CineCinch

Video Analyzer & Compressor

End User Documentation

Complete Feature Reference & User Guide

1. Overview

CineCinch is a desktop video analysis and batch compression tool designed for anyone who needs to quickly assess the quality of a video library and reduce file sizes without sacrificing visual fidelity. It combines a built-in video scanner, a quality-rating engine, and an FFmpeg-powered compression pipeline — all wrapped in a clean, dark-themed interface.

The workflow is intentionally linear and non-destructive:

1. Point CineCinch at a folder containing your videos.
2. Run a scan — every file is probed and given an instant quality rating.
3. Review the results, filter by rating, search by name, and reorder the queue.
4. Choose your output settings and start batch compression.
5. Optionally export the scan results to CSV for record-keeping.

Original files are never touched until you explicitly choose to delete them, giving you full control at every step.

1.1 System Requirements

Requirement	Details
Operating System	Windows 10 / 11 (64-bit)
FFmpeg / FFprobe	Bundled with the application (no separate install required)
Disk Space	Varies based on your video library and output settings
Display	1150 × 800 minimum; scales to any larger resolution

1.2 Trial vs. Full Version

CineCinch can run in Trial mode or Full mode. The following restrictions apply to the Trial version:

- Scan results are limited to 10 files. The scan stops automatically once 10 files have been found and a notification is displayed.
- CSV export is disabled. Clicking Export CSV shows an informational message instead of saving a file.

All other features — scanning, compression, filtering, reordering, and output settings — are fully functional in the Trial version.

2. Window & Navigation

CineCinch uses a custom frameless window. Standard OS window controls are replaced with a built-in title bar that provides identical functionality.

2.1 Title Bar

Element	Description
Application icon	Decorative; confirms the active application.
CineCinch label	Identifies the application. A red TRIAL badge appears next to the name when running in Trial mode.
Minimize (−)	Hides the window to the taskbar.
Maximize / Restore (□ / ❐)	Toggles between a maximized full-screen view and the normal windowed size.
Close (✕)	Closes the application. Highlighted red on hover as a safety cue.

Double-click anywhere in the top 35 pixels of the title bar to toggle maximize/restore, just as you would with a standard window.

2.2 Resizing & Dragging

- Drag the title bar to reposition the window on your screen.
- Drag any edge or corner within 5 pixels of the window border to resize it.
- The cursor changes to indicate the resize direction: horizontal arrows on left/right edges, vertical arrows on top/bottom edges, and diagonal arrows on corners.
- Minimum window size is 1150 × 800 pixels to ensure all controls remain accessible.

3. Scan Settings

The Scan Settings group contains everything needed to configure and launch a folder scan. It sits at the top of the main window and is divided into a folder selector, action buttons, quality threshold controls, and file-type filters.

3.1 Folder to Scan

Use the folder picker (🗀) to open a Browse dialog and select the root folder you want CineCinch to scan. The selected path is displayed in the read-only text field next to it. CineCinch remembers the last folder you selected between sessions — it will be pre-filled the next time you launch the application.

The scan is recursive: CineCinch walks all subfolders of the selected directory, so an entire nested library can be analyzed in a single pass.

3.2 Action Buttons

Scan Videos

Starts the scan. This button is only enabled when a valid folder has been selected. Once clicked:

- The table is cleared and a fresh scan begins.
- The status bar shows a live elapsed timer and a running count of files analyzed.
- Results appear in the table in real time as each file is probed.
- During a scan, most controls are disabled to prevent conflicting changes.
- A short system chime sounds when the scan finishes.

Stop Scan

Immediately halts an in-progress scan. Files already analyzed remain in the table. The elapsed time and final file count are shown in the status bar. Stop Scan is only enabled while a scan is actively running.

Export CSV

After a scan completes, this button exports the entire table (all columns except the Compress checkbox) to a CSV file you specify. The file is named CineCinch_Report.csv by default, and the application remembers the last directory you exported to.

