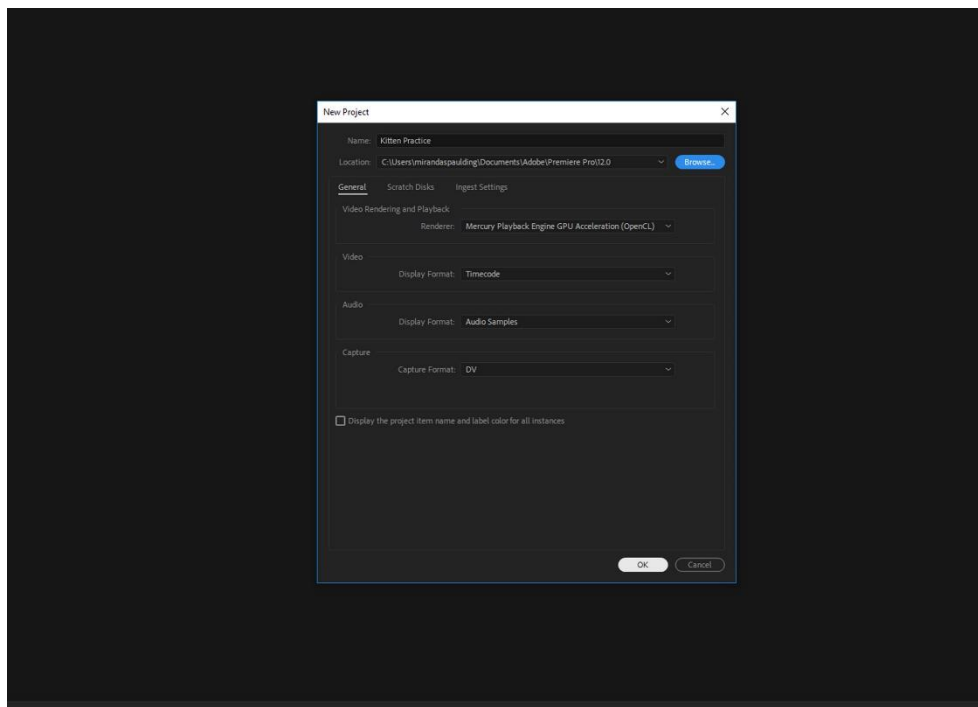# A Beginner's Guide to Premiere Pro

Premiere Pro can seem scary with all of its many panels and buttons, but this document can help relieve some of the mystery surrounding the complexities of Premiere Pro. It's important to note that this is a guide for **Premiere Pro 2018**, so if you have a newer or previous version, some tips may not apply.

Getting Started

The first thing you'll want to do when you open Premiere is start a new project. Make sure to select a name and location you'll remember.

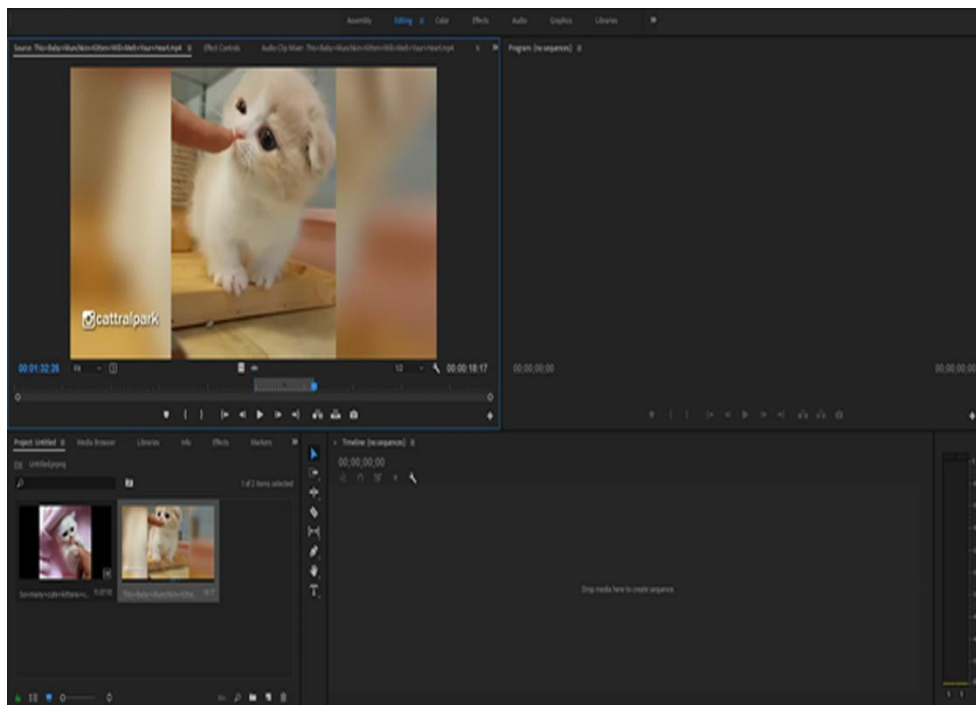**File >>> New >>> Project >>> Rename and Browse Location**

