

User Manual

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1 - Introduction

1.1 Welcome



We are delighted that you have decided in favor of **AquaSoft Transcriptor**.

With [AquaSoft Transcriptor](#) and [Transcriptor Pro](#) you can make speech or singing visible as text. Add images to sound files and subtitle them automatically. Transcribe videos and generate captions automatically. Enrich your source material not only with subtitles, but also with logos, your own images and animations. Export subtitle files or create videos for further editing or for presentation on the Internet.

If you cannot find the answer to a specific question in this manual, please contact us personally by sending an e-mail to support@aquasoft.de. We will be happy to help you!

1.2 System requirements

For the installation of **AquaSoft Transcriptor** or **Transcriptor Pro** you should have at least the following system requirements. More resources are better, especially with regard to the speed of transcription and output:

Hardware

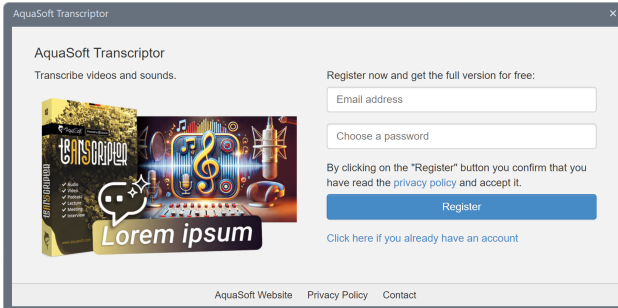
CPU	2 GHz, multi-core processor advantageous
Graphics card	DirectX 9c (must support Shadermodel 2), at least 1 GB memory
RAM	16 GB
Free hard disk space	Program 1 GB, Transcoder 5 GB, Language models 1 to 10 GB
Supported operating systems	64-Bit Windows 10 from Version 21H2 and Windows 11

If possible, install the software on drive C:. This way you can be sure that all necessary files are found immediately, even for templates or sample projects.

1.3 Installation and activation

To use the **AquaSoft Transcriptor** please register once with your e-mail address and a password of your choice.

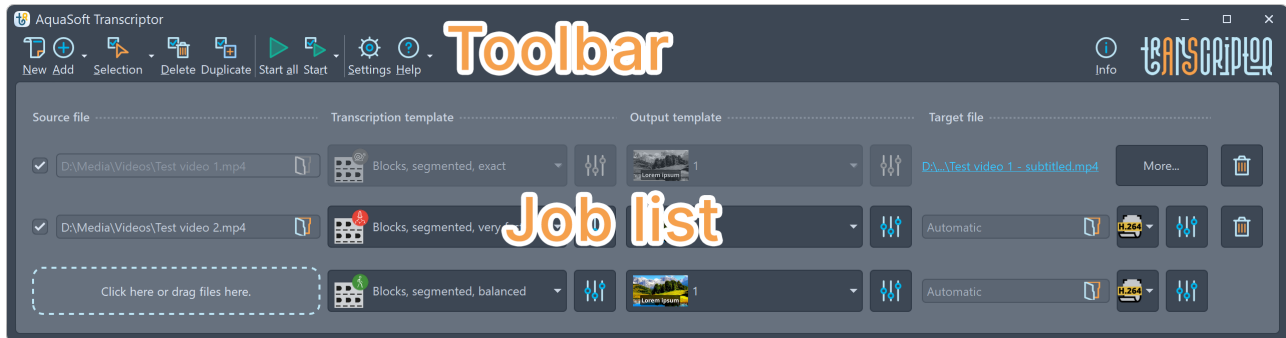
If you already have an AquaSoft customer account, please click on *Click here if you already have an account* in the login dialog. Then enter your AquaSoft login details.



2 - Program overview

2.1 User interface

In the AquaSoft Transcriptor all settings and functions required to carry out a transcription are accessible in this view.



Program interface

1. The Toolbar

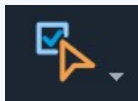
The individual icons of the toolbar:



Creates a new empty job list, all previously inserted jobs are removed.



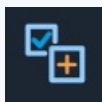
Adding videos or sound files



Change selection (checkmark for all/no jobs)



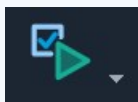
Delete selected jobs



Duplicate selected job to create further jobs for a file or to create a new job once it has been completed.



