How to edit clips

Editing clips includes previewing and trimming them to eliminate unnecessary material. It could also include revising clip properties such as speed, direction, and duration. If you have media clips generated by other programs, you can also edit them in their original applications from within Adobe Premiere Elements.

This guide covers the following topics:

- Working with the Preview window
- Trimming a clips
- Splitting clips
- Using Freeze Frame to export images

The Preview window

Although the Timeline is the primary workspace for assembling clips into movies, the Preview window (**Figure 1**) provides a helpful workspace for viewing clips, setting their In and Out points, and adding markers to clips and movies. Double-click any clip in Project view to launch the Preview window. The time ruler graphically represents the full duration of a clip or movie.

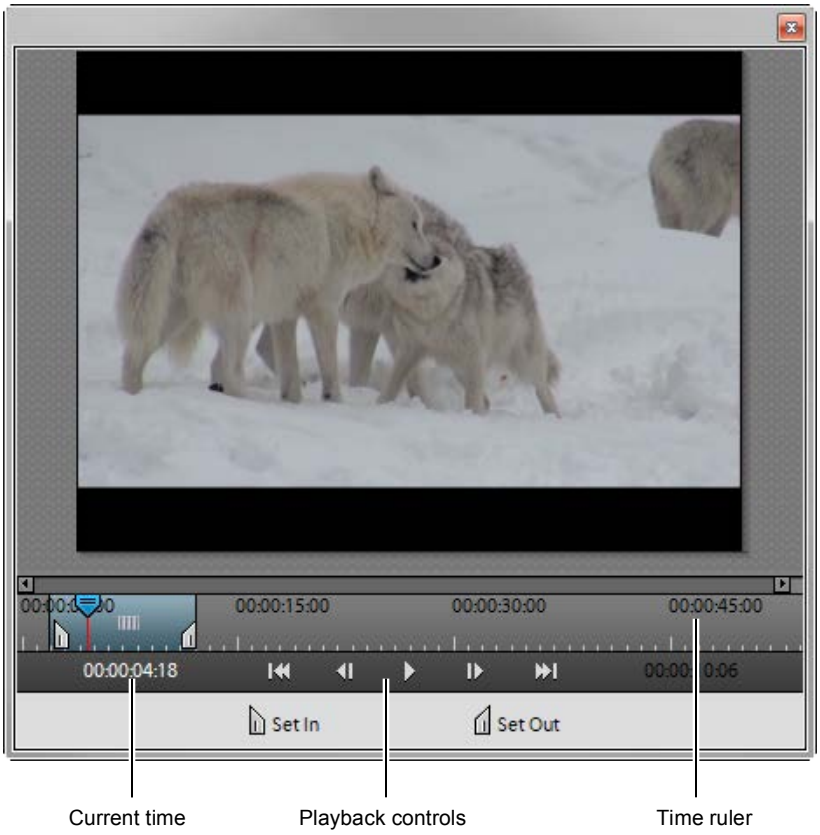

Figure 1 The Preview window

Zooming into or out of the timeline

When you zoom in on the Quick view timeline or Expert view timeline, Adobe Premiere Elements magnifies the timeline around the current-time indicator, letting you examine smaller increments of media. You can also zoom in as you add a clip to the timeline, magnifying the location around the pointer rather than the current-time indicator. This technique lets you better see the placement of the insertion before you release the mouse. In contrast, zooming out shows more of the timeline, giving you a visual summary of the movie.

To zoom into or out of the timeline:

Make sure you have at least one clip in the timeline. To zoom in and out of the Timeline, do one of the following:

- Press the Plus (+) key to increase the zoom factor or press the Minus (–) key to decrease it until you have zoomed as far as you want to go.
- To zoom in on the timeline, drag the Zoom slider to the right or click the Zoom In button.
- To zoom out of the timeline, drag the Zoom slider to the left, or click the Zoom Out button (**Figure 2**).

Note: To zoom out so the entire length of the movie is visible in the timeline and then press the Backslash (\) key. You can also zoom in and out by pressing the Plus (+) or Minus (–) keys on the keyboard (not the numeric keypad).

