

# How to apply and adjust video transitions

Applying transitions between clips—such as dissolves, page wipes, spinning screens—can be an effective way to grab viewers' attention or ease them from one scene to the next.

Adobe Premiere Pro CS6 provides more than 75 video transitions that are easy to use and customize. The customization involves their placement relative to the cut line between clips, their duration, and such settings as colored borders, motion parameter values, and start and end locations.

Most transition customizing takes place in the Effect Controls panel. In addition to the various options unique to each transition, the Effect Controls panel has a time ruler feature that makes it easy to move transitions relative to the cut line, move the cut line and transition together, and change the transition In and Out points.

## Applying and replacing video transitions

You will need two video clips for the following tasks.

*To apply and replace video transitions:*

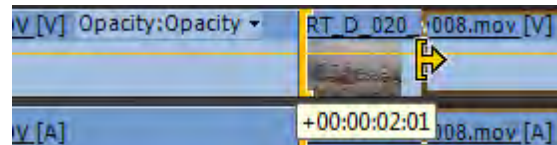
1. Start Adobe Premiere Pro, start a new project, and import two video clips.
2. Drag the two video clips from the Project panel to the Video 1 track in the Timeline panel.
3. In the Tools panel, select the Ripple Edit tool.
4. Drag the end (Out point) of the first clip to the left to shorten it by about 2 seconds, and drag the beginning (In point) of the second clip to the right about 2 seconds (**Figure 1**).

This gives the clips some tail and head frames so that you can create a smooth transition.

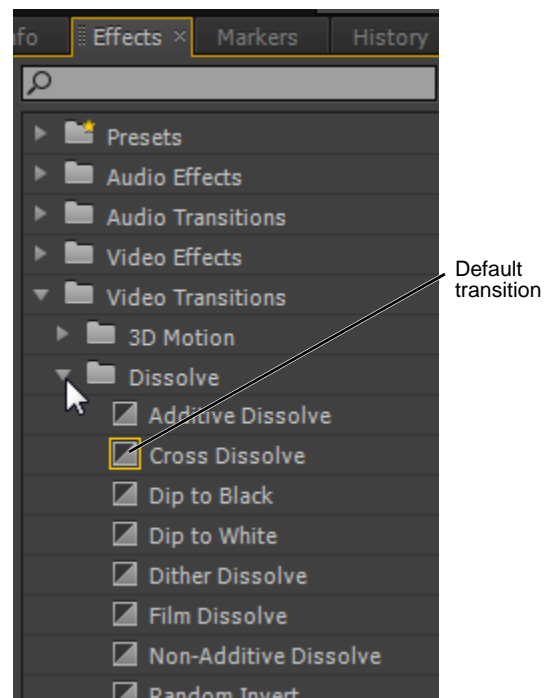
5. Use the Zoom Slider in the lower-left corner of the Timeline panel to adjust the relative size of the clips until they fill the width of the Timeline panel.
6. In the Tools panel, click the Selection tool.
7. Open the Effects panel and open the Video Transitions > Dissolve bin (**Figure 2**).

**Note:** The Effects panel contains audio and video effects and transitions. There is also an Effect Controls panel, where you can adjust effect value parameters and transition settings such as duration, the start and end of an effect or transition, and the audio volume level.

**Note:** Cross Dissolve has a yellow box around it indicating it is the default transition (**Figure 2**). To apply the default transition, move the CTI to (or near) the cut line between the two clips, and press Ctrl+D (Windows) or Command+D (Mac OS).



**Figure 1** Ripple Edit tool



**Figure 2** Effects panel and default transition

8. Drag Cross Dissolve to the cut line between the two clips on the sequence (**Figure 3**).

**Note:** If you drag the transition left or right over the cut line, the rectangle on top of the clips changes to show the placement of the transition (**Figure 4**):

- Ending at the cut line (at the Out point of the first clip)
- Centered on the cut line
- Starting at the cut line (at the In point of the second clip)

Transitions placed at the beginning or end of a clip are called *single-sided*. All others are *double-sided*.

