How to add titles

You can design custom titles and images with Adobe Premiere Elements. Titles are a valuable addition to a movie and can serve many purposes, from naming the people and places in your movie to providing movie-style credits at the beginning and end. You can create titles by using any font installed on your computer and create other graphic objects by using the title's shape-creation tools. You can create images from any graphic or photograph on your computer and use them to further customize and enhance your movies.

You can use the text and shape tools to create your titles from scratch, or you can use the included templates, preset text styles, animations and images to quickly create an attractive title.

The title view is arranged over a suite of several option tabs including Text, Style, Animation, and Shapes (**Figure 1**). Adobe Premiere Elements optimizes the workspace for titles whenever you open or create a new title.

By default, when you create a new title, the title appears superimposed over the video clip at the position of the current-time indicator. However, you can choose to place it in an empty area of the Expert view timeline with no underlying video. Later, you can drag the title from the empty area onto a clip.

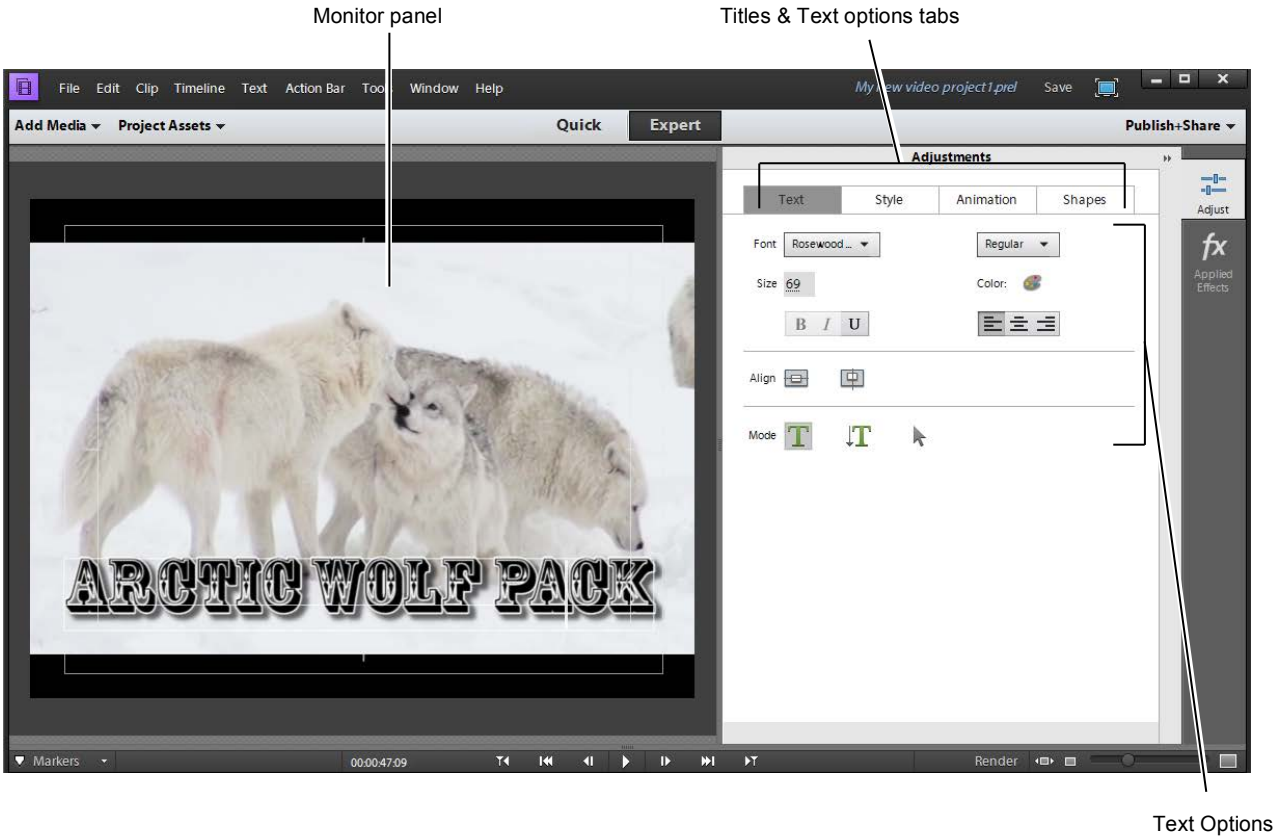

Figure 1 Title tools and options in the Monitor panel and the Tasks panel

About titles

You can open the title view and start a new title by using a menu command. Titles are embedded in the project file rather than being saved as independent files. Titles open in the Monitor panel. Reopen a title when you want to change it or when you want to duplicate it and base a new version on it. If you want to use a title in another project, you must open its project and export the title by using the File > Export > Title command. Then you can import it into another project as you would any other source file.