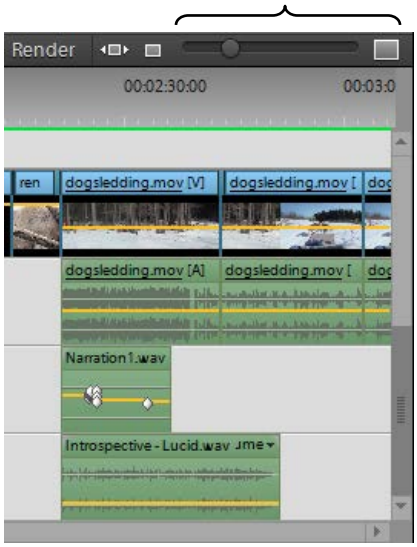

Figure 2 Zoom controls in the Timeline

To position the current-time indicator:

In either the Preview window or the Quick view timeline or Expert view timeline, do any of the following.

- Drag the current-time indicator (**Figure 3**).
- Click the time ruler where you want to position the current-time indicator.
- Press Shift while dragging the current-time indicator to snap it to the edge of the closest clip or marker (Expert view timeline only).
- Drag the time display to the desired time value
- Click the time display, type a valid time, and then press Enter. (You don't need to type leading zeros, colons, or semicolons. However, be aware that Adobe Premiere Elements interprets numbers less than 100 as frames.)

Note: You can use the Home or End keys on the keyboard to skip back to the beginning or ahead to the end of the movie. The Page Up and Page Down keys go to the previous and next clips. The Right Arrow and Left Arrow keys move the current-time indicator forward or back a frame, and pressing Shift+Right Arrow or Shift+Left Arrow moves the indicator in increments of five frames.

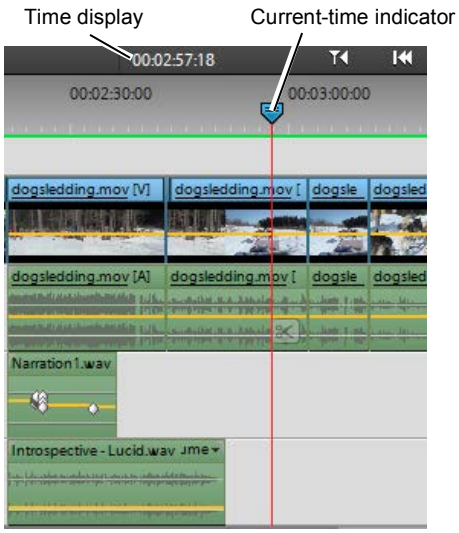

Figure 3 The current-time indicator

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About trimming and retrieving clips

When you build a movie, you rarely use an entire clip. To define the frames you want to use, set In and Out points (**Figure 4**). The In point is the first frame of the clip you want to use. The Out point is the last frame of the clip you want to use.

Setting In and Out points does not delete frames from the hard drive. Instead, it isolates the portion you want included in the movie. In and Out points act like a window over the clip, showing only the frames from the In point to the Out point. You can move In and Out points as needed to regain any frames you might have trimmed.

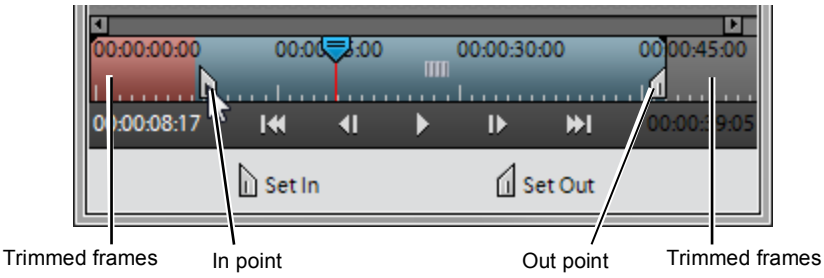

Figure 4 In and Out points serve as a window over a clip

You can trim frames from either end of a clip. To trim frames from the middle of a clip, first split the clip (which creates two parts of the original clip). Then, trim the unwanted frames from the end of the first new clip or the beginning of the second.

You can trim a clip in the Preview window, the Monitor panel, the Quick view timeline, or the Expert view timeline. You can retrieve frames from source clips (clips not yet placed in the Quick view timeline or the Expert view timeline) using the Preview window. You can retrieve frames from clips in the Quick view timeline or the Expert view timeline.

Trim a clip from the Quick view timeline

You can directly trim clips in the Quick view timeline.

You can also retain material at the beginning and end of a clip for your movie, but remove material from its middle. Split the clip right before the unwanted section begins, to create two clips. Then, trim the unwanted material from the beginning of the second clip.

