How to use nested sequences

A nested sequence is a sequence-in-a-sequence. You can break up a project into manageable chunks by creating project segments in separate sequences. Then you can drag (nest) sequences—with all their clips, graphics, layers, multiple audio/video tracks, and effects—into one or more other sequences. There they will look and behave like individual audio/video clips.

You can select, move, trim, and apply effects to nested sequences as you would to any other clips. Changes you make to the original sequences show up immediately in any nested instances created from them.

The nesting sequence feature in Adobe Premiere Pro CS6 provides a number of time-saving techniques to help you create effects that otherwise would be difficult or impossible. You can:

- Apply color correction or some other video effect to a long sequence with multiple edits. Instead of applying that effect to each clip in turn, you simply place—nest—the sequence in another sequence and apply a single instance of video effect (or several effects) to it. Any effect options values you apply to the nested sequence clip affect the entire nested sequence. Another option is to add the effects to a single adjustment layer that is placed in a video layer above the individual clips. Adjustment layers are covered in the guide titled, “How to apply and adjust video effects.”
- Apply effects or a transition to a group of layered clips. For example, use the Cross Dissolve transition on a single nested sequence instead of applying it one at a time to each layer of that sequence.
- Simplify editing by creating complex sequences separately. This helps you avoid running into conflicts and inadvertently shifting clips on a track that is far from your current work area.
- Reuse sequences or use the same sequence but give it a different look each time.
- Organize your work in the same way you might create sub-bins in the Project panel. It’s one way to avoid confusion and shorten editing time.

Three nesting sequence examples

Nesting one sequence in another is easy: you simply drag a sequence from the Project panel to a different sequence in the Timeline panel (you cannot nest a sequence into itself).

In these tasks you create three nesting sequences. You apply a video effect to one sequence and a video transition to another and then do something that would be impossible without nesting sequences: apply more than one transition at the same place in a sequence.

To complete these tasks, we recommend you complete the “How to work with alpha channel transparencies” guide and the “How to apply and adjust video keying effects” guide. They cover compositing (layering) techniques needed to complete the second task in this guide.

To complete these tasks, you need at least three video clips you will place in a single video track and three clips you can composite, such as a green-screen clip, a background clip, and a graphic.

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To perform basic nested sequence functions:

1. Start Adobe Premiere Pro and start a new project. Import the three video clips you will place on a single video track.
2. In the main menu, select File > New > Sequence.

   The New Sequence dialog box appears (**Figure 1**).
3. In the Sequence Name text box, name the sequence **Nested Sequence** and click OK.
4. Drag at least two clips from the Project panel to the nested sequence in the Timeline panel, placing them one after the other on the same video track.
5. In the Timeline panel, click the tab of the other sequence that was in the project when you first started Adobe Premiere Pro. It should be named Sequence 01 (**Figure 2**).
6. In the Project panel, drag the Nested Sequence clip to the empty sequence in the Timeline panel for Sequence 01.

   The nested sequence appears as a single clip in that sequence (**Figure 3**).

   Note: The color of the Nested Sequence clip is different from clip colors you've seen to this point.
7. In the Effects panel, expand the Video Effects bin, expand the Color Correction bin, and drag Channel Mixer to the video portion of the Nested Sequence clip.

   Note: You can select a different video effect. We chose Channel Mixer because it offers a wide color adjustment latitude.