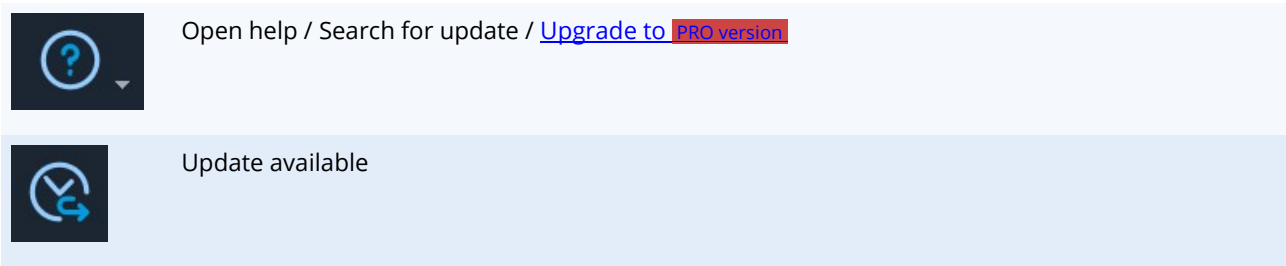
Execute all jobs



Execute selected jobs

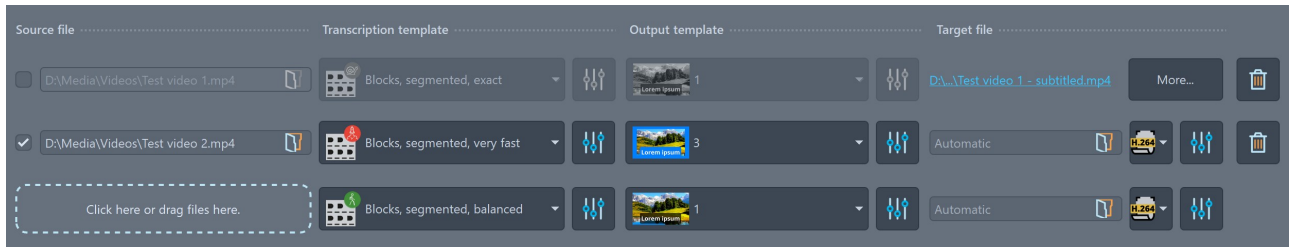


Call up program settings



2. The job list

In the job list, you can manage your files and specify the settings to be used for transcription.



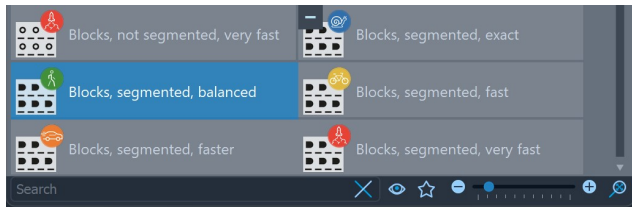
Job list

A **new job** is created by adding a file. A transcription template and an output template can be selected for each job in the list, as well as information on the target file.

Jobs can be marked/unmarked using **check marks**.

Completed jobs are grayed out, at the end of the line you will find the transcribed result. Completed jobs can be duplicated to transcribe a video or sound again with different settings.

3. Hide templates / Set as favorite



Search and favorites function

For a better overview, you can hide templates that you do not need or mark frequently used ones as favorites. In areas where templates can be selected, you will therefore see the symbols opposite.

To hide a template, click on it with the right mouse button and select **Hide entry**.

To highlight an element, click on it with the right mouse

button and select **Mark as favorite**.

If you want to display hidden elements, click on the **Eye** symbol.

To make an element that is not displayed visible again, click on it again with the right mouse button and select **Make entry visible**.

To display only (previously) favorised elements, click on the **Star** symbol.

You can remove an object marked as a favorite by right-clicking on the **Remove from favorites** entry.

2.2 Program settings

Call up the program settings via the corresponding icon at the top of the toolbar. The program settings refer to the basic settings of the entire program. Among other things, you can adjust the user interface to your requirements or set the behavior of the program to your system environment.

1. Language

AquaSoft Transcriptor can be used in different languages. Select the desired language and confirm with OK. The program must then be restarted.

2. User interface

Here you will find settings for the appearance of the user interface. Deactivate the tooltips if you do not want them to be displayed in the program interface.

You can choose from different interface colors for *skins*. Select the color of the icons.

3. Confirmations

You can activate or deactivate dialogs and information windows here.

4. Automatic update

Every user has free access to updates after registering for **AquaSoft Transcriptor**. The updates may contain improvements for any existing errors or new program functions.

Set the interval at which the application should check whether a new update is available. A connection to the Internet is required for the check.

5. Hardware acceleration

Videos are decoded faster with suitable hardware. If you notice stuttering in the inserted videos during playback or if you are using an older graphics card, hardware acceleration should be deactivated.

6. User directories

User data directory: You can create *your own templates* that are displayed in the toolbox. These are stored in a folder that you can define yourself here.

Temporary directory: The application requires storage space for temporary files on the hard disk for a short time for certain operations. Here you specify the directory in which temporary files may be temporarily stored. A lot of storage space may be required when creating videos. If the default temp directory does not offer enough storage space, you can specify a different directory here that is located on a different data carrier.

Video output directory: The specified directory is used if you select automatic file naming for the video export. Alternatively, you can also enter your own name for the export and specify a different target directory.

Select your preferred directory using the folder icon. You can use the arrow symbol to restore the default directory. The eye symbol shows you the stored directory in Windows File Explorer.

7. Memory usage

Here you can set the maximum amount of working memory (RAM) of your computer that can be used by the program for caching files. The specified *available RAM* is 30% of the physical RAM.

