Overview of Adobe Soundbooth CS4 workspace

Adobe Soundbooth CS4 is an audio application designed for video editors, web designers and developers, motion graphics artists, and other creative professionals. While it has everything you need to edit sound, it is much easier to use than other sound-editing programs. As a result, Soundbooth enables even users with very little audio experience to quickly complete everyday tasks: recording and editing, removing unwanted noise, customizing sound effects, adding emphasis to a scene with sound, and creating royalty-free music to match the mood of a production.

The Soundbooth interface is divided into panels. You can move and rearrange panels however you wish.

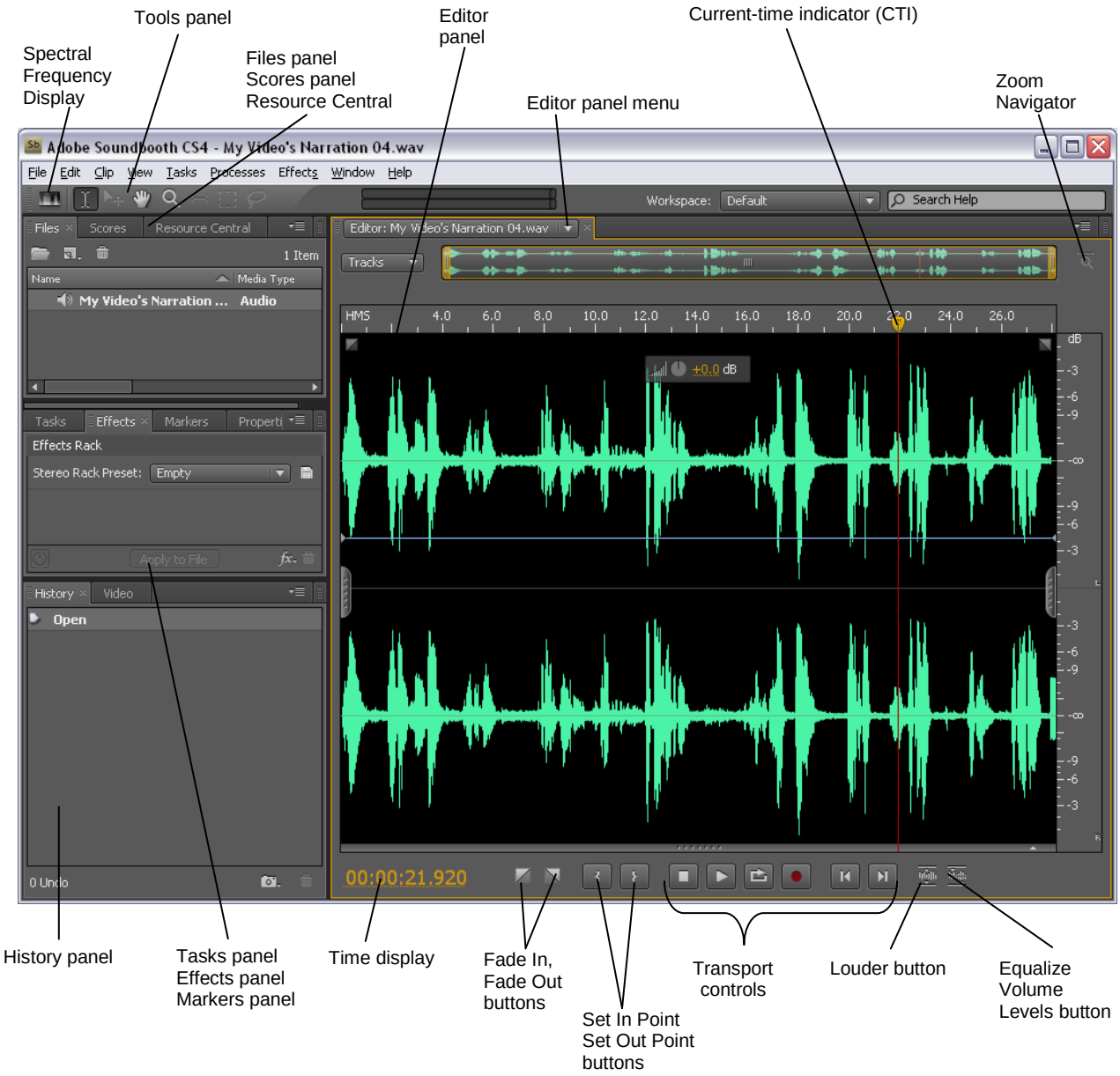

Figure 1 Soundbooth workspace

Spectral Frequency Display button: Opens the Spectral Frequency Display view in the Editor panel. The Spectral Frequency Display lets you view the sound by frequency instead of wave form.

Tools panel: Quick access to tools, level meters, and the Workspace menu.

Files panel: Displays properties such as name, media type, and duration for each open file. By default, files are sorted alphabetically by name. To sort files based on another property, click the property header.

Scores panel: Displays properties of scores.

Resource Central: Connects you with Adobe Resource Central to download more scores and sound effects.

Editor panel: By default, the Editor panel displays audio files as a visual representation of sound waves. (You can use the Spectral Frequency Display button to display spectral frequencies as well. For a stereo file, the left channel appears at the top and the right channel appears at the bottom. For a mono file, its single channel fills the total height of the Editor panel. Use the menu at the top of the Editor panel to choose which open file to display.

Current-time indicator (CTI): Determines the starting point for playback and moves through the waveform as you listen to audio files. You can drag the CTI to move quickly from one point in the waveform to another.

Zoom navigator: A view of the entire wave form. At higher zoom levels, you can drag the zoom navigator left or right to move to different audio content in the Editor panel.

Tasks panel: The place to go for common editing tasks such as noise reduction and music creation.

Effects panel: Access to a collection of effects you can apply to an entire audio clip or a portion of a clip. When you apply an effect, it appears in the Effects panel. You can apply multiple effects to a clip. Effects are processed in the order in which they appear in the panel. You can also create an *effects rack* to apply up to five effects at once.

Markers panel: Add, move, delete, remove, and navigate to markers in the audio file. A marker refers to a specific time position and makes it easy to navigate in a waveform, perform edits, or play back audio.

History panel: Instantly revert to any previous change. Use the panel to quickly compare processed and original audio or discard a series of changes that produced undesired results.

Time display: The current time in numerical format, using hours, minutes, seconds, and milliseconds.

Fade In, Fade Out buttons: Automatically fade in or fade out an audio track in. When you fade in a track, you start it from zero decibels and gradually increase sound. Fading out is the reverse.

Transport controls: Control and adjust playback. You can also start and stop playback by pressing the spacebar.

Louder button: Increase the sound of the entire file without distortion. Clicking once *normalizes* all sounds, which means boosting all sounds to the same level. Clicking again boosts all sounds by 3 decibels.

Equalize Volume Levels button: Set all sounds in the file to the same volume.

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