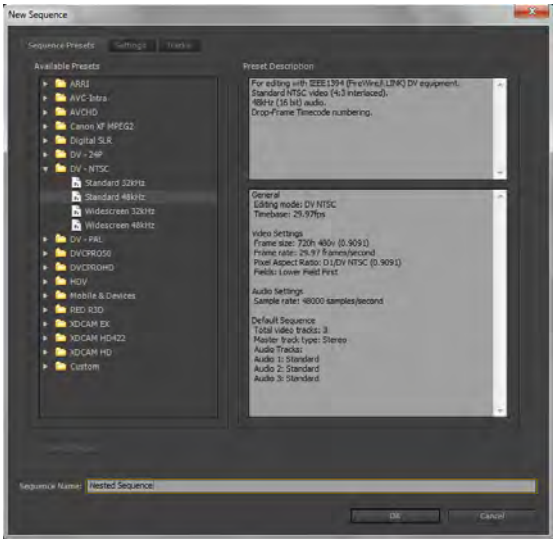

Figure 1 New Sequence dialog box

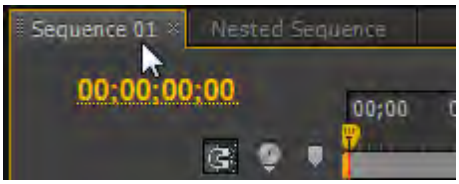

Figure 2 Timeline panel, Sequence tabs

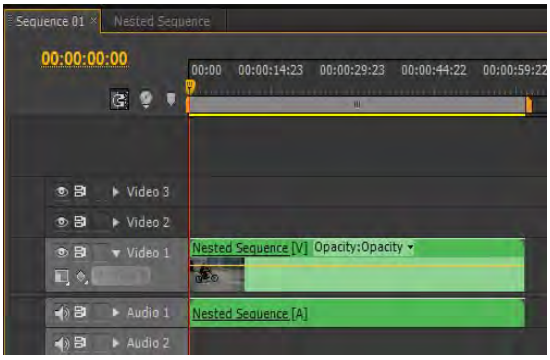

Figure 3 Timeline panel with a nested sequence

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8. In the Effect Controls panel, change some of the Channel Mixer option values until you find a color mix that suits you (**Figure 4**).
9. In the Timeline panel, click the Nested Sequence tab to display that sequence.
10. In the Effects panel, Video Effects bin, expand the Stylize bin, and drag Posterize to one of the clips you added to the original Nested Sequence clip in step 4.
11. In the Project panel, drag an additional clip after the clips already in the original nested sequence.
12. In the Timeline panel, click the Sequence 01 tab to display that sequence.
13. Move the CTI to the location in the nested sequence where you applied the Posterize video effect.

    The change you made to the clip in the original nested sequence shows up in its portion of the nested sequence (**Figure 5**).
14. Move the CTI to the end of the Nested Sequence clip.

    The last frame is the first frame of the clip you just added to the end of the original (source) nested sequence.
15. Drag the out point of the nested sequence to the right as far as it will go.

    The nested sequence clip displays the newly added clip.

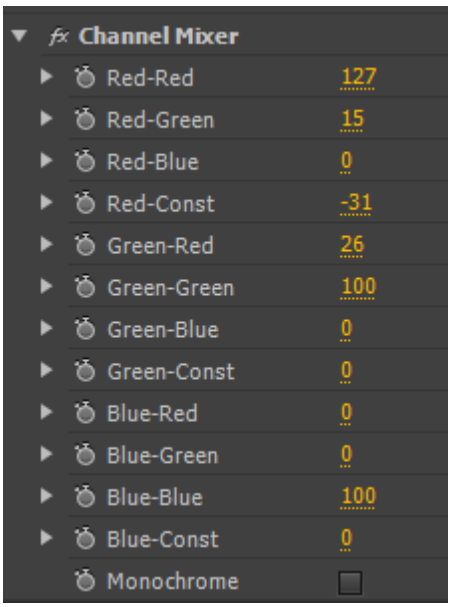

Figure 4 Channel Mixer effect options

Figure 5 Nested sequence with Posterize effect

To apply a video transition to multiple composited clips:

1. Start Adobe Premiere Pro and start a new project. Import the three clips you will place on three video tracks, one above the other.
2. In the main menu, select File > New > Sequence.

   The New Sequence dialog box appears.
3. In the Sequence Name text box, name the sequence **Nested Composite Sequence** and click OK.
4. Drag the three clips to the Nested Composite Sequence (placing them one above the other in video tracks 1, 2, and 3); then add any effects needed so you can see portions of all three clips.