> **Export CSV is disabled in the Trial version of CineCinch.**

3.3 Quality Rating Threshold

The Quality Rating Threshold determines the MB/sec breakpoints used to classify each video into one of three quality tiers. Select the threshold that best matches the typical resolution of your library:

Setting	Behavior & Intended Use
Strict (recommended for 720p libraries)	Very tight thresholds. Only videos with extremely low bitrate density are marked Efficient. Best suited to standard-definition or 720p libraries where well-encoded files should be small.
Medium (default) (recommended for 1080p)	Balanced thresholds suited to a typical 1080p library. A good starting point for most users with mixed HD content.
Generous (recommended for 4K libraries)	Loose thresholds. More videos will be classified as Average or Efficient. Appropriate for 4K content, which legitimately requires higher bitrates to maintain quality.

The exact MB/sec breakpoints for each threshold level are as follows:

Threshold	Rating Breakpoints
Strict	Efficient: ≤ 0.16 MB/sec	Average: 0.16 – 0.75 MB/sec	Bloated: > 0.75 MB/sec
Medium	Efficient: ≤ 0.32 MB/sec	Average: 0.32 – 1.50 MB/sec	Bloated: > 1.50 MB/sec
Generous	Efficient: ≤ 0.75 MB/sec	Average: 0.75 – 3.52 MB/sec	Bloated: > 3.52 MB/sec

The threshold setting is saved automatically and will be restored on next launch.

3.4 Include These File Types

The file-type panel lists every supported video container format. Each format has an individual checkbox — only files whose extension is checked will be included in the next scan.

Supported formats: .3gp .asf .avi .f4v .flv .m2ts .m4v .mkv .mov .mp4 .mpeg .mpg .mts .ogv .ts .vob .webm .wmv

- The Select All / None button toggles all checkboxes at once. If any checkbox is currently unchecked, clicking it checks all; if all are checked, clicking it unchecks all.
- All checkbox states are saved immediately when changed and persist across sessions.
- If you attempt to start a scan with no file types selected, CineCinch will display a warning and will not proceed.

4. Results Table

The results table is the center of the CineCinch workflow. Every scanned file appears as a row with detailed metadata, a quality rating, compression status, and a checkbox to include or exclude it from the compression queue.

4.1 Columns

Column	Description
Compress	A checkbox that controls whether this file will be included in the next compression run. All rows are checked by default after scanning.
File	The full path to the video file on disk.
Size (MB)	The file size in megabytes at the time of scanning.
Duration (sec)	The video duration in seconds, obtained via FFprobe. Displays ERROR if the file could not be probed.
MB/sec	The file size divided by duration in seconds — a proxy for bitrate density. Lower values indicate more efficient encoding. Displays ERROR if duration could not be determined.
Rating	The quality classification based on the MB/sec value and the selected threshold: Efficient (green), Average (orange), Bloated (red), or ERROR (gray).
Progress	Shows the compression status for this file: blank (not yet run), Queued, Compressing (with live % progress), Complete (with final output size), Skipped, Failed, Cancelled, or an error description.
Saved (MB)	After compression completes for a file, this column shows how many megabytes were saved along with the percentage reduction, e.g. "45.32 (38.4%)". A positive value means the output is smaller; a negative value means the output is larger than the source.

4.2 Sorting

Click any column header to sort the table by that column. Click again to reverse the sort order. The table supports numeric sorting on all numeric columns (Size, Duration, MB/sec) so values sort correctly rather than alphabetically.

Sorting is also available during compression, but only for rows that have not yet been locked by the compressor. Locked rows (currently queued, actively compressing, or already complete) stay in their fixed positions while the pending rows around them reorder. This lets you reprioritize the remaining queue without disrupting work already in progress.

4.3 Double-Click Actions

Double-clicking a row performs a context-sensitive action depending on which column you click:

- File column: Opens the file's containing folder in Windows Explorer, with the file highlighted.
- Progress or Saved (MB) column: If the compressed output file already exists on disk, Windows Explorer opens and highlights it. If the output does not yet exist, the configured output folder is opened instead. If neither is available, the source file's folder is opened as a fallback.

