

Before nominating your fandom, please use youtube to estimate whether it would be eligible for festivids. You don't need to make an exact count—you're just trying to quickly discover whether your fandom is rare enough to nominate. This saves work for the mods and tag volunteers, and it also ensures that you won't waste a nomination slot!

New this year:

- Still image vids for video canons and RPF "count" as vids for Festivids purposes (and can also be turned in as assignments).
- Like animatics, cosplay vids are vids if they otherwise meet the criteria for "vid-like" (but not if they're fashion-like or scene-like).
- Vids created 100% by gen AI do not count (so a fandom can't be disqualified due to a gen AI spambot).

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Want help searching for your fandom? Comment on **dreamwidth** or **tumblr** and we can talk about the best way to do it.

How does Festivids evaluate rarity?

We estimate rarity by making youtube playlists of vids

1. We start searching with terms that we think will find vids for that fandom—see below for examples of terms to search. If we scroll down several times on youtube and find only a few vids, we try one or two additional search terms—other terms for vids, ship names, or other terms to try to clear up the search.
 - Still only a handful of vids? Great, it's rare.
 - If you can count to thirty vids and are still finding more, go to step two.
 - This isn't a perfect system—vids for some fandoms are aggressively removed from youtube and therefore vidders avoid some keywords—but it approximates the ease of finding vids for a particular fandom.
2. We make a playlist of vids that we can find on youtube.
 - Vids have to meet the Festivids criteria. See below for more details.
3. We check the vids on the playlist to make sure they're vid-like.
 - Playlist now has less than 150 vids? Double check your searches. If you're still under 150, it's rare.
 - Playlist has 150 vids or more? It's disqualified from Festivids this year. We disqualify the nomination and post the playlist to the spreadsheet of disqualified fandoms.

You don't need to do all of these steps unless you want to. Most fandoms are either way too big for festivids, and you won't need to check vids, or very small, and you won't count more than ten or twenty vids. That said, if there's a borderline case, you might want to start a playlist to confirm.

What makes something "vid-like?"

We say "vid-like" because we don't have the time to watch all three minutes of every vid on the list; we need a shortcut. That said, Festivids has a broad definition of a vid, and so we have a broad definition of what is vid-like.

- This is vid-like:
 - A video in which a fan editor has manipulated footage from the original canon to put it together in a new way, usually with new or recontextualized audio. A quick way to identify something "vid-like" is to look for something a fan vidder did: do you see a cut between two different scenes from the original, a color overlay, and new audio? It's vid-like.
 - Vids can be very dialog-heavy and still be vids, as long as a fan vidder is editing audio and visual footage. It can also use dialog as the new audio track, changing the context of the audio in addition to changing the context of the video. (As long

as the audio isn't just what they're saying in the depicted scene, anyway! If it is just the scenes in order, it might be supercut-like instead.)

- Something called a "fan trailer" can be vid-like if it contains music or overlays dialog, or it can be supercut-like if it just contains a sequence of scenes with the original audio from those scenes.
- Something called an "animatic" or "pmv" or "fanart vid" can be vid-like if it contains vid-like features (music or dialog editing, images from multiple scenes) or it can be scene-like if it's a fan animation of a single scene from the canon. The vid-like version would count for Festivids.
- Someone writing a song and then vidding the canon to it can be vid-like if the visuals are also edited. If the songwriter just put their song over a scene from the original canon, that wouldn't count for festivids. (That is, rescoring on its own does not count.)
- A sequence of short vids compiled together can be vid-like. Compilations of small vids into one longer file / crack vid / MEP dump count if they're all made by the person who posted the file (someone's collection of their own work).
 - If the person compiling them is a third party ("my fave tiktoks, credit to OPs"), we don't count them, because we can't easily identify whether those edits duplicate edits in other compilations.
- This isn't vid-like:
 - A sequence of scenes from a show, put together in order and not timed to new audio, with the original audio from the scene playing during that scene. This is "supercut-like."
 - Example: "Every time David Rose says fuck" or "Kit Jade story in order" or "Beckett Mariner scenepack" might be supercut-like, depending on whether they're cut and timed to music.
 - A scene from the original canon, or the original trailer for a canon, with no edits made to the video, where the only change is the music. This is "rescore-like."
 - Example: "Nimona trailer if the music was the music from Psycho" or "Bladerunner video game scene with music I wrote."
 - Original music would count if the video was also edited, though! Then it's just vidding your own music.
 - An audio edit over a still frame.
 - Example: "my cover of the Hikaru no Go OP" and the only footage is a still frame from the show.
 - An animatic of a single scene from a canon.
 - Example: Someone animating five minutes of gameplay from Critical Role is scene-like, not vid like.
 - A vid made by generative AI.
- We also don't count:
 - Vids that have had audio muted by youtube. (A vid that's intentionally silent would count, though.)
 - Vids that are obviously plagiarized duplicates of other vids on the list.