Your screen should show the 4 panels below. If it doesn't, go to
Window >>> Workspaces >>> Editing

Next, we'll need to import media. Click the **Project Panel** in the bottom left to browse for your video and audio files and select **Import**. This may take a little while depending on the speed of your computer.
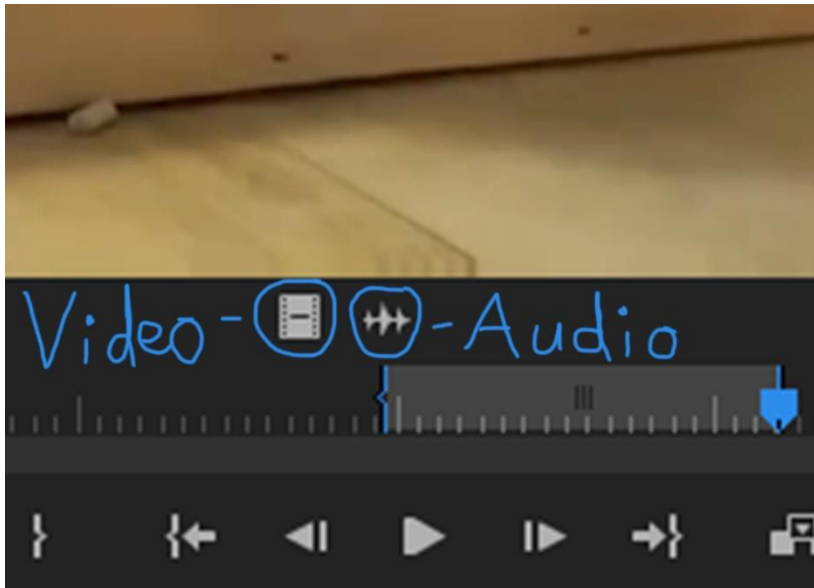
After you have the clips imported, double clicking on one will bring it into the **Source Monitor Panel** on the top left. You can also hover your mouse over the clips for a short preview. In the Preview panel you're able to select only a portion of the clip to drag into the sequence using the shortcuts**:**

I = Inpoint where you want the video to start

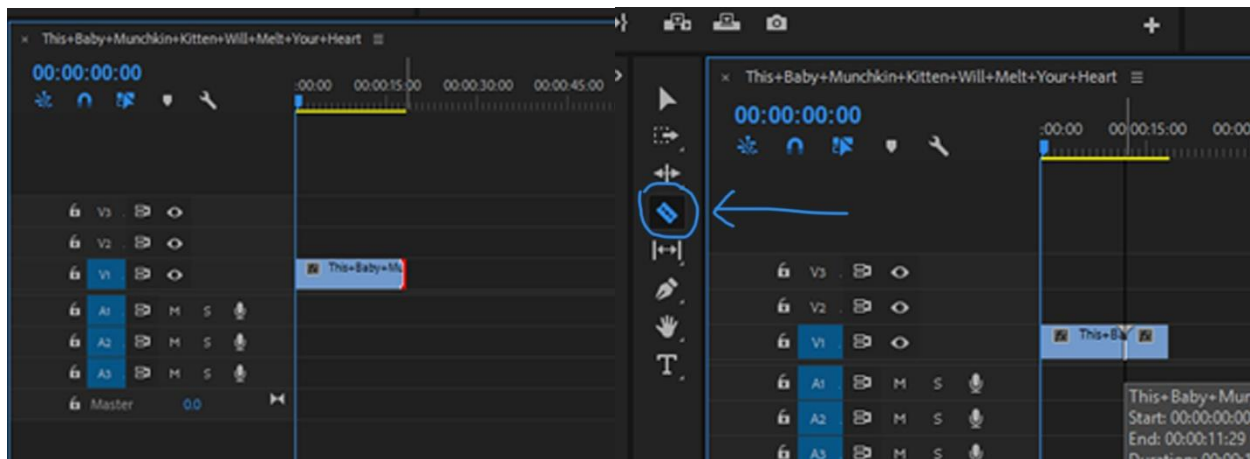**O = Outpoint where you want the video to end.**

Dragging the Video icon will grab only the video, and dragging the Audio icon will grab only the audio.