4.4 Select All / None For Compression

The tristate "Select All/None For Compression" checkbox above the table synchronizes with the individual row checkboxes:

- Checked: all visible, unlocked rows have their Compress checkbox checked.
- Unchecked: all visible, unlocked rows have their Compress checkbox unchecked.
- Partially checked (dash): a mix of checked and unchecked rows is visible. Clicking the checkbox in this state will check all rows.

Locked rows are rows that have been processed — either currently being compressed (Queued or Compressing) or already finished (Complete). Once a row is locked it becomes fixed: its checkbox is grayed out and cannot be toggled, it cannot be reordered, and it remains visible even if a filter would otherwise hide it. This protects completed work from accidental modification. Locked rows are released when the compression run ends.

4.5 Reordering Rows (Move Up / Move Down)

The ▲ and ▼ buttons beside the Select All checkbox move the currently selected row up or down in the table by one position. This controls the order in which files will be compressed.

- To use: click a row to select it, then click ▲ or ▼.
- The buttons are only enabled when the selected row can actually move in that direction — they disable automatically if the row is locked, if there is no unlocked neighbor to swap with, or if the row is already at the top or bottom of its visible range.
- Row reordering is allowed while compression is running. You can reorganize unlocked (pending) rows at any time without stopping the current job.
- A row cannot be moved past a locked row. Locked rows act as fixed anchors in the queue — the compressor processes them in the order they were locked, and reordering cannot change that.

- Note: the compressor only processes rows that are visible (not hidden by filters) and checked at the time each row is reached. Hidden or unchecked rows are skipped when the worker arrives at them — reordering does not change this behavior.

Move Up / Move Down operate only relative to the nearest visible neighbor, respecting any active search or Show filters.

5. Search & Filters

The Search bar and Show checkboxes are located just below the Compression Settings panel. They provide instant, non-destructive filtering of the results table without removing any data.

5.1 Search Bar

Type any text into the Search field to instantly filter the table to rows that contain that text anywhere in any column (file path, size, duration, rating, progress, etc.). The filter is case-insensitive and updates as you type — no need to press Enter.

Clearing the search field restores all rows that match the active Show filters.

5.2 Show Checkboxes

The four Show checkboxes — Errors, Bloated, Average, Efficient — control which rating categories are visible. All four are enabled by default. Unchecking one hides all rows with that rating.

Category	Description
Errors	Rows where FFprobe could not determine a duration (MB/sec is unknown). Displayed in gray.
Bloated	Rows where MB/sec exceeds the upper threshold for the selected tolerance. Displayed in red.
Average	Rows where MB/sec falls between the two thresholds. Displayed in orange.
Efficient	Rows where MB/sec is below the lower threshold. Displayed in green.

- Search and Show filters apply simultaneously — a row must satisfy both the search text and the category visibility setting to be shown.
- Locked rows (files currently being processed or already completed in the active run) are always kept visible regardless of filters, so compression progress is never hidden from view.
- All Show filter states are saved and restored between sessions.

6. Compression Settings

The Compression Settings group lets you configure where compressed files are saved, which quality preset to use, and how audio and subtitle tracks are handled.

6.1 Output Location

Same folder as source (default)

When checked, each compressed file is saved in the same folder as its source. The output file is named [original name]_compressed.mp4. For example, MyVideo.mkv becomes MyVideo_compressed.mp4 in the same directory.

Custom output folder

Uncheck "Same folder as source" and click the 🗁 button to choose a different destination folder. All compressed files from the batch will be placed in this folder, preserving only the file name (not the subfolder structure). If the chosen folder does not exist, CineCinch creates it automatically.

> *If you select a custom output folder that is identical to the scan folder, CineCinch automatically switches back to "Same folder as source" mode to prevent ambiguity.*

6.2 Delete Originals

When the "Delete originals" checkbox is ticked, CineCinch permanently deletes each source file immediately after successfully compressing it. If compression fails for any reason, the original is left untouched.

> **CAUTION: This action is irreversible. Ensure you have verified the compressed output before enabling this option. Consider testing with a small batch first.**

6.3 Output Mode

The Output Mode dropdown selects the FFmpeg encoding preset applied to every file in the batch. All modes encode to H.265 (HEVC) in an MP4 container using the yuv420p pixel format for maximum compatibility.

