

## Optimal settings for Handbrake 1080p Blu Ray Video Conversion

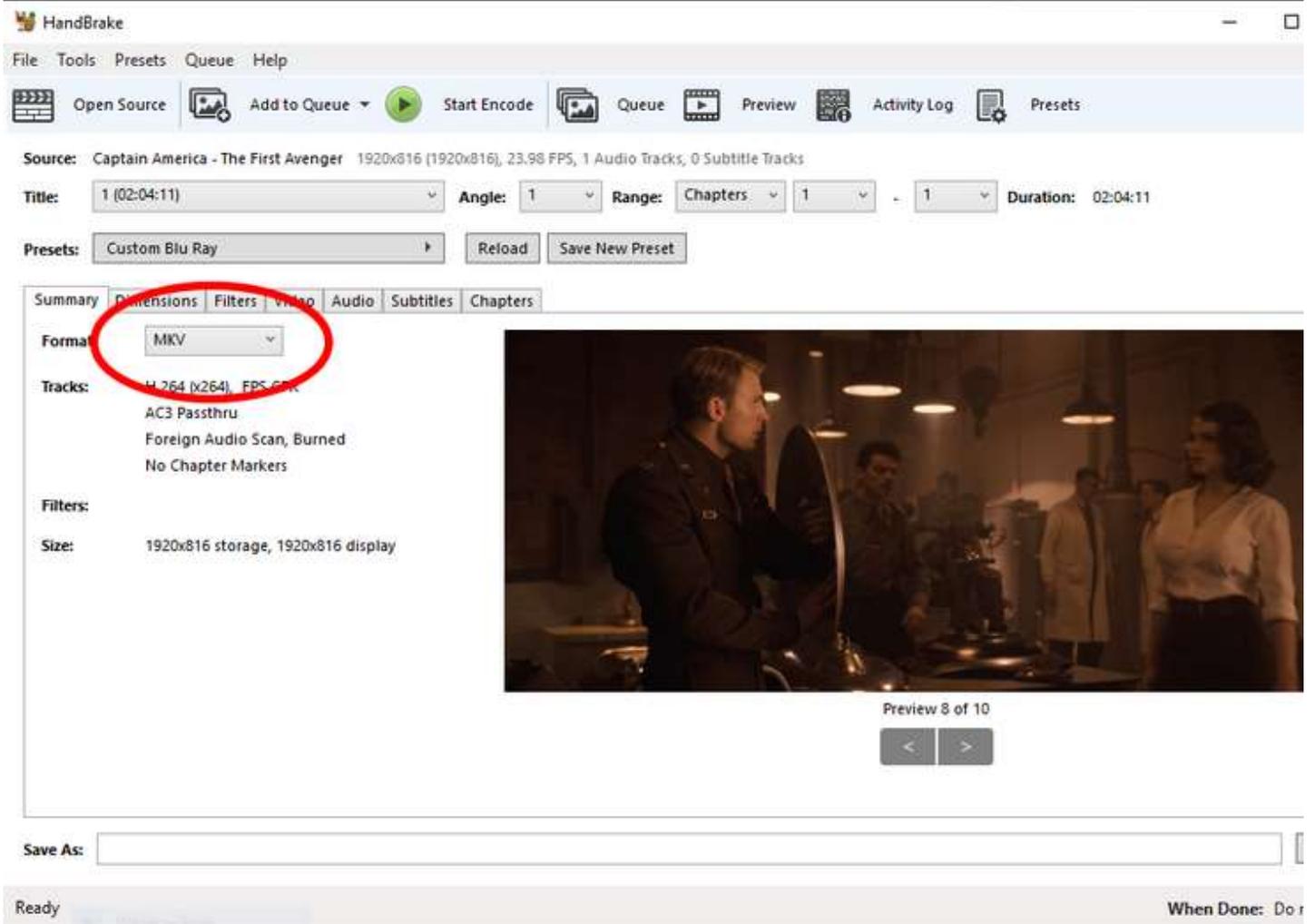
UPDATED -January 2019



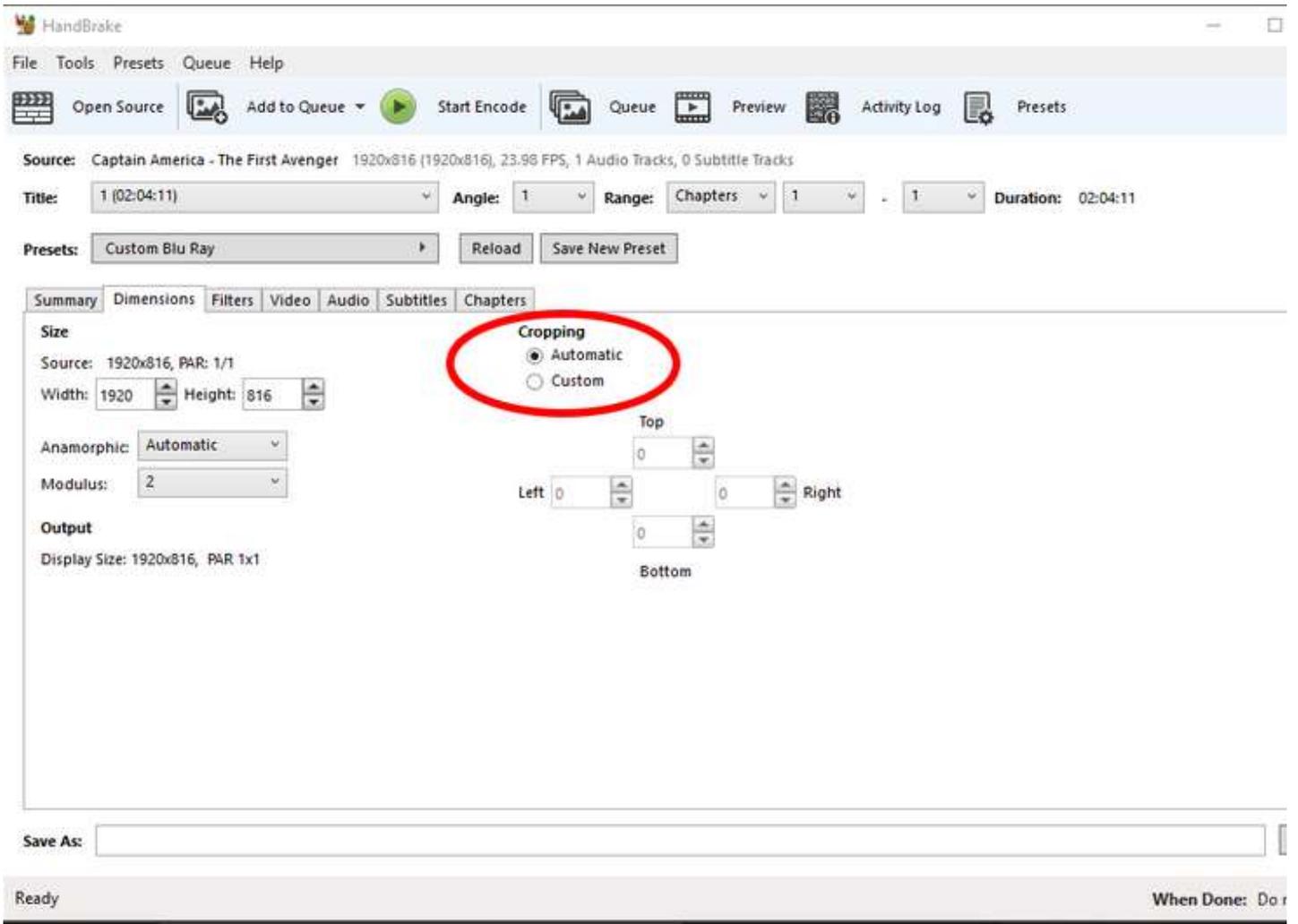
Once you have the current version installed and have ripped your Blu Ray video, drop your file into Handbrake, or you can also click the “Open Source” button in the top bar to load your video file. Handbrake utilizes 7 tabs to help you navigate though setting up the desired video file output parameters.



