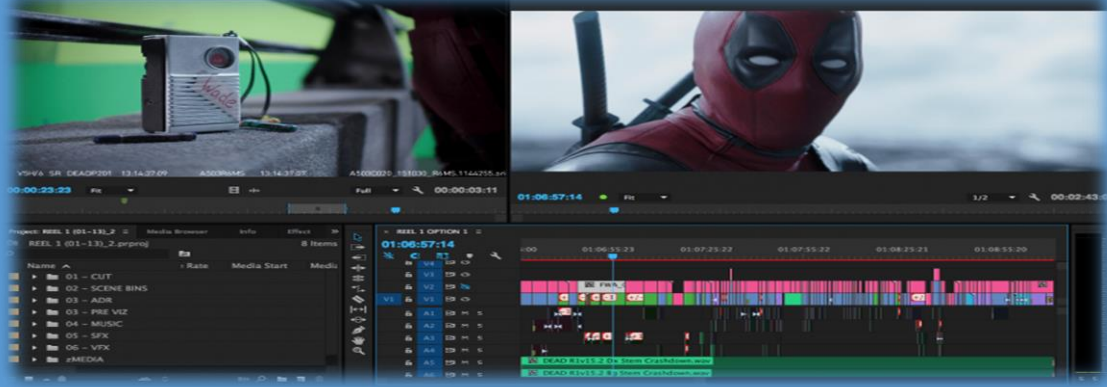


Cuts and Transitions Reference Sheet



Editing is moving one shot to another in film. Done well, they are not noticed and help tell the story. Incorrectly done, they are noticeable and can create confusion to the story or the scene. Here are some common cuts and transitions:

CUTS

Action Cut: Its quick, abrupt, and instant

- An edit done when the character is in motion

Cut Away: When you insert a shot in the “middle” of a shot

- The insert is usually in the same area as the character
- Sometimes used to help show what is going on in the character’s mind

Cross Cut: Used to show going to and from locations, between characters, or situations

- Can be used help increase tension
- Sometimes used to help show what is going on in the character’s mind

Jump Cut: Editing done within the same shot

- Can be used to show the passage of time
- Can be used to show urgency
- Can be used for montages

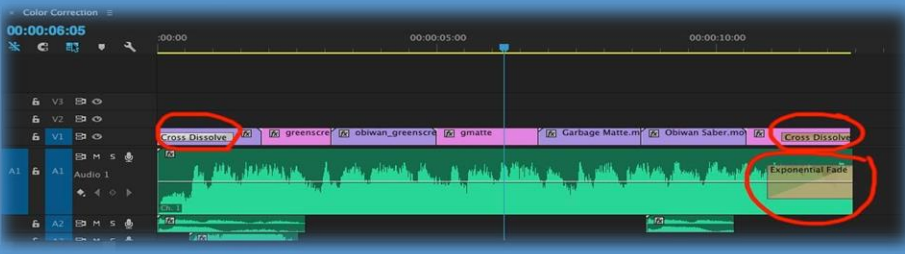
Match Cut: Matches the composition or the action of different shots

- Not a jump cut
- Moves audience through locations, scenes, and/or characters
- Can be literal, metaphorical, or through words

Smash Cut: An abrupt cut

- Can be used as a radical change of scenery, mind, pace, mood, etc.

Fade In/Out: Going to or from a colour (often with black)



Cuts and Transitions Reference Sheet Continued...

Invisible Cut: A cut that is not scene by the audience

- Gives the impression of one continuous take
- Uses people, objects, walls, etc., with the movement of the camera
- It can be done gradually, blended, or overlapping edits

TRANSITIONS

Iris: a stylistic approach to bring focus on a specific person or object

Wipe: sweeps across the screen and has many variations – use wisely!

L-Cut: The audio serves as the ‘connection’ between shots

- Used for scene transitions but also when characters are talking to each other

J-Cut: The visuals or audio starts before you get to the next scene/shot

- Allows the audience to see or hear what’s going on before figuring it out
- Can be used as a flashforward or flashback

Once you understand what they are and how to use them...you can start applying Cuts and Transitions in combinations.

COMMON MISTAKES

1. Not knowing your footage!
 - Become very familiar with your footage
 - Create a list of CHOICE footage (written notes or files – this is called ‘Selecting’)
 - 70% of editing is knowing your SELECT FOOTAGE
2. Cutting from a shot/image too soon or staying on a shot/image too long.
 - Imagine you are the third person watching the scene; How does your head move? Where do your eyes go?
 - Have you ‘caught’ everything that is going on.... or do you lag behind in following the story? Get a second opinion!