

Fast Start With Adobe Premiere Pro

Class Notes

Luisa C. Winters

Video Trainers

<http://www.videotrainers.com> (410) 672-5200



CERTIFIED INSTRUCTOR
Premiere®

Fast Start With Adobe Premiere Pro

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Video input, three-point editing, timeline editing, video output, and more for beginning Premiere Pro users. If you're new to Premiere Pro, don't miss this important class.

Introduction

Optimal computer configuration:

Processes:

Make sure there are no unnecessary processes running in the background
Go to Run>msconfig – shut down all processes not needed for editing

Hard drive configuration

I recommend at least 3 different drives:

-Drive 1 (your C: drive) – only your OS and your programs should go here

-Drive 2 (your data drive) – Have your Project file, any other files that you need to complete your project (titles, stills, music, etc).

Also save in here your conformed audio files, as well and video and audio preview files.

-Drive 3 (your video drive) – Save your captured video in here

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Lesson 1

Project Settings and Presets

Use the ones created by Adobe, or the ones installed by your capture card's software. If you need to modify, go through the presets, and then save your settings. Give it a name you'll easily remember.

Keep in mind to use presets that match your original footage, and not your output. For example, something shot in DV, but to be delivered in DVD, should use DV presets.

Initial Workspace

By default, the editing workspace. Position windows however you wish and save the workspace
Windows>workspace>Save

Preferences Settings

Edit>Preferences Go through these, and change according to your needs. Things to look at are scratch disks, length of imported stills and Capture Device

Keyboard Shortcuts Creating Your Own

Edit>Keyboard Customization

Assign different keyboard shortcuts to the functions you will use the most. Remember, however, that Adobe tries to keep shortcuts between their different applications the same, so be careful when changing shortcuts.

Lesson 2

Capturing Video

Use the shortcut F5, or go under File>Capture

Whole Tape

Use the tape transport controls (look like a VCR's controls), go to where you would like to start capturing (or the beginning of the tape), and click on the "Tape" button

Batch Capturing

Play your tape, and as it plays select in and out points by either clicking on the "select In" or pressing the shortcuts "i" for in, "o" for out. Select an appropriate bin in your Project Window to send these batch capture files to

Scene Detection

Click on the "scene detection" icon to make Premiere separate clips according to where you pushed the "pause" button in the camcorder. Premiere accomplishes this by looking at the time stamp information in the tape.

DV Device Control

Select from a list of devices

Saving Video Files

Re-check that you will be capturing files to the appropriate HD, and that your system recognized your capture device. Re-check that it will be captured in the format you desire, with the desired Codec (compressor / decompressor)

File Management

Make sure you name your clips something that you will recognize in the future. If by any reason you need to re-create this project you should be able to do so by only re-capturing the raw footage.

Lesson 3

Importing Video Files

CONTROL I to import files

Double-click on an empty space in the Project Window

File>Import

Importing Audio Files (Ripping Audio From a CD)

Import audio files the same way you import any other file, to rip audio from a CD you can use Windows Media Player. Make sure you save to an appropriate folder

Conforming Audio

Premiere needs to conform any imported audio, even if it is part of a video file. Conforming audio means converting this audio to the current audio sample rate (the one you specified for the project), saving it at 32-bit quality.

Project Window

Any file that you will be using in your project, must exist in the Project Window.

Creating Bins

Create bins (folders) to keep your files and Sequences in order. If all your files are together, this may lead to confusion later down the road

Display Settings

List or Icon view. Use the different display settings available depending on how you are positioning your clips on the Timeline. Use the icon view if you will be using the Storyboard approach

Labels

Use labels to quickly identify different file types

Adding Notes

Add notes to help you with your editing

Lesson 4

Adding Video / Audio to the Timeline

Just the fact that a file lives in the Project Window doesn't mean that it will live in your final video. The file must exist on the Timeline to be a part of your program.

From Source Monitor

Double-click the clip in the project window, and it will open in the Preview monitor window. You can select in and out points ("i" for in and "o" for out) and from here place these clip sections on the Timeline

From Project Window

Drag from the Project Window onto the Timeline

Storyboard / Automate to Timeline

Automate to sequence to place several clips on the timeline at the same time. You can even specify to add these clips to unnumbered markers (at the beat of music, for example), and to add the default video transition in between the clips. This is best used when editing Storyboard Style.

Adding Sound

Add sound to your work the same way as you added video. Keep in mind that a stereo clip cannot live on a mono track, and vice versa.

