

FINTEACH MOZAMBIQUE

Adobe Premiere Pro: Basic Video Editing

Welcome to FinTeach Mozambique! Your instructors, Gustavo Alexandre and Marcelo Louis, are excited to guide you through the fundamentals of Adobe Premiere Pro. This manual is designed for beginners, offering a simple, practical, and step-by-step approach to video editing. Whether you aim to create engaging social media content, YouTube videos, or professional projects, Premiere Pro is a globally recognised industry standard. Let's begin your journey to becoming a proficient video editor!

Getting Started: New Project Setup

Upon launching Adobe Premiere Pro, you'll be greeted by the start screen. On the left side, you'll find options to "New Project" or "Open Project." Below that, a history of your recently opened projects is displayed for quick access. For this lesson, we will begin with a fresh project.

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Click on "New Project" to initiate your first editing session. This action will open a new window where you can configure the details of your project.



In the "New Project" dialogue box, name your project appropriately and select a dedicated folder on your computer to save it. Maintaining an organised file structure from the start is crucial for an efficient workflow. After specifying these details, click "Create." You may encounter an option to import media directly; it's recommended to skip this for now and import files later.

Understanding the Premiere Pro Interface

Once your new project is created, you'll be presented with the main Adobe Premiere Pro interface. This layout is designed to facilitate a smooth and efficient editing process, with various panels serving distinct functions. Familiarising yourself with these key areas is essential for effective navigation and workflow.

The Timeline

The Timeline is the heart of your editing process. This is where you assemble your video clips, make cuts, add effects, and create transitions. Think of it as your workspace where all your video elements come together in sequence.

Program Monitor

The Program Monitor provides a real-time preview of your edited video. Everything you do on the Timeline is reflected here, allowing you to see exactly how your video is progressing and make immediate adjustments.

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Essential Panels

Numerous panels like Effects, Source, Effect Controls, Project, Graphics, and Audio Track Mixer assist your editing. Each panel has a specific function to streamline your workflow and enhance your video production.

Navigating Key Editing Tools

Adobe Premiere Pro provides a comprehensive set of tools, each designed for specific editing tasks. Understanding the function of each tool is crucial for efficient and precise video manipulation. These tools are typically located at the bottom of the interface, readily accessible for your editing needs.

The primary tool for selecting clips, moving them on the timeline, and making basic adjustments.

Pen Tool

Ideal for creating custom shapes, drawing masks, and manipulating keyframes for effects and animations.

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Razor Tool

Used to cut or split video and audio clips at precise points on the timeline.

Type Tool

Enables you to add text overlays, titles, and captions directly onto your video.

These tools, along with others like the Slip and Stretch Tools, are fundamental to performing various editing actions quickly and accurately, allowing you to sculpt your video with precision.

Enhancing Visuals and Audio: Essential Panels

Beyond basic editing, Premiere Pro offers powerful panels for refining the visual and auditory elements of your video. These panels allow for detailed adjustments, ensuring your final production looks and sounds professional. They are typically found on the right-hand side of the interface, providing quick access to advanced controls.

Properties Panel

Provides detailed information and adjustable settings for selected clips, effects, and other elements within your project.

Lumetri Color Panel

A comprehensive panel for colour correction and grading, allowing you to adjust brightness, contrast, saturation, and apply creative looks to your footage.

Essential Sound Panel

Simplifies audio mixing and enhancement, offering presets for dialogue, music, sound effects, and ambient sounds to achieve professional-grade audio.

Importing and Organising Your Media

Before you can begin editing, you need to import your raw footage and other media files into Premiere Pro. It is paramount to maintain a well-organised file structure on your computer before importing. This practice prevents disorganisation and confusion as your project grows.

Organise Your Files

Create a dedicated folder for your project. Inside, categorise your videos, audio, images, and other assets into subfolders. This systematic approach ensures all your files are easily locatable.