To create a new title:

1. Click the Expert tab at the top of the workspace.
2. Choose File > New > Title.

   Note: You can also click the Titles & Text button in the Action Bar and drag a Title onto the Timeline or Monitor panel.

   A title appears centered on the currently chosen clip (**Figure 2**).
3. Begin typing to replace the temporary text in your title.
4. Make one or more of the following changes using the Drawing tools in the Adjust panel (**Figure 3**):
   - Click the Selection tool and drag the text to change the location of the title.
   - Highlight the text or position the insertion point to edit the text.
   - With the text selected, click the Color Properties tool to open the Color Properties dialog box and change the color of the text.
5. Use the other Text options to change one or more of the following attributes of the text:
   - Font or font style
   - Size
   - Alignment

   Note: You can also select from a set of preformatted styles in the Styles tab (**Figure 4**).

   When you are finished, you can resume other editing tasks or repeat the preceding steps to create more titles.

   The new title appears on a new video layer in the Timeline (**Figure 1**). The new title has a duration of five seconds. To increase or decrease the amount of time that text displays, drag its borders in the Timeline.

Figure 2 Adding a title

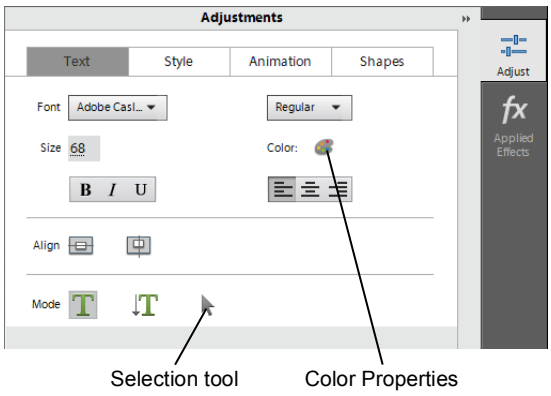

Figure 3 Text options in the Adjust panel

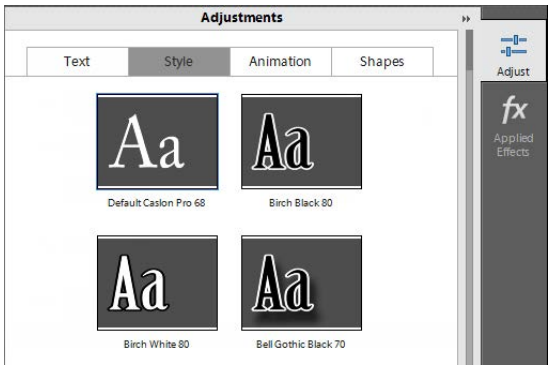

Figure 4 Text Styles

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To edit a title:

1. Click the Expert tab at the top of the workspace.
2. Double-click the title in the Timeline (**Figure 5**) or directly in the Monitor panel.

   The text opens for editing in the Monitor (**Figure 6**) and the Adjustments panel expands to show text options.
3. Make one or more of the following changes by using the buttons in the right margin of the Monitor:
   - Click the Selection tool and drag the text to change the location of the title.
   - Click the Type tool and highlight the text or position the insertion point to edit the text.
   - With the text selected, click the Color Properties tool to open the Color Properties dialog box and change the color of the text.
4. Use the other Text options to change one or more of the following attributes of the text:
   - Font or font style
   - Size
   - Alignment

   Note: You can also select from a set of preformatted styles in the Styles tab (**Figure 4**).
5. Click on another clip in the Timeline to exit text editing mode.

