MXG Scout user manual

For MXG Scout 3.0 · Windows 10 & 11 · and MXG Scout Mobile · © Dialsoft LLC

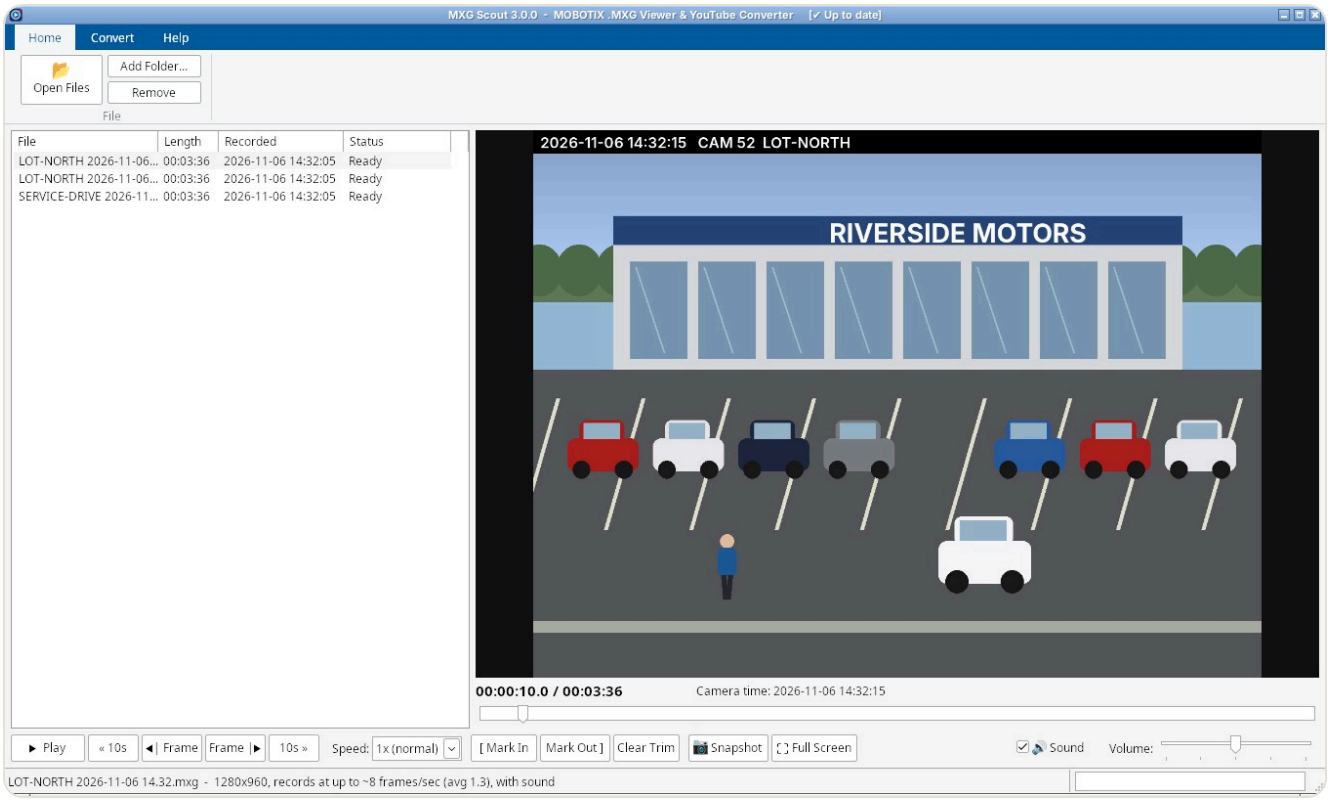
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1. What MXG Scout does

MOBOTIX cameras save their recordings as **.MXG** files, which ordinary video players can't open, and the players that can are slow and awkward to scrub through. MXG Scout is a viewer that actually works, plus a one-click converter to YouTube-ready MP4 files:

- **Instant, frame-exact scrubbing:** drag the timeline and the picture follows.
- The camera's real **recording date and time** for every picture.
- **Sound** in sync with the picture, with a volume control that can make quiet microphones louder.
- Step **one frame at a time** (to read a license plate, say), jump 10 seconds, and play from 0.25× to 16×.
- Skips the camera's dead gaps (times it recorded nothing) while the clock still shows the real time.
- **Trim** with Mark In / Mark Out and convert just that part.
- **Converts to MP4** (H.264 video + AAC sound, the format YouTube recommends), one file or a whole batch, in the background while you keep watching.
- Full-resolution **snapshots**, full screen, keyboard shortcuts, a built-in tutorial, automatic updates.
- A **phone version**, MXG Scout Mobile, that runs in your phone's web browser (chapter 12).