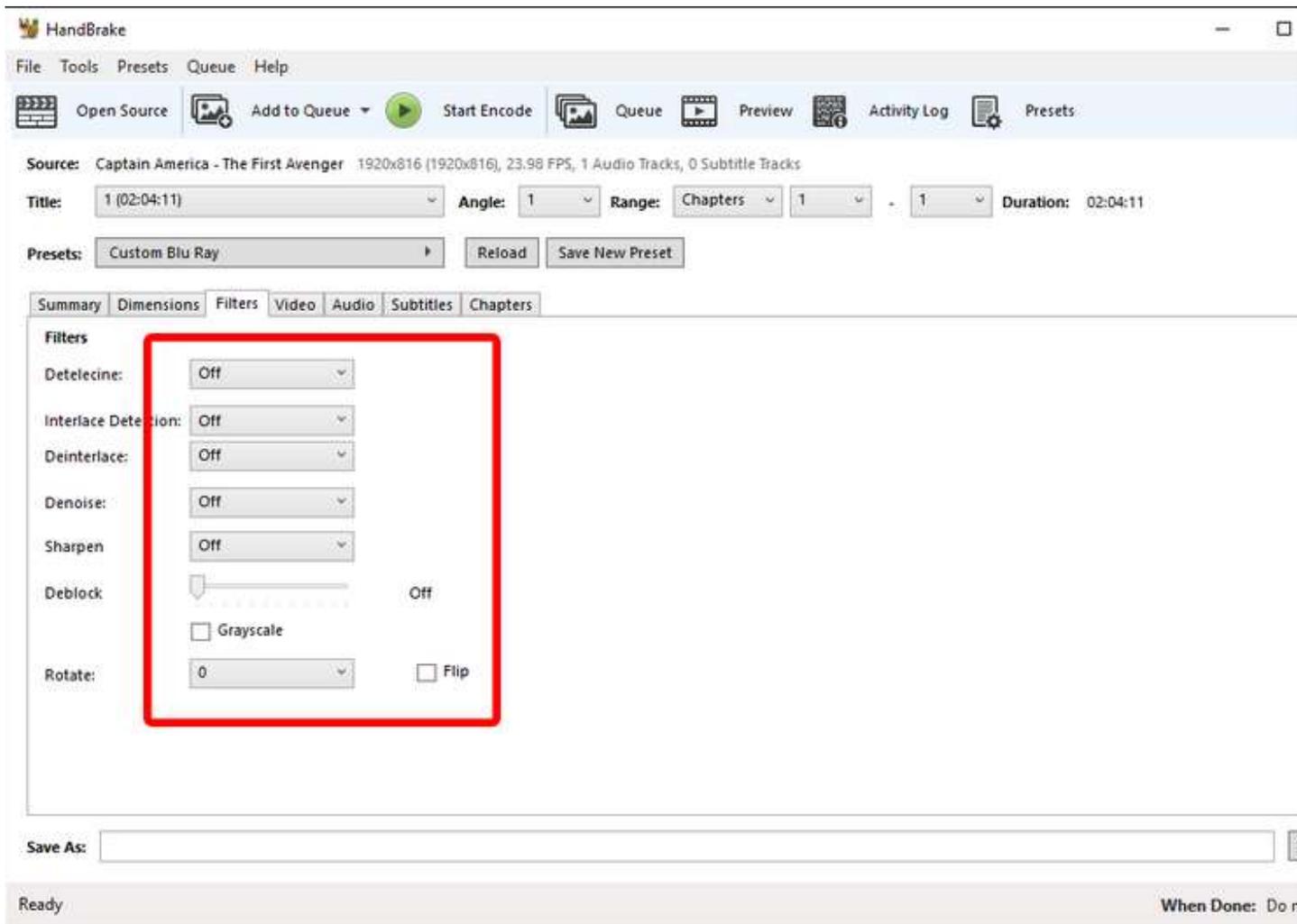
Once your video has loaded you should find yourself on the “Summary” tab. If not, click Summary.