Mode	Description
High Quality	CRF 21, slower preset. Produces the largest output of the four modes with the best visual fidelity. Best for archival masters.

Mode	Description
Standard	CRF 25, slow preset. A balanced trade-off between quality and file size. Recommended for most use cases.
High Compression	CRF 29, medium preset. Noticeably smaller files with moderate quality reduction. Suitable for streaming or storage-constrained environments.
Max Compression	CRF 34, fast preset. The smallest possible output. Quality reduction may be visible, especially on fast-motion content. Use when storage is the primary concern.

Lower CRF = higher quality and larger file. Higher CRF = more compression and smaller file. The "slower" and "slow" presets take longer to encode but produce slightly smaller files at the same CRF compared to "medium" and "fast".

The selected Output Mode is saved automatically and restored on next launch.

6.4 Keep All Audio Tracks

By default, CineCinch maps only the first audio track from each source file to the output. Checking "Keep all audio tracks" instructs FFmpeg to copy all audio streams, preserving multi-language dubs, commentary tracks, and any other audio streams present in the source.

6.5 Keep All Subtitle Tracks

When enabled, CineCinch probes each file with FFprobe before compression to determine what subtitle formats are present. The following rules apply based on the probe result:

Subtitle Situation	CineCinch Behavior
No subtitle streams found	Subtitles setting is silently ignored for this file.
Image-based subtitles (PGS, VobSub, DVD subtitle)	Cannot be embedded in MP4. Subtitles are dropped for this file; video and audio are still compressed normally.
Text subtitles compatible with MP4 (mov_text, WebVTT)	Subtitles are copied as-is into the output.
Other text-based subtitles (SRT, ASS, SSA)	Subtitles are converted to mov_text format for MP4 compatibility.

7. Compression Controls

The four compression control buttons are located on the same row as the output settings. They manage the lifecycle of a compression job.

7.1 Start Compression

Clicking Start Compression begins a batch compression job. Before starting:

- All visible rows (not hidden by filters) are added to the compression queue in their current table order.
- Rows already marked Complete from a previous run are skipped automatically, allowing you to resume an interrupted batch without rescanning.
- Unchecked rows are included in the queue but flagged to be skipped when the worker reaches them. You can re-check them before their turn arrives to include them in the run.
- Sorting is disabled for locked rows during compression. Use the ▲ / ▼ buttons or click a column header to reorder pending rows.

While compression is running, the status bar shows a live timer, the number of files processed so far, the total space saved so far, and the current file being compressed. For example:

```
[00:02:14] Files processed: 3 | Saved: 210.45 MB | Compressing:
MyVideo.mp4
```

7.2 Cancel

Immediately cancels the compression job. The current file being compressed is terminated as quickly as possible (FFmpeg is sent a terminate signal). Any partially-written output file is left on disk but will be incomplete — delete it manually if needed.

After cancellation, all non-completed rows are unlocked and their checkboxes are restored to their pre-run state. The status bar shows how many files were successfully processed before cancellation, the elapsed time, and the total space saved.

7.3 Stop After Current

A graceful stop. CineCinch finishes compressing the file currently in progress, then halts the batch without processing any further files. This is the preferred way to end a batch early when you do not want to interrupt an active encode.

The button disables itself once clicked to prevent duplicate requests, and the status bar notes that a stop has been requested.

7.4 Reset Progress

Clears all progress information from the table — the Progress column, Saved (MB) column, and all lock states — without removing the file rows themselves or requiring a new scan. After resetting, all Compress checkboxes become interactive again and a new compression run can be started from scratch on the same file list. This is particularly useful when you want to re-compress files with different settings without waiting for a full re-scan of the folder.

Reset Progress is only enabled when at least one row has visible progress text. It is disabled during an active compression job.

