What is compositing?

Alright, over the next couple of weeks, we're going to be diving into DaVinci Resolve sort of motion graphics capabilities. However, in this next series of videos that accompany this week's training, we are going to kind of stick to the Edit page a little bit, there's a little bit of theory that I need to lay down some terminology I need to introduce you to. And I kind of want to show you guys some of the limitations that we have in the Edit page, as well as some of the capabilities that it has in terms of animation and working with titling and things. Before we actually go in and get all practical and technical and start doing like tutorial style videos, there's a couple of terms I need to introduce you to. So we're just on the same page, and you understand what I'm talking about going forward. The first of these terms that we need to introduce you guys to today is called compositing. compositing is the foundation of anything to do with, you know, working with graphics via effects, motion graphics, all of that. And it can be defined very simply as combining two or more separate visual elements together to create one seamless image. Now, of course, this could be a very complicated process that requires advanced techniques that could include to a 3d motion tracking, it could include rotoscoping, and chroma keying, where you work with a green screen, or I'm working with CGI, as in you know, certain VFX workflows or, you know, in certain motion graphics applications. But it could also be as simple as overlaying text on a video or adding images on top of a video file or even adding video on top of other video files. That is, you know what compositing is, at its most basic sort of level, then our second term that I want to introduce you guys to is alpha channels. Now, you already have a little bit of an idea about what we mean when we're talking about channels in video. And this, of course, comes from our color grading videos that we've, you know, walk through with you guys and the discussions we've had about that. So we know that video contains four channels, the first being for luminance information, you know, this is the one where we can manipulate this channel to give an image more or less contrast basically. And then, of course, we have our RGB channels, our red, green, and blue color channels, and those contain our color information. Now, in certain instances, some visual files, or digital files can contain a fourth channel, and this is called our offer channel. And just note yet, and I'll touch on this again, but it's quite important to note that I said some visual or digital files contain does not all file formats can support an alpha channel. But basically, an alpha channel allows parts of an image. And these parts will be decided, of course by a designer or, you know, a motion graphics artist or VFX. artist, but it basically allows some parts of that image to be transparent. You know, this means that images that contain an alpha channel can be overlaid on to other images and video files without, you know, a white, black or colored background interfering, you know, you know, your most common example is have you ever, you know, get on to get onto Google and you need to find like a little graphic element, say a little a little thumbs up or something and you might Google something like thumbs up emoji with transparent background, that transparent background is enabled by an alpha channel. That's what allows it to be contained in that image. Touching again on the point that I mentioned before is that not all file formats can support an alpha channel. The most common example, particularly if you're working with inner stolze, or graphic elements, is PNGs. PNGs can support an alpha channel, whereas JPEGs won't be able to just something to Nord, in case you're ever in a situation where you're trying to export you, you need to export an image or graphic as a PNG, not a JPEG, if you want to have that transparency

channel. This is just a very brief overview of these terms, we are going to of course, link a whole bunch of resources below. For most of the videos that will be you know, down below in this week's sort of watching material, we'll be adding in supplementary material to kind of give you an opportunity to go and expand your knowledge from a trusted source. So if you want to dive a little more into the nitty gritty and the technicalities about offer channels and compositing and Luma channels will have stuff for you guys to watch down below.