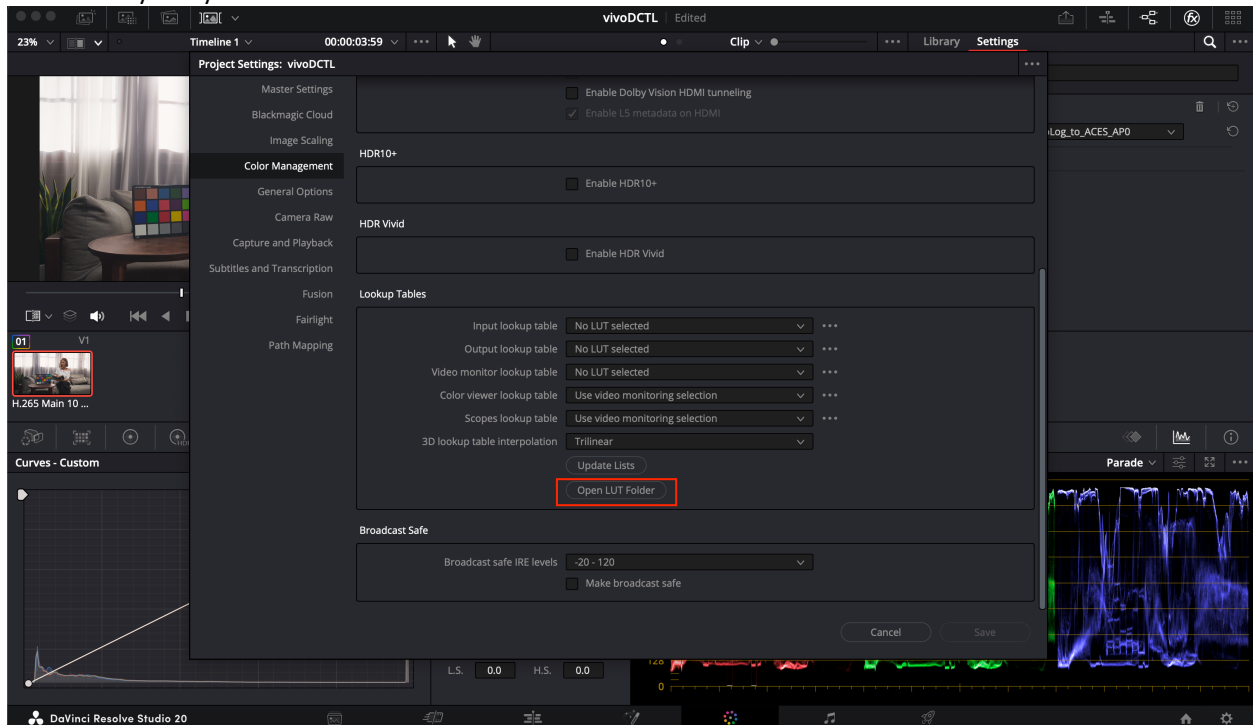
1 : Loading the vivo DCTL File

Install the vivo Input Transform before beginning any color work.

This is a one-time setup per workstation.

STEP 1.1

1. Launch DaVinci Resolve. In the lower-right corner of the interface, click the Project Settings icon to open the project configuration panel.
2. Navigate to the Color Management section. From there, select Open LUT Folder. This reveals the directory on your system where Resolve stores all LUTs and DCTL files.