Lesson 5

Adding Transitions

Under the effects window, select the transition you would like to use. Drag it in between the clips that require such transition.

You can also add the transition using the shortcut CONTROL D for video - SHIFT CONTROL D for audio. The CTI must be placed at the transition point. To move from edit point to edit point use the page up and page down keys.

Default Transition (Video & Audio)

You can make any transition the default transition by right clicking on the transition's name and select "set selected as default"

Customizing Length of Default Transition

Under your preferences files – general. Change the length of your default video transition and audio transition

Slip and Slide Edit Tools

A slip edit shifts a clip's In and Out points forward or backward by the same number of frames in a single action. By dragging with the slip tool, you can change a clip's starting and ending frames without changing its duration or affecting adjacent clips.

A slide edit shifts a clip in time while trimming adjacent clips to compensate for the move. As you drag a clip left or right with the slide tool, the Out point of the preceding clip and the In point of the following clip are trimmed by the number of frames you move the clip. The clip's In and Out points (and hence, its duration) remain unchanged.

Ripple and Roll Edit Tools

A ripple edit shortens or lengthens a clip, and the program will get shorter or longer according to how many frames you added or removed from the clip. This operation is only possible provided there are enough frames available to perform the operation.

A rolling edit trims an adjacent Out point and In point simultaneously and by the same number of frames. This will not affect the length of the program.

Speed / Rate Stretch

To change the speed of a clip you can select Clip>Speed, or use the rate stretch tool

Lesson 6

Clip Markers

Place clip markers by double clicking on the clip, once it open in the Preview monitor Window, you can add the marker, and it will appear in the clip. You can also right-click and select Add clip marker. You can add numbered and unnumbered markers to your clips

Sequence Markers

Place clip markers at any place in the Sequence. Use the shortcut (* on the numeric keypad). You can also right-click and select Add Sequence marker. You can add numbered and unnumbered markers to your Sequences

Chapters for DVD Creation

You can have your Sequence markers serve as chapter markers for DVD creating. Either by selecting this option when creating this DVD from within Premiere Pro, or by double-clicking on the marker and selecting (and even naming) your marker so that programs like Encore DVD will recognize these markers as DVD chapters

3 Point Edit

All edits in Premiere have 4 points. The in and out point of the source clip, and the in and out point in the Sequence (where the clip will be placed). Select in and out points either on the Sequence or on the Source Clip, and after that you only need to select one other point either on the Sequence or on the Source Clip. The 4th point will be created automatically.

Lesson 7

Effects Control Window

We use the Effect Controls Window to work with any clip-based effect. You can add Keyframes, and control the settings of the different effects. You will be able to see a mini-timeline, representing the clip.

Motion / Opacity

Control Motion and opacity from within the ECW, no need to apply any additional effects (these 2 are already applied).

You can also control motion from within the Program Monitor window. Create Motion by adding Keyframes. Control and adjust Bezier curves in your motion path

Keyframes

A keyframe marks the point in time in a clip where you specify a value for an effect or property. You can specify different values for different points in your clip, and Premiere Pro will interpolate those values, creating a progressive change in time.

Filters

Color Corrector

Adjust Black, White and gray levels to optimize your color
Compare the corrected clip with the original one by double-clicking the clip in the Timeline, now it will appear in the review Monitor Window.

Set the Black Point – Darkest part of your image
Set the White Point - Whitest part of the image
Set the Gray Point – Neutral part of the image – experiment with this and move the eyedropper tool until you find a color that optimizes your overall clip

You can also adjust HSL and RGB levels in your clips, and enable the Video Limiter, to remain “legal”

Color Match

Match the colors of one clip to the colors of another clip.
Place the 2 clips side by side by placing the CTI on one so you can see it in the Program monitor window, and double clicking o the other one so that it opens in the Premiere Monitor Window. You can even gang the 2 monitors.
Use the eyedroppers to match the selected colors

Lesson 9

Titler

You can use the Adobe Titler Designer to create titles that you can add to your work

Templates

The Titler comes with a variety or templates that you can use and customize – click on the template button and choose an appropriate one

Saving Template

Create your desired template and click on the template button. From the Wing menu select “Save as Template”. You can also go under Title > Templates. Choose Import File As Template from the Templates options menu.

Styles

You can apply some of the styles that Premiere Pro already has, select the text or object and then click on the desired style to apply.

