How to add transitions

By using transitions, you can phase out one clip while phasing in the next, or you can stylize the beginning or end of a single clip. A transition can be as subtle as a cross dissolve or quite emphatic, such as a page turn (**Figure 1**) or spinning pinwheel. You generally place a transition on a cut to include clips on either side—a double-sided transition, but you can also apply a transition to just the beginning or end of a clip—a single-sided transition.

Figure 1 Page Peel transition between two clips (left) and Cross Dissolve transition at end of clip (right)

For a transition to shift from one clip to the next, the transition must overlap frames from both clips. To achieve the overlap, transitions can use frames previously trimmed from the clips, if any exist (frames just past the In or Out point at the cut), or they can repeat the frames on either side of the cut. It's important to remember that when you trim a clip, you don't delete frames. The resulting In and Out points simply frame a window over the original clip. A transition uses the trimmed frames to create the transition effect (**Figure 2**), or, if the clips don't have trimmed frames, the transition repeats frames (**Figure 3**).

Figure 2 Transition using trimmed frames to shift to the next scene
A. First clip with trimmed frames at end **B.** Movie containing clips and transition
C. Second clip with trimmed frames at beginning

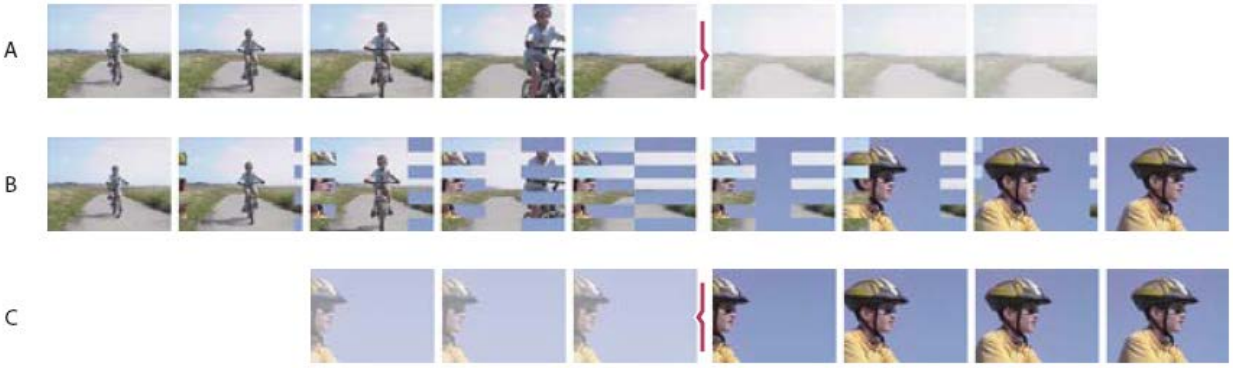

Figure 3 Transition repeating frames for clips without trimmed frames
A. First clip showing last frame repeated **B.** Movie containing both clips and transition
C. Second clip showing first frame repeated

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Where to access transitions

You can access available transitions in the Transitions panel by clicking Transitions on the Action bar (**Figure 4**). In the Quick view, all the available transitions appear as thumbnails in the Transitions panel. The Quick view contains a subset of the transitions available in the Expert view. In the Expert view timeline, the transitions are organized into categories. You can narrow a search for transitions by choosing a transition type, such as Dissolve, from the Category menu. You can also search for a transition by typing its name in the search box. The Expert view has more transitions compared to the Quick view.

Figure 4 Transitions panel

Video transitions have animated thumbnail previews that show how they affect clips. Select a transition to set its thumbnail in motion. You can preview an animated thumbnail transition in the Transition panel without having to apply it to a clip.

Note: Adobe Premiere Elements includes two audio transitions in the Crossfade category: Constant Power and Constant Gain. Though both provide fades, they differ slightly. Constant Power creates a smoother-sounding fade, while Constant Gain, though mathematically linear, often sounds abrupt.

Specify a default transition

The default transition is used in slide shows you create and files you import from Adobe® Photoshop® Elements. It is also used in motion backgrounds you create for DVD menus. The default transitions are Cross Dissolve for video or still images and Constant Power for audio. However, you can change these defaults.

To specify a default transition:

1. In the Quick view or the Expert view, click Transitions on the Action bar.

   The Transitions panel appears (**Figure 4**).

2. Right-click/ctrl-click the transition you want to be the default and choose Set Selected As Default Transition (**Figure 5**). (A gray outline marks the icon of the default transition.)