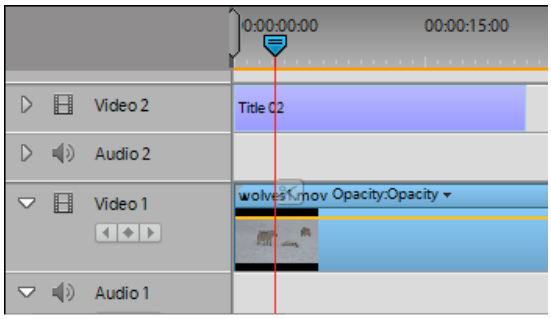

Figure 5 Title in the Timeline

Figure 6 Text open for editing in the Monitor

About templates

The title templates included with Adobe Premiere Elements provide several themes and preset layouts that make it quick and easy to design a title. Some templates include graphic images that may be pertinent to your movie's subject matter, such as new baby or vacation themes. Others include placeholder text you can replace to create credits for your movie. Some templates are completely opaque; others have transparent backgrounds, depicted by dark gray and light gray squares, so you can see your video beneath the title.

You can easily change every text or graphic object in the template by selecting an object and either deleting it or overwriting it. You can also add objects to the title. Once you modify the template, your unique version of the title is saved with your project without changing the template on which it is based.

Note: When you apply a new template, the template content replaces any content currently in the title view. If you share templates between computers, make sure both computers have all the fonts, textures, and images used in the template.

To create a new title from a template:

1. In the Quick or Expert view, click the Titles & Text button in the Action Bar to preview templates.
2. Browse to a template by scrolling through the available templates (**Figure 7**). You can also filter templates by category from the category menu.
3. To apply a template, drag the template into the Monitor panel.

   The template is available for editing in the Monitor panel.

   Note: You can also double-click a template to open it in the Preview window.
4. Modify the title or templates as desired (**Figure 8**).

   Note: The template is added to a new layer and is the top-most layer in the Timeline. After adding a template, you may need to adjust other order or position of other titles and graphics that appear on other layers.

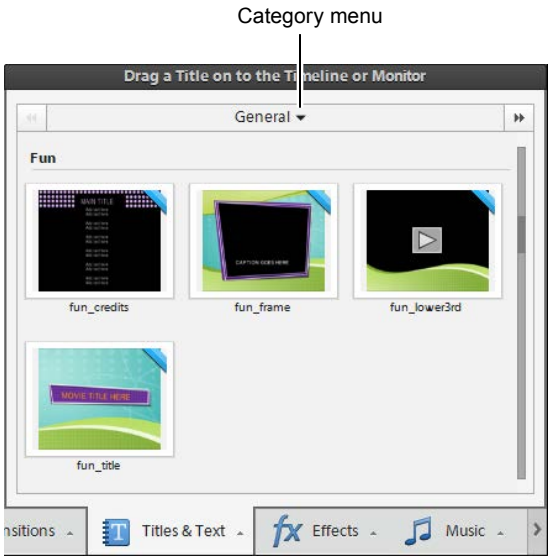

Figure 7 Selecting a title template

Figure 8 Editing the selected template

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About styles

You can create a new style, or adapt an existing style using Text option, and save your customized style to the Style tab of the Adjustments panel (**Figure 9**). You can then apply that style to any text or shape element in your title. You can save any number of styles. Thumbnails of the styles appear in the Style view of the Adjustments panel so you can quickly apply your custom styles across projects

