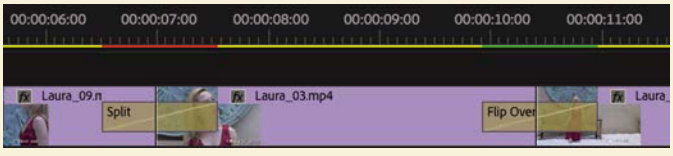
Sequence display changes

When you add a transition to a sequence, a red or yellow horizontal line may appear above it in the Timeline panel. A yellow line indicates that Premiere Pro expects to be able to play the effect smoothly. A red line means that this section of the sequence may be rendered before you can record it to tape or view a preview without dropped frames.

Rendering happens automatically when you export your sequence as a file, but you can choose to render at any time to make these sections preview more smoothly on slower computers.

The easiest way to render is to press Enter (Windows) or Return (macOS). You can also add In and Out marks to select a part of your sequence and then render. Only the selected part will render. This is useful if you have many effects that need to render, but you're concerned with only one section for now.



Premiere Pro will create a video clip of that segment (tucked away in the Preview Files folder) and will change the line from red or yellow to green. As long as the line is green, playback should be smooth.

Using A/B mode to fine-tune a transition

Viewing transition effect settings in the Effect Controls panel gives access to an A/B editing mode that splits a single video track into two. What would normally be displayed as two consecutive and contiguous clips on a single track are now displayed as individual clips on separate tracks, giving you the option to apply a transition between them, to manipulate their head and tail frames (or handles), and to change other transition options.

Changing parameters in the Effect Controls panel

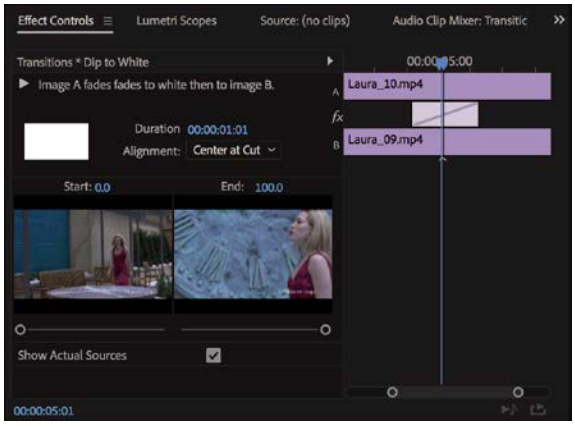
All transitions in Premiere Pro can be customized. Some effects have few customizable properties (such as duration or starting point). Other effects offer more options for direction, color, border size, and so on. The major benefit of the Effect Controls panel is that you can see the outgoing and incoming clip handles (unused media in the original clip). This makes it easy to adjust the position of an effect.

Let's modify a transition.

1 Switch back to the sequence Transitions.

2 Position the Timeline playhead over the Dip to White transition you added between clips 1 and 2, and click the transition effect icon to select it.

3 In the Effect Controls panel, select the Show Actual Sources check box to view frames from the actual clips.

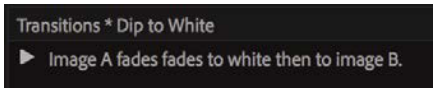


This makes it easier to assess the changes you'll make.

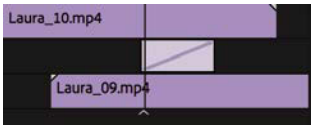
4 In the Effect Controls panel, open the Alignment menu, and choose Start At Cut.

The transition icon switches to show the new position.

5 Click the small Play The Transition button at the top-left corner of the Effect Controls panel to preview the transition.



6 Now change the transition duration. Click the blue numbers for the effect Duration, type **112, and click away or press the Tab key to apply the new number** for an effect that is 1½ seconds in duration (remember, Premiere Pro will add the correct punctuation automatically).



The Alignment menu changes to Custom Start, because there isn't a long enough handle to play the transition at the new duration. To make the new transition duration fit, Premiere Pro sets the start a little later.

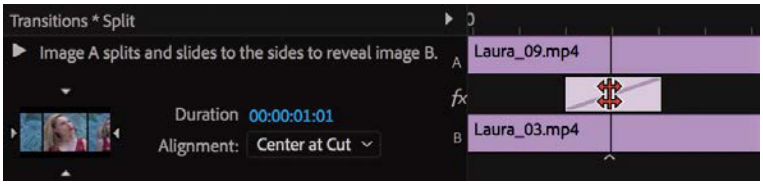
Play the transition to see the change.