Initiate Import

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In the Project panel within Premiere Pro, locate and click the "Import Media" button. This action will open a file browser, allowing you to navigate to your organised project folder.

Import Folder

Select the entire project folder and click "Import Folder." Premiere Pro will then import all the contents of that folder, maintaining your original folder structure within the Project panel.

Drag to Timeline

Once imported, double-click the folder in the Project panel to open it. Find the video clip you wish to begin with and drag it directly onto the Timeline. This places the clip into your editing sequence.

Basic Editing: Cutting and Audio Replacement

With your video clips on the Timeline, the next crucial steps involve making precise cuts and replacing the original audio for improved quality. This is where the Razor Tool and careful audio management come into play, enhancing the professionalism of your video.

Making Cuts

To remove unwanted sections of your video, select the **Razor Tool** (often resembling a razor blade icon). Click on the video clip on the Timeline at the start and end points of the section you wish to remove. This will split the clip. Then, select the unwanted segment using the **Selection Tool** and press the **Backspace** or **Delete** key on your keyboard.



Replacing Audio

For superior sound quality, especially for dialogue, it's often best to use audio recorded with an external microphone. Go to your audio folder in the Project panel, double-click the desired audio file to preview it, and then drag it onto an audio track below your video on the Timeline. Align the new audio with your video clips, ensuring synchronisation. You may need to mute or delete the original video's audio track.



Refining Your Video: Text, Colour, and Transitions

Once the basic cuts and audio are in place, you can further enhance your video with text, colour correction, and professional transitions. These elements add polish and convey your message effectively, making your video more engaging and visually appealing.

Colour Correction

For efficient colour correction, especially with multiple cuts, create an **Adjustment Layer** from the Project panel and drag it onto your Timeline above your video clips. Select this layer, go to the **Lumetri Color** panel, and make your adjustments. This applies corrections to all clips beneath it.

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Transitions

While not always necessary, transitions can smoothly connect different scenes. Explore the **Premiere Composer** panel for a variety of transition effects. For this lesson, we will focus on the foundational aspects, so transitions won't be applied, but keep them in mind for future projects.

Adding Text

Utilise the **Type Tool** for simple text or explore the **Essential Graphics** panel or **Premiere Composer** for pre-designed templates. Premiere Composer often provides faster and easier access to visually appealing text animations and styles.

Final Steps: Music Volume and Exporting Your Masterpiece

The final stages of video editing involve fine-tuning your background music and exporting your finished project. Proper audio mixing ensures a balanced soundscape, while correct export settings guarantee high-quality output for your intended platform.

Adjusting Music Volume

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Click on your music track on the Timeline. Navigate to the **Effect Controls** panel. Ensure any autovolume options are disabled. Adjust the volume slider to achieve a balanced sound that complements, rather than overwhelms, your main audio.

Saving Your Video

Once you are satisfied with your edits, go to the **Export** tab. Here, you will name your video, select your desired quality settings (e.g., **4K** for high resolution), and choose the output location. Click **Export** to render your video.

Locating Your Export

After the export process completes, navigate to the folder you designated for saving. Your finished video file will be there, ready for viewing and sharing.

Congratulations and Next Steps!

Congratulations! You have successfully completed your first basic video editing session in Adobe Premiere Pro. You've learned how to navigate the interface, import media, make cuts, manage audio, and refine your visuals. This foundational knowledge is crucial for your journey into video production.

FinTech Mozambique is committed to your growth. For those eager to delve deeper into advanced techniques, explore our extensive range of courses available on the platform. Your continuous learning and practice are key to mastering video editing.

We encourage you to ask any questions you may have and submit your homework assignments through the chat feature within the FinTeach platform. Your instructors, Gustavo Alexandre and Marcelo Louis, are here to support your learning journey. The next class will focus on **Advanced Transitions and Effects**, building upon today's foundational skills. Keep practising, and see you in the next lesson!