

You can create custom libraries for `moviesoup` from your own artwork and import them so that your backgrounds and clipart appear under the Library tab for easy access. This guide shows you how to do it.

Step 1: Create a library folder structure

The folder structure holds information about your library in a plain text file and all your backgrounds (scenes) and clipart (items). Note that `moviesoup` currently only accepts artwork in its native `.ftc` format. If you'd like to use artwork in other formats, there's a workaround described at the end of this guide.

```
library
- info.txt
+ scenes
- background1.ftc
- background2.ftc
- ...
+ items
- item1.ftc
- item2.ftc
- ...
```

You can name the top level folder anything you like (we call it "library" in the example). Below that `moviesoup` expects two folders called "scenes" and "items". It also expects a text file called "info.txt" which is described below. Names of your clipart and background files can be anything you like.

Step 2: Create the info.txt file

Using a simple text editor (e.g. Notepad.exe), create a plain text file where you specify the name of your library, the copyright holder and optionally an URL. Here's an example:

```
name=Adventures in Space
copyright=FluxTime Limited
homepage=http://fluxtime.com
```

Make sure you save the file in the library folder and call it "info.txt"

Step 3: Create library

Open a command line and call the `movietools` utility with the `-lmake` flag. This will create a library file (`.ftl`) with the same name as the library folder and in the same location.

```
movietools -lmake <library_folder>
```

The `movietools` utility is located in the same folder as `moviesoup`, i.e. by default under `C:\Program Files\Moviesoup\movietools.exe`

Step 4: Import the library

Start `moviesoup` and import the new library via File > Import Clipart Library

That's it - now start using your new library!

Using bitmap images

Currently `moviesoup` only accepts libraries with artwork in its native `.ftc` format. If you'd like to use bitmap images (photographs) in your library, you need to first embed them in a `.ftc` container. Try to follow the instructions to the dot.

- 1) Using any image editing software, resize the images to a reasonable size. For backgrounds we recommend 640 x 480 pixels. Clipart items should not be larger than 320 x 240 pixels, otherwise `moviesoup` might run out of memory if an animation contains too many items.
- 2) For clipart items other than backgrounds, you might also want to "cut them out" and place them on a transparent background. Again, use your favourite image editor for this.
- 3) Save resized images in JPEG format or PNG (Portable Network Graphics) format if you use transparency.
- 4) Using `moviesoup`, convert backgrounds to the `.ftc` file format.

For each background:

- new clip > image
- select background image and hit OK
- save in native `.ftc` format

- 5) Using `moviesoup`, convert clipart items to the `.ftc` file format.

For each clipart item:

- new clip > blank
- add new shape > image
- select image and hit OK
- draw image up on blank canvas
- save in native `.ftc` format

(!) Note the difference between converting backgrounds and clipart items: backgrounds can be converted directly via *new clip > images*, while clipart items need the extra step of creating a blank clip first and then drawing up the image via *add new shape > images*.

Once you have converted all images to the `.ftc` format, you can use them as described above to create your library.