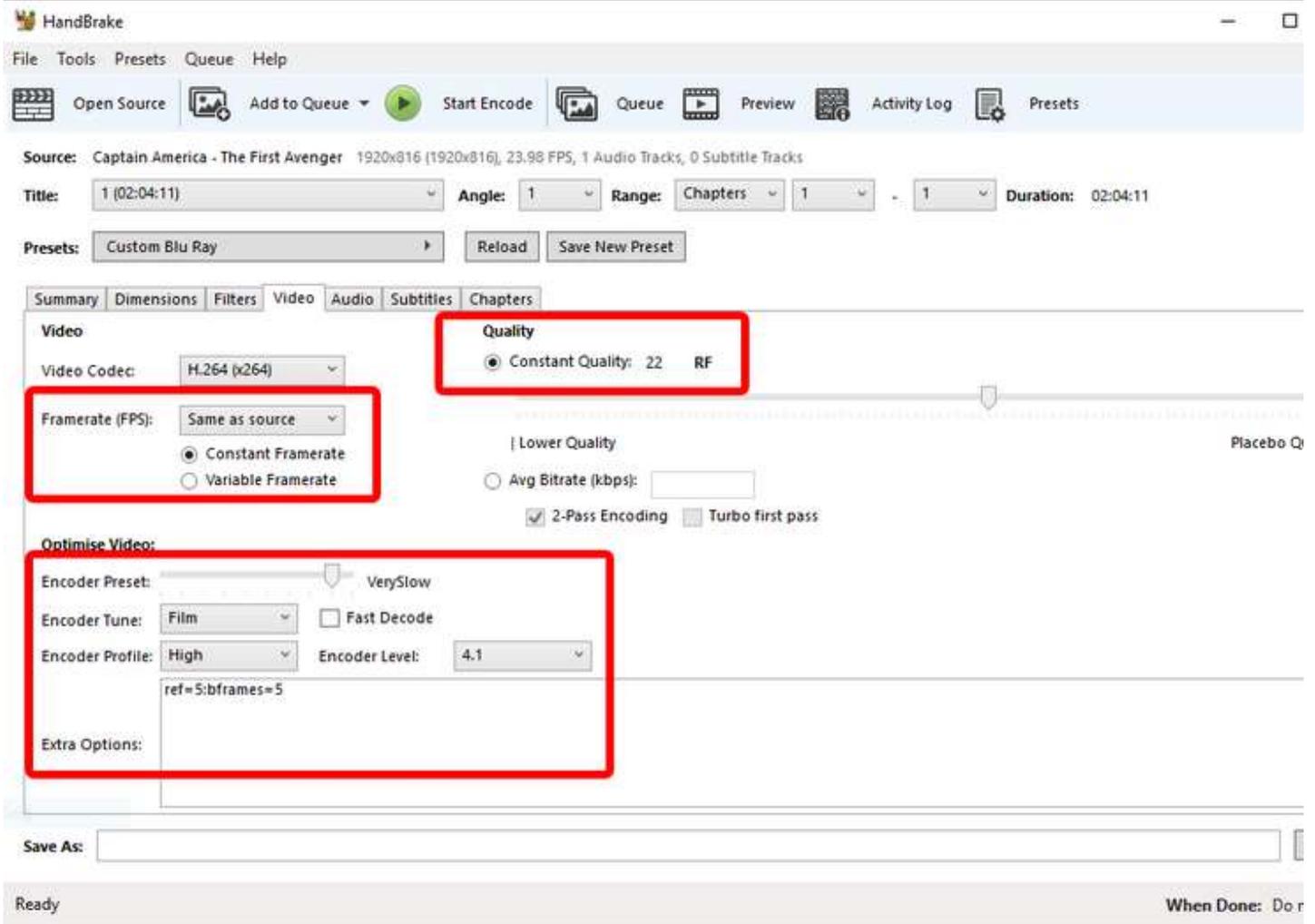
The only thing we need to be concerned with here is the MP4/MKV option. It is your choice which format you will use here. My personal preference is MKV, so I have changed this option. Next, click the Dimensions Tab.



Handbrake has gotten really good at automatically picking the right video output size settings, so I recommend not touching anything in this window. Just make sure that the “Automatic” option is set. Next is the Filters Tab.