7.5 Modifying the Queue While Compressing

CineCinch allows limited queue management while compression is in progress:

- Unchecking a row that has not yet started will cause it to be skipped when the worker reaches it. The row's checkbox immediately shows as unchecked.
- Re-checking a previously unchecked (but not yet reached) row removes it from the skip list — it will be processed normally when the worker arrives.
- Locked rows (currently Queued, Compressing, or already Complete) cannot be toggled. Their checkboxes are grayed out and non-interactive until the job ends.
- You can reorder unlocked (pending) rows using the ▲ / ▼ buttons or by clicking a column header at any time during a run.
- Search and Show filters remain active during compression, so you can hide completed rows to focus on the pending queue.

8. Compression Progress & Status

The Progress column in the results table provides per-file feedback throughout the compression run. The status bar above the table provides aggregate feedback for the entire job.

8.1 Per-File Progress States

Status	Meaning
(blank)	File has not been processed in the current or any previous run.
Queued	The file is in the compression queue for the current run but processing has not started yet.
Compressing (XX.X%)	FFmpeg is actively encoding this file. The percentage reflects how much of the video duration has been encoded.
Complete (XX.XX MB)	Compression succeeded. The output file size is shown in parentheses. The row is locked and the checkbox is grayed.
Skipped	The file was in the queue but its Compress checkbox was unchecked when the worker reached it, so it was passed over. The Compress checkbox shows as unchecked.
Failed	FFmpeg returned a non-zero exit code. Hover over the Failed cell to see a tooltip containing the last error line from FFmpeg's output, which usually indicates the cause.
Cancelled	The job was cancelled while this file was being processed or waiting in the queue.
Error: [message]	An unexpected exception occurred while processing this file. The error message is shown in the cell.

8.2 Saved (MB) Column

Once a file's compression is marked Complete, the Saved (MB) column shows the space delta and percentage reduction:

- A positive value in green, e.g. "45.32 (38.4%)", means the output is smaller than the source — disk space was reclaimed.
- A negative value in amber, e.g. "-2.14 (-3.1%)", means the output is larger than the source. This can happen with source files that were already encoded very efficiently. No action is taken automatically; you can review and decide whether to keep the compressed version.

8.3 Status Bar

The status bar shows a running summary of the current operation. During compression it displays a live elapsed timer, files processed, space saved so far, and the current filename — all separated by pipe characters for easy reading. When compression finishes or is cancelled, the final summary includes total files processed, total elapsed time, and total space saved across all completed files.

The elapsed timer uses HH:MM:SS format and automatically switches to Dd HH:MM:SS (e.g. 1d 03:12:05) for jobs running longer than 24 hours.

9. Complete Workflow Walkthrough

This section walks through the full CineCinch workflow from launch to finished compression.

Step 1 — Launch

Launch CineCinch. A splash screen appears briefly while the application loads, then the main window opens.

Step 2 — Configure Scan Settings

- Click 🗀 next to "Folder to Scan" and navigate to the root folder of your video library.
- Select the Quality Rating Threshold that matches the typical resolution of your library — Strict for 720p, Medium for 1080p, Generous for 4K.
- Verify the file-type checkboxes include all the formats you want to analyze.

Step 3 — Scan

- Click Scan Videos. Results populate the table in real time, sorted by MB/sec (descending) so the highest-bitrate files appear first.
- Watch the status bar for the live elapsed time and file count.
- Click Stop Scan at any time to halt the scan early. Files already found are retained.

Step 4 — Review Results

- Use the Show checkboxes to focus on Bloated or Average files — these are the best compression candidates.
- Use the Search bar to locate specific files or folders.
- Uncheck the Compress checkbox for any file you do NOT want to compress.
- Use ▲ / ▼ to reorder files so the most important ones compress first.
- Export the table to CSV if you want a record of your library's quality analysis.

Step 5 — Configure Compression

- Choose an Output Location (same folder as source, or a custom destination).
- Decide whether to enable Delete Originals (disabled by default).
- Select an Output Mode (Standard is recommended for most users).
- Enable Keep all audio tracks and/or Keep all subtitle tracks if needed.

Step 6 — Compress

- Click Start Compression. The queue processes files one at a time from top to bottom.
- Monitor per-file progress in the Progress column. The status bar shows files processed, space saved so far, and the current filename.
- Use Stop After Current for a graceful stop, or Cancel for an immediate halt.