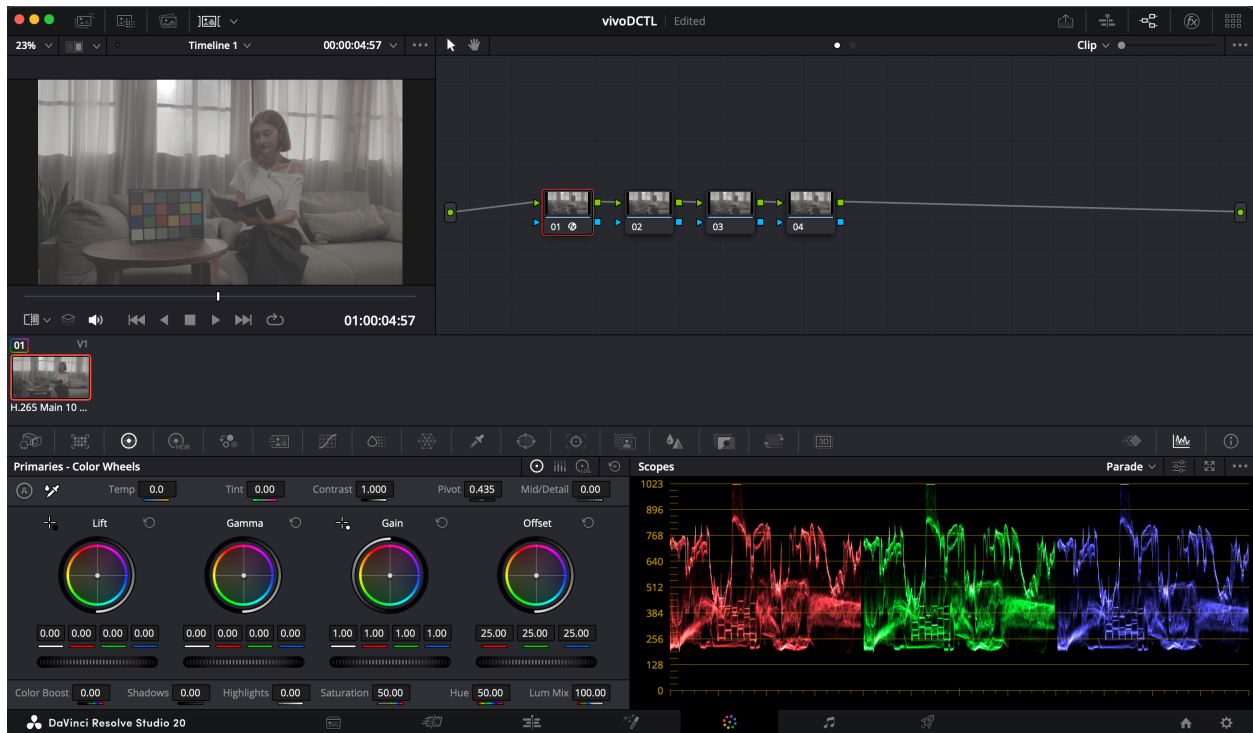
STEP 1.2

- Create a DCTL folder and install the transform file
- Inside the LUT folder, create a new subfolder named DCTL.
- Place the vivo DCTL file (vivoLog_to_ACES_AP0.DCTL) into this folder.
- Fully quit and relaunch DaVinci Resolve to allow the application to register the newly installed DCTL.

The transform will now appear in the Effects Library and remain available for all future projects.

2: ACES Color Workflow

A three-node pipeline that takes vivo Log footage through ACES-compliant color management, from camera encoding to Rec.709 output.



The workflow described here uses DaVinci Resolve's Color Tab.

Each node in the pipeline performs a precise color space transformation — follow the sequence carefully to ensure mathematically correct results at every stage.