9. In the Timeline panel, drag the current-time indicator (CTI) ahead of (to the left of) the transition and press Enter (Windows) or Return (Mac OS).

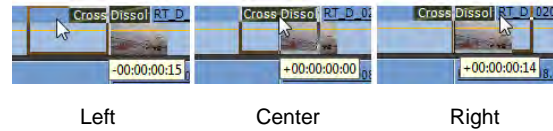
The transition renders automatically and then plays. The transition has a 1-second (30 frames) duration by default. You can change the default length in the General Preferences dialog box: Select Edit > Preferences > General (Windows) or Premiere Pro > Preferences > General (Mac OS).

**Note:** You can replace one transition with another by simply dragging a new transition to the existing transition in the sequence.

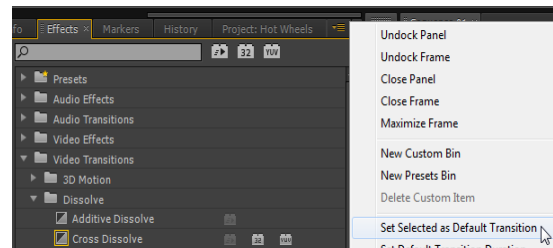
10. To change the default transition, select a new transition in the Effects panel and select Set Selected As Default Transition in the Effects panel menu (**Figure 5**).



**Figure 3** Transition at a cut line



**Figure 4** Three transition locations and icons



**Figure 5** Effects panel menu

## Overview of video transition settings

After you place a transition at a cut line between two clips, you will usually want to change the transition settings. You make those changes in the Effect Controls panel. Each transition has its own set of options, although many transitions have settings in common with other transitions. To see all the transition options and the transition time ruler, you will probably need to drag the edges of the Effect Controls panel to expand its height and width. Here's an overview of what's available:

- *Edge selectors:* Change the orientation or direction of the transition. Some transitions can move from all eight primary cardinal compass points (N, NE, E, SE, and so on).
- *Duration:* Set the length of the transition.
- *Alignment:* Place the transition starting at the cut, ending at the cut, centered at the cut, or in a custom location. Custom Start appears as an option in the Alignment field only if you drag the transition to a custom location over the cut.
- *Start And End Sliders:* Start a transition with part of the transition already completed or end it before its logical completion. For example, the Clock wipe can start with half the face showing the next clip or end with half the face showing the first clip.
- *Show Actual Sources:* Display the starting and ending video frames of the transition. This can help you decide the transition duration or the placement of certain elements. For example, the Iris Box transition has the second clip appear in a tiny box within the first clip. You use the starting frame to help set where that box should appear in the clip.
- *Border Width:* Adjust the width of the optional border on the transition. The default border is None. Some transitions do not have borders.
- *Border Color:* Specify the color of the transition's border. You can select a color from the color swatch or use the eyedropper to select the color from a video clip.
- *Reverse:* Play the transition backward. For example, the Curtain transition closes and the Clock Wipe transition plays counterclockwise.
- *Anti-aliasing Quality:* Aliasing is the jagged, stair-step edge common along sharply defined lines on computer monitors and TV sets. This is most noticeable when the transition is not a horizontal or vertical move. To get rid of aliasing (to soften that edge), you select Anti-Aliasing. This option is available for transitions that have borders.
- *Custom:* Only a handful of transitions have custom settings. Here are some examples: Zoom Boxes—number of boxes, Band Wipe—number of bands, and Card Flip—Rows, Columns, Flip Order, and Axis.
- *Positioning Circles:* Locate the starting and ending points of a transition within a clip's frame. For example, Iris Star has the second clip appear in the first clip as a tiny star that grows to a full-screen clip. You use the starting positioning circle to place where in the first clip that tiny star appears. Most transitions don't have positioning circles.

## Adjusting reverse and positional circle settings

Changing most of the transition settings is straightforward. However, reverse and positional circles need some explanation. Here is an overview of those settings.