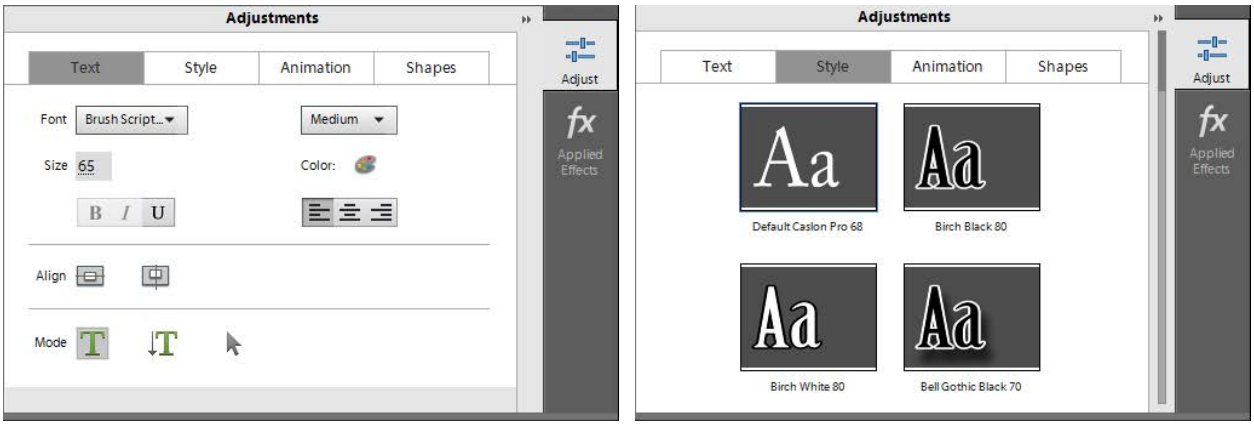

Figure 9 Adjustment panel with Text and Style options tabs

To create a style and display its swatch or name:

1. Click the Expert tab at the top of the workspace.
2. Double-click the title in the Timeline or directly in the Monitor panel.

   The text opens for editing in the Monitor and the Adjustments panel expands to show text options.
3. Click the Styles tab and scroll to browse the styles (**Figure 9**).
4. Right-click on a selected style and choose Duplicate Style.

   The style is duplicated and added to the bottom of the Styles list.
5. Click the duplicated style to apply it.
6. Use the Text options in the Adjustments panel to customize the font, size, color, alignment and other options (**Figure 10**).
7. When you are happy with the look and feel of the style, right-click the newly-created style and choose Save Style.

   The Save Style dialog box opens (**Figure 11**).

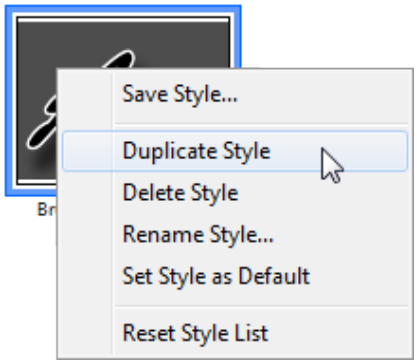

Figure 10 Right-click Style

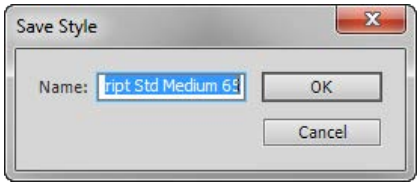

Figure 11 Save Style dialog box

8. Type a name for the style and click OK.

   The new style swatch displays the new style in the Styles tab (**Figure 12**).

Note: Styles are always represented by a font, even if the object on which you based the style is a shape object.

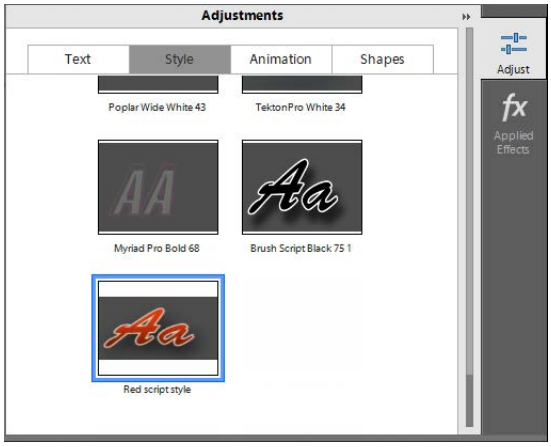

Figure 12 Save Style

To apply a style to an object:

1. Select the object to which you want to apply the style.
2. In the Styles tab of Adjustments panel, click the style swatch you want to apply (**Figure 13**).

   You may need to adjust the font size or reposition the text so that it fits within the frame.

   Note: To prevent the font type in the style from being applied to the font in your title, Alt-click (Windows) or Option-click (Mac OS) the style swatch.

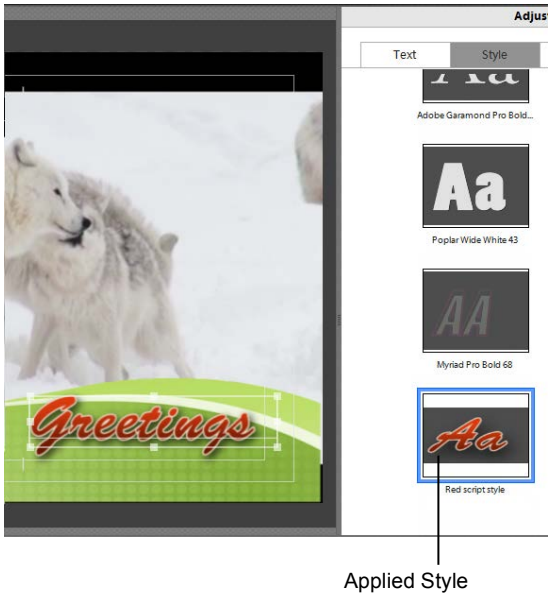

Figure 13 Text Styles

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Formatting text

Some object properties—such as fill color, shadow, and so on—are common to all objects you create in the title view, while other properties are unique to text objects. Text controls such as font, font style, and type alignment are in the Text tab in the Adjustments panel (**Figure 14**).