Once you have a video in your **Timeline Panel**, there are a few ways to trim it. You can grab either end and drag to the point you want to cut, or you can select the razor tool with the shortcut**:**
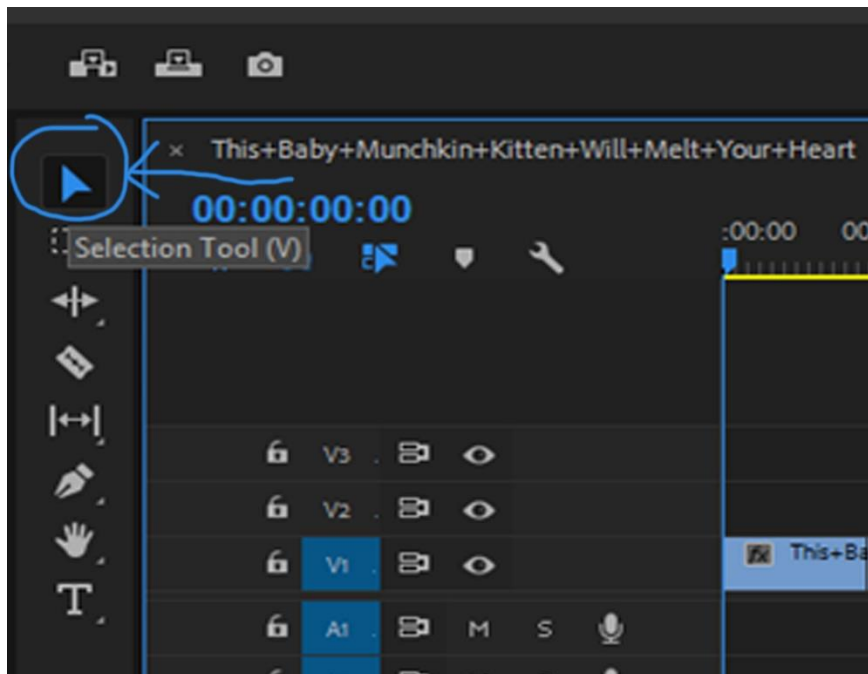
C = Razor Tool

and cut the video without deleting the excess.

The **shortcut:**

V = Select Tool

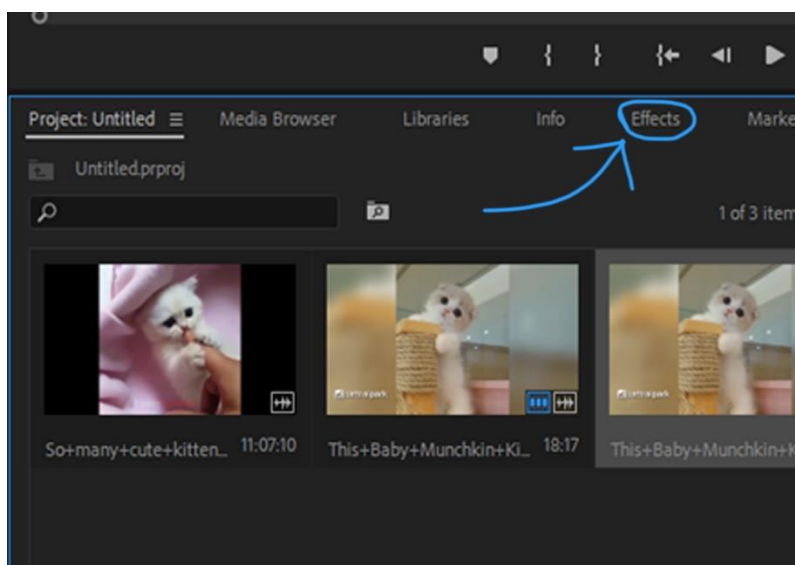will bring you back to the select tool.

Tip: To enlarge any panel press the **shortcut:**
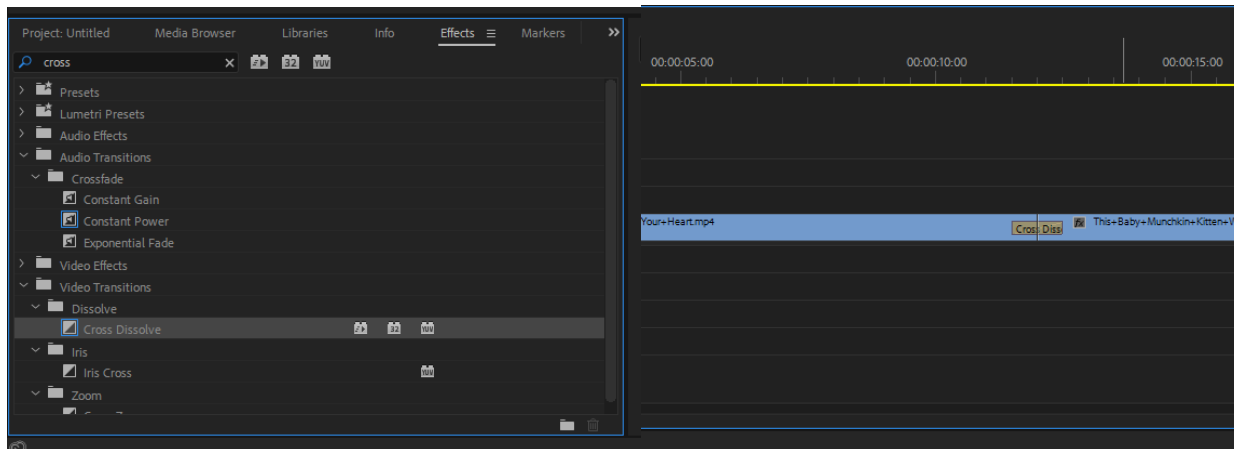 **~ = enlarge panel**
while hovering over it.