8. Transcription settings

The program saves transcriptions and metadata of files used so that certain calculations do not have to be carried out again for a new output. This cached data can be deleted using the Transcription cache button.

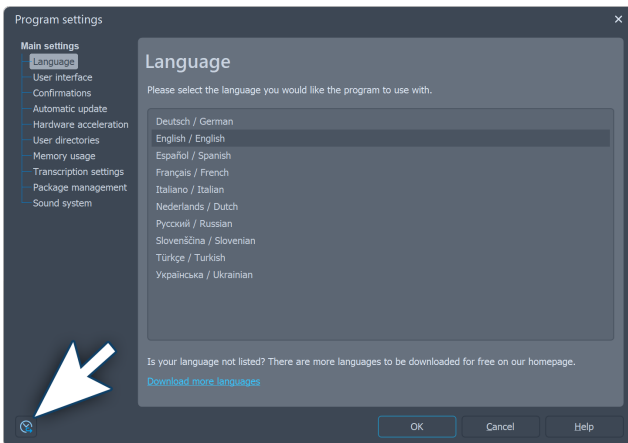
To activate **error logging**, check the corresponding box. Then repeat the process that generates an error. Then send the error report using the corresponding button.

9*. Package management

Here you can see which program packages and extension packages are activated or deactivated in the program. These can be switched on and off using the check marks. Restart the program to apply the changes to the program.

10. Sound system

The sound system takes over the playback of the music integrated into the project. By default, the **best output mode is automatically determined**. If you have problems playing the music, select one of the individual options and then restart the program.



Reset program settings

11. Reset to factory settings

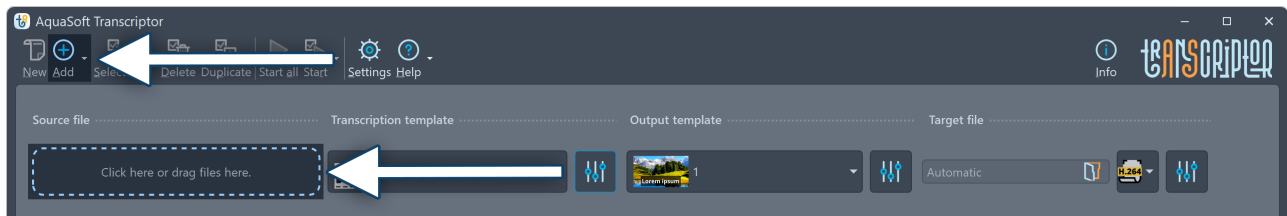
In the program settings window at the bottom left, you will find the option to reset the program settings to the factory settings by clicking on the clock symbol. The program will then restart, the job list will be emptied and any settings that have already been made will be reset.

3 - Create transcription

3.1 Quick guide to creating a transcription

How to make a transcription step by step. Start **AquaSoft Transcriptor**.

1. Insert source material

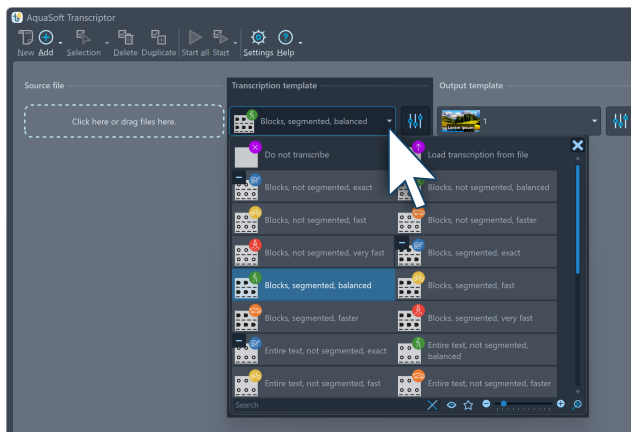


Insert source material

Insert the material that contains speech. This can be sound files or video files.

Drag and drop your source material into the source file field or use the add function at the top of the Toolbar and select one or more files from your computer.

2. Select a transcription template



Select transcription template

The transcription template specifies the settings with which the language is to be analyzed and the text generated. Select this from the drop-down menu.

The symbols on the templates (snail, pedestrian, bicycle, car, rocket) indicate how quickly the transcription is performed. You can also select which segmentation is generated for the texts. When you move the mouse over the symbols, you will see detailed information on the specifications.

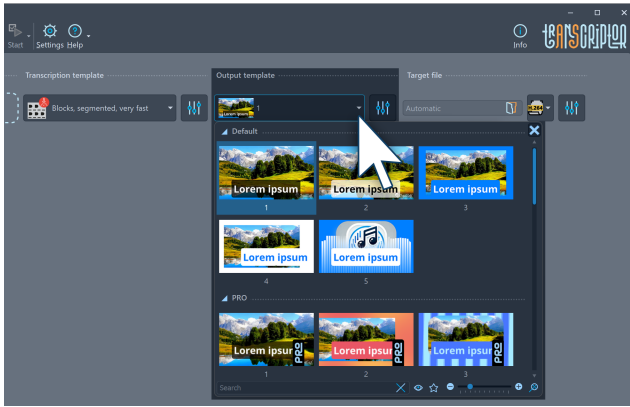
The settings button to the right of the transcription template menu offers further setting options.