It's important to play through transitions to be sure you're happy with the newly revealed media in the handles. While it's useful that Premiere Pro modifies the timing of effects to compensate for missing handles, it makes it even more important to check the effect before you move on.

Let's customize the next effect.

7 Click the Split transition effect between clip 2 and clip 3 in the Timeline.

8 In the Effect Controls panel, hover the mouse cursor over the edit line at the center of the transition icon. The mouse cursor changes to a red Rolling Edit tool.



That's the edit point between the two clips. The Rolling Edit tool lets you reposition the edit point.

9 In the Effect Controls panel, drag the Rolling Edit tool left and right, and note that the changing Out mark of the left clip and the changing In mark of the right clip show up in the Program Monitor as soon as you release the mouse button. This is also called *trimming*.

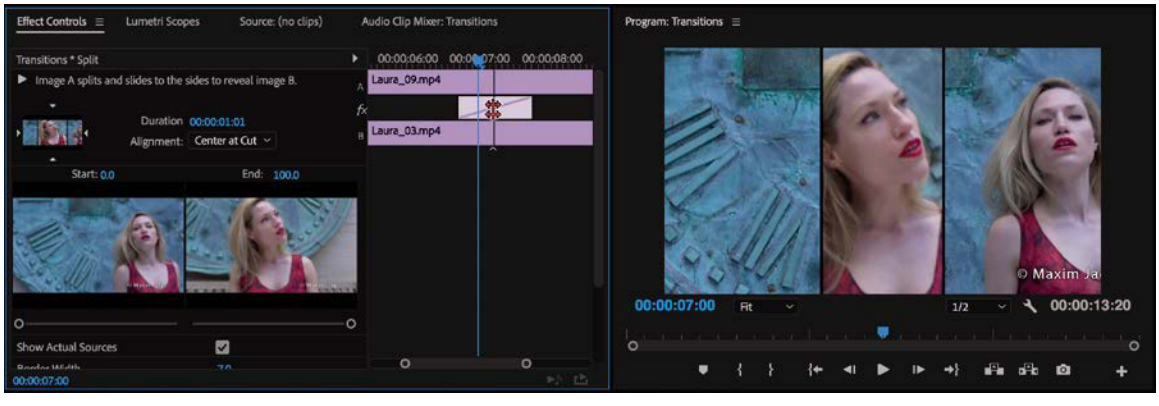
Tip: You can position the start time of a dissolve asymmetrically by dragging it. This means you don't have to settle for the Centered, Start At Cut, and End At Cut options. You can drag the position of a transition effect directly on the Timeline too; there's no need to use the Effect Controls panel.

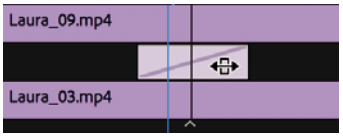
You'll explore trimming in more detail in Lesson 8, "Advanced Editing Techniques."

Tip: You may need to move the playhead earlier or later to see the edit point between two clips.

Note: You might need to resize the Effect Controls panel to make the tiny Show/Hide Timeline View button visible. Also, the Effect Controls Timeline may already be visible. Clicking the Show/Hide Timeline View button in the Effect Controls panel toggles it on and off.

Note: When trimming, it's possible to shorten a transition to a duration of one frame. This can make it hard to grab and position the transition effect icon, so try using the Duration and Alignment controls. If you want to remove a transition, select it in the sequence and press Backspace (Windows) or Delete (macOS).





10 Move the pointer slightly to the left or right of the edit line, and notice that it changes to the Slide tool.

Using the Slide tool changes the start and end points of the transition without changing its overall length. The new start and end marks show up in the Program Monitor, but unlike using the Rolling Edit tool, moving the transition rectangle by using the Slide tool does not change the edit point between the two sequence clips. Instead, it changes the timing of the transition effect.

11 Use the Slide tool to drag the transition rectangle left and right and compare the results.

Using a Morph Cut effect

Morph Cut is a special transition effect that aims to be invisible. It's designed specifically to help with "talking head" video interviews, where a single speaker looks in the direction of the camera. If your subject pauses a lot or there is inappropriate content in the footage, you may want to remove a section of the interview.

