How to record narration

You can record narration for your video directly into Soundbooth. Although you can record a narration directly into Adobe Premiere CS4, Soundbooth lets you control the volume, clarity, and length of the narration more precisely. Once the narration is in Soundbooth, you can also make it part of a multiple-part soundtrack: you could, for example, add sound effects and a score alongside the narration, fading or muting the narration when these sounds are played.

After recording narration, you can create a speech transcription file and then import this transcript back into Soundbooth. This adds markers to the narration so you can quickly locate points in the narration by using keywords.

How to record narration

1. Make sure a microphone is connected to your computer or make sure your computer has a functioning built-in microphone.
2. Choose File > Record.

   The Record dialog box appears (**Figure 1**). Information about the input for the recording appears in the top section of the dialog box.
3. Choose an audio input from the Device menu. If necessary, click Settings to set driver properties for the input.
4. Use the default Sample Rate setting or choose a different Sample Rate option that may be more appropriate for your project.
5. Select Stereo or Mono.

   By default, the Monitor Input During Recording option is not selected. Usually, you will want to leave this option unselected when recording a narration. You can monitor your input while recording, but you need to wear headphones to avoid feedback.

   Information about the name of the sound file you're creating appears in the bottom section of the dialog box.
6. Enter a name in the File Name box.

   This name will serve as the first part of all audio files saved by Soundbooth. Every time you record something new, Soundbooth will automatically use this name until you change the name.

   By default, Soundbooth automatically appends incrementing numbers to new filenames. You can also choose to have dates appended to filenames.
7. Click Browse to choose a location in which you will store files.

   The Browse For Folder (Windows) or Recorded Files Folder (Mac OS) dialog box appears (**Figure 2**).
8. Navigate to the folder in which you will store the file, and click OK.

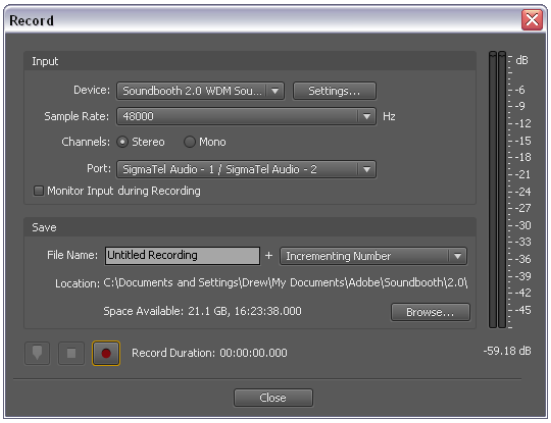

Figure 1 Record dialog box

Figure 2 Browse dialog box

9. Click the Record button and start recording your narration (**Figure 3**).

As you speak, notice that the audio Decibel meter on the right side of the Record dialog box indicates the sound's volume (**Figure 4**).

10. When you finish recording, click the Stop button (**Figure 4**).

The new file appears in Soundbooth behind the Record dialog box and is available in the Files panel.

11. Click Close to close the Record dialog box.

Note: The file has been automatically saved as a Waveform file (WAV). To save the file in a different format, such as MP3, choose File > Save As.

Waveform is a high-resolution file type—meaning all of the sound's data is saved with this format. Other file types (such as MP3) compress sounds, discarding some data.

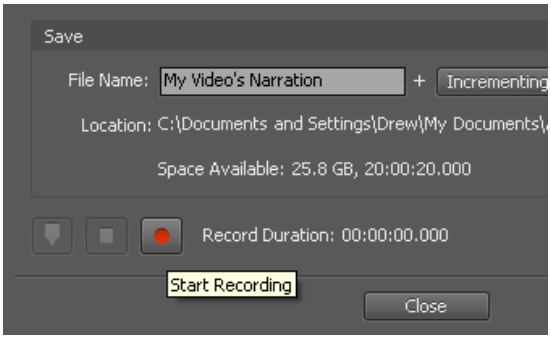

Figure 3 Record button in the Record dialog box

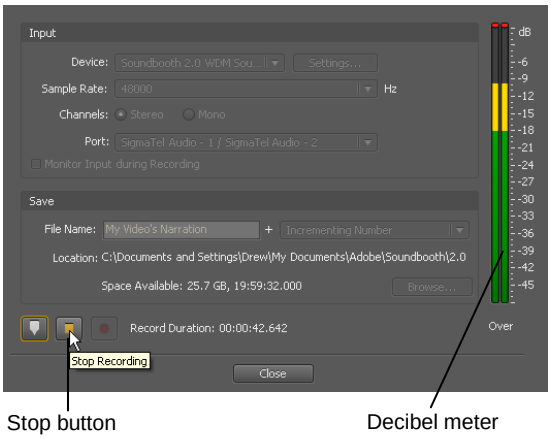

Figure 4 Stop button in the Record dialog box

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Your recorded narration file should appear similar to that in **Figure 5**. File information appears in the Properties panel. Once the file is in Soundbooth, you can edit the file as you choose. To add the file to a multitrack Soundbooth file, select the file and choose File > New Multitrack File From Waveform.