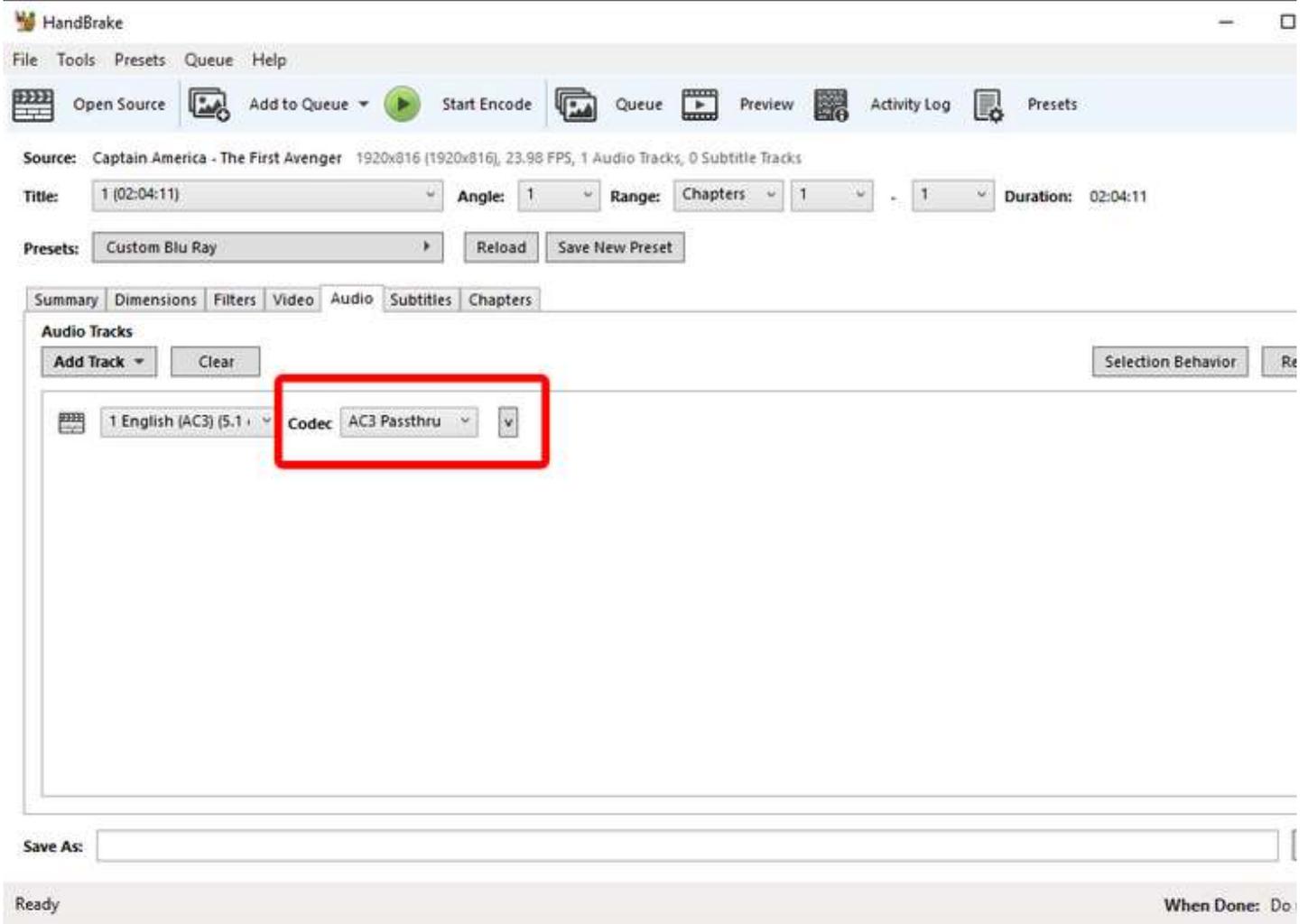
As we are encoding a Blu Ray, the video quality is already pretty good and needs no refining. Turn everything off in this tab. Next, move on to the fourth tab titled Video.