To create and save a style select and object or text and from the styles menu, choose New Style – name it appropriately and click OK.

To select a Style as the Default one, select your desired style and from the menu choose Set Style As Default

You can also load or save style libraries by selecting the appropriate menu item.

Creating a Credit Roll / Crawl

Choose Roll or Crawl from the Title Type menu, then start creating your title in the drawing area.

Choose Title > Roll/Crawl Options.

Specify the appropriate Timing options, and then click OK.

Start Off Screen, End Off Screen so that the title starts and ends off screen

Pre-Roll - Specifies the number of frames that play before the scroll begins.

Ease-In - Specifies the number of frames that the title scrolls at a slowly increasing speed until the title reaches the playback speed.

Ease-Out - Specifies the number of frames that the title scrolls at a slowly decreasing speed until the scroll completes.

Post-Roll - Specifies the number of frames that play after the scroll completes.

Left to Right, Right to Left - Specifies the direction in which the crawl moves.

The longer the clip in the Sequence, the slower the Roll or Crawl will be

Lesson 10

Alpha channel

An alpha channel is an extra channel in addition to the visible color channels (such as RGB), that defines transparent and semi-transparent areas.

Premiere will recognize a file that contains an Alpha Channel, and when you place this clip on one of the tracks (2 and up), the alpha transparency will automatically be applied. You can also choose to ignore the alpha transparency information on your clip.

Matte

A file or channel that defines or modifies the transparent areas of its clip or another clip.

Keying

Defining transparency by a particular color (color key) or brightness value (luminance key) in an image. Pixels matching the key color become transparent. Use keying to remove a background with a uniform color, such as a blue screen.

Chroma Keying

Select a color or a range of colors in the clip to be transparent.

Select a key color by clicking the Color swatch or by dragging the eyedropper to a color in the Monitor window. Adjust Similarity, Blend, Threshold, Cutoff, and Smoothing to improve the quality of your keying.

You can also select the Mask Only to display only the clip's alpha channel.

Track Matte

Use the Track Matte key to show one clip through another, using a third file as a matte that creates transparent areas in the superimposed clip. A matte containing motion is called a traveling matte or moving matte. The matte may consist of motion footage, or you can animate a still image matte in another Sequence and nesting this moving still Sequence.

You can create a still in the Titler and animate it on a Sequence, nest this Sequence into the current sequence and place this on video track 3. Place your other 2 clips on video tracks 1 and 2.

Apply the track matte effect to the middle clip and select video track 2 as your matte (select alpha or luma from the effects properties).

Make the traveling matte clip invisible.

Lesson 11

Exporting Your Video

To tape

You can export your video by playing the Timeline, and while its playing, record with your DV device. You can also choose file>export to tape, and this way you can have control over your DV device.

DVD

You could create a DVD from within Premiere Pro, provided you have a compatible DVD burner in your system. A DVD created in Premiere Pro will play from the beginning, but have no menu. You can indicate if you would like for the DVD to recognize Sequence markers as chapter stops. You need to have enough space in your hard drive to make this operation possible

To export a sequence to DVD, open the Sequence and go under File > Export > Export To DVD. Choose your desired encoding settings, select the DVD burner and finally, double-check your settings before creating the DVD.

For CD

Video CD will allow you to play the video on a computer. You'll need to export your video as a Window Media file, QuickTime, or mpeg. With additional software you can have this CD auto run when your viewer places the CD into the CDRom drive of their system.

Web

Select File > Export > Adobe Media Encoder,

Choose from the many presets that Premiere Pro includes. Keep in mind the following:

Streaming video - video is sent to you frame by frame, without downloading a large file to your hard drive. You'll need higher connection speeds to play flawlessly.

Progressive downloadable video

A progressive download movie – begins playing as soon as it has enough material to start playing, even if the whole file hasn't been downloaded yet.

MPEG video – there are different kinds of mpeg videos. The kind usually used for use for CD-ROM is MPEG-1, MPEG-2 is used for DVD video, MPEG-3 is an audio-only format and MPEG-4 is used for delivering high-quality audio and video streams from cell phone to broadband and beyond. **Animated GIF** is usually used for animating a company logo over the internet. It is viewable over most web browsers.

For optimal results in exporting video for the web, consult your web master.

Lesson 12

Multiple Sequences -

You can insert, or nest, sequences into other sequences. A nested sequence appears as a single, clip. Instead of applying effects to clips one by one, you can apply to the whole Sequence. You can repeat (reuse) these nested sequences and use complex compositing techniques

When nesting sequences, keep in mind the following:

You can't nest a sequence within itself.

