How to compose multiple-track recordings

When creating an audio track, you will often want to include multiple tracks—for example, a vocal narration and music.

In Soundbooth CS4 multitrack projects you can mix together multiple audio clips to create layered soundtracks. The audio clips in a multitrack project are saved as a single file, similar to the way a layered Photoshop file is saved. A multitrack project is saved as an Adobe Sound Document (ASND). When you add a file to a multitrack project, a copy of the file is made and stored in the project.

Figure 1 illustrates separate tracks created for the left and right channels of the narration as well as a track for background music. You can edit each track separately.

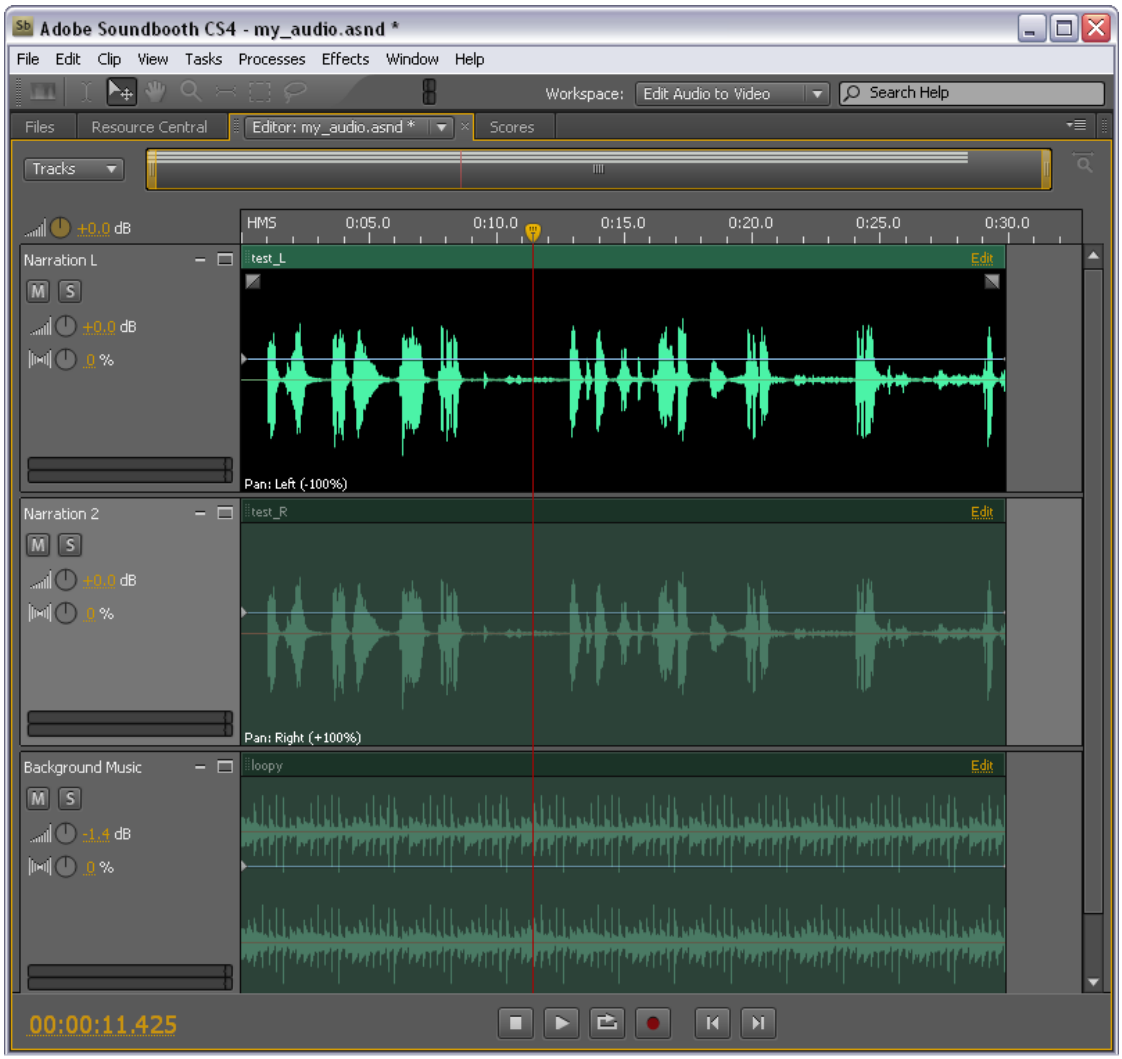


Figure 1 Multiple tracks in Soundbooth editor

Creating a Multitrack project

1. Choose File > New > Multitrack File to open a new multitrack project with one track.
2. Choose File > Save As and select a location in which to save the new multitrack project (**Figure 2**).

   By default, multitrack projects are saved as Adobe Sound Document files, with the file extension .asnd. Adobe Sound Documents let you make changes to your files without permanently changing your original audio files.
3. Add audio to the track in one of the following ways:
   - To add a file that has been previously imported into Soundbooth, drag it from the Files panel into the track.
   - To add a file from your computer, choose Edit > Insert > File.
   - To record into the track, choose File > Record.
4. Repeat the steps to add more tracks to the file.

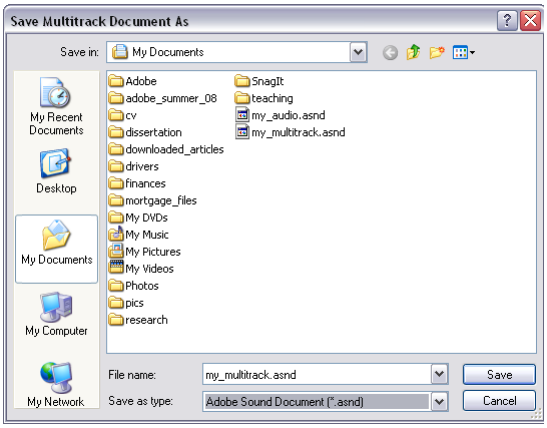
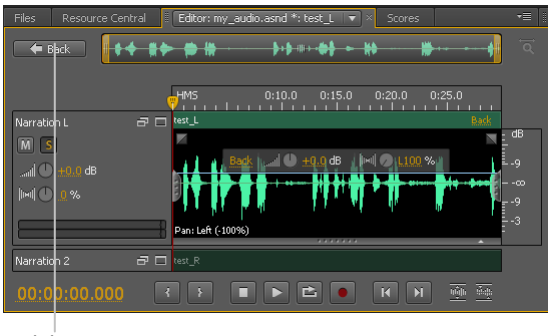


Figure 2 Save Multitrack Document As dialog box

Editing a track individually

1. Select the track you want to edit by clicking it.
2. Choose Clip > Edit Clip (Windows) or Clip > Edit Clip (Mac OS).

   The clip opens for editing (**Figure 3**).
3. Make changes to the track, such as splitting it, applying effects, cleaning it up, removing noises, and lowering or raising the volume.
4. Click the Back button to return to the multitrack editor.



Back button

Figure 3 Track opened for editing

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Saving a multitrack project to a single audio file

This process is known as exporting a *mixdown* of the multiple tracks. When you do so, all of the tracks are mixed into a single file—a WAV file, AIF file, MP3 file, or other format, depending on your preference.

1. Select the multitrack project you want to save in the Files panel and choose File > Save As.
2. Browse to the location where you want to save the file.
3. Choose Windows Waveform from the Save As Type menu (Windows) or choose Audio Interchange Format from the Format menu (Mac OS), and click Save.
4. Accept the default options in the Save As Options dialog box, and click OK.

   The multitrack file is saved as a single audio track suitable for use in Premiere Pro.