Effects

    After you cut video, you can start adding transitions and effects to that video. There are hundreds of effects that Premiere offers, but here are a few of the basics to get you started. All of your effects will be found in the **Effects Panel** in the bottom left.
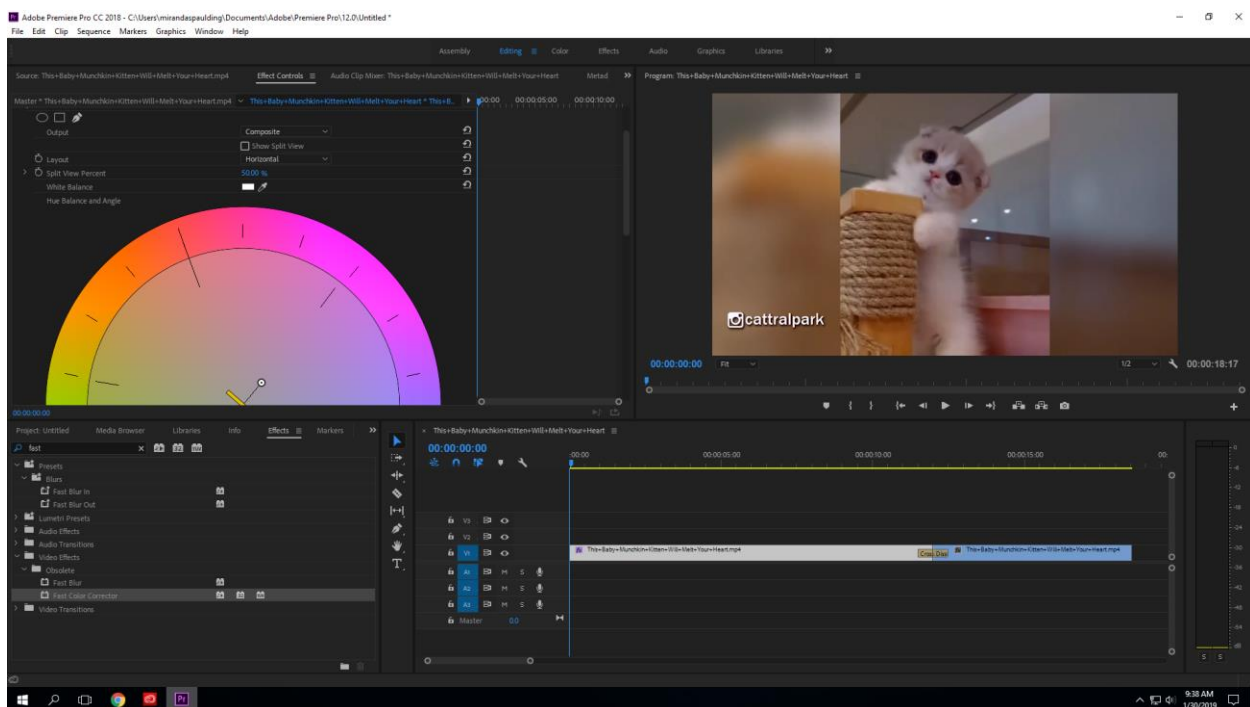
Cross Dissolve