   We used a background video clip on Video 1, a green-screen video clip on Video 2, and a logo graphic on Video 3 (**Figure 6**) to create the clip in the example (**Figure 7**).
5. In the Timeline panel, click the tab of the sequence that was in the project when you first started Adobe Premiere Pro. It should be named Sequence 01.
6. In the Project panel, drag the Nested Composite Sequence clip to the sequence displayed in the Timeline panel.
7. In the Effects panel, expand the Video Transitions bin, expand the Dissolve bin, and drag the Dip To Black video transition to the end of the Nested Composite Sequence clip (**Figure 8**).
8. Play the nested sequence clip.

   All three layers fade to black in concert. To do this in the original sequence would require applying the Dip To Black transition to each of the three clips.

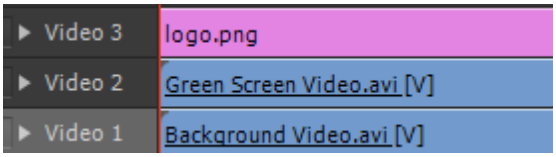

Figure 6 Timeline panel with three layered clips

Figure 7 Three layered clips

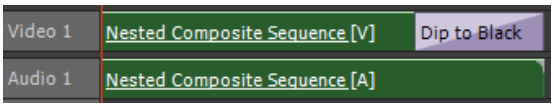

Figure 8 Nested sequence with Dip To Black video transition

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To apply more than one transition to the same place:

1. Start Adobe Premiere Pro and start a new project. Import two video clips.
2. In the main menu, select File > New > Sequence.

   The New Sequence dialog box appears.
3. In the Sequence Name text box, name the sequence **Multiple Transitions Sequence** and click OK.
4. Drag the two clips to the Multiple Transitions Sequence, one after the other in the same video track.
5. In the Effects panel, expand the Video Transitions bin, expand the Slide bin, and drag the Center Split transition to the cut line between the two clips in the sequence.

   Note: If there is insufficient footage to apply the transition, trim the Out Point of the first clip and the In Point of the second clip and then reapply the transition.
6. In the sequence, click the transition rectangle to select it and to display its options in the Effect Controls panel.
7. In the Effect Controls panel, do the following (**Figure 9**):
   - Set the Border Width value to 20.
   - Select a Border Color that will stand out from the colors in your clips.

   To see the transition in the Program Monitor, drag the CTI over the transition in the Timeline panel. The transition should look something like the example (**Figure 10**).
8. In the Timeline panel, click the tab of the sequence that was in the project when you first started Adobe Premiere Pro. It should be named Sequence 01.
9. In the Project panel, drag the Multiple Transitions Sequence clip to the open sequence in the Timeline panel.
10. Move the CTI to the center of the transition in that nested sequence clip.
11. Select the Razor tool and cut the clip there.
12. Apply another instance of the Center Split video transition at the cut line and give it a different color border.
13. Play this sequence (**Figure 11**).

    You have created two transitions that play simultaneously at the same cut point between two clips. Without a nested sequence, you could not have done this.

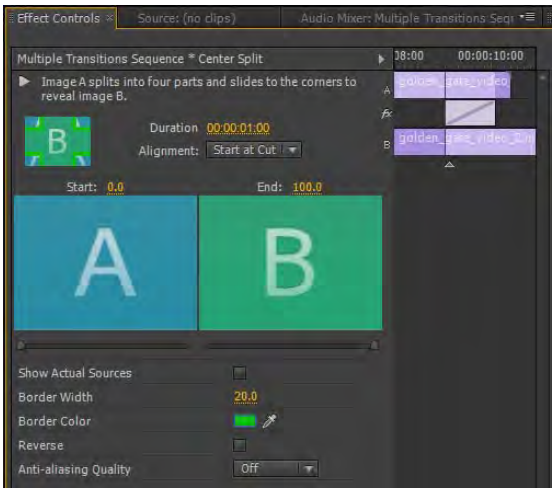

Figure 9 Effect Controls panel, Center Split video transition

Figure 10 Center Split transition

Figure 11 Second transition applied to a nested sequence