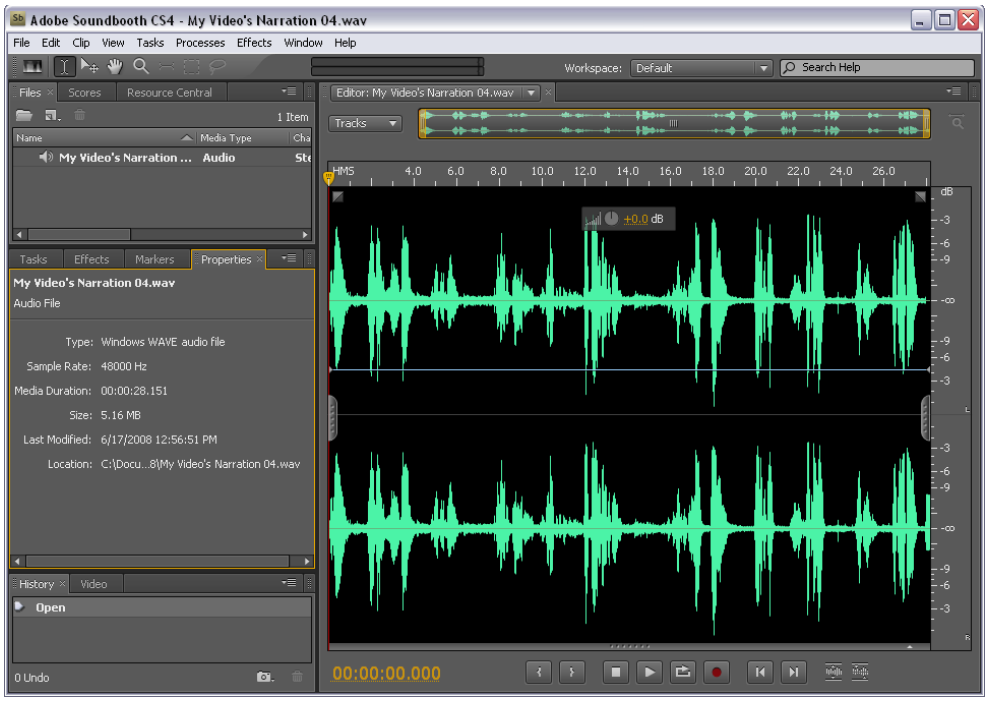

Figure 5 Recorded narration

How to create a transcription file

1. Select the narration audio file in the Files panel.
2. Select File > Export > Speech Transcription.

   The Save Selection As dialog box appears with Speech Transcription entered in the Save As Type menu (Windows) or Format menu (Mac OS).
3. Navigate to a location where you want to save the file, enter a name for the transcript, and click Save.

   The Speech Transcription Options dialog box appears **(Figure 6)**.
4. Select a language and quality from the pop-up menus.

   Note: Selecting a higher quality setting takes longer to process.
5. Click OK to transcribe the file. This may take several minutes.

   The transcript is created as an XML document.
6. Select File > Import > Markers.

   The Import Markers dialog box appears.
7. Locate the transcript file you just created, select it, and click Open.

   Markers are added to the narration file in the Editor panel **(Figure 7)**.
8. Position the pointer over a marker to see a tooltip.

   The markers show where specific words occur in the narration track.

Figure 6 Speech Transcription Options dialog box

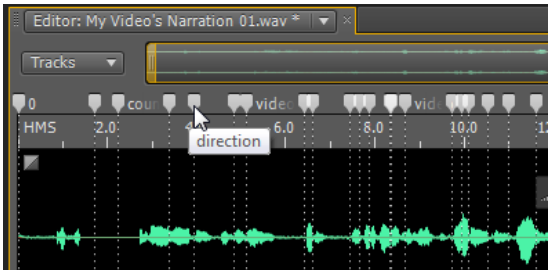

Figure 7 Transcription markers

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