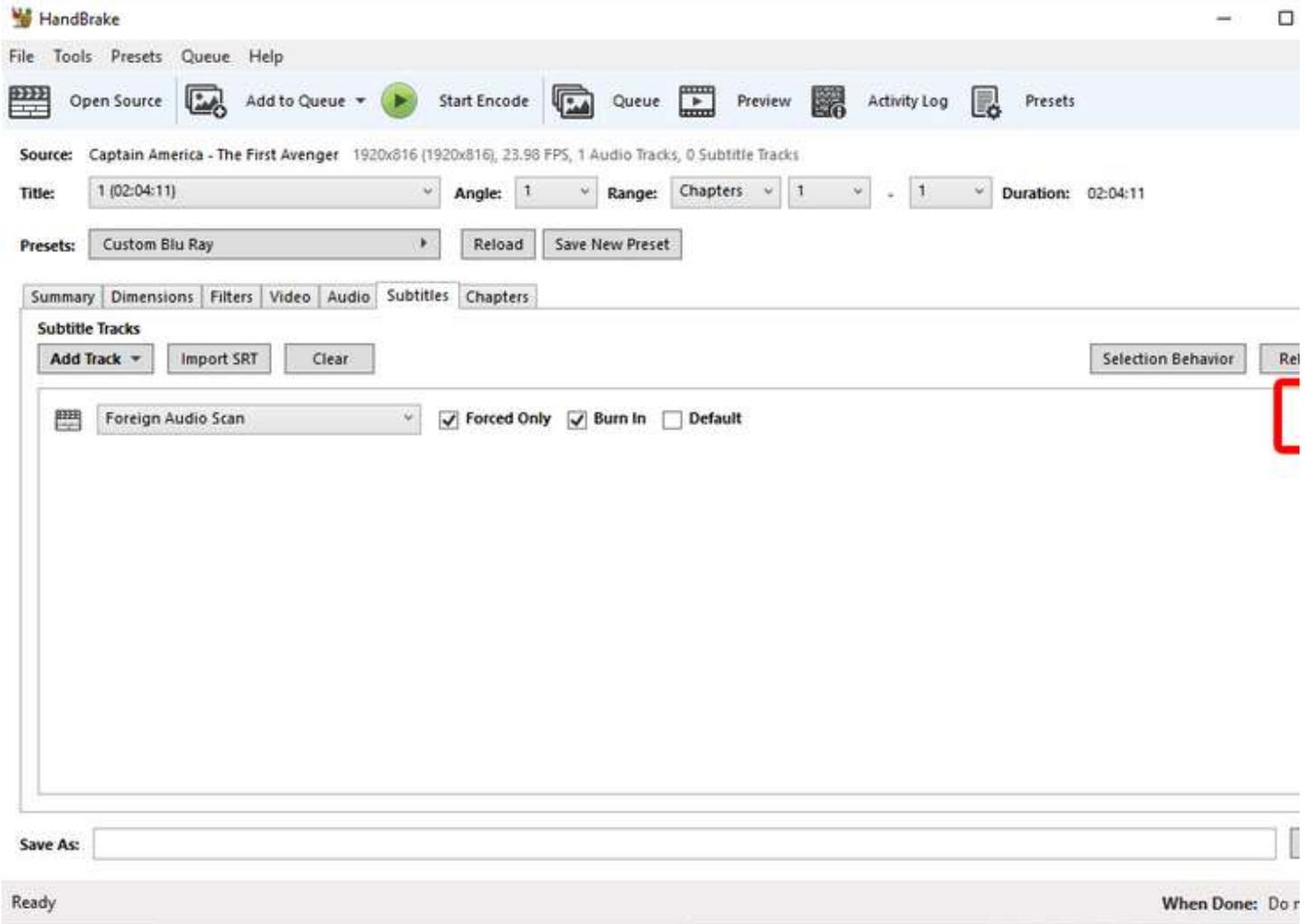
This is where the magic happens. Set the Quality Slider to 22. Then for Framerate, change it to “Same As Source” and make sure “Constant Frame Rate” is selected. I find this really helps keep the video and audio in sync. In the “Optimize Video” section, set the encode speed to Very Slow. This is a critical step, as if you pick a faster encode rate the quality will suffer dramatically. (I know it’s frustrating, but this is just the way encoding works. As I said early, let it run while you sleep). Set Tune to “Film”, Encoder Profile to “High”, and Encoder Level to “4.1. The next critical step is to type or copy and paste the following command into the Extra Options window