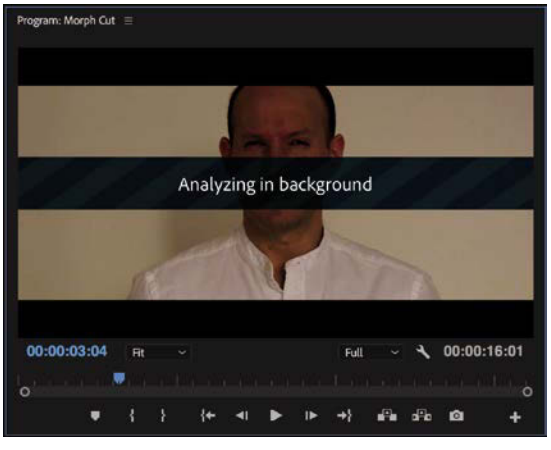
This would normally produce a jump cut, but with the right media and a little experimentation, the Morph Cut effect might yield an invisible transition that seamlessly hides what you have removed. Let's try it.

1 Open the sequence Morph Cut. Play the beginning of the sequence.

This sequence has one shot in it, with a jump cut near the start. It's a small jump cut but enough to jar the audience.

2 In the Effects panel, look in the Video Transitions > Dissolve group for the Morph Cut effect. Drag this effect to the join between the two parts of the clip.

The Morph Cut transition effect begins by analyzing the two clips in the background. You can continue to work on your sequence while this analysis takes place.



Depending on your media, you may achieve improved results with the Morph Cut transition effect by experimenting with different durations.

3 Double-click the Morph Cut transition effect to display the Set Transition Duration dialog. Change the duration to 13 frames.

4 When the analysis is complete, press Enter (Windows) or Return (macOS) to render the effect (if your system requires it) and play a preview.

The result is not perfect, but it's close, and it's unlikely an audience will notice the join.

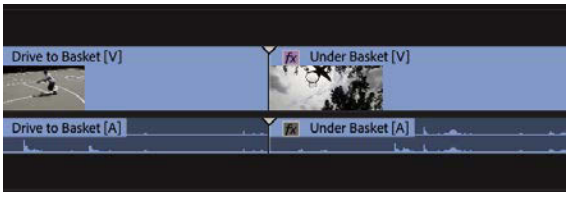
Dealing with inadequate (or nonexistent) head or tail handles

If you try to extend a transition for a clip that doesn't have enough frames as a handle, the transition appears but has diagonal warning bars through it. This means Premiere Pro is using a freeze frame to extend the duration of the clip.

You can adjust the duration and position of the transition to resolve the issue.

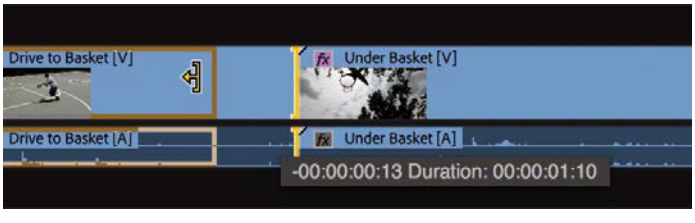
1 Open the sequence Handles.

2 Locate the edit between the clips.



The two clips on the Timeline have no heads or tails. You can tell this immediately because of the little triangles in the corners of the clips; a triangle indicates the last frame of an original clip.

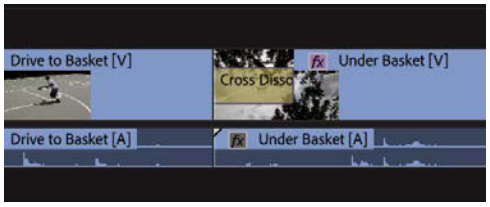
3 Select the Ripple Edit tool in the Tools panel , and use it to drag the right edge of the first clip to the left. Drag to shorten the duration of the first clip to about 1:10 and then release.



A tool tip appears while you trim to show the new clip duration.

The clip after the edit point ripples to close the gap. Notice that the little triangle at the end of the clip you have trimmed is no longer present.

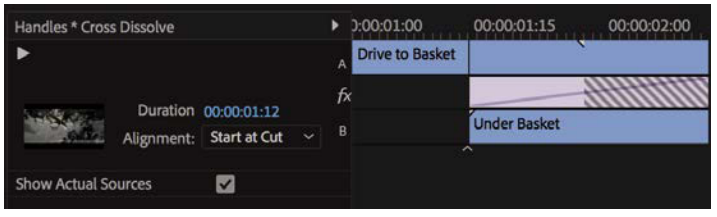
4 Drag the Cross Dissolve transition effect from the Effects panel onto the edit point between the two clips.



You can drag the transition to the right side of the edit but not the left. That's because there's no handle available to create a dissolve overlapping the end of the first clip without using freeze frames.