Enter the language of the source material there and activate the translation of the text into English if required.

You can find more information in the [Transcription template](#) chapter.

Select a fast template for testing, e.g. **Blocks segmented, very fast**.

3. Select an output template



Select output template

With the output template, you decide how your source material is displayed in combination with the transcription.

The first templates are simple variants where you can, for example, display your video source material with subtitles only. The other templates become more and more complex and allow logos or additional effects, for example.

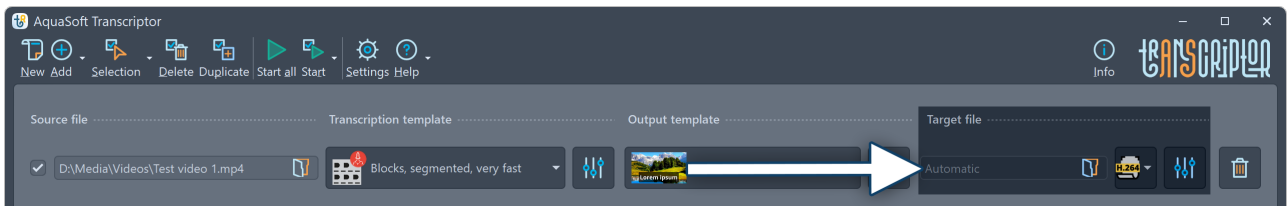
You can use the Settings button to the right of the output template drop-down menu to modify the properties of the templates in detail. You can also see a preview of the selected settings here.

You can find more information in the chapter [Output](#)

[template](#) ¹³.

To test, select a simple variant, e.g. template 1. In the settings, you can then change the font color or have the text appear with a colored background, among other things.

4. Make settings for the target file



Settings for target file

If you leave the setting "Automatic", a name is automatically assigned and the file is saved in the folder that is stored in the user directories in the [Program settings](#) ⁵.

Alternatively, you can use the folder icon to select where the result should be saved. If necessary, enter a name for the target file yourself.

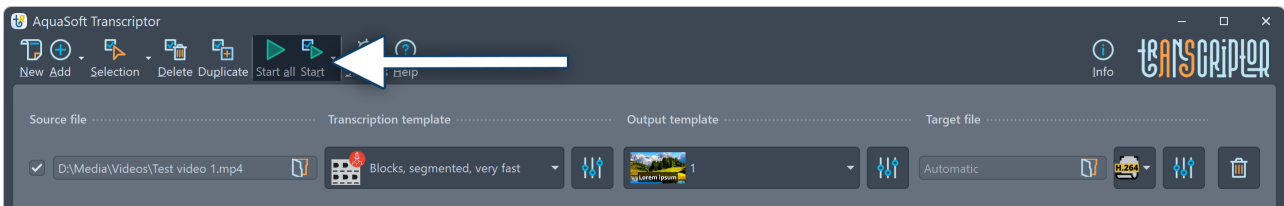
You can use the drop-down menu to select the type of target file. Video files (e.g. *.mp4, *.mov), subtitle files (*.srt) or text files (*.txt) can be created. Move the mouse over the symbols to obtain further information on the templates.

You can make further export settings using the Settings button.

You can find more information in the [Output](#) ¹⁵ chapter.

To test, select the H.264 video template, which creates an mp4 video file that can be played on many devices and platforms without any problems.

5. Start transcription and output

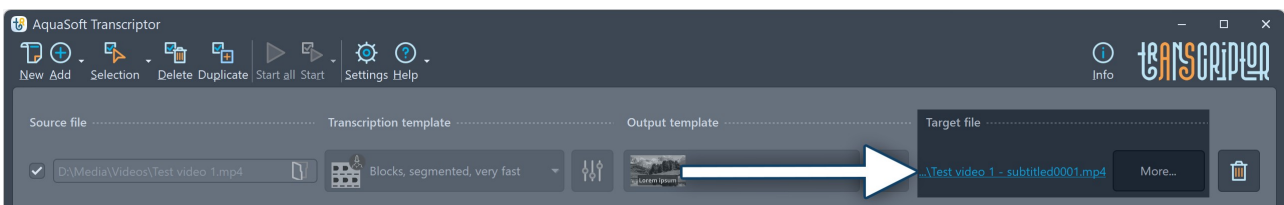


Start transcription

When you start the AI-supported transcription for the first time, the necessary software is downloaded once (online connection required) and saved on your computer (approx. 400 MB). It is then permanently available in the program.

After starting, the start buttons in the toolbar change and you can pause or cancel the creation of the target file here. If several jobs have been started, they are calculated one after the other. A progress bar appears on the job.

6. Result



Transcription result

If the output was successful, the link to the target file appears. Click on the link to check the result in the standard application for this file type.