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ref=5:bframes=5
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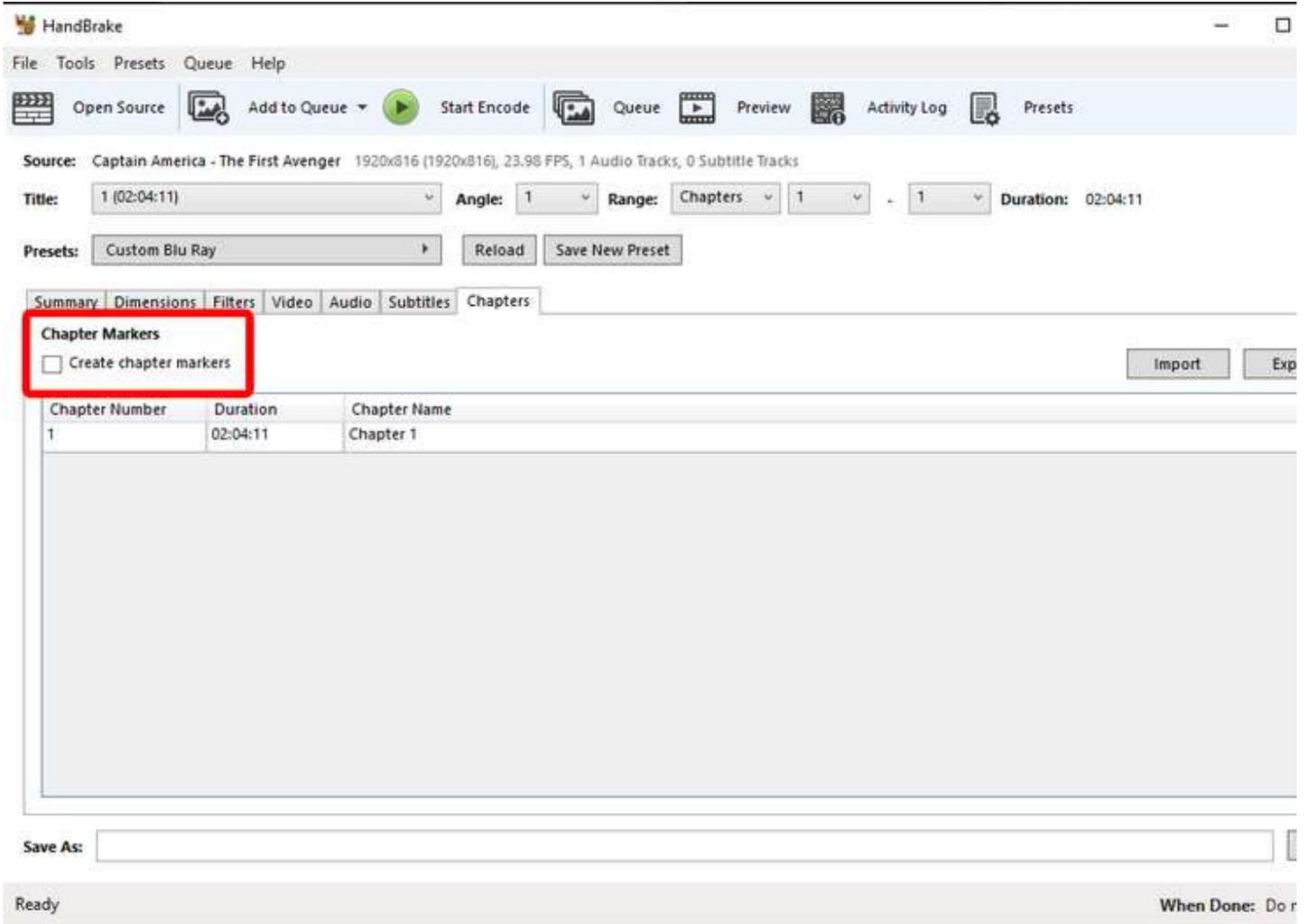
This is the secret sauce behind gorgeous encodes in my humble opinion. Once you have completed all of these steps, move to the Audio Tab.



My source video has a Dolby Digital 5.1 AC3 sound track, which I want to preserve in its entirety, so I am going to select “Pass Thru” which allows the audio track to pass through Handbrake untouched and un-modified. I am a real Audiophile, I love the Dolby Digital and DTS 5-7 channel audio tracks in movies, so I select “Auto Passthru”. But, if regular 2 channel Stereo is ok for you, you can configure that in this area if you want. I figure you are converting a Blu Ray, so you might as well have the best sound quality as well. Just select the Dolby Digital or DTS sound track from the drop down window, and choose “Auto Passthru” Next is the Subtitles tab.



As my source video does not contain any subtitles, I am going to click the red X on the right side to completely remove all reference to subtitles from the encode. Finally, on to the Chapters tab.