"Cross dissolve" is an easy fade transition you can put between clips when you don't want to have a hard cut. After going to the effects panel, search "Cross." Click and drag "Cross Dissolve" between clips to create a fade between them.
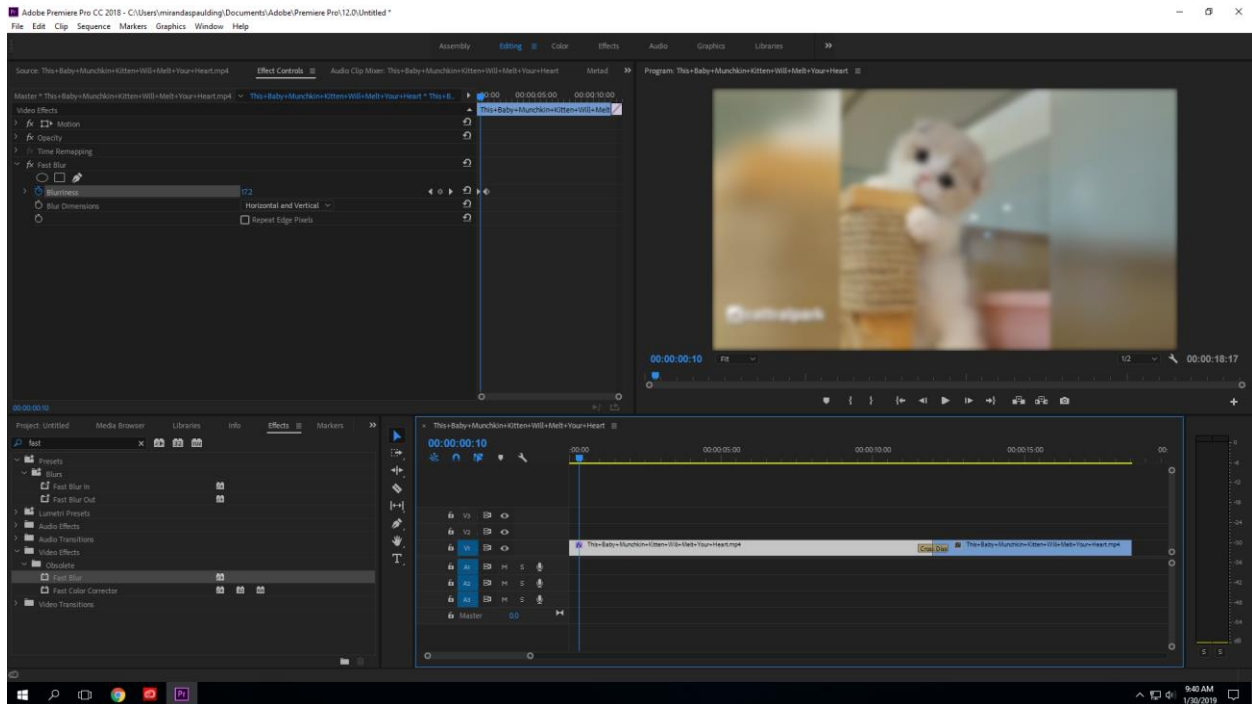

Fast Color Corrector

By typing "fast" into the search bar, you can find "Fast Color Corrector" and drag it onto your clip. You can quickly adjust hue, saturation, and brightness. This is a great tool to use if your footage came out too dark, too bright, or weirdly orange. Just adjust the sliders to your liking.
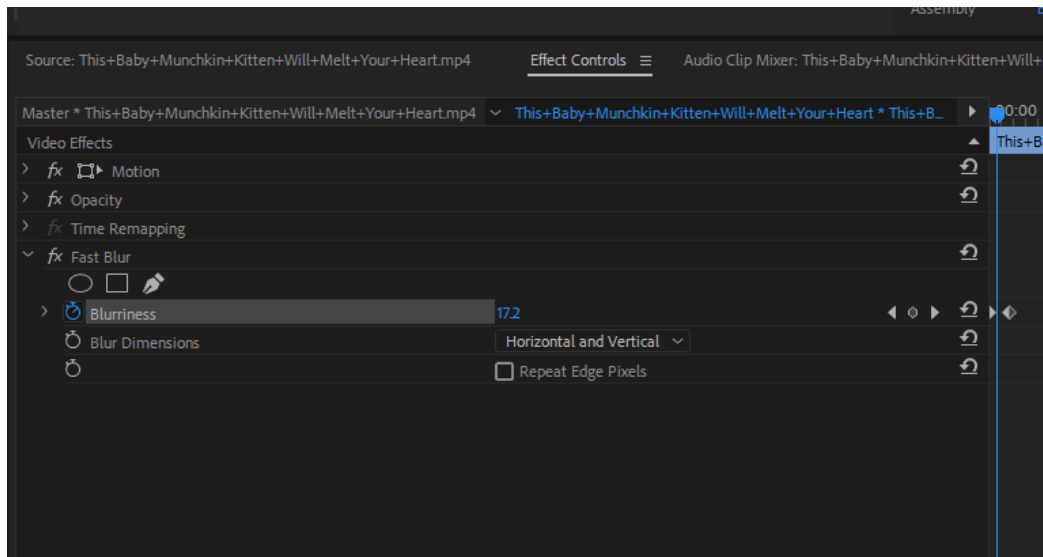
Fast Blur

"Fast blur" will also be one of the effects that appears when you search "fast." Dragging this onto a clip will let you adjust the blurriness of a clip using keyframes. Keyframes are a very important effect tool that we will discuss next.

