Starting the lesson

There's enormous demand for high-quality video content, and today's video producers and editors work in an ever-changing landscape of old and new technologies. Despite all this rapid change, however, the goal of video editing is the same: You want to take your footage and shape it, guided by your original vision, so that you can effectively communicate with your audience.

In Adobe Premiere Pro CC, you'll find a video-editing system that supports the latest technology and cameras with powerful tools that are easy to use. These tools integrate perfectly with almost every type of media, as well as a wide range of third-party plug-ins and other post-production tools.

You'll begin by reviewing the essential post-production workflow that most editors follow, and then you'll learn about the main components of the Premiere Pro interface and how to create custom workspaces.

Performing nonlinear editing in Premiere Pro

Premiere Pro is a *nonlinear editing system* (NLE). Like a word processing application, Premiere Pro lets you place, replace, and move video, audio, and images anywhere you want in your final edited work. You don't need to make adjustments in a particular order; you can change any part of your editing project at any time.

You'll combine multiple pieces of media, called *clips*, to create a sequence. You can edit any part of your sequence in any order and then change the contents or move clips so that they play earlier or later. You can blend layers of video together, add special effects, adjust the audio mix, and more.

You can combine multiple sequences and jump to any moment in a video clip without needing to fast-forward or rewind. It's as easy to organize the clips you're working with as it is to organize files on your computer.

Premiere Pro supports both tape and tapeless media formats, including XDCAM EX, XDCAMHD 422, DPX, DVCProHD, AVCHD (including AVCCAM and NXCAM), AVC-Intra, DSLR video, and Canon XF. It even has native support for the latest raw video formats, including media from RED, ARRI, Canon, and Blackmagic cameras.

● **Note:** The word *clip* comes from the days of film editing, where a section of film would be clipped to separate it from a reel.
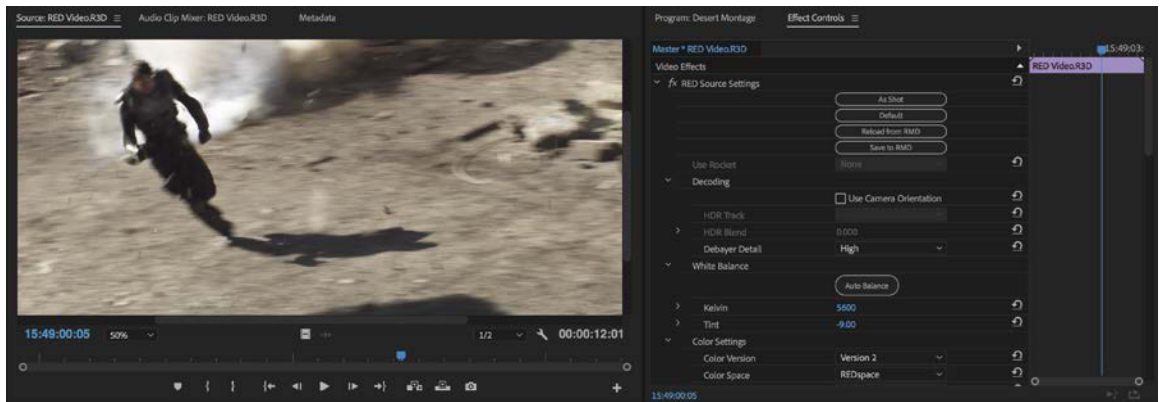
Premiere Pro features native support for raw media from RED cameras.

The standard digital video workflow

As you gain editing experience, you'll develop your own preferences for the order in which to work on the different aspects of your project. Each stage requires a particular kind of attention and different tools. Also, some projects call for more time spent on one stage than another.

Whether you skip through some stages with a quick mental check or spend hours (even days!) dedicated to perfecting an aspect of your project, you'll almost certainly go through the following steps:

1 **Acquire your media**: This can mean recording original footage or gathering assets for a project.

2 **Ingest (or capture from tape) the video to your storage drive**: With tapeless media, Premiere Pro can read the media files directly, usually with no need for conversion. If you're working with tapeless media, be sure to back up your files to a second location because storage drives sometimes fail unexpectedly. With tape-based formats, Premiere Pro (with the appropriate hardware) can convert the video into digital files.

3 **Organize your clips**: There can be a lot of video content to choose from in your project. Invest the time to organize clips into special folders (called *bins*) in your project. You can add color labels and other metadata (additional information about the clips) to help keep things organized.

4 **Create a sequence**: Combine the parts of the video and audio clips you want as a sequence in the Timeline panel.

5 **Add transitions**: Place special transition effects between clips, add video effects, and create combined visual effects by placing clips on multiple layers (called *tracks* in the Timeline panel).

6 **Create or import titles and graphics**: Add them to your sequence along with your video clips.

7 **Adjust the audio mix**: Adjust the volume of your audio clips to get the mix just right, and use transitions and effects on your audio clips to improve the sound.

8 **Output**: Export your finished project to a file or a videotape.

Premiere Pro supports each of these steps with industry-leading tools. A large community of creative and technical professionals is waiting to share their experience and support your development as an editor.

Enhancing the workflow with Premiere Pro

Premiere Pro has easy-to-use tools for video editing. It also has advanced tools for manipulating, adjusting, and fine-tuning your projects.