To trim a clip from the Quick view timeline:

1. Select the clip in the Quick view timeline.
2. Position the pointer over the edge of the clip you want to trim until the correct icon appears:
   - Trim-In icon to trim the beginning of a clip (**Figure 5**).
   - Trim-Out icon to trim the end of a clip.
3. Drag the trim handles to the desired frame. The Monitor panel displays the frames as you drag, also showing the frame from the adjacent clip (if any). Subsequent clips in the track shift in time to compensate for the edit, but their durations remain unchanged

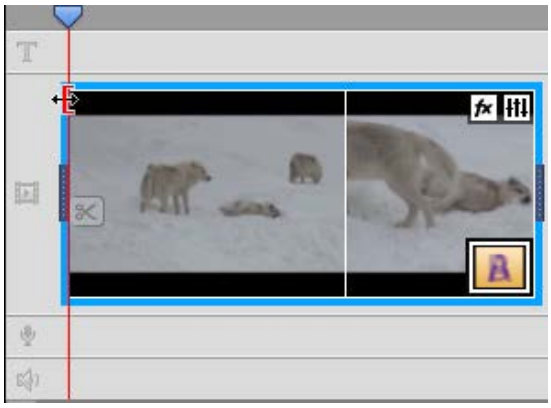

Figure 5 Trim-In icon at the beginning of a clip

To remove frames from the middle of a clip in the Quick view timeline:

1. In the Quick view timeline, select the clip containing unwanted material. The clip appears in the Monitor panel.
2. Drag the current-time indicator on the Quick view timeline to the frame where the unwanted material begins.
3. Click the Split Clip button on the current-time indicator (**Figure 6**).

   The original clip is split into two clips in the Quick view timeline (**Figure 7**).
4. Double-click the clip to the right of the split. This opens the clip in the Preview window (**Figure 8**).
5. In the Preview window, drag the current-time indicator to the frame just after the last frame of unwanted material.
6. Click the Set In Point button. This trims the unwanted material from the beginning of the second clip and shortens the clip in the Quick view timeline, leaving a gap between it and the clip before.

   The unwanted material is removed from the beginning of the second clip (or end of the first clip, if you chose to edit that clip). The gap created between the first and second clips is automatically closed.
7. Right-click/ctrl-click in the gap in the Quick view timeline, and then click Delete And Close Gap.

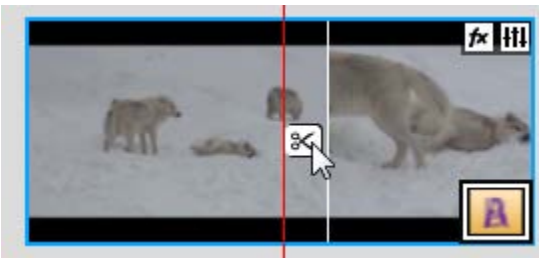

Figure 6 Split Clip button button on the current-time indicator

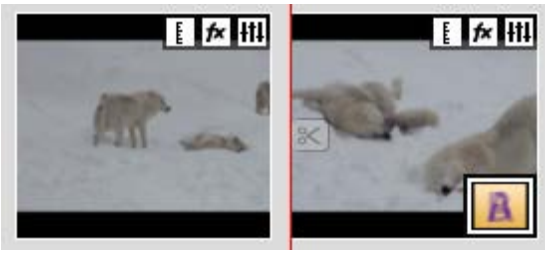

Figure 7 Split clip

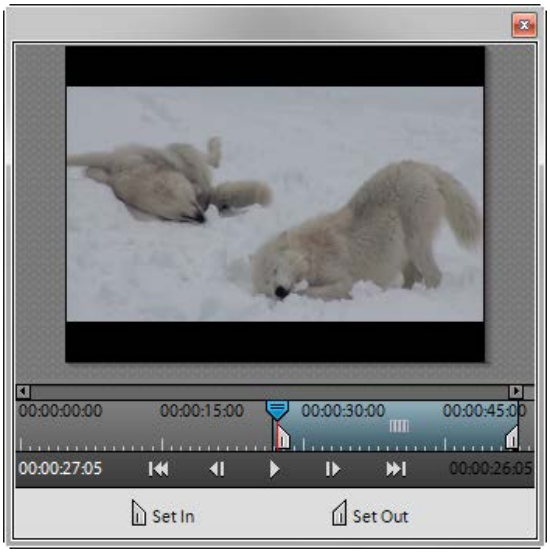

Figure 8 Trimmed clip in Preview window

Trim in the Expert view timeline

You can remove or regain trimmed frames from either end of a clip by dragging the clip's edge in the Expert view timeline. To help you locate the desired frame, the Monitor panel displays it at the changing In or Out point of the clip as you drag. If another clip is adjacent to the edge you're trimming, the Monitor panel displays the frames of both clips side by side.