Keyframes

Keyframes are added points that can create a fade in or out on a video. Let's take "fast blur" for example. If you want your video to start blurry and fade to clear, you'll want to drag the effect over the video and turn up the blurriness. From here, clicking the stopwatch icon will create a keyframe. Then you can slide your cursor to the point in the video where you want the blurriness to go away and set it back to 0.0 blurriness. This will create another keyframe and gradually adjust the video from blurry to clear between those two points. We will also discuss how keyframes can be used for audio later.
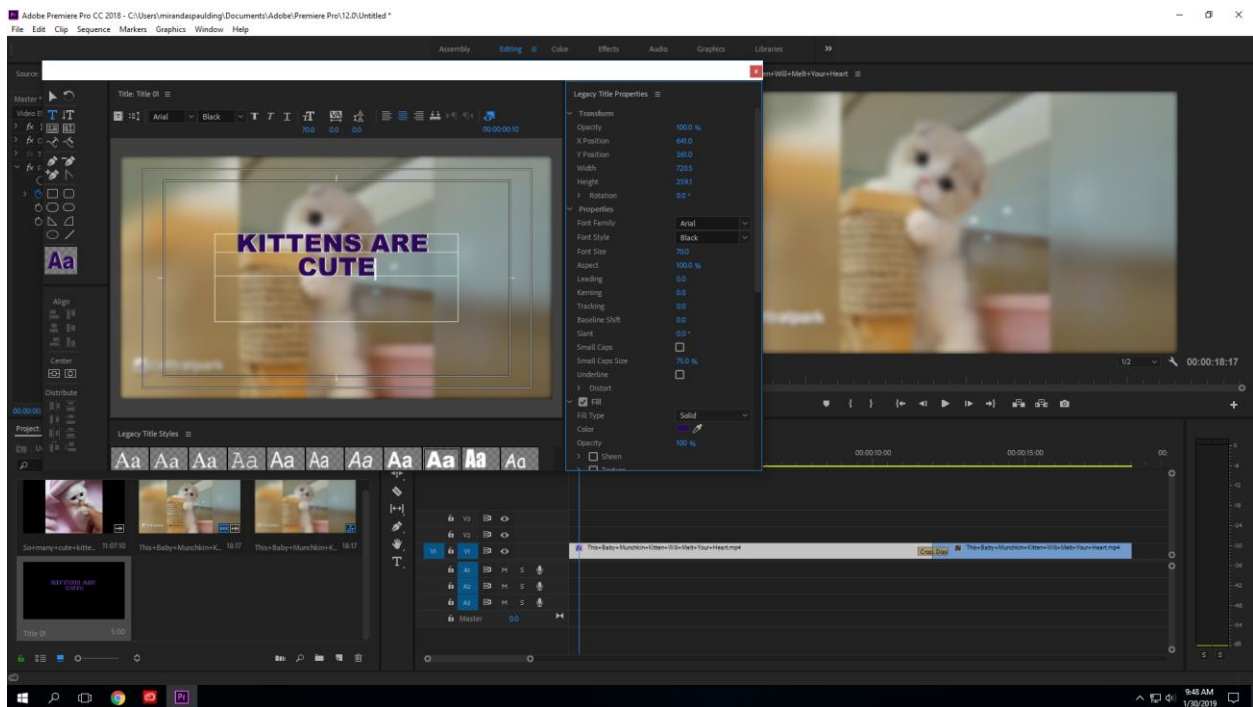
Title

Adding a title can be done by clicking

File >>> New >>> Legacy Title.

From here you can adjust font, position and coloring. After you have one you like, exit, and drag your title from the project panel to where you want it in your sequence, including overtop of video if you would like.
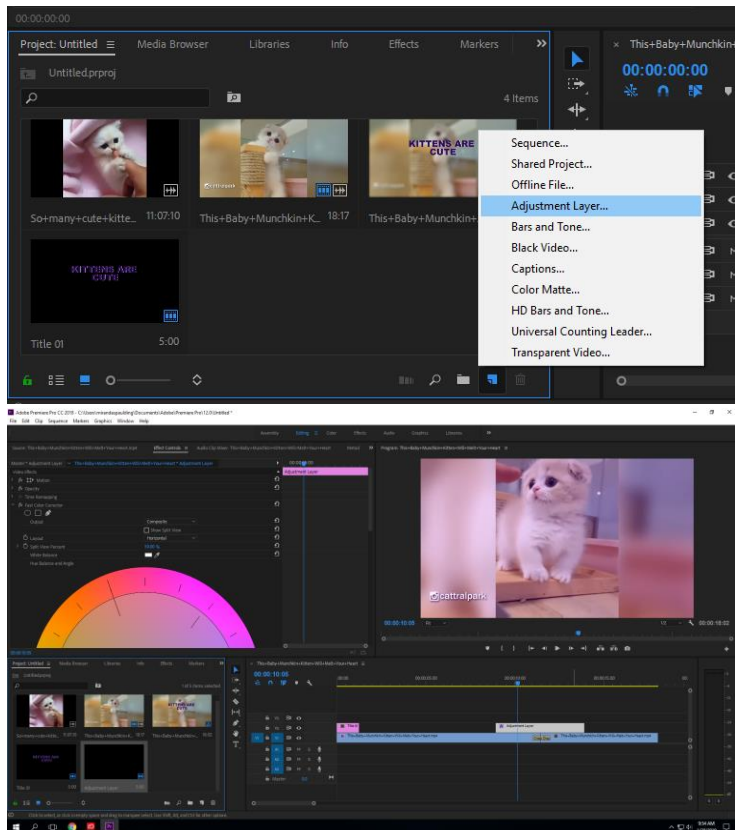