Click on the **More ...** button opens a dialog in which you can play the result via **Open file** or by double-clicking on the preview image.

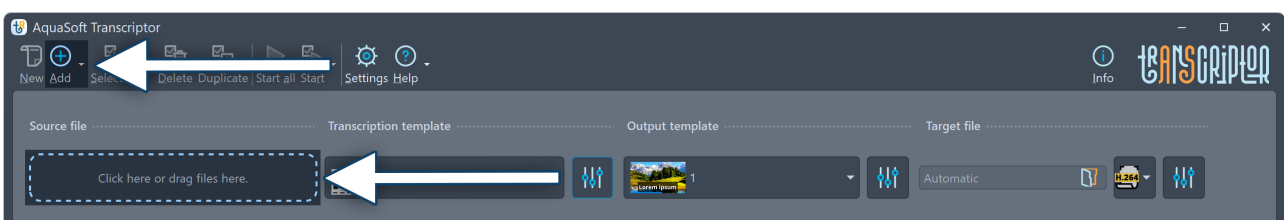
You also have the option of opening the project in **AquaSoft Stages** or **Video Vision**. More on this in the chapter [Edit project file](#).

The video "[Create automatic subtitles](#)" gives you an overview of the structure and functionality of the program. (Linkadresse: aquasoft.de/go/trans1)

3.2 Insert source file

AquaSoft Transcriptor can process video files and sound files. In order to be able to carry out a transcription, these files must contain spoken language. It is also possible to transcribe sung texts, but this can lead to inaccuracies in the verbatim transcription.

1. Add files or job



Insert source material

To make a transcription, insert your video file or sound file that contains speech.

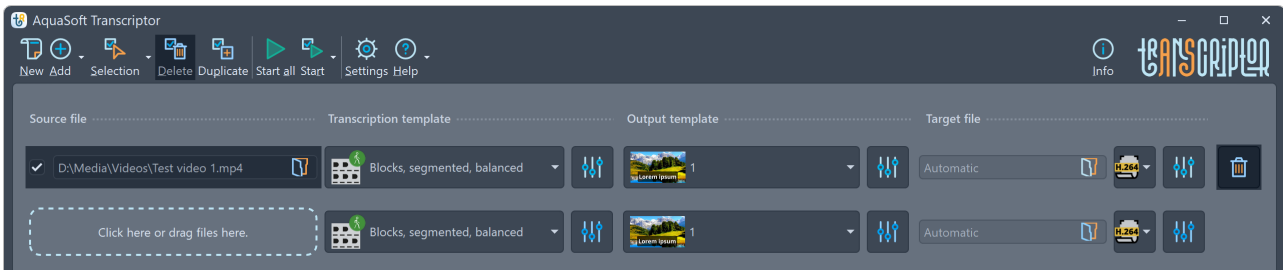
Drag and drop your source material into the source file field with the mouse.

Or use the add function at the top of the toolbar and select a file from your computer.

Several files can also be loaded at the same time. Each file then has its own job in the job list.

As soon as a source file has been added, a new empty entry appears in the job list, which can be filled with further job.

2. Remove file or job



Remove job

To remove a job, click on the trash can icon at the end of the job line.

Alternatively, check the box in front of a job to be deleted and click on the delete icon at the top of the toolbar. All orders with an activated checkmark will then be deleted.

You can also change the selected file later by clicking on the folder symbol.

3. Supported file types:

AquaSoft Transcriptor can process the most common video formats and video codecs (including H.264, H.265, AV1) and, depending on availability, uses the graphics hardware to efficiently decode the videos.

AquaSoft Transcriptor supports the following file types, among others:

Video formats

Animated GIF (*.gif)
 Common Intermediate Format (*.cif)
 Digital Video (*.dv;*.dif)
 DVD-Video (*.vob)
 Flash Video (*.flv)
 Flic Animation (*.flc)
 Matroska Media Container (*.mkv)
 MPEG (*.mpg; *.mpeg)
 MPEG-2 Transportstream (*.mts;*.m2ts)
 MPEG-4 Video (*.mp4;*.m4v;)
 MXF Video (*.mxf)
 OGG Theora video (*.ogv)
 Quicktime (*.mov)
 Transportstream (*.ts)
 Video for mobile devices (*.3gp;*.3gp2)
 Video for Windows (*.avi)
 WebM video (*.webm)
 Windows Media Video (*.wmv)