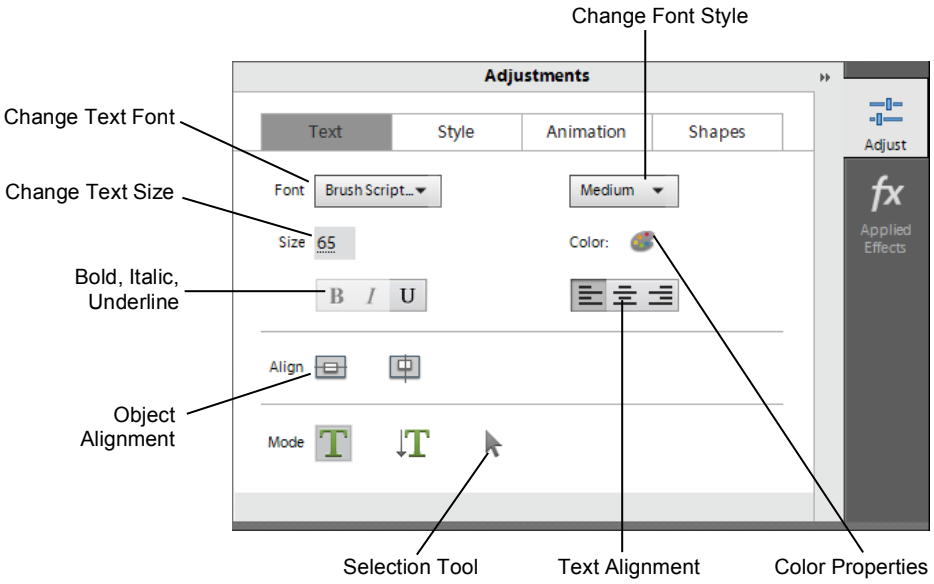

Figure 14 Text Options in the Properties view

To modify a font, font style, or type alignment:

Select the text and do the following in the Text tab in the Adjustments panel:

- To modify the font, choose a font from the Change Text Font menu.
- To modify font size, alter the parameters for the Change Text Size.
- To modify the font style, choose a font from the Change Font Style menu, or click one or more of the Bold, Italic, and Underline buttons.
- To modify the text alignment, click one of the Left Align Text, Center Text, or Right Align Text buttons.

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Adding shapes to titles

You can also use the drawing tools in the Shapes tab of the Adjustments panel to create a variety of shapes, such as rectangles, ellipses, and lines (**Figure 15**).

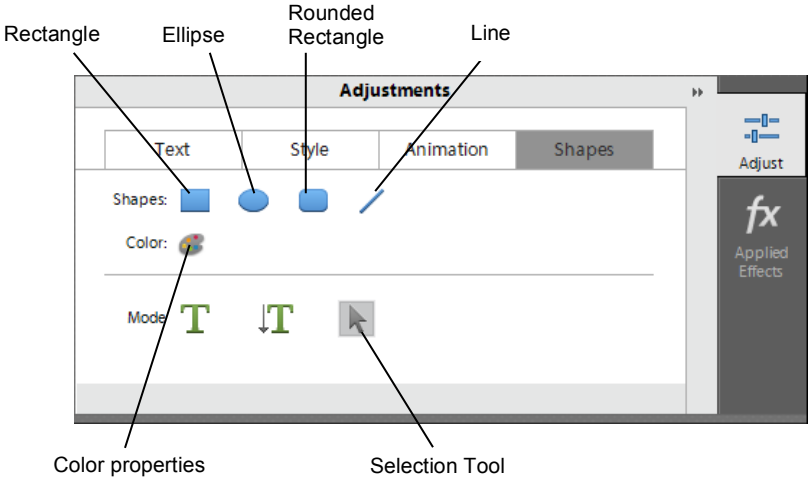

Figure 15 Shape tools in the Adjustments panel

To create a shape:

1. Select the title to which you want to add a shape.

   The Adjustments panel opens.
2. Click the Shapes tab to show the shape tool options (**Figure 15**).
3. Select a shape tool.
4. Do any of the following:
   - Drag to create the selected shape (**Figure 16**).
   - Shift-drag to constrain the shape's aspect ratio (to create an oval that's a precise circle or to create a rectangle that's a precise square, for example).
   - Alt-drag (Windows) or Option-drag (Mac OS) to draw from the center of the shape.
   - Shift+Alt-drag (Windows) or Shift+Option-drag (Mac OS) to constrain the aspect ratio and draw from the center.
   - Drag diagonally across the corner points to flip the shape diagonally as you draw.
   - Drag across, up, or down to flip the shape horizontally or vertically as you draw.
5. Modify the new shape as needed.

Figure 16 Shape created with the Ellipse tool

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Adding colors and shadows

You can specify the color properties of each object or group of objects you create in the title view. The Color Properties dialog box includes controls for setting the color, stroke, fill, and shadow of an object (**Figure 17**). To open the Color Properties dialog box, click the Color Properties button in the Monitor panel.

Setting an object's fill or stroke

An object's fill property defines the area within the contours of the object: the space inside a graphic object or within the outline of each character of a text object. You can also edit the outline, or stroke, of an object to which you've applied a style containing a stroke.

Note: The Fill and Stroke boxes in the Color Properties dialog box are enabled only if you've applied a preset style from the title Properties Styles panel to the object. These styles contain fills and strokes you can edit.

The Gradient menu provides options for applying a fill or stroke color. Color controls let you specify the color of a fill or stroke. Depending on the gradient type you select, additional color controls may appear.

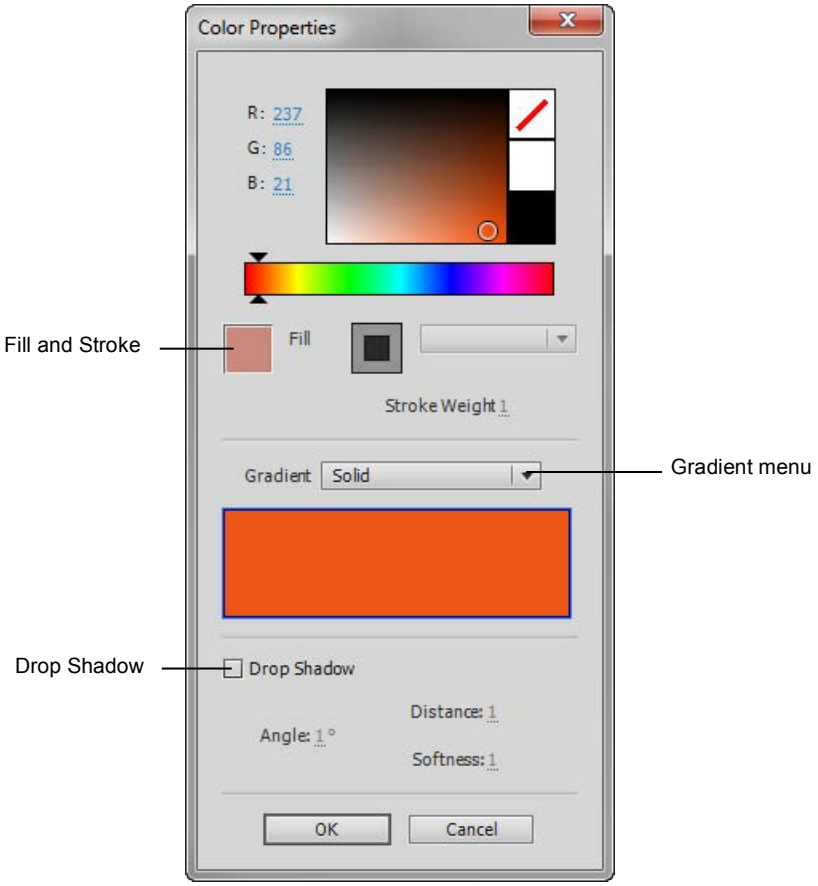

Figure 17 Color Properties dialog box

To set the fill, stroke, and gradient:

1. Select an object in the title, and in the Text Styles section of the Properties view, select a style that includes a fill.
2. In the Shapes tab of the Adjustments panel, click the Color Properties button (**Figure 18**).