- We do count reposts from Bilibili, Vimeo, etc, by the original vidder or by a third party - if they're posted multiple times, we only count one time they're reposted.

We're evaluating 600+ fandoms in two weeks, and a single disqualification playlist might include nine hours of vids! So we really do only click into a vid for a few seconds to confirm that it's vid-like. New music? Visible cuts or video work? It's a vid (for our purposes).

This does mean that sometimes we're wrong about whether something is a vid; if you catch something we didn't, please comment and let us know that a playlist contains some non-vids and we'll reevaluate.

What criteria do vids on a playlist have to meet?

- Vids on the playlist must meet the following criteria:
 - Vids must be 60 seconds or longer, since that's the minimum length for a Festivids gift vid.
 - If youtube displays different times in different views, we use the one listed in "view full playlist" view.
 - Vids must be about the relevant fandom. Examples:
 - A vid about Frozen set to a Moana song counts for Frozen, not Moana: it's about Frozen.
 - A vid for a book fandom that uses footage from a movie to illustrate the book counts for the book fandom, not the movie fandom, even if a bunch of the footage is from the movie.
 - An animatic about the fandom counts as a vid (as long as it's vid-like, see above).
 - Vids must be fan-made or unofficial.
 - An official music video or a vid made by the producers of a show is not a vid for our purposes.
 - Vids must be from the last ten years; for convenience, that means posted after 2015-01-01.
 - A vid that was remastered or reedited after 2015 counts as a new vid.
 - A vid that is just reposted doesn't (if we can tell it's a repost).
- Other criteria are applied to the playlist as a whole:
 - Only 25% of the vids on a playlist (37 on a 150 vid playlist) can be crossovers.
 - The fandom should be substantially represented in the vid for a crossover vid to count. For example, a 190-source vid about dancing would probably not count for any of the 190 sources, but a two- or three- source vid would probably count for those two or three sources.
 - We relax this rule for spinoffs and sequels and other related shows, which can refer to those related works without counting as crossovers. For example, we'd allow 100% of Bletchley Circle San Francisco vid to include a few scenes from Bletchley Circle in order to set up the

characters. However, the vid would need to have substantial representation of Bletchley Circle San Francisco to count—a vid that was mostly Bletchley Circle and then had a short San Francisco epilogue probably wouldn't count for San Francisco. This can be tough to parse but we do our best.

Why do some Festivids playlists have more vids than others?

The minimum for disqualification is 150 vids, but many Festivids playlists have more than 150! This doesn't necessarily reflect anything about the size of the fandom; it could mean:

- The checker made a playlist first without watching vids and overshot the minimum, and then discovered that most of what they put on this list was a vid. ("Better throw some extras on here just in case some of these aren't vids.")
- Disambiguation from a smaller fandom ended up with a bunch of extra vids in the bigger fandom. ("Okay, I needed ten more Star Trek TOS vids, but to get there I opened an extra twenty AOS vids.")
- The checker got distracted trying to figure out how many vids there are for a specific song or artist. ("Hmm, I'm up to eight 'Radioactive' vids already, how many are there for this fandom?" Festivids nominations screeners make their own fun.)
- The checker observed a difficulty screening a fandom and is setting us up for future years. ("A lot of things called 'edits' for this fandom are just the trailer with new music, so now that I can recognize the trailer I'll throw thirty extra recent vids on the playlist so we don't have to figure this out again next year.")
- The checker enjoyed watching the vids! ("Every one of these *La casa de papel* vids is a banger.")
- The checker initially found a ton of a specific pairing and then went back to find their fave ship. ("Wait, hang on, my playlist is all Picard/Crusher! Where's the Data/Geordi?")
- The checker lost count, whoops. ("How many is that? Gotta be close, right? Oh, it's 250.")

It doesn't mean these fandoms are "more disqualified" than other fandoms! But it might mean we have to do less pre-screening work next year. Since we pre-screen everything disqualified the previous year, we may make a bigger playlist than seems warranted, (or a playlist that includes mostly recent items, in order to reduce repetitive checking.

Helpful youtube search terms

Here are some terms for vids to try in your search, with notes about fandom types where you're most likely to see them. If you know some terms we don't have listed here, please let us know!

