

EDITING TECHNIQUES

Import Your Files

Once you have the interface setup, it's time to import your content. For this project, I'm preparing a short video for a few short social media clips. Again, if you'd like to follow along with the tutorial you can download these same exercise files here. To import the clip I'll go to File > Import, and then select my file. Once imported, the clip will show up in my Project panel. This is just a reference file, and if I move the original file around at any time Premiere will lose the connection to the file and I'll need to manually relink it the next time I open the project.

To keep things organized, I can create bins inside the Project panel. I can also change how I view the assets, from lists to icons. There's even a new item button which will allow me to create a number of assets, including new sequences, captions, color mattes, and a handful of other useful assets.

Create a Sequence

Now that I've got my in and out points set I'm ready to add this clip to my final edit. For this, I'll need to create a sequence. The fastest way to do this is to simply drag and drop your clip over the timeline area at the bottom. You'll even see that it says "Drop media here to create a sequence." Creating a sequence this way will automatically match the sequence settings to your clip. If you'd rather create a sequence from scratch, go to File > New > Sequence. Now you can see the new timeline pop up with the clip.

The timeline consists of video tracks on top and audio tracks on the bottom. You'll also notice another monitor pop up. This is the Program monitor, and it reflects what's on the timeline. If you were a painter, think of the timeline as your canvas, while the project panel houses all of your paint.

Navigate the Timeline

Learning a few navigation shortcuts will improve your editing experience exponentially. The key shortcuts to learn are for basic navigation. Use spacebar to start and stop playback. You can also use the J, K and L keys to shuttle around the timeline. Use the plus and minus keys to zoom in and out, and use backslash to quickly get a bird's eye view of your project via the Zoom to Sequence command. To quickly expand and/or minimize a specific track, simply double click in the empty space of the header, just next to the track controls.

Edit a Sequence

In addition to adding In and Out points in the source monitor, you can also perform Insert, Overwrite, Overlay, and Replace edits just by simply dragging your clips directly over the Program monitor. Be cognizant of where your playhead is on the timeline, as that's where the edit will be performed. You can also drag clips directly from the Project panel onto the timeline, which is how I often like to work. A number of keyboard shortcuts will allow you to perform specific edits, so to check those out go to Premiere Pro > Keyboard Shortcuts.

To trim clips in the Timeline panel, simply grab the edge of a clip and drag. In addition to the Selection tool, there are a number of basic and advanced editing tools available in the Tools panel. One of the most used tools is the Razor, which you can activate via keyboard shortcut C. Use this to cut and split clips. The remaining edit tools are a bit more advanced, so let's save those for another tutorial.

Adjust the Audio

With my rough cut in place, I now want to take care of the sound. To properly view my audio levels, I'll open up the Window > Audio Meters. First, I'll focus on the interview audio, so I'll solo this particular track on the timeline. The audio of my interview subject is quite low, so I need to boost it a bit.

For this, I'll select the interview clips and then go to Clip > Audio Options > Audio Gain. I want my levels to max out right around -5db, so I'll input this number in the Normalize Max Peaks to section. To smooth everything out, I'll grab highlight all audio clips with

audio and go to Sequence > Apply Audio Transition. Now I need to go through and make sure that the transitions sound good with nothing overlapping.

Add Transitions

In addition to audio transitions, I'd like to add a nice and subtle video transition. You will find a Video Transitions folder by going to the Window > Effects panel. To apply a transition, simply drag and drop. Cmd + D will automatically apply a default transition to your selected clips. To retime, simply click and drag with the selection tool.

Create Graphics

For the final step, I'll add a quick text element to my video. Let's say that I want to just add his last name in big letters. First, I'll grab the Text tool and start typing directly on the Program monitor. You'll notice that a new graphic layer has been added to the timeline. To edit my text, I need to open up Window > Essential Graphics.

Export and Upload

With my video sequence ready to go, I'll select File > Export > Media, which will bring up the Export Settings dialog box. The number of export options can be overwhelming at first, so it helps to check out the Presets. First, I'll select the H.264 format, which is the standard for social media platforms. Since I'm exporting for Twitter, I'll select one of the presets available in the Presets drop-down menu. Now all I need to do is select the Output name and location.

Reference : <https://nofilmschool.com>