Every button and setting has a tooltip: point at it with the mouse and wait a moment for a plain-English explanation.



The MXG Scout window. The recordings in this manual are a drawn sample, not real camera footage.

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2. Installing & starting

There are two versions of the same program. Pick one:

	Installer (MXGScout-Setup.exe)	**Portable (MXGScout.exe)**
Best for	Your own PC	A USB stick, or a quick look on someone else's PC
Shortcuts	Start menu (MXG Scout and this manual) and Desktop; MXG Scout appears in “Open with” for .mxg files	None: double-click the file
Where it goes	%LocalAppData%\Programs\MXG Scout (no administrator password needed)	Any folder you can write to: Desktop, Downloads or C:\Tools (not Program Files)
Uninstall	Settings › Apps › Installed apps › MXG Scout	Delete the file
Updates	Both update themselves (chapter 13)	

1. Download from dialsoft.com/mxg-scout and run the file.
2. If Windows says **“Windows protected your PC”**, click **More info → Run anyway**. New programs get this message until enough people have downloaded them.
3. The very first time it starts, MXG Scout unpacks its built-in video engine. That takes a few seconds and only happens once.
4. The first time, the **Getting Started tour** starts by itself and points out each control (chapter 10). You can close it and run it again from the Help tab any time.

> MXG Scout is one program with nothing else to download. The video engine (FFmpeg) is built in and runs as a separate helper program.

3. The MXG Scout window

Area	What it's for
Title bar	The version, and whether it's up to date (✔ *Up to date*).
Ribbon (top)	Three tabs: **Home** (open and remove files), **Convert** (every MP4 setting) and **Help**.
File list (left)	Your recordings. **Length** is how long the clip runs, **Recorded** is the date and time on the camera's first picture, and **Status** shows scanning, converting progress, *Ready (trimmed)* and ✔ *MP4 saved*. Click a file to watch it; hold Ctrl or Shift to select several.
Picture (right)	The video. Click it to play or pause; double-click for full screen.
Time & camera time	Where you are in the clip / how long it is, and the real date and time the camera recorded the picture on screen (in this PC's time zone). The trim, if you set one, is shown here too.
Timeline	Drag to scrub; click on the bar to jump 10 seconds toward that side. The marked stretch is your trim.
Play bar (bottom)	Play, « 10s, ◀| Frame, Frame |▶, 10s », Speed, [Mark In, Mark Out], Clear Trim, 📷 Snapshot, Full Screen, 🔊 Sound and Volume. It stays visible whichever ribbon tab you're on.
Status bar	The selected file's picture size, frame rate and whether it has sound, and messages such as “Snapshot saved”.