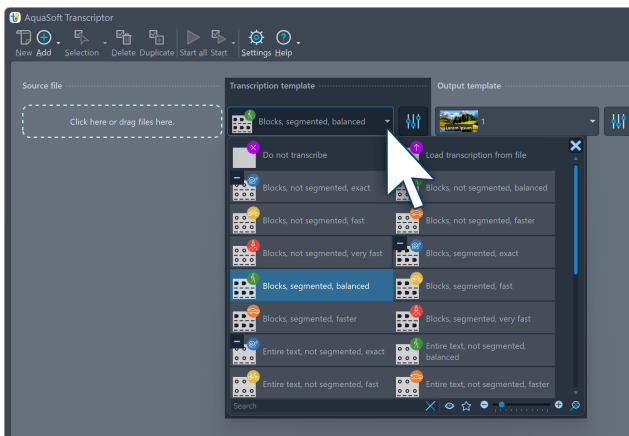
Sound formats

Advanced Audio Coding (*.aac)
 Advanced Streaming Format (*.asf)
 AIFF files (*.aiff)
 FLAC files (*.flac)
 IT/Impulse Tracker music (*.it)
 MIDI files (*.mid;*.rmi)
 MOD music (*.mod)
 M4A files (*.m4a)
 MP3 files (*.mp3)
 MP2 files (*.mp2)
 OGG Vorbis files (*.ogg)
 S3M/Scream Tracker music (*.s3m)
 WAV files (*.wav)
 Windows Media Audio (*.wma;*.wmv)
 XM/FastTracker music (*.xm)

3.3 Transcription template

The automatic transcription is created with the help of artificial intelligence (AI). Your audio data is transcribed on your device. Depending on the size of the language model, this requires large amounts of RAM (approx. 7 GB) and a lot of computing power.

You will find a selection of common transcription settings in the drop-down menu.



Select transcription template

The **transcription template** specifies the settings with which the language is to be analyzed and the text generated. Select this from the drop-down menu.

There is a choice:

- Do not transcribe
- Load transcription from file
- Blockwise transcription, not segmented
- Blockwise transcription, segmented
- Entire text, not segmented
- Entire text, segmented
- Word by word

The **symbols** on the templates (snail, pedestrian, bicycle, car, rocket) indicate how accurately and therefore how slowly or quickly the transcription is performed. When

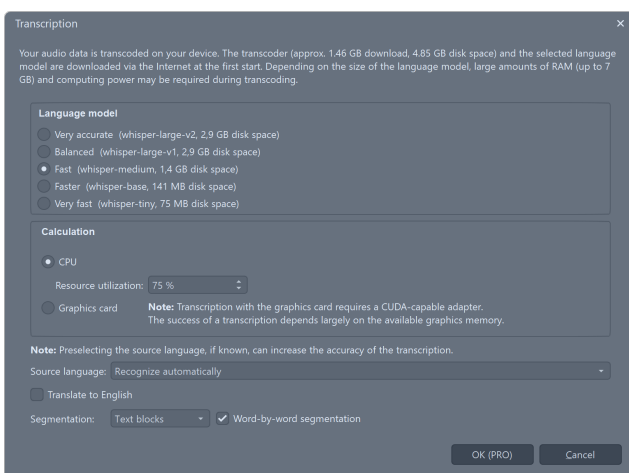
you move the mouse over the symbols, you will see detailed information on the specifications.

The **division** (*entire text*, *blocks*, *words*) determines how many timing marks are generated for the transcribed text. These markers have an influence on the fade-in options of the text.

Using the division *Words*, each word is given a time stamp and can therefore be displayed individually with a specific effect.

If you select *Blocks*, you will receive the text with a separation into longer phrases or sentences.

The selection of *Entire text* is recommended if you only want to export what is said in the source material as a simple text file.



Transcription template settings

The **settings button** to the right of the transcription template menu offers further setting options.

The **calculation** is carried out in the CPU.

PRO Bietet der Computer die technischen Voraussetzungen, kann die Transkription auch durch in der Grafikkarte erfolgen.

How long the transcription takes depends not only on the selected model settings but also on the performance of your hardware and the volume of text to be transcribed.

The **source language** is automatically recognized by default.

PRO Alternatively, specify the language in which your video or sound file is available. This can increase the accuracy of the transcription.

PRO If the text is to be automatically *translated into English*, activate the corresponding field.

It is only possible to save changed settings in the **PRO-Version**.

Examples of different transcription templates (with output template 1):



Blocks, not segmented

The transcription template *Blocks, not segmented* immediately displays one to several sentences and shows the next sentences when ready.



Blocks segmented

The transcription template *Blocks, segmented* fades in the spoken text word by word until one or two sentences can be seen together. Then the next words and sentences appear.



Words

The transcription template *Words* segments everything, each word is displayed individually until the next word is spoken.

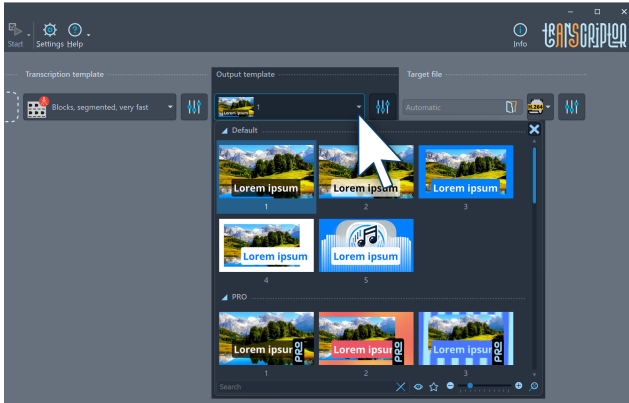
Load transcription from file

You can link existing subtitle timing files (e.g. *.ass or *.srt) to your sound or video via the transcription template selection *Load transcription from file*. This method is suitable if you already have such a file.