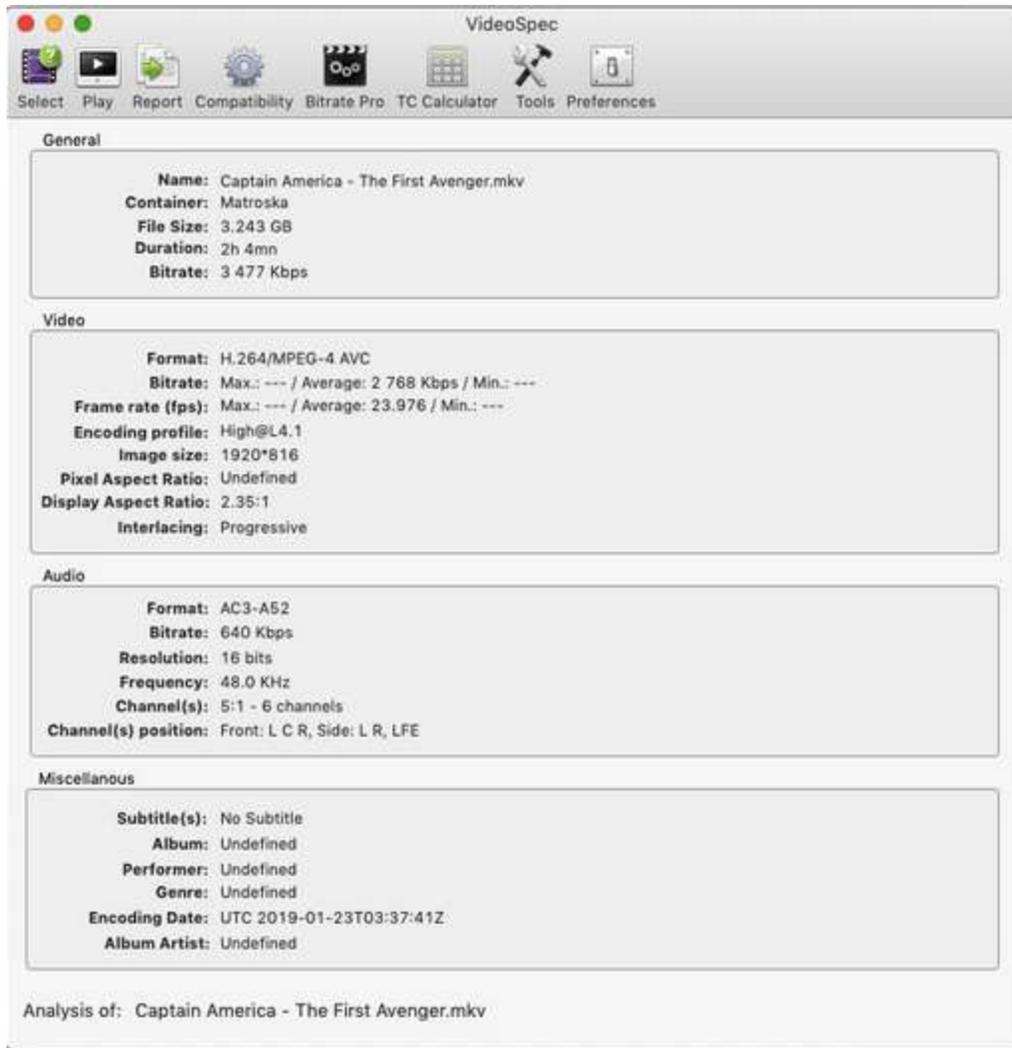


As most media players now allow you to scroll pretty quickly through movie files, I no longer place chapter markers in my encodes. I make sure “Create Chapter Markers” is unchecked.

NOW ITS TIME TO ENCODE!

If you are only doing one file, press “Start Encode”, and your computer will start crunching down the video. If you want to encode multiple files using these setting, click “Add to Queue”, then drag in your second title. Once it has finished importing, just press “Add to Queue” again to add it for encoding using the same settings. Once all of your subsequent files have been added to the queue, press “Start Encode” to get things moving. It might also be a good idea at this time to create a Preset for these settings, so you don’t have to enter them all manually each time you want to use them.

THE END RESULT – I managed to shrink the 28GB video file down to a little over 3GB with little to no detectable video degradation, and included the complete 5.1 AC3 soundtrack. It took my old I5 HP between 5-6 hours to encode.



WHERE TO GO FROM HERE – As I said earlier, this is a guideline, and a great place for a beginner to start. I recommend starting with these settings and then tweaking here and there to get things perfect for your set up. The best way to do this is to use a free movie splitter and take out 2-3 minutes of your movie and encode that first as a test. This way you can make adjustments fast without having to wait for the whole movie to be encoded. Adjust your test segment then play it on your TV, if it needs adjusting, fix it up and re-encode it again and again until it is just perfect, then do the whole movie. The only setting you will need to adjust if you find the picture contains artifacts is the “Constant Quality” slider. Slide it 21 or 20 to clean the video up, but beware, this will push the file size up.