Term	Most Useful For ...	Notes
AMV	anime, other animation, manga	used outside of anime a lot! you'll see game vids and live-action vids tagged AMV
GMV	video games	usefulness depends on type of game - mostly not used for puzzle or phone games
MMV	movies or manga or webtoons	picks up lots of movies when you're looking for manga
FMV	live action TV, Asian TV, shippy sources	sometimes used for official videos
TVMV	tv	rarely used
CMV	comics	will pick up superhero movie vids
DMV	donghua	often used with amv (as "amv / dmv") or for live action
C-DMV	c-dramas	rarely used will pick up departments of motor vehicles (try "-travel")
fanvid	shippy fandoms, English language fandoms	fanvid is not a very popular term, but it does return mostly vids
#fanvidfeed	shippy fandoms, English language fandoms	#fanvidfeed is not a very popular term, but it does return mostly vids
fan made	widely dispersed fandoms (e.g. many individual vidders, not a community)	catches some music, rescoring, and fanart
tribute	older fandoms, widely dispersed fandoms, fandoms with a popular action-y guy	less common in some new fandoms (e.g. "yellowjackets tribute" has few results, "cooper howard tribute" has lots) catches some music, art, etc
edit	live action sources, shippy sources	this used to be the most popular term for a recent live-action romance, but it seems to see less use now and often a search for it is full of noise
music video	all fandoms except musicians	catches official music videos
MV	all fandoms except musicians	catches official music videos
unofficial music video	musicians	may catch vids to that musician's songs, not vids of the musician

mix or mixtape	some sports (especially basketball)	may catch music mixtapes official sports channels now also use this term
\$language or \$country mix	some Asian tv	usually in the form of "tamil mix" or in the form of "korean mix hindi song" some are not vid-like
whatsapp status	shippy fandoms	often short
MAD	anime, manga	some MADs are not at all vid-like
fancam	newer fandoms, musicians	may catch videos of live performances that are not vid-like
names of vidding software e.g. "Sony Vegas"	newer fandoms	not very common, but can sort official music videos vs unofficial in a big fandom
animatic	all fandoms	some animatics are scene-like (illustrating a scene from canon) rather than vid-like
PMV (picture music video)	all fandoms	also picks up my little pony vids; some animatics are scene-like (illustrating a scene from canon) rather than vid-like
custom titantron	wrestling	some custom titantrons are text-only motion graphics
kore klip	kdramas popular in Turkey	some kore klips are not at all vid-like
çin klip	cdramas popular in Turkey	some çin klips are not at all vid-like
montage	some sports	may catch official montages by teams/sports media may be used for videos that are supercut-like rather than vid-like

You don't need to search all of these one at a time - you can guess which would be best for your fandom, or you can combine some or all of them into a single search.

How to make youtube's search suck less

Youtube search is appallingly bad, but there are some things you can do to make it work a little bit better for this purpose. Here are some tips and tricks:

- After:2015-01-01
 - Use after:2015-01-01 in the search field to only find videos that count for festivids rarity this year. (No space between the colon and the date!)
 - Even if your fandom is recent, this can be helpful—it suppresses the annoying youtube "people who searched for this also liked ..." and "you might like ..." features. It doesn't suppress youtube showing you duplicate videos, unfortunately.
 - If your fandom is recent, moving this date to within the last few years can help sort out some unrelated videos.
- OR (or use the | pipe operator)
 - Use OR (or |) to include two terms you'd like to search interchangeably. To make sure youtube is applying the OR to the right terms, put all your OR terms in parentheses.
 - For example, to search for Triage vids my first search was "trriage (edit | fmv | fanvid) after:2018-01-01"
 - Want a list of vid terms to copy? Add this to your search: (tribute OR amv OR gmv OR mmv OR fmv OR tvmv OR cmv OR dmv OR edit OR fanvid OR "fan made" OR "whatsapp status" OR fanvidfeed OR fanvid OR fancam OR "sony vegas" OR animatic)
 - That said, we're not recommending relying on this every single term search anymore—it used to be really helpful, but now a multi-term search can add a lot of noise to your search, so if it looks big fandom-y starting with a single term or a few terms can be easier.
 - Some vid terms don't work well universally, but if you're looking for sports vids, add OR mix OR mixtape OR montage. If you're looking for anime or manga vids, add OR MAD. If you're looking for a musician, try "unofficial music video." If you're looking for a non-musician, try "music video."
- Intitle:"words you want in the title"
 - Use intitle:"words you want in the title" to find only videos with those terms in the title. You can use this with other search tips here to filter out some irrelevant videos.
 - Sometimes, a youtube search turns up a lot of production videos, interviews, and so on. Putting "intitle" before a list of edit|amv|tribute etc will filter many of those production videos out.
- Search more than once!
 - Once you've done one search, you might learn the terms preferred by the fandom. For example, your first search might uncover a smushname or an abbreviation that vidders are using for the fandom.
 - Some fandoms have common words for titles and you'll find better results via character names or abbreviations - that is, if the fandom is called "Doctor" and

your first search is full of real life doctors and also Doctor Who vids, try the character names.