The *Load transcription from file* procedure can also be used if you first output a transcription for your source file as a subtitle file, edit incorrect passages in an editor and use the corrected file to create the final video. See also [Editing the transcription](#) ¹⁶

3.4 Output template

With the output template, you decide how your source material is displayed in combination with the transcription at the end.



Select output template

Select output template

Output template 1 is preselected when inserting a job. You can select a different template via the drop-down menu.

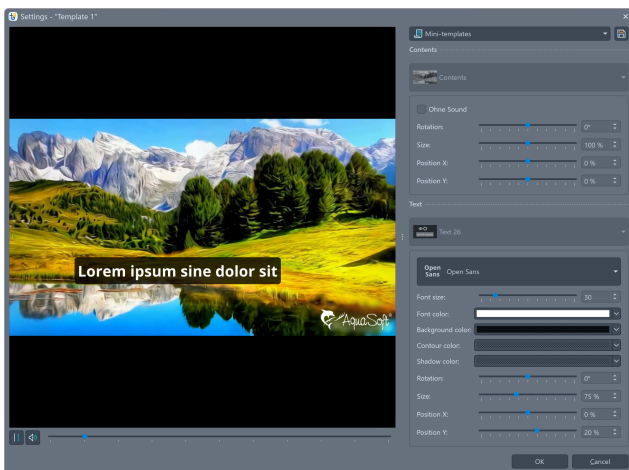
In **AquaSoft Transcriptor** there are five output templates available. The settings button can be used to display a preview and change simple settings such as the font, font size and colors. The standard template 5 is particularly suitable for illustrating audio files and allows you to select your own images.

In **Transcriptor Pro** you will find 30 templates. Here, each template can be changed in detail using the settings button.

The first templates are simple variants where you can, for example, display your video source material with just the transcription subtitles. The other templates become more and more complex and allow logos or additional effects, for example.

If a subtitle file or a text file is selected as the target file, there is no need to select the output template, as no visual design is necessary or possible here.

You can use the settings button to the right of the output template selection to modify the properties of the selected template in detail. You can also see a preview of the selected settings here.



Preview and output template

Customize output template

The templates consist of combinations of different design elements that can be provided with various effects.

In the **Text** area, you can change its appearance, font, font size, background color and the position of the subtitles.

Some templates come with additional **Mini-templates** that contain variations of the template. You can save your own adaptations of a template as a separate **Mini-template** using the diskette icon in the top right-hand corner.

If a source file has already been inserted, you will also hear and see it in the preview. If no source file has yet been placed as an job, you will see a placeholder video and placeholder text and hear music.

The templates consist of combinations of different content that can be provided with various effects.

If in **AquaSoft Transcriptor** a template is selected that is reserved for **Transcriptor Pro** no output can be created. A corresponding message appears.

Also, in order to be able to save changed settings of those templates the **PRO version** of Transcriptor Pro is required.

Examples of different output templates (with transcription template "Blocks, segmented"):

Template 1, template 3 with changed font, font size, position



Standard template 1

The standard template 1 shows the source material as full screen and displays the text in white on a semi-transparent black text background.

Possible adjustments include the font, font color, font size, font position and text background color.



Standard template 3, modified

The standard template 3 shows the source material in a reduced size against a monochrome background and displays the text in white on a text background of the same color. A different font was selected in the example.

Possible further adjustments can be made to the font and to the video in terms of background color, size and position.



PRO output template 10, modified

PRO *Template 10* has been changed and shows the source material in a reduced size in front of an animated wave background with a logo at the top right and text below the video. The video was colored using the LUT effect. A waveform of the animated audio spectrum can be seen at the bottom.

Possible adjustments include the font and the positions and sizes of the elements. The logo can be replaced by your own motif.

The LUT effect for the video can be replaced by other video effects.

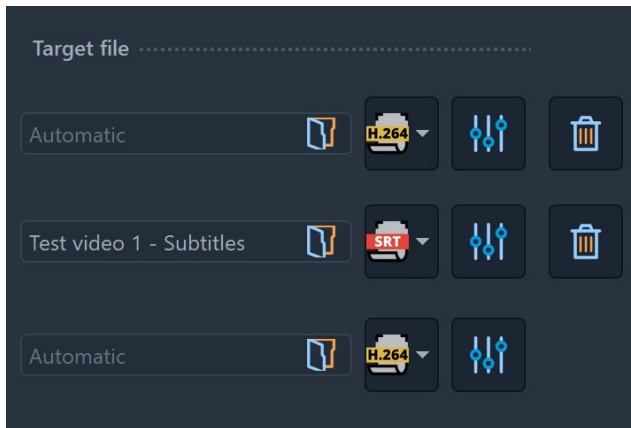
Individual elements can also be set to be

invisible/transparent.