- Adjust the queue (reorder unlocked rows, uncheck/re-check pending rows) while compression runs if your priorities change.

Step 7 — Review & Reset

- When the job finishes, check the Saved (MB) column to see how much space each file saved.
- The status bar shows total space saved across all completed files.
- Click Reset Progress to clear all progress data if you want to run the compressor again on the same file list with different settings — no rescan needed.
- Start a new scan at any time to refresh the library analysis.

10. Settings Persistence

CineCinch automatically saves and restores your preferences between sessions. No manual save action is required — settings are written immediately whenever you change them.

Setting	What is saved
Last scan folder	Restored and pre-filled in the folder field on next launch.
Quality Rating Threshold	Restored to Strict, Medium, or Generous as last set.
File type checkboxes	Each format's enabled/disabled state is individually saved.
Output location mode	"Same folder as source" vs. custom folder.
Custom output folder	The last custom output path, if one was set.
Output Mode	High Quality, Standard, High Compression, or Max Compression.
Delete originals	Checked/unchecked state.
Keep all audio tracks	Checked/unchecked state.
Keep all subtitle tracks	Checked/unchecked state.
Show filter checkboxes	The enabled/disabled state of Errors, Bloated, Average, Efficient.
Last CSV export folder	The folder used for the most recent Export CSV operation.

11. Understanding the Quality Rating

CineCinch rates each video using a single metric: MB/sec (megabytes per second of video). This is a simplified proxy for average bitrate density that is easy to compare across files of different lengths.

MB/sec = File Size (MB) ÷ Duration (seconds)

This metric has the following properties:

- It rewards efficient encoding regardless of codec. An H.265 file and an H.264 file of the same content can both score Efficient if their bitrate density is low enough.
- It does not consider subjective visual quality — a badly-compressed video with an artificially low bitrate will score Efficient even if it looks poor.

The rating is intended to answer one question: relative to its duration, is this file taking up more disk space than it probably needs to? Files rated Bloated are strong candidates for re-compression.

11.1 Resolution and Threshold Selection

Higher-resolution video legitimately requires more data per second to maintain the same visual quality. A 4K video that looks excellent at 2.0 MB/sec would be massively over-compressed at that same rate if it were 480p DVD-quality content, where a well-encoded file might only need 0.10–0.15 MB/sec.

This is exactly why CineCinch offers three threshold levels, each calibrated to a different resolution tier:

Threshold	Resolution Target & Rationale
Strict	Calibrated for 720p and below. Efficient files at this resolution are genuinely small. Most poorly-encoded or unoptimized 720p files will correctly rate as Bloated.
Medium	Calibrated for 1080p HD content. The default and recommended starting point for mixed HD libraries.
Generous	Calibrated for 4K UHD content. High-quality 4K video needs higher bitrates by nature. Using Strict or Medium on a 4K library would incorrectly flag many well-encoded files as Bloated.

If your library contains a mix of resolutions, choose the threshold that matches the majority of your content, or run separate scans with different thresholds for different subfolders.

12. Tips & Best Practices

Match the threshold to your library's resolution

Using the wrong threshold is the most common source of confusing results. A Generous threshold on a 720p library will mark almost everything as Efficient; a Strict threshold on a 4K library will mark almost everything as Bloated. Start with the threshold that matches your content and adjust from there.

Do a test batch before enabling Delete Originals

Compress a small set of files first, review the output quality, then decide whether to enable automatic deletion. Once originals are deleted, they cannot be recovered from within CineCinch.

Use Stop After Current rather than Cancel

Stop After Current allows the in-progress encode to finish cleanly, giving you a valid output file. Cancel terminates mid-encode, leaving a potentially corrupt partial file.

Filter before compressing

Use the Show checkboxes and Search bar to isolate only Bloated files before starting compression. Uncheck Average and Efficient rows to skip files that do not need re-encoding. This saves time and avoids unnecessary processing of already-efficient files.

Reorder high-priority files to the top

Use the ▲ button (or sort by a column header) to promote the most important files to the top of the pending queue. If you need to stop the batch early, the most valuable files will have already been processed.