- Use exclusions.
 - If you're searching a fandom with a big industry of reaction videos, official music videos, fan theories, toy reviews, and so on, you might find that your results are swamped by those videos.
 - You can try a set of exclusions (using -). Things like -"recap" -"preview" -"reaction" -"explained" or -"theory" can be helpful.
 - You can end up blocking some related things (for example, -"trailer" might remove something that said "used trailer footage") but if you're trying to figure out how many vids are under there somewhere this is a good place to start.
 - That said, infuriatingly, exclusions aren't always obeyed by youtube, and adding them in will filter out some but not all of the noise. See below for a way to really get rid of everything!
- Use BlockTube or a similar add-on.
 - if youtube is cluttering up the results of your search, you can use BlockTube ([firefox](#) or [chrome/opera/vivaldi/etc](#)) to temporarily block a particular user who only posts clips, the official youtube channel, or anything else that's getting in your way.
 - Youtube's search term for exclusions (-TERM) is not perfect for our purposes, and often if you're trying to avoid specific accounts they have names or search terms that you don't want to exclude—it's hard to exclude someone posting clips with search terms alone. This solves that problem! I have a Festivids profile for blocktube and I block, like, every single official youtube channel (Paramount, Disney, etc) as well as a ton of reaction-only or clip-only users.
 - BlockTube can also block vids under a minute long (using advanced blocking), youtube's auto-generated playlists, youtube shorts, vids you've already watched 1% or more of, text in the description of a vid, and all other kinds of neat stuff.
 - Copy this text in the advanced blocking field to block vids under 1 minute:

```
(video, objectType) => {  
  // block video under 60 seconds  
  if (video.vidLength<60) {  
    return true;  
  }  
  return false;  
}
```
 - For some reason, Youtube displays some 59.5 second vids as 59 seconds in some views and 60 in others. We follow whatever shows up on the playlist view since that's how we count vids.

Search examples

- Recent live action tv show with a will they-won't they ship or a love triangle? Maybe ineligible.
 - Shippy sources are often more popular than I expect them to be. I'm always surprised by how fast these fandoms get vided!
 - For this kind of fandom, my first search would probably be characters in a main ship rather than the name of the show. For example, for Willow, I might search "kit jade" or "kit x jade" instead of "willow."
 - I'd probably start with "edit" (for English-language sources) or "fmv" (for Asian sources) or "#fanvidfeed" or "tribute" (for anything).
- Recent tv show with a ton of engaging characters with different tones, themes, and arcs? Maybe ineligible.
 - A tv show with a range of character arcs can hit 150 vids, where all of those vidders are coming from different communities of vidders.
 - This scenario is harder to search for than a show with one big ship, and might involve using single character names plus #fanvidfeed, tribute, etc. Some recent examples would be Yellowjackets and 작은 아씨들 | Little Women (Korea TV), both ineligible for this year of festivids due to every character having their own small vidding fandom.
- Recent action or scifi film? Maybe ineligible.
 - My first search would be the title of the film or franchise plus "tribute," "fmv," or "mmv."
 - If there's a shippy part of the film, I might try character names and "edit" or #fanvidfeed. For example, if I were searching for The Matrix, I'd search both "the matrix tribute" and "neo trinity edit."
- Pre-1980 action or scifi film? Maybe ineligible.
 - Some older action films are still getting vided quite a bit! I would probably start with the title plus "fmv" or "mmv" or "tribute" to get a sense of popularity.
- Pre-1980 drama, tragedy, musical, or comedy film? Probably eligible.
 - It's probably rare, but we still search for vids just in case.
 - I'd probably start with the title of the film and the long OR list. If that picked up a lot of unrelated videos, I'd pick one term that seemed likeliest (usually "tribute").
- Music videos or musical artist RPF? Probably eligible.
 - These are so hard to search for! The OR technique doesn't really work here, because it picks up amateur choreography and song covers. Instead, I usually try "unofficial music video" for my first search, maybe "fan made" for my second, and "tribute" for my third.
 - If there are a significant number of vids, you'll see them—try this for Taylor Swift and you'll find a lot! For really famous artists sometimes it seems like there must be a vid under there somewhere, but rare vidding fandom also means "I can't find the vids"—if vids exist but they're buried under all of the other content on youtube, we can't watch them.
- Video game that's an action RPG, platformer, or fighting game? Maybe ineligible.

- A lot of major release video games are ineligible for festivals, especially if they have cool fighty visuals or fun relationships.
 - I start with "gmv" for this kind of video game.
- Video game that's a puzzle game, turn-based game, or phone-only game? Probably eligible.
 - Broadly speaking, most puzzle games and phone only games are eligible for festivals.
 - These games usually aren't vided by the same community as action vids, so although you could still try "gmv," "edit" or "tribute" might be more helpful.
- Disney or Pixar movie? Maybe ineligible.
 - Disney and Pixar movies have thriving vid cultures on youtube! There are a few that are rare, but many aren't - so it's good to double check before you nominate.
 - The long list of ORs may take you to some weird places here—reaction vids and insta compilations—so I usually start with just "amv."