Node 1
DCTL Transform
vivo Log → Linear AP0

Node 2
ACES Transform
No Input Transform → ACEScct

Grade
Creative Grade
Work in AP1 LOG Space

Node 3
Output Transform
ACES CCT → Rec. 709

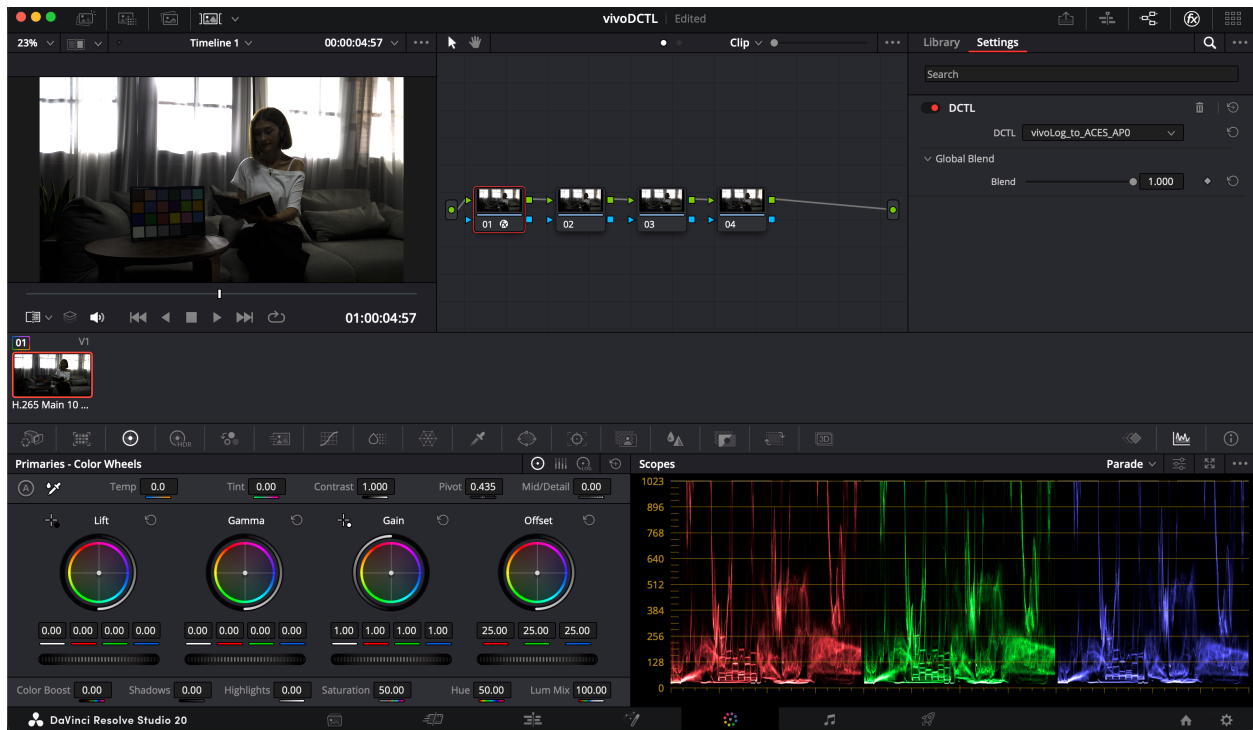
STEP 2.1

Import vivo Log footage and prepare the node structure

Import your HEVC-encoded vivo Log clip into DaVinci Resolve and add it to a timeline. Open the **Color** page and, with the clip selected in the viewer, build your node structure. You will need at least three serial nodes for this pipeline.



STEP 2.2 : Apply the DCTL Effect



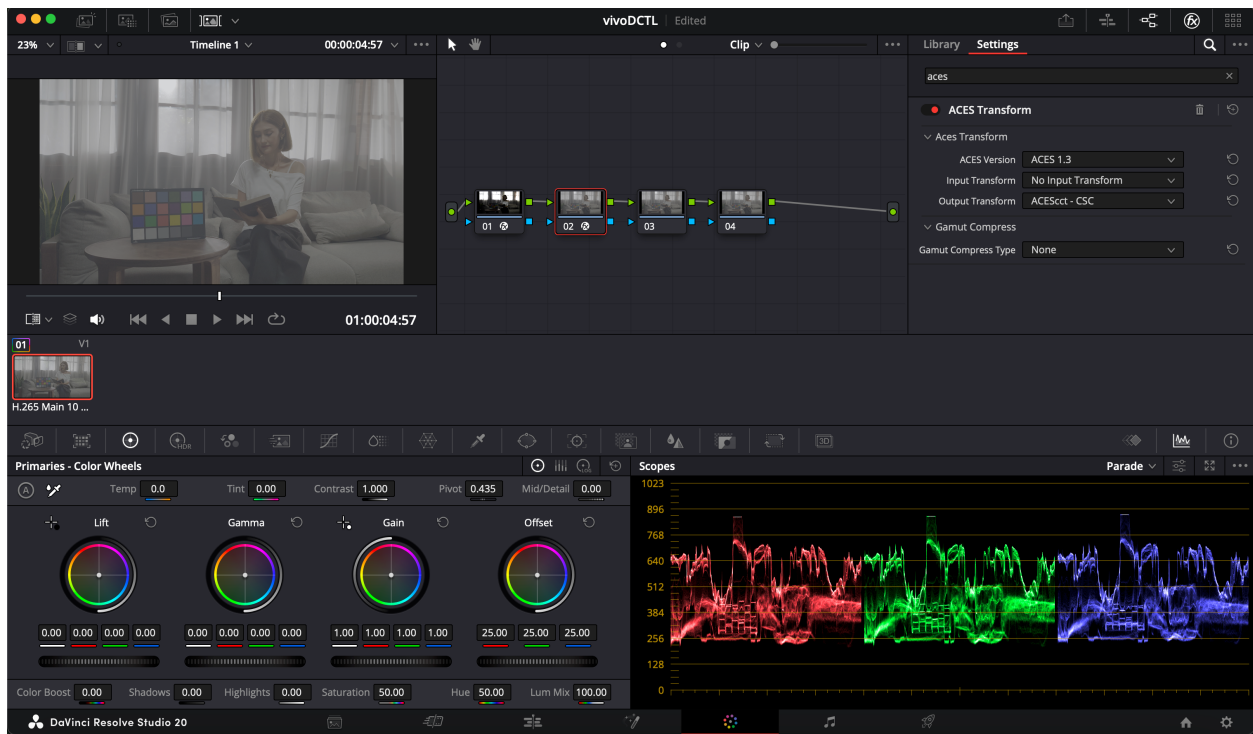
- In the **Effects Library**, locate the DCTL plugin and drag it onto the first node.
- From the DCTL dropdown, select vivoLog_to_ACES_AP0.