You can also apply the same effect to multiple clips. In the **project panel**, select

New Item >>> Adjustment Layer

Add all of the effects you want to have over the span of multiple videos to this adjustment layer and drag it overtop of all of the videos you want to be affected. You can also copy and paste effects to clips if you would like using the regular **shortcuts:**
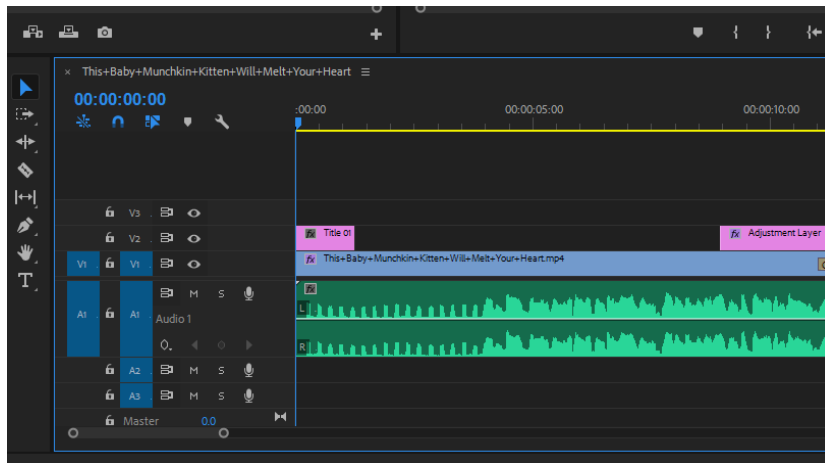
Command+C for copy

