HandBrake CLI

Video transcoder

CONCEPTS

Pick a preset first, then override single options after it; the preset only sets defaults.

Source -i file or disc
↓ -t / -c
Title chapters, tracks
↓ filters, size
Picture crop, scale, deinterlace
↓ -e / -q
Encode video, audio, subs
↓ -f
Output mp4 / mkv / webm

Constant quality (-q) beats a fixed bitrate for most files; lower numbers mean better quality and bigger files.

BASICS

HandBrakeCLI -i *<in>* **-o** *<out>*
Encode a file

-Z *<preset>*
Use a preset by name

-z
List all presets

--preset-import-file *<file.json>*
Import a preset file

-f *<format>*
Set container (av_mp4, av_mkv, av_webm)

-O
Optimize MP4 for web streaming

SOURCE AND TITLES

-t 0
Scan all titles, then exit

--scan
Scan only the chosen title

-t *<n>*
Encode title number n

--main-feature
Auto-select the main title

-c *<a-b>*
Encode only chapters a to b

--start-at *<unit:n>* **--stop-at** *<unit:n>*
Encode a time range

VIDEO

-e *<encoder>*
Choose video encoder

-q *<rf>*
Constant quality value

-b *<kbps>*
Average video bitrate

--multi-pass
Use two-pass encoding with -b

--encoder-preset *<name>*
Set speed/efficiency preset

-r *<fps>* **--cfr**
Constant frame rate

--vfr
Variable frame rate

PICTURE

-w *<px>* **-l** *<px>*
Set width and height

-X *<px>* **-Y** *<px>*
Limit maximum width and height

FILTERS

--deinterlace
Deinterlace with yadif

--decomb
Deinterlace only combed frames

AUDIO

-a *<list>*
Select audio tracks (1,2 or none)

-E *<encoder>*
Audio encoder (av_aac, opus, ac3, copy)

-B *<kbps>*
Audio bitrate per track

-6 *<mixdown>*
Mixdown: mono, stereo, 5point1

SUBTITLES AND CHAPTERS

-s *<list>*
Select subtitle tracks (1,2 or none)

--subtitle-burned[=n]
Burn a subtitle track into the video

--srt-file *<file>*
Add an external SRT file