Only the sound of the source material can be used and illustrated. The standard template 5, for which any background image can be selected, is suitable for this.

3.5 Target file and output

You define your export settings in this program area. With **AquaSoft Transcriptor** or **Transcriptor Pro** you can export video files, subtitle files and text files.



Various settings for the target file

File name and storage location

If you leave the setting "Automatic", a name is automatically assigned and the file is saved in the folder that is stored in the user directories in the [program settings](#).

Alternatively, you can use the folder icon to select where the result should be saved. If necessary, enter a name for the target file yourself.

The file extension is generated to match the selected output format (e.g. *.mp4).



Select file type for destination file

Select template

You can use the drop-down menu to select the type of target file.

Video files (*.mp4, *.mov, *.webM, *.m2ts) with different codecs, **subtitle files** (*.srt) or **text files** (*.txt) can be created.

If a subtitle file or a text file is selected as the target file, there is no need to select the output template, as no visual design is necessary or possible here.

Move the mouse over the icons to get more information about the output templates.

A project file can also be exported, which contains the transcription and design settings as well as the source material. This *.ads project file can be further edited in **AquaSoft Stages, Video Vision or Photo Vision**. You can find more information on this in the chapter [Edit project file](#).

Advanced settings

You can use the settings button to make further detailed export settings, including for hardware-accelerated video encoding, resolution, frame rate and much more.

AquaSoft Transcriptor recognizes the resolution and orientation of your source video and takes this into account when exporting the video. This means that a 9:16 portrait video with HD resolution is also output as such, unless you specifically select other settings.

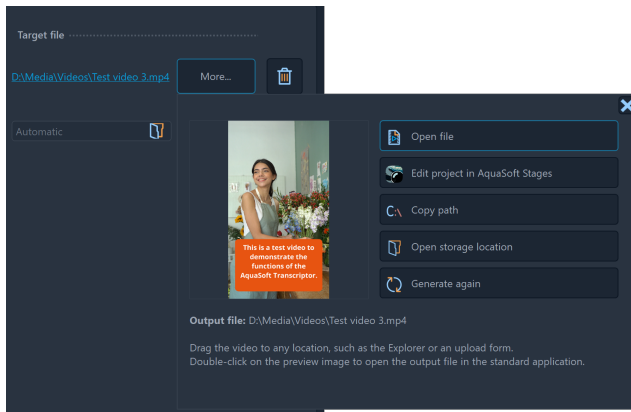
The export of video with 4k resolution is only possible in the [PRO version](#).

Once all settings have been made, a [file inserted](#)^[9] and a [transcription template](#)^[11] and an [output template](#)^[13] selected, transcription can be started via the [Toolbar](#)^[3]. A progress bar on the job indicates that transcription has been started.

When you start the AI-supported transcription for the first time, the necessary software is downloaded once (online connection required) and saved on your computer (approx. 400 MB). It is then permanently available in the program.

In addition, the start buttons in the toolbar change and you can pause or cancel the creation of the target file. If several jobs have been started, they are calculated one after the other.

If the transcription was completed successfully, the result is displayed.



Result (here 9:16 portrait format video) and options

Result

Click on the link of the target file to check the result in the standard application for this file type.

Click on the *More ...* button opens a dialog in which you can play the result via *Open file* or by double-clicking on the preview image. With *Create again*, the same video can be exported again with different settings.

You can also copy the *storage path* to the clipboard or open the *storage location* in Windows File Explorer. With *Generate again*, the same video can be exported again with different settings.

The second button offers the option to open the project in **AquaSoft Stages**. If **Video Vision** or **Photo Vision** are installed on the computer, the project can also be opened in these video editing programs (from version 2024). If none of these programs are installed, you can download the demo version of **AquaSoft Stages 2024**.

More on this in the chapter [Edit project file](#)^[16].

3.6 Edit project file

From **AquaSoft Transcriptor** not only can audio files and videos be transcribed and exported using templates, these projects can also be modified in detail in the video editing programs **AquaSoft Stages** or **Video Vision**.

You will receive the *.ads project file

- if you select the last template **Project** in the output templates and start the output
- after successfully creating a transcription, select the option *Open project in AquaSoft Stages* via the *More...* button

In the projects, the automatic transcriptions can be adjusted and corrected if necessary. Effects can be changed, additional effects can be added or the projects can be expanded as required.

Editing the transcription

Another option for correcting the text content, for example incorrect spellings, is to edit the transcription directly.

If you notice incorrect text content in a generated video, duplicate the job. Select Aegisub/Substation Alpha as the format for the target file.

As a result, you will receive an *.ass file containing the transcribed text as well as other information.

The *.ass file can be opened in a text editor and the text content can be changed.

Save the corrected *.ass file.

Duplicate the original video creation job again and select *Load transcription from file* as the transcription template. Here you refer to the corrected *.ass file in the dialog that opens.

Your video will then be created with the corrected text.

AquaSoft Transcriptor - Help
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