4. Opening recordings

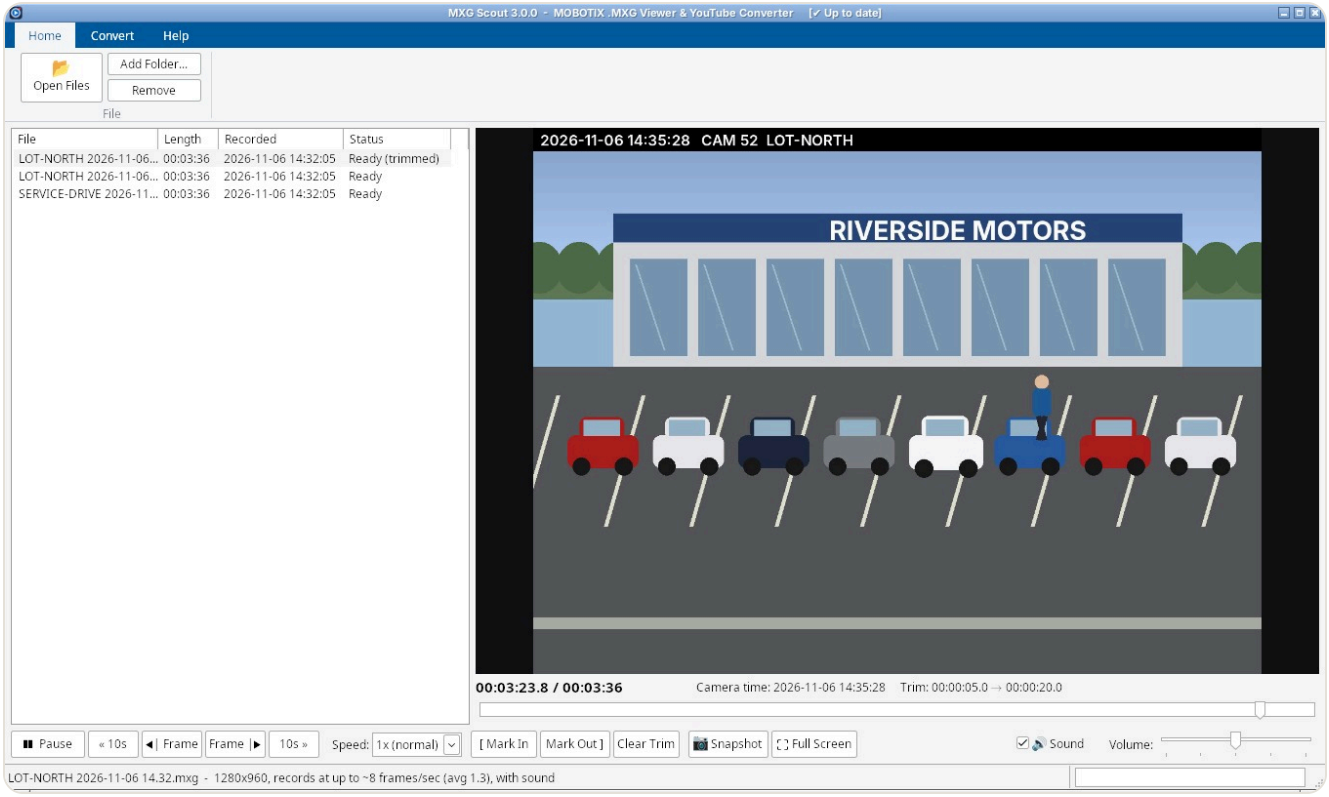
- 📂 **Open Files** (Home tab, or `Ctrl` + `O`): pick one or more .MXG files. Hold Ctrl or Shift to pick several.
- **Add Folder…**: every .MXG file directly inside a folder is added. Handy when a camera export dumped a batch of clips into one folder.
- **Drag and drop** files or a whole folder from Windows Explorer anywhere on the window.
- **Open with**: right-click an .MXG file › Open with › MXG Scout (installed version).

- **Remove** (or the `Delete` key) takes files out of the list. It never deletes anything from your disk.

When a file is added, MXG Scout scans it once (the Status column shows *Scanning…*). That's what makes scrubbing instant afterwards.