5 Press V to select the standard Selection tool, and click the dissolve transition effect icon once to select it. You may need to zoom in to make it easier to select a transition.

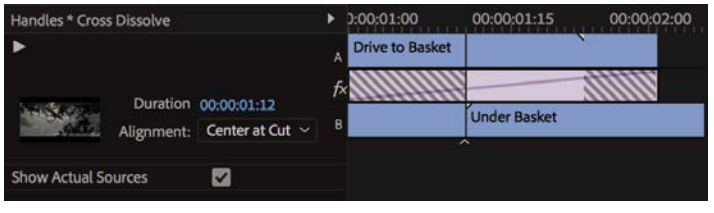
6 In the Effect Controls panel, set the duration of the effect to **1**:**12**.



There aren't enough frames of video to create this effect, and diagonal lines on the transition, both in the Effect Controls panel and on the Timeline, indicate still frames that have been automatically added fill the duration you set. The result is a freeze frame wherever you see the diagonal lines.

7 Play the transition to see the result.

8 Change the alignment of the transition to Center At Cut.



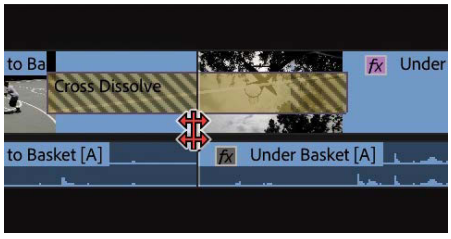
9 Drag the Timeline playhead slowly through the transition and watch the result.

- For the first half of the transition (up to the edit point), the B clip is a freeze frame, while the A clip continues to play.
- At the edit point, the A clip and the B clip start to play.
- After the edit, a short freeze frame is used.

There are several ways to fix this issue.

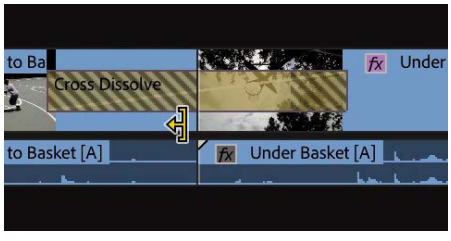
- You can change the duration or alignment of the effect.
- You can use the Rolling Edit tool, accessible by clicking and holding on the Ripple Edit tool in the Tools panel, to reposition the transition.

Note: The Rolling Edit tool lets you move the transition left or right but does not change the overall length of the sequence.



Rolling Edit tool

- You can use the Ripple Edit tool to shorten a clip.

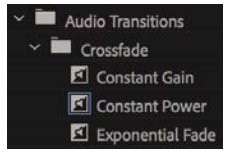


Ripple Edit tool

You'll learn more about the Rolling Edit and Ripple Edit tools in Lesson 8, "Advanced Editing Techniques."

Adding audio transitions

Audio transitions can dramatically improve a sequence's soundtrack by removing unwanted audio pops or abrupt edits. The use of a crossfade transition at the end of (or between) audio clips is a fast way to add a fade-in, a fade-out, or a fade between your audio clips.



Creating a crossfade

There are three styles of crossfade.

- **Constant Gain**:

  The Constant Gain crossfade (as its name implies) transitions audio by using a constant audio gain (volume) between the clips. Some find this transition type useful. It can, however, create a sudden transition in the audio as the sound of the outgoing clip fades out and the incoming clip then fades in at an equal gain. It's most useful in situations where you do not want much blending between two clips but rather more of a dip out and in between the clips.

- **Constant Power:**

  The default audio transition in Premiere Pro creates a smooth, gradual transition between two audio clips. The Constant Power crossfade works in a similar way to a video dissolve. The outgoing clip fades out slowly at first and then faster toward the end of the clip. For the incoming clip, the opposite occurs—the audio level increases quickly at the start of the incoming clip and more slowly toward the end of the transition. This crossfade is useful in situations where you want to blend the audio between two clips, without a noticeable drop in level in the middle.

- **Exponential Fade:**

  This effect is similar to the Constant Power crossfade. The Exponential Fade transition creates a fairly smooth fade between clips. It uses a logarithmic curve to fade out and fade up audio. Some editors prefer the Exponential Fade transition when performing a single-sided transition (such as fading in a clip from silence at the start or end of a program).

Applying audio transitions

There are several ways to apply an audio crossfade to a sequence. You can, of course, drag and drop an audio transition effect just as you would a video transition effect, but there are also useful shortcuts to speed up the process.