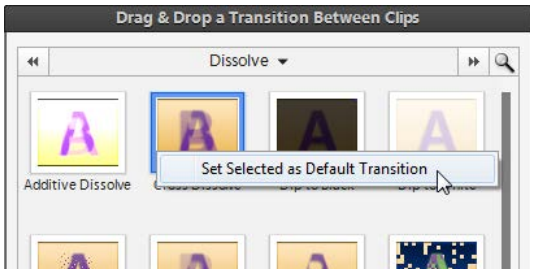

Figure 5 Set Selected As Default Transition

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Apply transitions in the Quick view timeline

In the Quick view timeline, drop zones (indicated by vertical green lines) appear the moment you drag a transition. The drop zone let you easily apply transitions between clips (**Figure 6**).

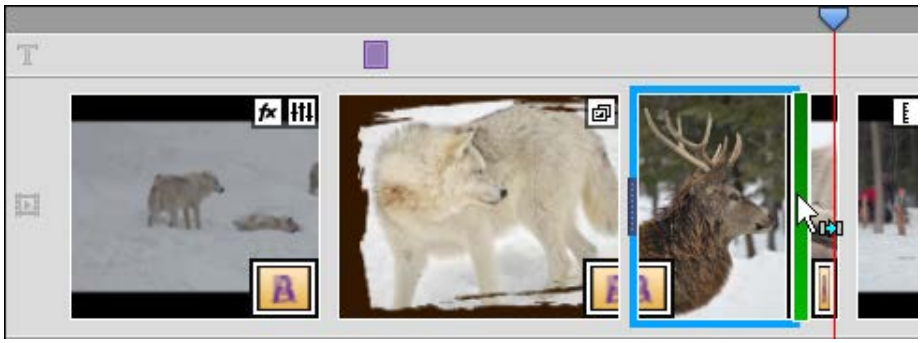

Figure 6 Transitions in the Quick view timeline

To apply a double-sided transition in the Quick view timeline:

1. In the Quick view, click Transitions on the Action bar.

   The Transitions panel appears (**Figure 7**).

2. Drag a transition from the Transitions panel to the drop zone between two clips in the Quick view timeline (**Figure 6**).

   An icon of the transition appears on the right and left bottom corners of the clip to indicate it has been applied. In addition, the Transition contextual control appears (**Figure 8**).

3. (Optional) Modify the properties of the clip, for example duration. Click the More button to further customize the transition and preview the changes.

Figure 7 Transitions panel

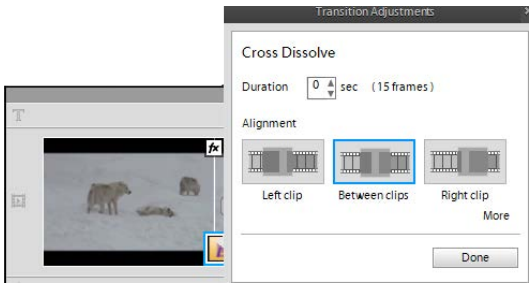

Figure 8 Transition contextual control

To apply a single-sided transition in the Quick view timeline:

1. In the Quick view, click Transitions on the Action bar.

   The Transitions panel appears (**Figure 9**).

2. From the Transitions panel, select the transition you want to apply.

3. Do one of the following:

   - If the clip has no clip adjacent to one side of it, drag the transition to the transition rectangle on that side of the clip.
   - If the clip is adjacent to another clip, drag the transition to the desired edge of the clip. In the Transitions contextual control set Alignment as Left Clip, Between Clips, or Right Clip.

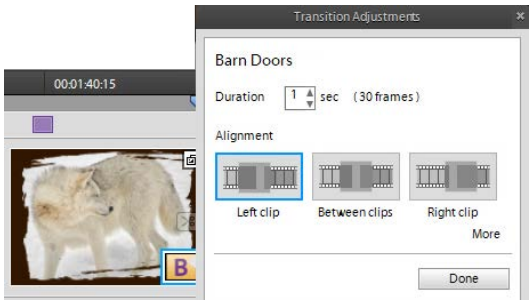

Figure 9 Transition contextual control

Apply transitions in the Expert view timeline

When applying transitions to the Expert view timeline, you can choose from alignment options, Left Clip, Between Clips, or Right Clip (**Figure 10**).

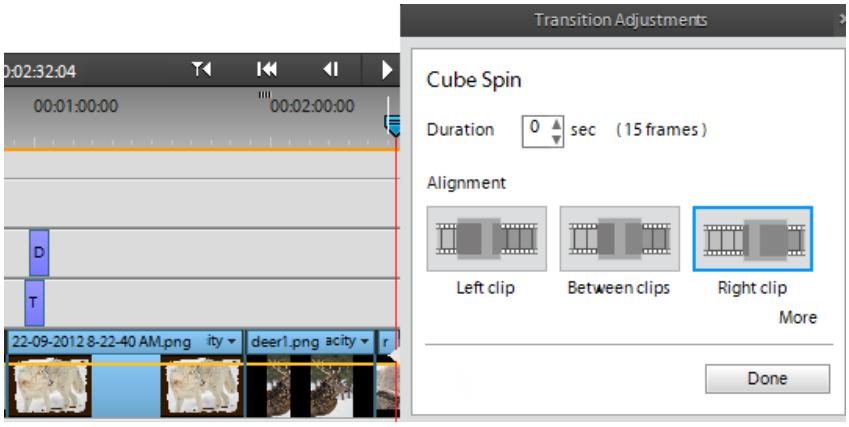

Figure 10 Transitions in the Expert view timeline

Apply a double-sided transition in the Expert view timeline

To apply a transition between two clips in the Expert view timeline the clips must be on the same track, with no space between them.