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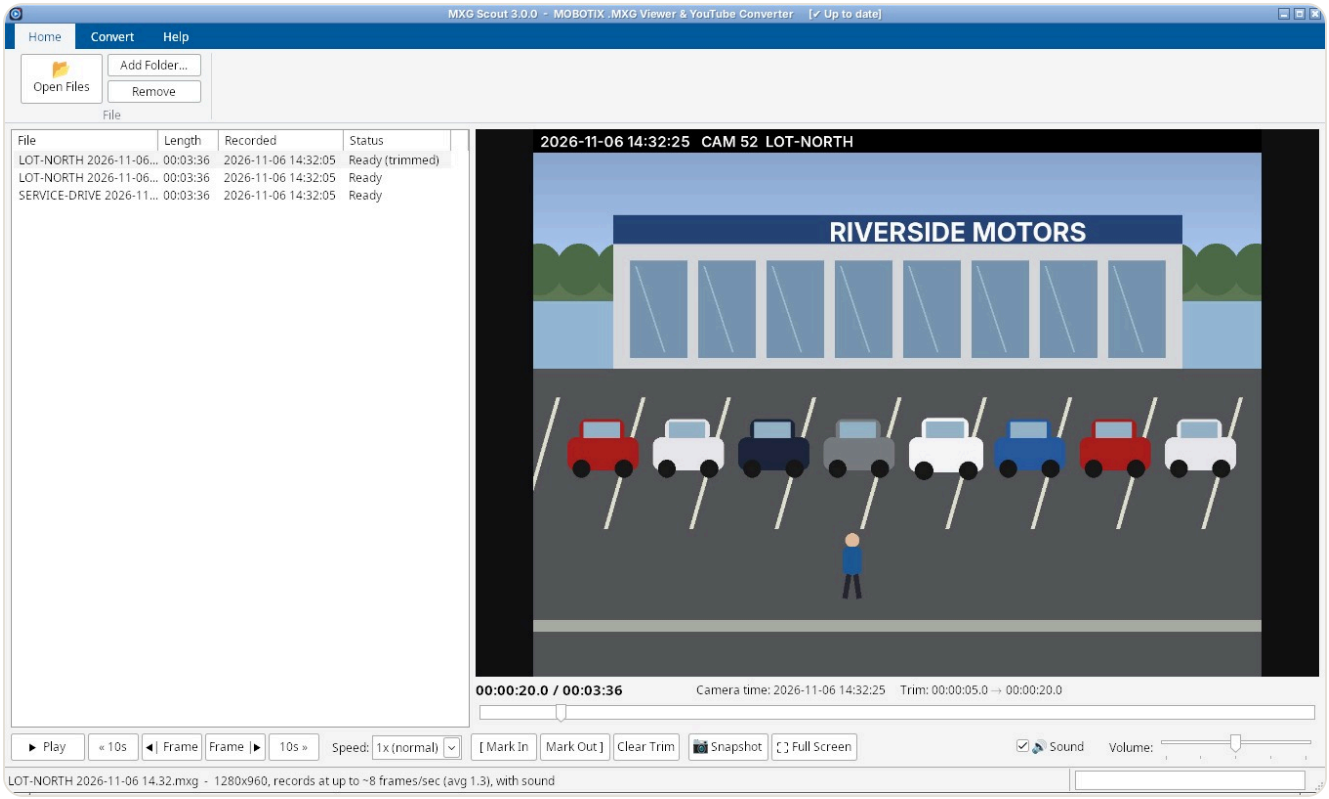
5. Watching



Control	What it does
▶ Play / ❚❚ Pause	Plays or pauses. Also the `Space` bar, or a click on the picture.
Timeline	Drag the slider to scrub: the picture follows as you drag.
« 10s / 10s »	Jump back or forward 10 seconds. The `←` / `→` arrow keys jump 5 seconds.
◀| Frame / Frame |▶	Pause and step exactly one picture back or forward (`Ctrl`+`←` / `→`). Great for finding the exact moment something happened.
Speed	0.25×, 0.5×, 1× (normal), 2×, 4×, 8× or 16× (`↑` / `↓`). Fast speeds are for skimming long recordings. Only affects watching; MP4s always play at normal speed.
🔊 Sound	Plays the camera's microphone (`M`). Sound plays at normal 1× speed only.
Volume	The middle is the sound as recorded; drag right to make quiet microphones louder (up to double). Only affects watching.
Full Screen	Fills the screen with the video (`F` or double-click the picture). `Esc` or double-click again to come back.

> **Gaps:** MOBOTIX cameras record only when something happens, so a recording can have stretches of minutes with no new pictures. During playback MXG Scout skips each gap in under a second, while the camera time always shows the real time. The sample in these pictures has a 3-minute gap after the car parks.