Any changes to the parent Sequence will be reflected in the nested one

Nested Sequences may require additional rendering time

To nest a sequence in another sequence rag it from the Project Window to the desired track.

To open the source of a nested sequence, Double-click a nested sequence clip.

Lesson 13

Premiere Pro and Multi-camera Editing

One of the questions that I hear more often is; How do I edit multi-camera events using Premier Pro – it takes me forever!

Get your video into the computer

Capture your video into the computer. This should not be done through batch capturing, but capture the whole tape instead (good and bad footage). The reason behind this is that you will need to sync your footage only once. Also, please make sure that the stop button is never hit during the actual recording of the event; this will make life much, much easier!

Try not to stop the camera during the recording process

Let's assume that you will be editing a 3-camera seminar. For your raw footage you should have 3 clips that are as long or longer than the seminar itself was. Of course, sometimes, when you are recording longer events, it is impossible to fit everything onto one MiniDV tape, so it becomes necessary to change tapes in the middle. Make sure that all your cameras don't do it at the same time, and that the important audio that is happening at the moment will be covered by another recording device. Also, if there are parts that you know you will be cutting out (like change of speaker, or change of slides, etc), try to make your tape changes in here

Add all the audio you have

So now you have 3 clips, which are in Premiere's Timeline, one on top of the other. If you have any audio tracks that have important audio in both channels, you might want to separate these into mono tracks. To do that, select the file on the Project Window and then go under Clip > Audio Options > Breakout to Mono clips, and Premier Pro will create 2 separate tracks, both mono that will contain the audio channels that you need to complete the project. Place these newly created audio tracks right under the original video track so that it remains in sync with the video file that it came from.

Sync these clips

Now we need to sync these files, which we'll do by using markers. Double-click on the first video file, and it will open in the Source Monitor Window, go to a point in the seminar that you will easily be able to find in all 3 video files. Once you get there, place an unnumbered marker in here - you place an unnumbered marker by clicking on the marker icon right under the Source Monitor Window. Double click on the second clip and scroll until you get to the exact same place, and place an unnumbered marker here as well - do the same thing with the third clip. Now, all of your clips should have a marker in roughly the same place. Move the clips so that the markers are one right on top of the other (in the same time spot).

Now we need to fine-tune this so that the clips are *really* in sync (what we did before was to get the close enough). You can expand the audio tracks and move the clips left or right until the audio waveforms are one on top of another, perfectly in sync. You'll be able to easily sync through the waveforms even if your audio came from different sources and you have different levels. To move your clip left or right by one frame press the Keyboard shortcut "ALT + ." or "ALT + ,".

The whole syncing process shouldn't take longer than 30-40 seconds, even when working with 3 cameras. If you need to sync a tape-change, then it will take a little bit longer, but not too much longer.

To sync audio from a minidisk recorder or other source, use the same technique already discussed. To sync audio that originated from one of the AVIs that you are currently using in the Timeline, all you need to do is to place this audio right under the source AVI, and make sure that it is in the EXACT time position as its parent clip. Easy!

Up to this point you should have: all your clips on the timeline, all the audio clips on the timeline; all the clips (including all the audio) should be in sync.

Make the clips small

Select the top clip on the Timeline (you select it by clicking it) and now click on the main screen in the Program Monitor Window. This will give you access to the Motion Controls for this clip - you'll see the control points. All you need to do is click on one of the corners and adjust the size as you wish. Make this clip a lot smaller and position it on the top left side of the screen.

Select the second clips and do the same thing, except this time you should position the clip on the top right hand side of the screen. Do the same thing with the third clip and position on the bottom part of the screen. Position all of these clips so that they do not overlap and you can see all of them at the same time.

Play the Timeline

Press the space bar to play the Timeline, and as it plays, you'll be able to see all 3 cameras. When you want to go from one camera to the next, you should place an unnumbered marker in that position. Placing an unnumbered marker is really easy - press the * key located above the numeric pad (not the one above the 8). Go through the whole seminar this way, playing it real time, and pressing the * key every time you want to go from one tape to the other. Don't worry if you make a mistake, you can easily use the "undo" function (CONTROL +z) or you can adjust the edit later on with the different edit tools. You are not really deleting anything at this point; all you are doing is adding markers.