If a double-sided transition must use repeated frames (rather than trimmed frames), the transition icon contains additional diagonal lines. The lines span the area where it has used the repeated frames.

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To apply a double-sided transition in the Expert view timeline

1. In the Expert view, click Transitions on the Action bar.

   The Transitions panel appears (**Figure 11**).

2. From the Transitions panel select the category containing the transition you want to apply.

3. Drag the transition from the Transitions panel to the cut between two clips in the Expert view timeline, and release the mouse button when one of the following alignment icons appears:

   - *Start At Cut icon* : Aligns the beginning of the transition to the beginning of the second clip.
   - *Center At Cut icon* : Centers the transition over the cut (**Figure 12**).
   - *End At Cut icon* : Aligns the end of the transition to the end of the first clip.

   Note: Pressing Ctrl while dragging a transition lets you select Start At Cut, Center At Cut, or End At Cut by slowly dragging the transition left and right over the cut

Figure 11 Transitions panel

Figure 12 Dragging a transition onto the Timeline, with Center At Cut icon visible at pointer

Apply a single-sided transition in the Expert view timeline

When you create a single-sided transition, whatever is below the transition in the Expert view timeline appears in the transparent portion of the transition. For example, If you want the clip to transition to black, it must be on Track 1 or have no clips beneath it. If the clip is on a track above another clip, the clip on the lower track appears in the transition, so the transition will appear to be double-sided.

To apply a single-sided transition in the Expert view timeline:

1. In the Expert view, click Transitions on the Action bar.

   The Transitions panel appears (**Figure 11**).

2. From the Transitions panel select the category containing the transition you want to apply.

3. Do one of the following:

   - If the clip has no clip adjacent to one side of it, drag the transition to the transition rectangle on that side of the clip.
   - If the clip is adjacent to another clip, drag the transition to the desired edge of the clip. In the Transitions contextual control set Alignment as Left Clip, Between Clips, or Right Clip.

Previewing an applied transition

In the Quick view timeline or the Expert view timeline, move the current-time indicator to the left of the transition, and then click the Play button in the Monitor panel. You can also preview a particular frame of the transition in the Monitor panel, drag the current-time indicator to the desired frame (**Figure 13**).

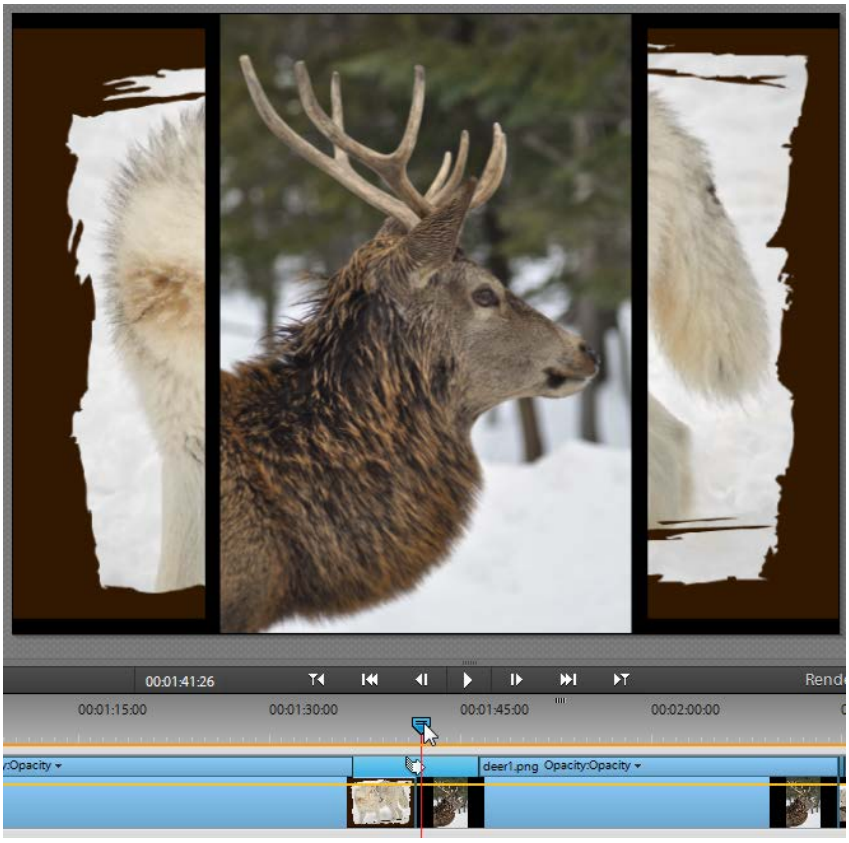

Figure 13 Drag the current-time indicator to preview an applied transition

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Controls and options for adjusting transitions