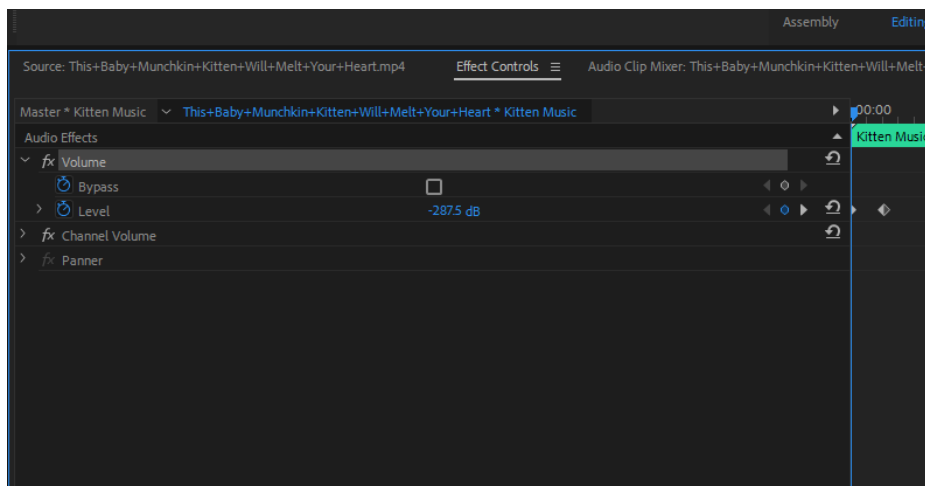**Command+V for paste**

Audio

Audio is very important in creating a Premiere Project. Firstly, it's important to see your audio clearly. Hovering over your audio clip and scrolling up will expand your audio file.
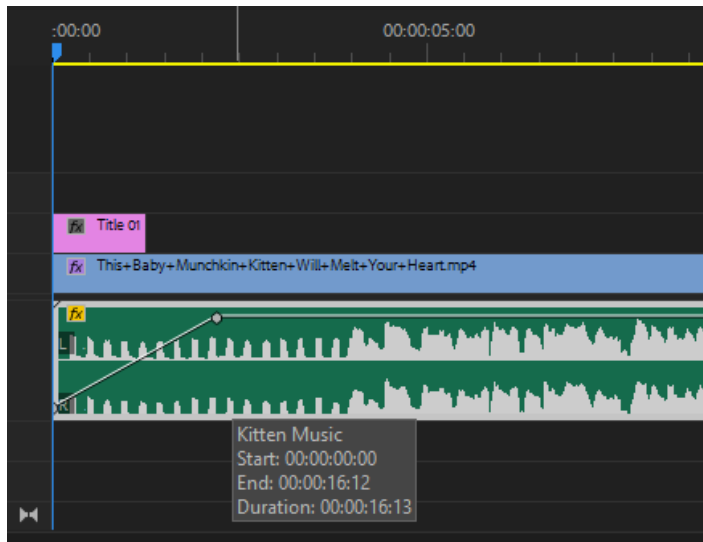
Audio can be cut and spliced the same way video can. But abrupt cuts in audio can be disorienting for the viewer. You can adjust volume in the effects panel by using keyframes.
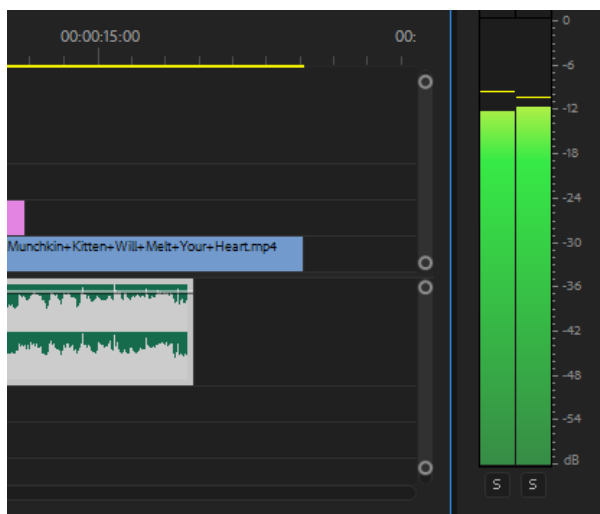
-287 = Silent

You can also directly click and drag the keyframes on the audio file.

There is also a green audio volume bar on the far right of the Timeline panel. A good rule of thumb is to keep all audio between **-6 and -24**

Tip: It's important not to have any blank space without audio in your video, this doesn't mean to have music at all times, but to make sure you have **ambience** throughout your project. Ambience is the white noise that can be heard in the background of someone speaking, and is often not able to be heard by the naked ear. Each room makes a sound however, and including this white noise can make your audio sound less choppy.
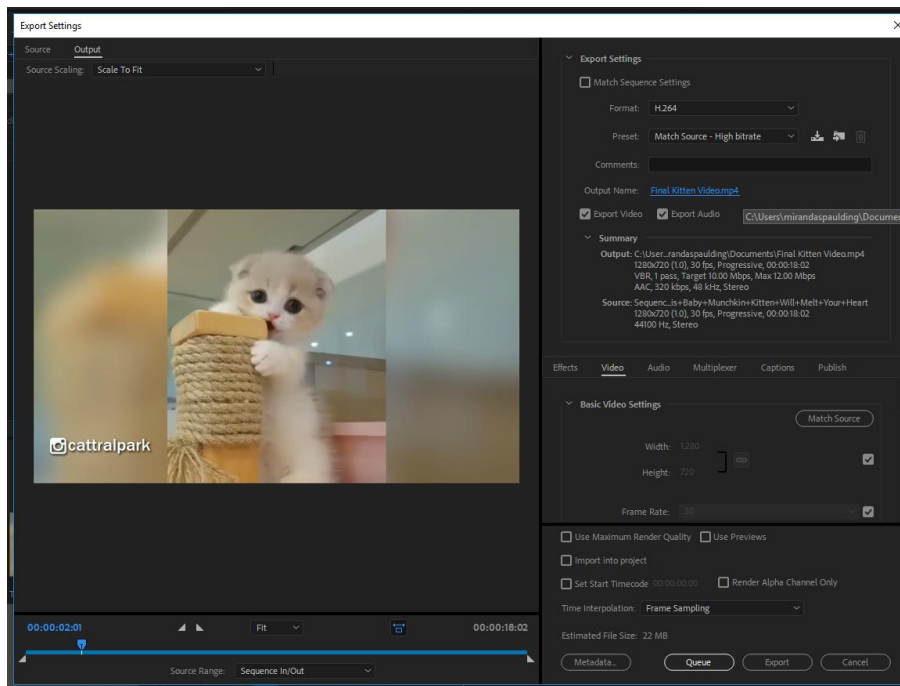
Exporting

When you're all done with your project, you'll want to make sure you can export it the right way. There are a wide variety of formats and presets you can export in depending on where you expect your video to be viewed, but the basic

format you'll use is H.264,

and the basic preset you'll use is "Match Source High Bitrate".

You can also change the output name here, and clicking on output name will allow you to select the location you're saving it to.

After you're done, make sure export video and audio are both checked and click export. It may take a little while depending on the speed of your computer and the quality you're exporting, so give yourself a lot of time to render. And that's it! You're done!