The frame on the left (the Out point) is earlier in time, and the frame on the right (the In point) is later in time. Subsequent clips, as well as blocks of empty space, in the Expert view timeline shift as you drag the clip's edge.

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A tool tip displays the number of frames you are trimming as you trim them. This window displays a negative value if you drag the clip's edge toward the beginning of the movie.

It displays a positive number if you drag toward the end of the movie. You can tell whether you have trimmed a clip by looking for a small gray triangle in the top corner at either end of the clip in the Expert view timeline. The triangle indicates you have not trimmed that edge.

For linked clips (video that includes a soundtrack), dragging the edge of one clip changes the In or Out points of both clips. Sometimes you want to trim linked clips independently to create split edits (also known as L-cuts and J-cuts). Pressing Alt when you trim allows you to set the In and Out points of the video and audio separately.

You can also retain content at the beginning and end of a clip for your movie and remove content from its middle. Split the clip before the unwanted section begins, and then trim the unwanted material from the beginning of the second clip resulting from the split.

To trim clips in the Expert view timeline:

1. Position the pointer over the edge of the clip you want to trim until the correct icon appears:
   - Trim-In icon to trim the beginning of a clip (**Figure 9**).
   - Trim-Out icon to trim the end of a clip.
2. Drag the edge to the desired frame. The Monitor panel displays the frames as you drag, also showing the frame from the adjacent clip (if any). Subsequent clips in the track shift in time to compensate for the edit, but their durations remain unchanged.

   Note: You cannot drag the In point of a clip to the left past the edge of an adjacent clip.

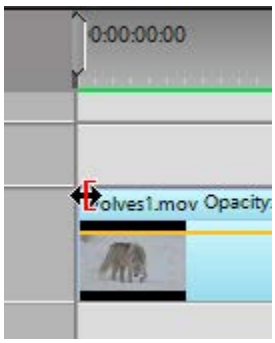

Figure 9 Trim-In icon at the beginning of a clip

To remove frames from the middle of a clip in the Expert view timeline:

1. In the Expert view timeline, drag the current-time indicator to the frame where the unwanted section of a clip begins.

   The frame appears in the Monitor panel.
2. Click the Split Clip button on the current-time indicator (**Figure 10**).

   This splits the clip at the point selected.
3. Double-click the clip to the right of the split. This opens the clip in the Preview window.

   Note: You can also open the clip to the left and make the following edits by setting a new Out point.
4. In the Preview window, drag the current-time indicator to the frame just after the last frame of unwanted material.
5. Click the Set In Point button. This trims the unwanted material from the beginning of the second clip and shortens the clip in the Expert view timeline, leaving a gap between it and the clip before.

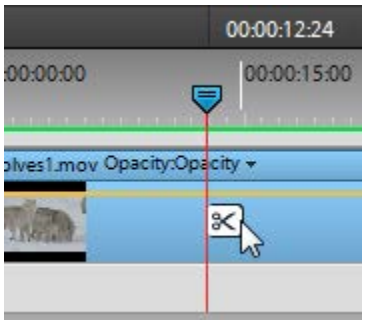

Figure 10 Split Clip button on the current-time indicator

6. Right-click/ctrl-click in the gap in the Expert view timeline, and then click Delete And Close Gap (**Figure 11**).

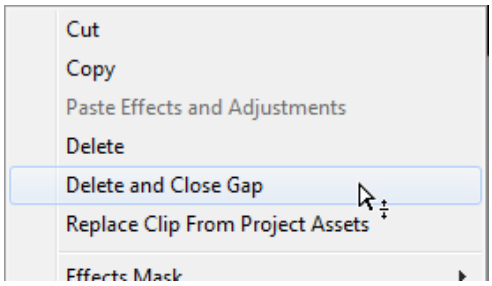

Figure 11 Split Clip context menu

Trim in the Preview window

You can preview any clip and set new In and Out points for it before adding it to the Expert view timeline or the Quick view timeline. You might, for example, preview your clips to determine their quality and trim unusable parts before arranging them. You can preview and trim clips in the Preview window.