You may not incorporate all of the following features in your first few video projects. However, as your experience and understanding of nonlinear editing grow, you'll want to expand your capabilities.

The following topics will be covered in this book:

- **Advanced audio editing:** Premiere Pro provides audio effects and editing unequaled by any other nonlinear editor. Create and place 5.1 surround-sound audio channels, make sample-level edits, apply multiple audio effects to audio clips or tracks, and use state-of-the-art plug-ins as well as third-party Virtual Studio Technology (VST) plug-ins.

- **Color correction and grading:** Correct and enhance the look of your footage with advanced color-correction filters, including Lumetri, a dedicated color correction and grading panel. You can make secondary color-correction selections that allow you to adjust isolated colors and adjust selected areas of an image to improve the composition.

- **Keyframe controls:** Premiere Pro gives you the precise control you need to fine-tune the timing of visual and motion effects without using a compositing or motion graphics application. Keyframes use a standard interface design; if you learn to use them in Premiere Pro, you'll know how to use them in all Adobe Creative Cloud products in which they're available.

- **Broad hardware support:** Choose from a wide range of dedicated input and output hardware to assemble a system that best fits your needs and budget. Premiere Pro system specifications extend from low-cost desktop computers and laptops for video editing up to high-performance workstations that can easily edit 3D stereoscopic, high definition (HD), 4K, 8K, and 360 video.

- **GPU acceleration:** The Mercury Playback Engine operates in two modes: software-only mode and graphics processing unit (GPU) acceleration. GPU acceleration mode requires a graphics card that meets minimum specifications in your workstation. See http://helpx.adobe.com/premiere-pro/system-requirements.html for a list of tested graphics cards. Most modern cards with a minimum of 1GB of dedicated video memory will work.

- **Multicamera editing:** You can quickly and easily edit productions shot with multiple cameras. Premiere Pro displays multiple camera sources in a split-view display, and you can choose a camera view by clicking the appropriate screen or using shortcut keys. You can automatically sync multiple camera angles based on clip audio or timecode.

- **Project management:** Manage your media through a single dialog box. View, delete, move, search for, and reorganize clips and bins. Consolidate your projects by copying just the media used in sequences to a single location. Then reclaim storage space by deleting unused media files.

- **Metadata:** Premiere Pro supports Adobe XMP, which stores additional information about media as metadata that multiple applications can access. This information can be used to locate clips or communicate important information such as preferred takes or copyright notices.

- **Creative titles:** Create titles and graphics with the Essential Graphics panel. You can also use graphics created in almost any suitable software, plus Adobe Photoshop documents can be imported as flattened images or as separate layers that you can incorporate, combine, and animate selectively.

- **Advanced trimming:** Use special "trimming" tools to make precise adjustments to the start and end of clips in sequences. Premiere Pro provides both quick, easy trimming keyboard shortcuts and advanced on-screen trimming tools, allowing you to make complex timing adjustments to multiple clips.

- **Media encoding:** Export your sequence to create a video and audio file that is perfect for your needs. Use the advanced features of Adobe Media Encoder to create copies of your finished sequence in multiple formats, based on presets or your own detailed preferences. Media files can be uploaded to social media platforms in a single step.

- **360 video for VR headsets:** Edit and post-produce stitched 360 video footage using a special VR Video display mode that lets you see specific regions of the picture, or view both your video *and* your edited clips via a VR headset, allowing a more natural and intuitive editing experience. Dedicated visual effects for 360 video are available.

Expanding the workflow

Although it's possible to work with Premiere Pro as a stand-alone application, it is also a team player. Premiere Pro is part of Adobe Creative Cloud, which means you have access to a number of other specialized tools, including After Effects, Audition, and Prelude. Understanding the way these software components work together will improve your efficiency and give you more creative freedom.

Including other applications in the editing workflow

Premiere Pro is a versatile video and audio post-production tool, but it's just one component of Adobe Creative Cloud—Adobe's complete print, web, and video environment that includes video-focused software for the following:

- High-end 3D motion effects creation
- Complex text animation generation
- Layered graphics production
- Vector artwork creation
- Audio production
- Media management

To incorporate one or more of these features into a production, you can use other components of Adobe Creative Cloud. The software set has everything you need to produce advanced, professionally finished videos.

Here's a brief description of the other components:

- **Adobe After Effects CC:** The highly popular tool of choice for motion graphics, animation, and visual effects artists.
- **Adobe Photoshop CC:** The industry-standard image-editing and graphics creation product. You can work with photos, video, and 3D objects to prepare them for your project.
- **Adobe Audition CC:** A powerful tool for audio editing, audio cleanup and sweetening, music creation and adjustment, and multitrack mix creation.
- **Adobe Illustrator CC:** Professional vector graphics creation software for print, video, and the Web.
- **Adobe Dynamic Link CC:** A cross-product connection that allows you to work in real time with media, compositions, and sequences shared between After Effects, Audition, and Premiere Pro.
- **Adobe Prelude CC:** A tool that allows you to ingest, transcode, and add metadata, markers, and tags to file-based footage. Then create rough cuts you can share with Premiere Pro directly or with other NLEs.