How to trim clips in the Timeline panel

Three basic tools can be used to trim clips on a sequence in the Timeline panel: Selection (in its Trim-in and Trim-out modes), Ripple Edit, and Rolling Edit. Each has a slightly different function. You will work with all three tools in this guide.

- Selection tool: Changes a clip's in point (beginning) or out point (end) by dragging its edge. This affects only a single clip edge and doesn't affect adjacent clips.
- Ripple Edit tool: Changes the length of a clip and shifts subsequent clips in the track by the amount you changed. Shortening a clip by ripple editing shifts all clips after the cut to the left (back in time). Conversely, lengthening a clip shifts the clips that follow the cut to the right (forward in time).
- Rolling Edit tool: Moves the edit point between two clips by trimming adjacent out points and in points simultaneously and by the same number of frames. This preserves other clips' positions in time and maintains the total duration of the sequence.

There are two important differences between the Trim tools and the Ripple Edit and Rolling Edit tools.

- Using a Trim tool to shorten a clip leaves a gap in the sequence. The Ripple Edit and Rolling Edit tools do not leave a gap.
- You can't use the Trim tool to extend a clip when another clip is adjacent to it. The Ripple Edit tool can lengthen a clip adjacent to another clip.

Two other notes:

- You can't use any of these tools to extend a clip past the original in or out points of the source footage.
- The clips need sufficient *handles*—head and tail frames—to perform edits that lengthen those clips.

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Using the Trim-in and Trim-out tools

1. Start Adobe Premiere Pro CS4 and start a new project.
2. Import four video clips and drag all four clips to the sequence in the Timeline panel.
3. Position the Selection tool over the left side of the second clip and note that the arrow icon changes to the right-facing Trim-in icon (**Figure 1**).

   Note: As you move the pointer over the thin yellow lines in the video or audio portions of the clip, the pointer changes to a small double arrow. That is the Pen tool, which you can use here to change the opacity or audio volume of a clip. You will work with both effects in the "How to adjust audio volume and create cross dissolves" guide.
4. Drag the left edge of the clip to the right.

   As you drag, a tool tip (**Figure 1**) displays the number of frames you are trimming: a positive value if you are dragging toward the end of the sequence and a negative value if you are dragging toward the beginning. In addition, the current in point appears in the Program Monitor (**Figure 2**).

   Note: You cannot trim past the original in and out points of the source footage.
5. Drag the right edge of the third clip to the left to shorten it.

   A gap appears between the third and fourth clips.
6. Move the current time indicator (CTI) to a point near the middle of the first clip.
7. Drag the right edge of the first clip toward the CTI.

   When you are close to the CTI, note that a vertical black line appears and the Trim-out tool snaps to that line (**Figure 3**).

   Note: This is another use of the snap feature. You can put the CTI on a specific frame and when you drag a clip out point or in point to the CTI, the snap feature will make that a frame-specific edit.

   The two trim edits left gaps in the sequence. You can slide clips to the left to fill the gaps by using the Ripple Delete command in step 8.
8. Click a gap to select it and select Edit > Ripple Delete.

   Repeat for the second gap.

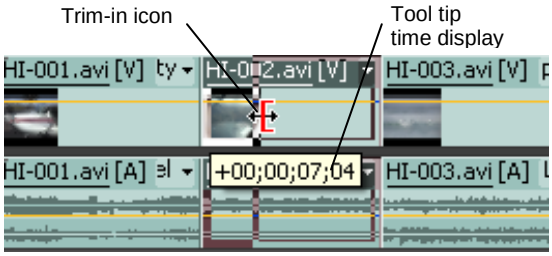

Figure 1 Trim-in tool

Figure 2 Program Monitor in point display

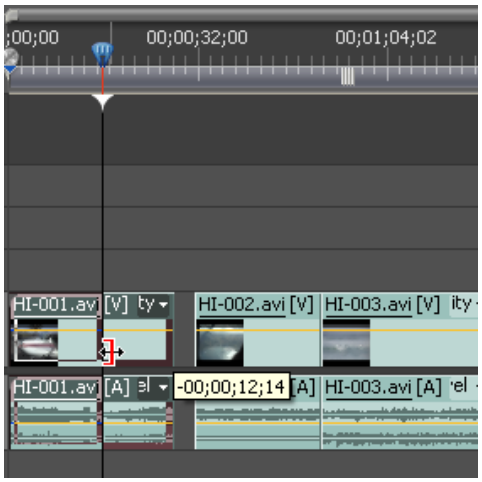

Figure 3 CTI and vertical black line

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Using the Ripple Edit and Rolling Edit tools

1. In the Tools panel, click the Ripple Edit tool (**Figure 4**).
2. Hover the pointer over the right edge (out point) of the second clip.

   Note that the pointer changes to a left-facing Ripple Edit icon (**Figure 5**).

   Note: The Ripple Edit icon looks like a large Trim icon with a double arrow.
3. Drag the clip's out point to the left to shorten the clip.

   As you drag, the Program Monitor displays the out and in points of the two adjacent clips (**Figure 6**).

   After you release the mouse button, subsequent clips in the track shift to the left to fill the gap left by the trim, but the clip durations remain unchanged. This is like performing a trim-out edit and a ripple delete in a single step.
4. Drag the out point of the third clip to the right to lengthen the clip (**Figure 7**).

   The Ripple Edit tool lets you lengthen a clip that's adjacent to another clip without changing the length of the adjacent clip. You can't do this with the Trim-in and Trim-out tools.
5. In the Tools panel, select the Rolling Edit tool (**Figure 4**).
6. Position the tool between the first and second clips and drag it left or right and note how the in and out points of both clips shift (**Figure 8**).

   The Rolling Edit tool changes the out point and in point of adjacent clips without changing the length of the project.

   Note: You need to have head and tail frames on adjacent clips to move an edit point by using the Rolling Edit tool. You created those head and tail frames when you used the Trim-in and Trim-out tools earlier in this guide.

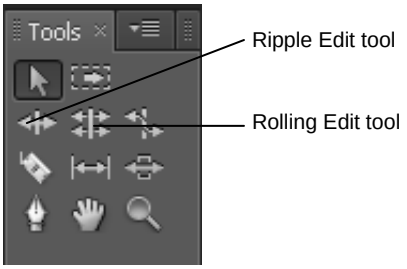

Figure 4 Tools panel

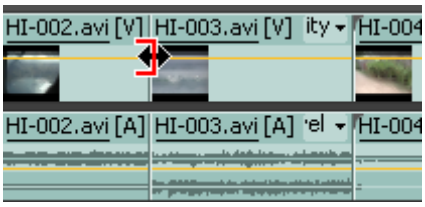

Figure 5 Ripple Edit tool

Figure 6 Program Monitor Ripple Edit display

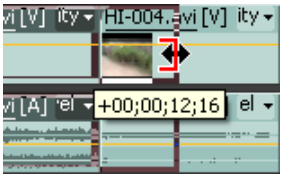

Figure 7 Ripple Edit tool

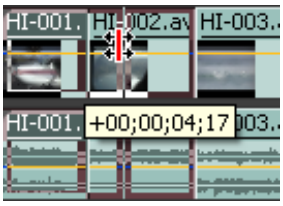

Figure 8 Rolling Edit tool