All transitions have properties that you can adjust in the Transitions contextual control. Common properties are the location of the center point, the start and end values, the border, and the anti-aliasing quality setting. (For some transitions, you can also change the orientation.) The following list describes the most common controls and options you can use to adjust transition properties.

To open the Transitions contextual control, double-click the a transition in the Quick view timeline or the Expert view timeline (**Figure 14**). Click the More button to expand the options in view.

- *Duration* Sets the duration of the transition. The default duration is one second.
- *Alignment* Controls how the transition is aligned between clips. By default, transitions are centered between clips.
- *Start/End Points* Set the percentage of the transition that is complete at the start and end of the transition.
- *Show Actual Sources* Displays the starting and ending frames of the clips.
- *Reverse* Plays the transition backward. For example, the Clock Wipe transition plays counterclockwise.
- *Anti-Aliasing Quality* Adjusts the smoothness of the transition's edges.
- *Custom* Changes settings specific to the transition. Most transitions don't have custom settings..

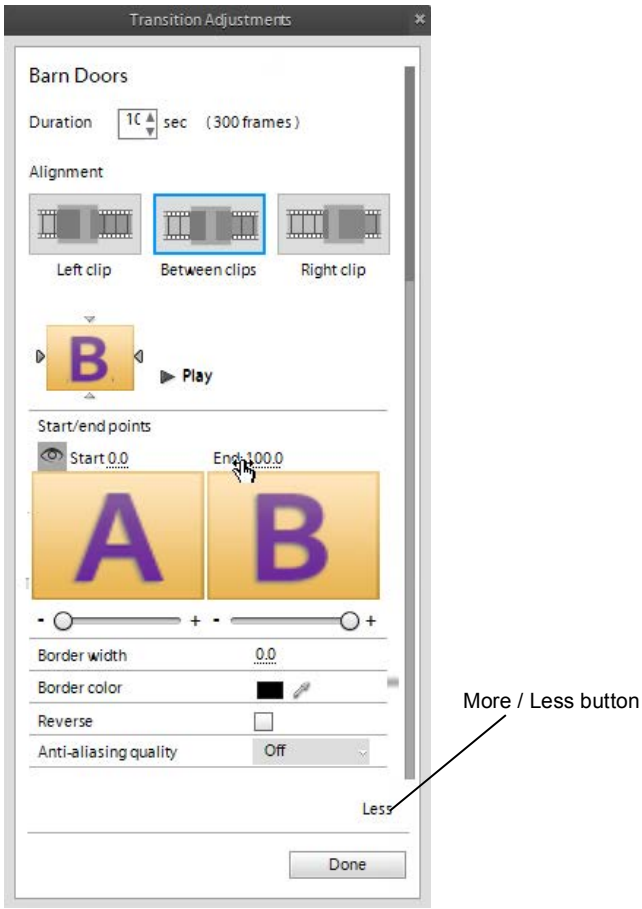

Figure 14 Transitions Adjustments

To adjust the transition duration:

You can edit a transition's duration by dragging the end of the transition in either the Quick view timeline or the Expert view timeline. You can also use the Transition contextual control to edit the duration of a transition.

Select the transition in the Quick view timeline or the Expert view timeline and do one of the following:

- Position the pointer over the end of the transition until the Trim-In icon or the Trim-Out icon appears. Drag the Trim-In icon or the Trim-Out icon to the left or right to adjust the duration (**Figure 15**).
- Double-click the transition and radjust the duration using the Transition contextual control.

Note: Lengthening a transition's duration requires that one or both clips have enough trimmed frames to accommodate a longer transition.

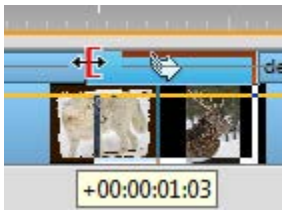

Figure 15 Trim-In icon and time information in the Timeline

To adjust the center point of a transition:

1. Select the transition in the Timeline.
2. In the Transitions view of the Tasks panel, click the Edit Transition button.
3. In the preview area in the Properties view, drag the small circle to reposition the transition center (**Figure 16**).

   Note: Not all transitions have an adjustable center point.

Figure 16 Default center (left) and repositioned center (right)

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