Trimming a clip in the Preview window sets its In and Out points for all subsequent instances in the Expert view timeline or the Quick view timeline. It does not change the In and Out points of clip instances that are already in the Expert view timeline or the Quick view timeline. To let all clip instances use the same In and Out points, set them before placing the clip in either timeline.

Trim a clip in the Preview window

You can trim a clip in the Preview window before placing it in the Expert view timeline. Trimming in the Preview window does not affect instances of the clip that are already in the Expert view timeline or the Quick view timeline.

Once a clip is in a movie, you can reopen it in the Preview window to change its In and Out points for subsequent instances. You can either regain frames previously trimmed or trim additional frames.

To trim a clip in the Preview window:

1. In the Project Assets panel, double-click a clip. The Preview window appears.
2. To trim the clip, do any of the following in the Preview window:
   - To set a new In point, either drag the In point handle or drag the current-time indicator to the desired location (**Figure 12**) , and click the Set In button.
   - To set a new Out point, either drag the Out point handle or drag the current-time indicator to the desired location, and click the Set Out button.
3. Click the Close button in the Preview window.

Subsequent clip instances you drag to the Expert view timeline assume the In and Out points of the trimmed clip.

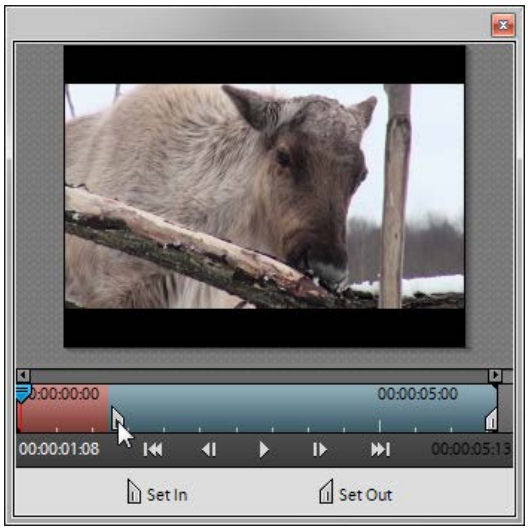

Figure 12 Dragging the In point in the Preview window

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Using Smart Trim

You can create a refined good-quality video file by removing unwanted sections. Adobe® Premiere® Elements 11 enables you to efficiently handle blurred, shaky, and unwanted low-quality and low- interest sections of your video file. You can easily and quickly edit and fine-tune the video files.

Smart trimming enables you to trim the low-quality sections of a video file. You can trim clips from the Quick view timeline or the Expert view timeline. You can specify the options that determine the trimmable sections.

To use Smart Trim:

1. To enable Smart Trim, click Tools on the Action bar and then select Smart Trim from the Tools panel (**Figure 13**).
2. (Optional) Click the Smart Trim Options button on top. In the Smart Trim Options dialog (**Figure 14**), use the slider to specify the Quality and Interest options. The values set here determine the trimmable sections. If you do not set the options here, default settings are used.

   Premiere Elements analyzes the clip, and highlights the sections of the clip that need trimming. The highlighted sections depend on the values set for the Quality Level and Interest Level options. Striped patterns are used to highlight the trimmable sections.
3. (Optional) View the bad-quality tags that Premiere Elements applied on the trim sections by hovering the mouse over the Smart Trim section of the clip (**Figure 15**).
4. To select trim sections in a clip, do one of the following:
   - Double-click the clip in the Expert view timeline to select all the trimmable sections in a single clip.
   - To select all the trimmable sections in multiple clips, drag a marquee around the selected clips in the Expert view timeline. Right-click/ctrl-click the trim sections, and choose Select All.
   - To select all the trimmable sections in multiple clips in the Quick view timeline or the Expert view timeline, select Ctrl-A. Right-click/ctrl-click a section > Select All.

   The selected trim sections are highlighted. When you select a trimmable section, all trimmable sections turn into blue-striped sections.

   Note: To choose selected trim sections from multiple clips, first select the clips, and select the trim sections.