6. Trimming a clip



1. Go to the first picture you want to keep and click **[Mark In** (`I`).
2. Go to the last picture you want and click **Mark Out]** (`O`).
3. The kept stretch is highlighted on the timeline, the trim is shown next to the camera time (*Trim: 00:00:05.0 → 00:00:20.0*) and the file says *Ready (trimmed)*.
4. When you convert, only that part becomes the MP4. **Clear Trim** forgets the marks so the whole clip is converted.

Each file keeps its own trim. The original .MXG is never changed.

7. Converting to MP4

Setting	What it does
▶ Convert to MP4	Converts the file(s) selected in the list.
Convert All	Converts every file in the list that hasn't been converted yet, one after another.
Cancel	Stops the conversion and clears the queue. The half-made MP4 is deleted, so you're never left with a broken file.
Quality	**High (recommended)** looks the same as the original to the eye; **Best** makes bigger files with a little more detail; **Standard**; **Small** uploads fastest but may look softer.
Size	**Original size** keeps the camera's full resolution; **1080p max** or **720p max** shrink bigger videos (smaller ones are never stretched).
Include audio	Puts the camera's sound into the MP4. Untick for a silent video, for example to keep private conversations off YouTube.
Save MP4s to	By default each MP4 is saved next to its .MXG with the same name. Choose one folder for all of them instead. Existing files are never overwritten (a number is added).
Output Folder	Opens the folder where the selected file's MP4 is saved.
YouTube Upload	Opens YouTube's upload page in your browser (chapter 8).

Convert All: the first file is converting, the others wait their turn. You can keep watching meanwhile.

The progress shows in the Status column, the status bar and the progress bar at the bottom right. When a file is done, its Status says ✔ **MP4 saved** and the status bar shows where. A trimmed clip's MP4 name says which part it is, for example `LOT-NORTH 2026-11-06 14.32_0m05s-0m20s.mp4`.

Settings are remembered and take effect immediately (for the next file converted).

8. Uploading to YouTube

1. Convert the clip (chapter 7).
2. Click **Output Folder** to open the folder with the MP4.
3. Click **YouTube Upload**; YouTube's upload page opens in your browser (sign in if asked).
4. Drag the .MP4 file from the folder onto the YouTube page, then fill in the title and choose who can see it (Public, Unlisted or Private).

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9. Snapshots

📷 **Snapshot** saves the picture on screen as a full-resolution .PNG image, in the same place MP4s are saved. Its name includes the clip name and the position, for example `LOT-NORTH 2026-11-06 14.32_snapshot_00-00-12.500.png`. Use Frame |▶ first to land on exactly the right picture.

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10. The Help tab & tutorial

- 🎓 **Tutorial:** a 14-step guided tour; an orange frame points at each control in turn, with a card explaining it (Back / Next / Close tour).
- **Explainer Video:** plays the short video on dialsoft.com.
- **Keyboard Shortcuts:** the list in chapter 11.
- **What's New:** the release notes for this and earlier versions.
- **Check for Updates**, and **Check for updates automatically** (chapter 13).
- **About:** version, publisher and where the video engine is.

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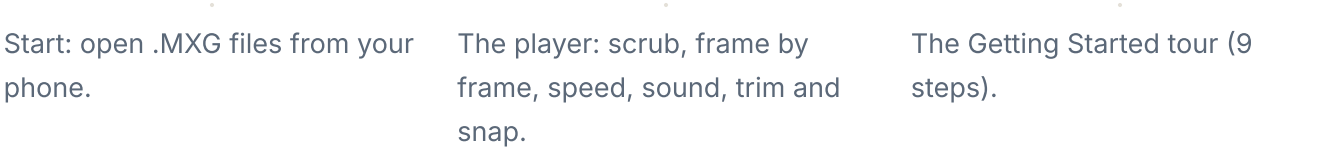
11. Keyboard shortcuts

Key	Does
`Space`	Play / pause
`←` / `→`	Back / forward 5 seconds
`Ctrl` + `←` / `→`	Previous / next frame
`↑` / `↓`	Faster / slower playback
`I` / `O`	Mark trim In / Out
`M`	Sound on / off
`F` or double-click the picture	Full screen (`Esc` to leave)
`Ctrl` + `O`	Open files
`Delete`	Remove the selected files from the list

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12. MXG Scout Mobile (phone)

MXG Scout also runs on your phone, in Chrome on Android (and Safari on iPhone), with nothing to install: open **dialsoft.com/mxg**. Your videos are played and converted right on the phone; they're never uploaded unless you choose to.