This operation decodes the vivo Log gamma curve and wide-gamut primaries, mathematically converting the signal into ACES linear AP0 — the scene-referred reference color space that sits at the heart of the ACES ecosystem.

PREREQUISITE : The DCTL file must be installed before this step. If vivoLog_to_ACES_AP0 does not appear in the dropdown, complete the installation steps in **Section 2** and relaunch Resolve.

STEP 2.3

Apply the ACES Transform on Node 2 — linear AP0 to ACEScct



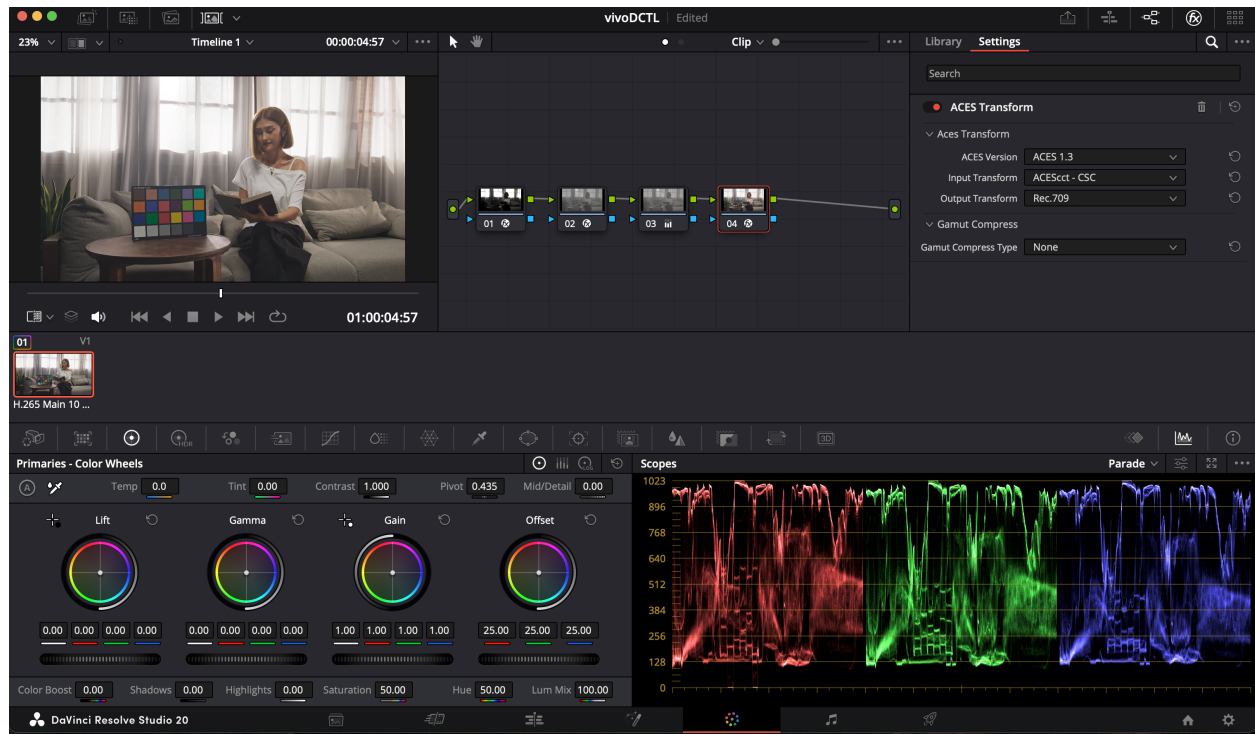
From the **Effects Library**, drag the ACES Transform plugin onto the second node and configure it as follows:

- **ACES Version:** No version restrictions
- **Input Transform:** No Input Transform
- **Output Transform:** ACEScsc-CSC

This converts the scene-linear AP0 color space into the ACEScsc logarithmic AP1 color space — a perceptually weighted working space designed for intuitive intuitive grading with familiar tools.

All primary color corrections, curves, and secondaries should be performed in this space on subsequent nodes.

STEP 2.4 : Converting to Rec.709



Once all creative grading decisions are complete, add a final ACES Transform plugin to the third node and configure it for output:

- **ACES Version:** No version restrictions
- **Input Transform:** ACEScct-CSC
- **Output Transform:** Rec.709 or Rec.709 BT.1886

This applies the ACES Reference Rendering Transform (RRT) and the Rec.709 Output Display Transform (ODT), converting the graded AP1 signal into Rec.709 color space for exporting the video.