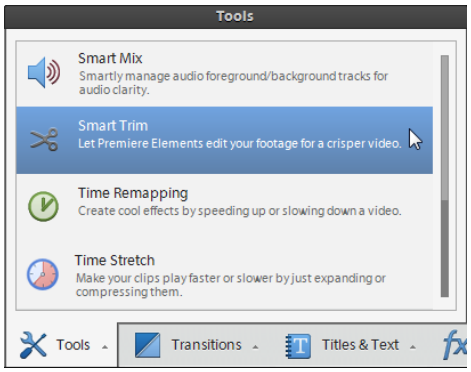

Figure 13 Tools panel

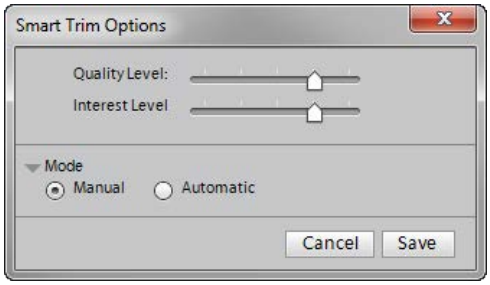

Figure 14 Smart Trim Options dialog box

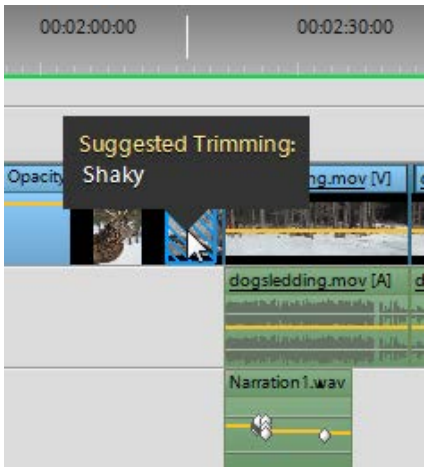

Figure 15 Problem segment identified by Smart Trim

5. Right-click/ctrl-click a trimmable section (the blue-striped region) (**Figure 16**). The following options are displayed:

   Trim Enables you to trim the selected trimmable section.

   Keep Enables you to retain the selected trimmable section.

   Select All Selects all the trimmable sections in the current selection.

   Smart Trim Options Displays the Smart Trim options.

6. Select Trim to trim the trimmable region, or select Keep to retain the trimmable section. You can also trim clips using the Delete key on the keyboard.

7. (Optional) To undo the previous trim action, right-click/ctrl-click the clip in the Expert view timeline, and select Undo Smart Trim.

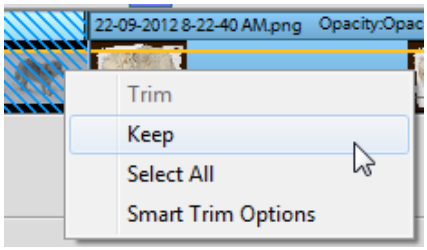

Figure 16 Tools panel

Split clips

You might want to apply different effects to different parts of a clip. For example, to speed up the first part but leave the second part at normal speed. To do this, you cut a clip into separate pieces, and then apply effects and transitions to those pieces. You can split a clip in a movie by using the Split Clip button on the current-time indicator. It cuts one or more selected clips at the current-time indicator.

Splitting a clip divides it into two parts, creating a new and separate instance of the original clip. If the clip is linked to another clip, a new instance of the linked clip is created as well.

The two resulting clips, when combined, represent the original clip. The resulting clips are full versions of the original clip, but with the In or Out points changed to match the location marked by the tool. You can select and delete these clips.

Note: If you want to change effect settings over time, you don't have to split the clip. You can apply keyframes to a single clip instead.

Split a clip

You can split a clip at any frame, creating one clip that ends, and another that begins, at that frame. You can edit the two resulting clips as you would any other clips.

To split a clip:

1. Select a clip in the Quick view timeline or the Expert view timeline.

2. Drag the current-time indicator to the frame where you want to create the split.

3. On the current-time indicator, click the Split Clip button (**Figure 17**).

   Two new clips take the place of the original clip: one ending and one beginning at the location of the current-time indicator.

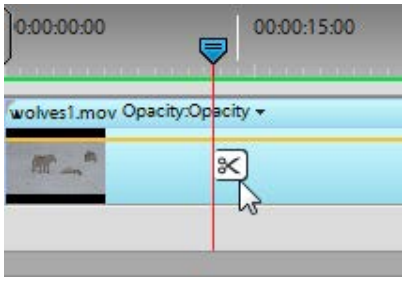

Figure 17 Split Clip button

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Two new clips take the place of the original clip: one ending and one beginning at the location of the current-time indicator (**Figure 18**).