Audio transitions have a default duration, measured in seconds or frames. You can change the default duration by choosing Edit > Preferences > Timeline (Windows) or Premiere Pro CC > Preferences > Timeline (macOS).

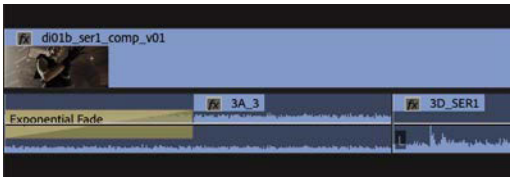
Let's take a look at the three methods for applying audio transitions.

1. Open the sequence Audio.

   The sequence has several clips with audio.

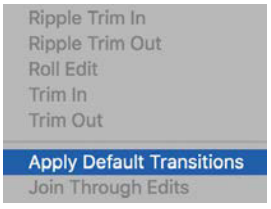
2. Open the Audio Transitions > Crossfade group in the Effects panel.

3 Drag the Exponential Fade transition to the start of the first audio clip.



4 Navigate to the end of the sequence.

5 Right-click the final edit point in the Timeline and choose Apply Default Transitions.



New video and audio transitions are added. To add only an audio transition, hold down Alt (Windows) or Option (macOS) when right-clicking to select only the audio clip.

The Constant Power transition is added to the end audio clip as a transition to create a smooth blend as the audio ends.

6 You can change the length of any transition by dragging its edge in the Timeline. Drag to extend the audio transition you just created and listen to the result.

7 To polish the project, add a Video Dissolve transition to the beginning of the sequence. Move the playhead near the beginning, select the first clip, and press Ctrl+D (Windows) or Command+D (macOS) to add the default video transition.

You now have a fade from black at the beginning and a fade to black at the end. Now let's add a series of short audio dissolves to smooth out the background sound.

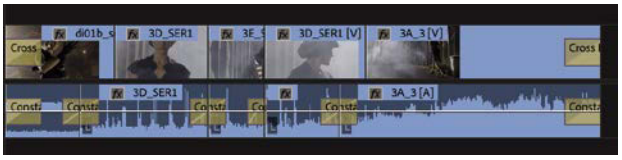
8 The Alt (Windows) or Option (macOS) key lets you temporarily unlink the audio clips from the video clips to isolate the transitions.

With the Selection tool, hold down Alt (Windows) or Option (macOS) and lasso all the audio clips on track Audio 1, being careful not to select any video clips—drag from below the audio clips to avoid accidentally selecting items on the video track.

Note: The selection of clips does not have to be contiguous. You can Shift-click clips to select individual clips in a sequence.

▶ **Tip:** You could choose Apply Audio Transition in the Sequence menu to add transitions exclusively to audio clips, but if you have already chosen audio-only clips, there's no need as the default transition option will have the same effect.

9 Choose Sequence > Apply Default Transitions To Selection.



10 Play the sequence to see and hear the changes you made.

▶ **Tip:** Shift+Ctrl+D (Windows) or Shift+Command+D (macOS) is the keyboard shortcut for adding the default audio transition to an edit point near the playhead, between selected clips, or at selected cut points. Track selection (or clip selection) is used to work out where the effect should be applied.

It's common for audio editors to add one- or two-frame audio transitions to every cut in a sequence to avoid jarring pops when an audio clip begins or ends. If you set your default duration for audio transitions to two frames, you can use the Apply Default Transitions To Selection option in the Sequence menu to quickly smooth your audio mix.

Review questions

1. How can you apply the default transition to multiple clips?
2. In the Effects panel, how can you locate a transition effect by name?
3. How do you replace a transition with another one?
4. Explain three ways to change the duration of a transition.
5. What is an easy way to fade audio at the beginning or end of a clip?

Review answers

1. Select clips already on the Timeline, and choose Sequence > Apply Default Transitions To Selection.
2. Start typing the transition name in the Contains Text box in the Effects panel. As you type, Premiere Pro displays all effects and transitions (audio and video) which have that letter combination anywhere in their names. Type more letters to narrow your search.
3. Drag the replacement transition on top of the transition you're rejecting. The new one automatically replaces the old one while adopting its timing.
4. Drag the edge of the transition icon in the Timeline, do the same thing in the Effect Controls panel's A/B timeline display, or change the Duration value in the Effect Controls panel. You can also double-click the transition icon in the Timeline panel.
5. Apply an audio-crossfade transition to the beginning or end of the clip.