   The Color Properties dialog box opens.
3. Modify any of the following properties:
   - Set the object's fill color by using the Fill box.
   - Set the object's stroke color by using the Stroke box.
   - In the Gradient menu, select the type of fill you want. If you select Linear Gradient, Radial Gradient, or 4 Color Gradient, color stop controls appear (**Figure 19**).

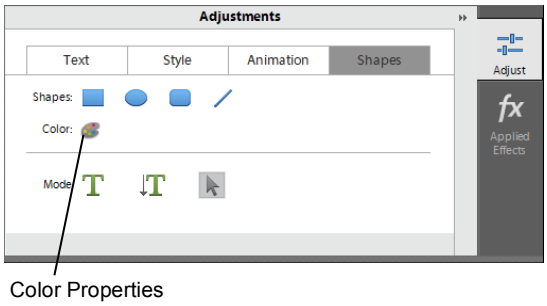

Figure 18 Color Properties button

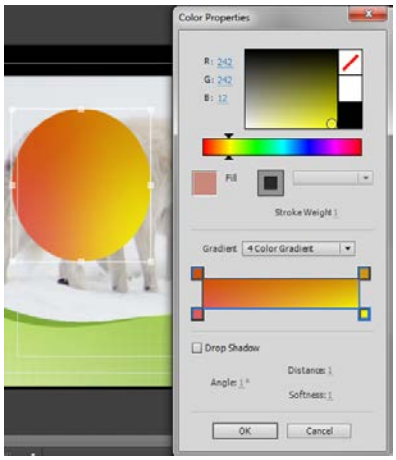

Figure 19 Color stop controls

Drop shadows

You can add a drop shadow for any object you create in the Monitor panel. A drop shadow makes an object appear three-dimensional so it stands out from the background image. For example, adding a drop shadow to text can make the text more legible when superimposed over a complex background image.

To create a drop shadow:

1. Select an object and then click the Color Properties button.
2. In the Color Properties dialog box, select the Drop Shadow option (**Figure 20**).
3. Set any of the following:

   Angle: Specifies the angle of the shadow in relation to the object.

   Distance: Specifies the number of pixels the shadow is offset from the object.

   Softness: Specifies how blurry or sharp the shadow appears.

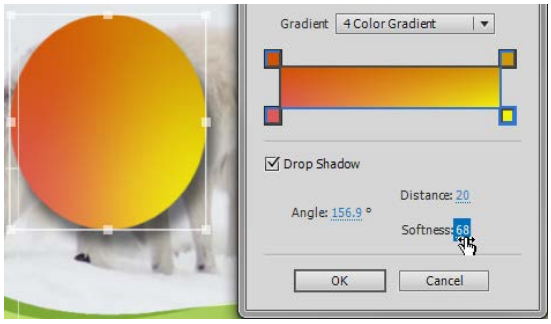

Figure 20 Color Properties dialog box

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Rolls and crawls

Although static titles, graphics, and images may suffice for some projects, others require titles that move across the screen. (Titles that move vertically are called *rolls*. Titles that move horizontally are called *crawls*.) With Adobe Premiere Elements, you can easily create smooth, expert rolls and crawls. You can also make a title move along a custom path by keyframing locations for it at several points.

To add roll or crawl options to selected text, select Text > Roll/Crawl Options in the menu bar (**Figure 21**).

Note: The length of the title in the Timeline determines the speed of the roll or crawl. The more you increase the length of the title clip, the slower the movement will be.