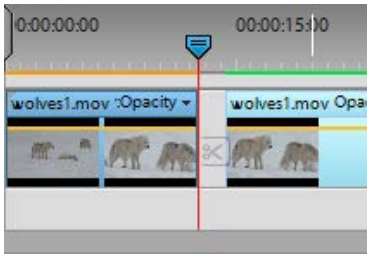

Figure 18 Split clip

Split a layered clip

You can simultaneously split two or more layered clips (clips that overlap in the Expert view timeline).

To split a layered clip:

1. In the Expert view timeline, drag a marquee to select clips, on different tracks, that overlap at a point in time (**Figure 19**).
2. In the Expert view timeline, drag the current-time indicator to the place where you want to make the split.
3. On the current-time indicator, click the Split Clip button.

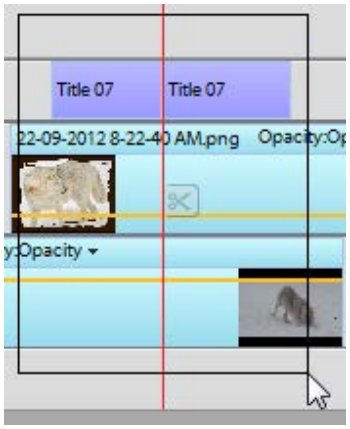

Figure 19 Select multiple tracks

Export a video frame

You can grab a single frame from a video clip to use as a still image in your current movie or to save as a still on your hard drive for use elsewhere. For example, you can use a still in your movie to show a character start an action, but then stop mid-action, frozen on the screen.

To export a video frame:

1. Select a clip in the Quick view timeline or the Expert view timeline.
2. In the Quick view timeline or the Expert view timeline, drag the current-time indicator to the frame you want to grab.

   The Monitor panel shows the frame at the location of the current-time indicator.
3. In the Action bar, click Tools and select the Freeze Frame option from the Tools panel (**Figure 20**).

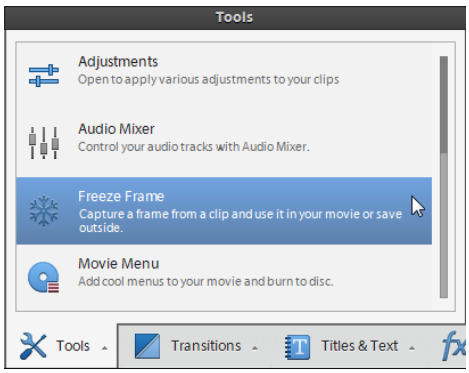

Figure 20 Tools panel

The frame appears in the Freeze Frame dialog box (**Figure 21**).

Note: If you have Adobe Photoshop Elements installed, and want to edit the still image in Photoshop Elements, choose Edit In Photoshop Elements After Inserting.

4. Do one of the following:

- To export the frame as a still image file, click Export. In the Export Frame dialog box, give the image file a name and location, and click Save.
- To insert the frame as a still image directly into the movie at the current-time indicator, click Insert In Movie. Use the Freeze Frame Duration time slider to adjust the length of the still image in the movie.

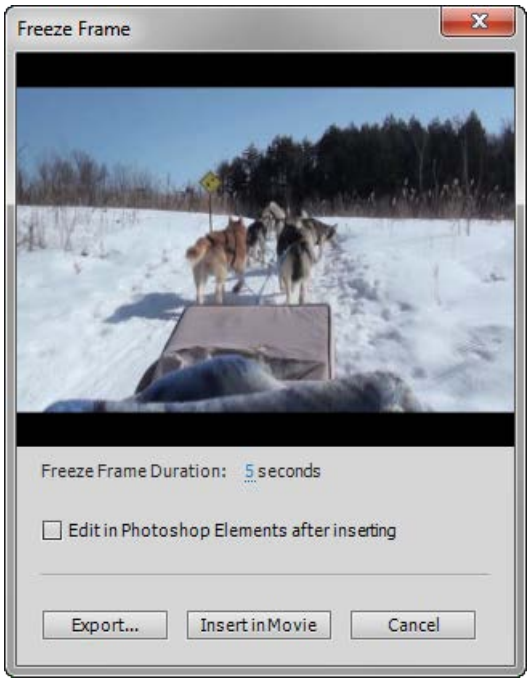

Figure 21 Freeze Frame dialog box

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