To adjust reverse and positional circle settings:

1. Continue working with the clips you added earlier in this guide, or start a new sequence, add two clips to it, and trim their respective Out and In points.
2. In the Effects panel, open the Video Transitions and Iris bins, and then drag Iris Round effect to the end of the last clip.

**Note:** The only placement option when applying a transition to the end of the last clip in a sequence is to have the transition end at the Out point. This is a single-sided transition (**Figure 6**).

3. Click the Iris Round transition rectangle at the end of the clip to select it and to display its parameters in the Effect Controls panel.
4. Play the transition and note that the iris opens outward, giving the appearance of a growing black circle.

That is the default action for the Iris Round transition. Instead, the iris should appear to close down on the video, creating the effect of closure.

5. In the Effect Controls panel, select the Reverse option and view the transition in the Program Monitor (**Figure 7**).

**Note:** Reverse changes the action of a transition.

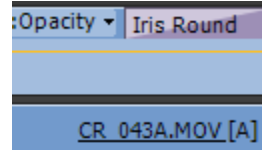
6. Drag the Iris Box transition from the Effects panel to the cut line between the two clips in the sequence.
7. Click the Iris Box transition rectangle at the cut line between the two clips to display its parameters in the Effect Controls panel.

Iris Box has an option you have not seen up to this point: a positioning circle in the Start clip preview pane (**Figure 8**).

8. Move the positioning circle in the Start screen to change the location where the zoom boxes will start and finish.

**Note:** Because there is only one positioning circle for Iris Box (some transitions have both start and end positioning circles), the transition starts and ends in the same relative position within the frames of the two clips.

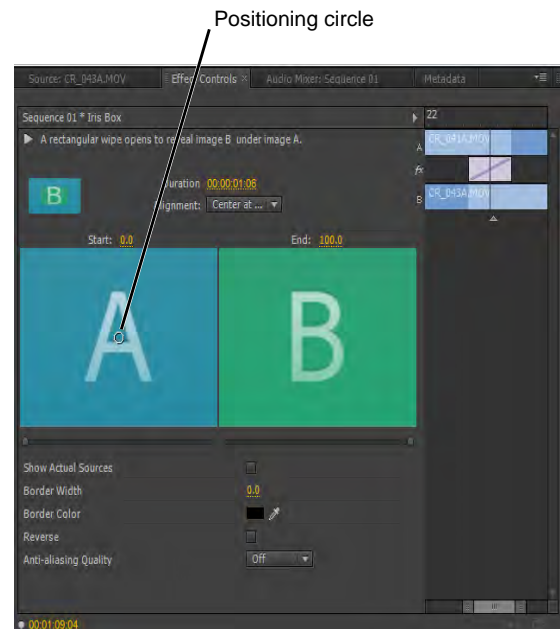
9. Play the transition.



**Figure 6** Iris Round transition placed at end of clip



**Figure 7** Iris Round transition



**Figure 8** Transition Clip preview panes

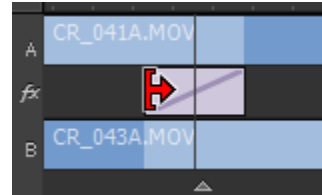
## Adjusting transitions in the Effect Controls time ruler

You can make several types of adjustments to transitions in the Effect Controls time ruler:

- *Adjust transition alignment:* You can drag the transition to reposition it over the cut.
- *Move the cut line and transition together:* This is the same as performing a rolling edit in the Timeline panel. As you move the cut, the transition moves with it. Move the cut line and transition together by positioning the cursor on the thin vertical cut line (the pointer changes from the Slide Transition tool to the Rolling Edit tool) and dragging left or right (**Figure 9**).
- *Change the transition In and Out points:* Use the time ruler to drag either end of the transition and precisely position it relative to the clips. Change the In or Out points of the transition by positioning the pointer over the transition until the Trim-in or Trim-out tool appears and then drag left or right (**Figure 10**).



**Figure 9** Rolling Edit tool



**Figure 10** Trim-out tool