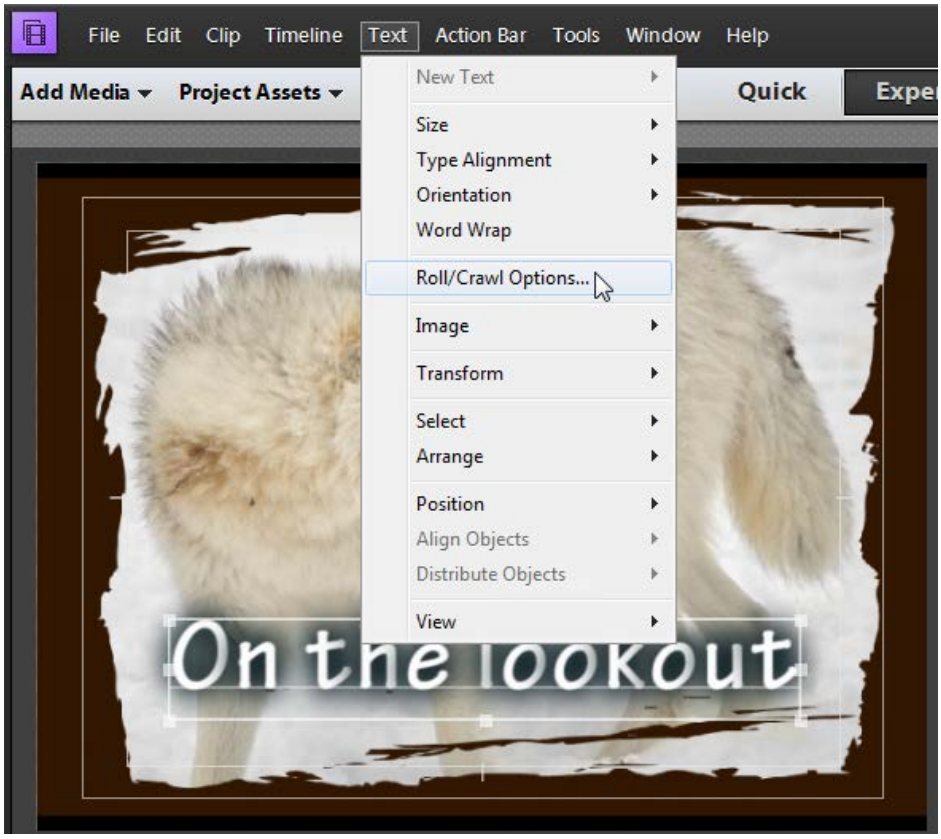

Figure 21 Text menu in the menu bar

Roll and crawl options

You can set the following options for rolls and crawls:

Start Off Screen: Specifies that the roll or crawl begins out of view and moves into view.

End Off Screen: Specifies that the roll or crawl continues until the objects are out of view.

Preroll: Specifies the number of frames that play before the roll or crawl begins.

Ease-In: Specifies the number of frames where the title rolls or crawls at a slowly increasing speed until it reaches the playback speed.

Ease-Out: Specifies the number of frames where the title rolls or crawls at a slowly decreasing speed until the roll or crawl completes.

Postroll: Specifies the number of frames that play after the roll or crawl completes.

Crawl Left, Crawl Right: Specify the direction in which a crawl moves.

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To create a rolling or crawling title:

1. Do one of the following:
   - To create a rolling title, choose Text > New Text > Default Roll.
   - To create a crawling title, choose Text > New Text > Default Crawl.
2. Create the text and graphic objects for the title (**Figure 22**). Use the scroll bar in the Monitor panel to view offscreen areas of the title.

   When the title is added to the sequence, the hidden offscreen areas roll or crawl into view.

   Note: For rolling credits, create a long text box by using the Vertical Type tool, and use alignment and leading to adjust the formatting.
3. In the menu bar, select Text > Roll/Crawl Options.

   The Roll/Crawl Options dialog box appears (**Figure 23**).
4. Specify the appropriate direction and timing options, and then click OK.

Note: You can specify a direction for crawling titles only.

Figure 22 Title text default roll

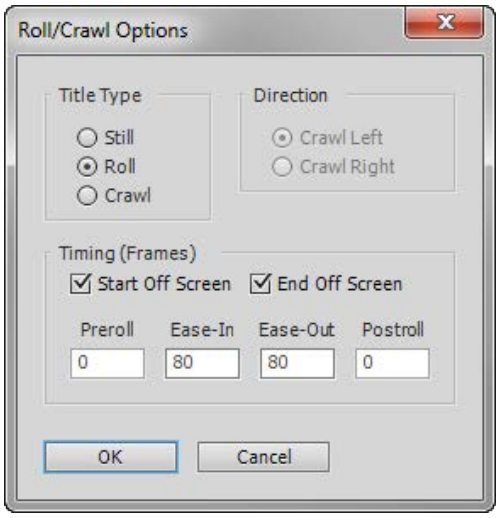

Figure 23 Roll/Crawl Options dialog box

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