Use Export CSV for library management

Export the scan results to a CSV file after scanning to get a spreadsheet-compatible snapshot of your library's quality metrics. Useful for tracking progress over time or sharing results with others.

Resume interrupted compression runs without rescanning

If a compression batch is interrupted, click Reset Progress and then Start Compression again on the same file list. Rows marked Complete will be skipped automatically, so only unfinished files will be processed. A full re-scan is only needed if the files on disk have changed.

Use the live status bar to estimate remaining time

The status bar shows files processed and total space saved in real time. Comparing the per-file average time against your remaining queue gives a rough estimate of completion time for large batches.

13. Troubleshooting

A file shows ERROR in Duration and MB/sec

FFprobe could not read the file's duration. This can happen if the file is corrupted, in an unsupported container format, or still being written by another application. The file will still appear in the table but cannot be rated. It can still be selected for compression, though compression may also fail.

Compression shows Failed for a file

FFmpeg encountered an error while encoding. Hover over the Failed cell in the Progress column to read a tooltip containing the last error line from FFmpeg's output, which usually indicates the cause (e.g. unsupported codec, file permission error, or disk full). Fix the underlying issue and click Reset Progress to retry.

Output file is larger than the source

This is expected for files that were already encoded very efficiently. Re-encoding with a lossy codec always incurs some overhead compared to a near-optimal source. The Saved (MB) column will show a negative value in amber. Consider skipping such files in future runs by filtering them out with the Efficient Show checkbox.

Subtitles are missing from the output

If the source file contains image-based subtitles (PGS, VobSub, or DVD-format), CineCinch intentionally drops them because they cannot be embedded in an MP4 container. For files where subtitle preservation is critical, consider using a different output container via a dedicated conversion tool.

Files are being skipped even though they are checked

Check whether a Search or Show filter is hiding those rows. Only rows that are visible at the time compression starts are included in the queue — rows hidden by filters are treated as if they are not there.

The application window is too small

CineCinch requires a minimum window size of 1150 × 800 pixels. Drag a window border to resize it, or use the maximize button to go full-screen.

Settings are not being saved

CineCinch stores settings in the Windows registry under CineCinch\CineCinch using Qt's QSettings. If your user account lacks write permission to the registry (uncommon but possible on managed systems), settings will not persist between sessions. Contact your system administrator if this occurs.

14. Quick Reference

14.1 Button Summary

Control	Action
🗁 (Scan folder)	Open folder browser to select the video library root.
Scan Videos	Start scanning the selected folder (recursive).
Stop Scan	Immediately halt the in-progress scan.
Export CSV	Save the results table to a .csv file (full version only).
Select All/None	Toggle all file-type checkboxes on or off.
🗁 (Output folder)	Open folder browser to select a custom output destination.
Start Compression	Begin batch compressing all queued files.
Cancel	Immediately stop compression and terminate the current encode.
Stop After Current	Finish the current file, then stop the batch gracefully.
Reset Progress	Clear all progress data and unlock all checkboxes for a new run.
Select All/None (table)	Check or uncheck all visible, unlocked Compress checkboxes.
▲ Move Up	Move the selected table row one position up.
▼ Move Down	Move the selected table row one position down.

14.2 Color Coding Reference

Color / Element	Meaning
Green text — Efficient rating	File's MB/sec is below the lower threshold for the selected quality level.
Orange text — Average rating	File's MB/sec falls between the two thresholds.
Red text — Bloated rating	File's MB/sec exceeds the upper threshold — strong compression candidate.
Gray text — Error rating	Duration could not be determined; MB/sec is unknown.
Teal — Progress cell	Compression completed successfully.
Red — Progress cell	Compression was skipped, failed, or cancelled.
Green — Saved (MB) value	Output file is smaller than the source — space was reclaimed.
Amber — Saved (MB) value	Output file is larger than the source — no space was saved.

Color / Element	Meaning
Red TRIAL badge in title bar	Application is running in Trial mode (10-file scan limit, no CSV export).
Grayed checkbox	Row is locked — currently being processed or already completed this run.

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