Lock the Audio Tracks

Before we cut any video, we need to lock the audio tracks (all of them). Click on the little square that is next to the loudspeaker icon and a little padlock should show. This means that the track is locked. To further remind us that the track is locked, there will be little thin diagonal lines running all across the track. Lock all of the audio tracks.

Create shortcuts

Now we need to create some shortcuts. Go to Edit >Keyboard Customization and expand the "Marker" command (click on the little triangle to the left of the name). Expand "Go to Sequence Marker" and select "Next". Assign any keyboard shortcut you wish for this function - I use F12. Select something that you'll remember. Collapse the "Marker" item and expand the "Sequence" item. Select the item called "Razor at Current Time Indicator" and select a shortcut for this as well. I use the / that shares the same key with the "?" - don't use the slash above the ENTER key! Save your shortcuts and give them the name "Multi-camera Editing"

Chop-Chop

It is time to cut! Fortunately this is fun (at least for me!). Click on the Timeline and go to the beginning of the video. Press (alternating) the "F12" key and then the "/" key over and over until all on the markers have a cut right on them. You'll be done with the stage in no time at all, in fact, even the longest ceremony shouldn't take you any more than 1 minute.

Delete clips

Go through the seminar and delete portions of the clips that you know you won't use, so that only one clip per section is left. Drag these clips to track 1 in the Timeline (if you wish).

Resize the Clips

You have all of these clips, but they are all small, throughout the whole seminar. Select one of them, and then go to the Effect Controls Window, and click on the reset button, you'll see that now this clip is the size and in the position that it should be. Click on the name Motion Controls for this particular clip, and copy (CONTROL +c). Click on the Timeline and select all of the clips (CONTROL +a), and then paste the Motion Controls Setting (CONTROL +v). Now you'll see that all of the clips are back to the size they should be.

What about the audio?

Let's unlock the audio, and for this click on the same icon that you clicked to lock it. Now you'll notice that the diagonal lines disappeared. All ceremonies that I have videotaped have distinct sections to them, welcome remarks, readings, music vows, etc. Usually the audio source that we use

for each one of these sections is different. All you need to do is cut the audio clips at the point where you need to switch from one audio source to another, and delete the audio clips that you do not need. This should be really easy if you named your clips or tracks appropriately. You can drag all the audio clips onto one track, if you wish, but remember that in Premiere Pro you cannot have mono and stereo clips “living” in the same track. So, if you have both mono and stereo clips you will have to have at least 2 audio tracks.

Transitions

If you would like to add transitions between your clips, now is the time to do so. You can add video and audio transitions really quickly by using the Shortcuts to add the Default Transitions (both audio and Video). Place the CTI (Current Time Indicator) at the beginning of the Timeline and press the shortcut “PAGE DOWN” on your keyboard. This will take you to the next edit point. To add the default video transition press “CONTROL + d”, and to add the default audio transition press “CONTROL + SHIFT + d”. You can go pretty quickly through the whole ceremony adding transitions.

Luisa Winters has been in the professional videography industry for 15 years. Her Premiere Pro Training DVDs can be found on her website www.videotrainers.com

Luisa Winters has been in the professional videography industry for 15 years. A multiple award winning videographer / editor, Luisa believes videographers should attend her workshops because they will add editing techniques to their repertoire that they likely have never thought of before. She will give tips to make editing much more productive, faster, and far more inventive.

An accomplished videographer, editor, 3D animator and graphics designer, her 3D animations of the Naval Academy logo have been seen on PBS as well as in private video productions. She has created and edited scores of video projects for dozens of corporate, government, and educational, commercial and private clients. Since 1999, Luisa has conducted training sessions and master classes for Adobe Premiere Pro, which have helped thousands of videographers learn and master Adobe Premiere and other Adobe software programs.

Luisa has been a featured instructor at training workshops all over the US, Central and South America- She has given workshops in the following cities:

- Baltimore, MD
- Annapolis, MD
- Washington, DC
- Philadelphia, PA
- Boston, MA
- San Francisco, CA
- Sacramento, CA
- San Diego, CA
- Dulles, VA
- Fairfax, VA
- Orlando, FL
- Chicago, IL
- New York, NY
- Las Vegas, NV
- Los Angeles, CA
- San Juan, Puerto Rico
- Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
- Buenos Aires, Argentina

Luisa is a Johns Hopkins University Graduate and is fluent in both English and Spanish.

Luisa's contact information:

www.videotrainers.com

luisa@videotrainers.com

(410) 672-5200