Start: open .MXG files from your phone.

The player: scrub, frame by frame, speed, sound, trim and snap.

The Getting Started tour (9 steps).

- 📂 (top bar) or **Open .MXG files** picks recordings from your phone (Downloads, Drive, a USB stick...).
- The same controls as on Windows: timeline, « 10s, frame steps, Play, 10s », speed, sound and volume, [In / Out] trim, Clear and 📷 Snap.
- **Make an MP4 for YouTube:** choose quality, size and sound, tap **Make MP4**, then **Share** (straight to the YouTube app, email or a message) or **Save**.
- **My cloud** (optional, free): sign in with your email address. You get a code by email (no password). Your projects (files, trims) then show up on your phone and computer, and you can choose to upload videos and MP4s to your private Dialsoft cloud, where only you can see them.

- ⋮ **menu:** the tour, the explainer video, how-to help, **Add to home screen** (so it opens like an app), and a link to the Windows version.

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13. Updates

- MXG Scout checks for a new version when it starts and every 6 hours (if **Check for updates automatically** is ticked on the Help tab). The title bar shows ✔ *Up to date*.
- When there is one, a **yellow bar** appears at the top with **Update now**. Nothing is ever installed without you clicking it.
- The download is checked (exact size, SHA-256 checksum and version) before MXG Scout swaps itself and restarts; then it shows what's new.
- **Check for Updates** on the Help tab checks right away. Installed and portable copies both update themselves.
- The phone version is always the newest: it updates the next time you open it.

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14. Where files are kept

What	Where
MP4s and snapshots	Next to each .MXG (default), or the folder you chose under **Save MP4s to**
Settings (quality, size, sound, folder, volume…)	`%AppData%\MXG Scout\MXGScout.ini`
Built-in video engine (unpacked once, about 105 MB)	`%LocalAppData%\MXG Scout`
The program (installed version)	`%LocalAppData%\Programs\MXG Scout`

Uninstalling removes the program and the video engine, asks before removing the settings, and never touches your recordings, MP4s or snapshots.

15. Troubleshooting

Problem	What to do
“Windows protected your PC”	Click **More info → Run anyway**. Only download MXG Scout from dialsoft.com or Dialsoft's GitHub page.
The first start is slow	Normal: MXG Scout is unpacking its video engine (once).
“This doesn't look like a MOBOTIX .MXG file”	The file isn't an .MXG recording, or it's damaged or still being copied. Copy it again from the camera's storage and retry.
No sound	The status bar says *no sound recorded* when the camera had no microphone on. Otherwise check that 🔊 Sound is ticked, the speed is 1×, and the volume isn't at the left.
Length is longer than the action	The length includes the camera's gaps (times it recorded nothing). Playback skips them; trim to the part you need before converting.
The MP4 is too big to upload	Choose **Standard** or **Small** quality and **720p max**, or trim to the part you need.
A file stays “Scanning”	Very large files take a moment. If it never finishes, the file may be on a slow network drive: copy it to the PC first.
Antivirus warning	New programs are sometimes flagged. Download only from dialsoft.com or Dialsoft's GitHub page, and report it to your antivirus vendor as a false positive.
The phone version won't open a file	Use Chrome (Android) or Safari (iPhone), and pick the file with 📂. Very large files need free space on the phone to make an MP4.

16. Glossary

Term	Meaning
.MXG	MOBOTIX's recording file. Inside are MxPEG pictures, the camera's timestamps and the microphone sound.
MxPEG	MOBOTIX's video format: JPEG pictures where only the parts that changed are stored, which keeps files small.
MP4 (H.264 + AAC)	The common video file every phone, computer and YouTube plays. H.264 is the picture, AAC the sound.
Frame	One picture of the video.
Scrubbing	Dragging the timeline to move quickly through a video while watching the picture.
Trim	The part of a clip you keep, between Mark In and Mark Out.
Gap	A stretch with no pictures, when the camera wasn't recording.

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