How to record narration

You can record narration for your video directly into Adobe Audition CS6. Adobe Audition lets you control the volume, clarity, and length of the narration more precisely than when recording directly into Adobe Premiere Pro CS6. Once the narration is in Adobe Audition, 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.

Recording narration

You can record audio from a microphone or any device you can plug into the Line In port of a sound card. After connecting a microphone, set up your input (microphone) and output (speaker) devices in Adobe Audition. You can then record narration in the Waveform Editor or in the Multitrack Editor.

In the Waveform Editor, you can save a new file and record, or you can record to an existing file to overwrite or append the current recording.

When recording in the Multitrack Editor, Adobe Audition automatically creates a new WAV file and stores that file in the multitrack session folder. Clip filenames begin with the track name, followed by the take number (for example, Track 1_003.wav). After recording, you can edit takes to produce a polished final mix.

To get the best-sounding results, you should record audio as loud as possible without clipping. Try to keep the loudest peak somewhere between –2 dB and 0 dB when setting recording levels.

In this guide, you create a new file in the Waveform Editor, and record narration.

To set up input and output audio devices:

1. Connect your microphone to your computer.
2. Open Adobe Audition, and select Edit > Preferences > Audio Hardware (Windows) (**Figure 1**) or Audition > Preferences > Audio Hardware (Mac OS).

   The Preferences dialog box appears with the Audio Hardware category selected.
3. Open the Default Input menu and select your microphone.
4. Open the Default Output menu, and select your speakers.
5. Open the Sample Rate menu and select a sample rate for the audio.

   Higher sample rates result in better-sounding audio but larger files.
6. Click OK to close the Preferences dialog box.

Figure 1 Audio Hardware preferences

To record narration in the Waveform Editor:

1. Open Adobe Audition and click the View Waveform Editor button (**Figure 2**).

   The New Audio File dialog box appears (**Figure 3**).

   If the New Audio File dialog box does not appear, select File > New > Audio File.

2. Enter a filename and click OK.

   The new audio file appears in the Files panel (**Figure 4**).

   The Editor panel appears empty because you have not recorded any audio for the new file (**Figure 5**).

3. Select the new audio file in the Files panel.

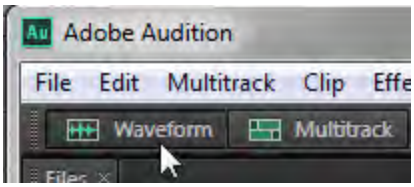

Figure 2 View Waveform Editor button

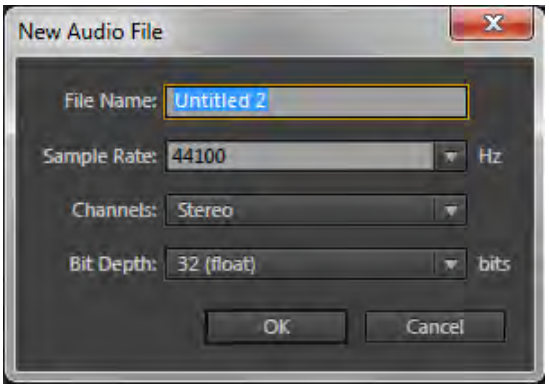

Figure 3 New Audio File dialog box

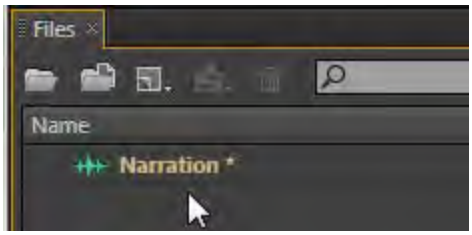

Figure 4 Files panel

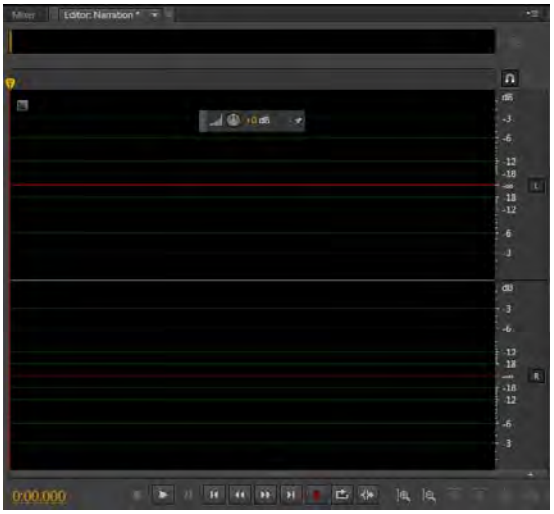

Figure 5 Editor panel

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4. Click the Record button in the Editor panel, and start recording your narration (**Figure 6**).

   As you speak, notice that the audio Decibel meter in the Levels panel indicates the recording volume (**Figure 7**).

   Note: If you get the error message "The sample rates of the audio input and output devices do not match. Audio cannot be recorded until this is corrected," you need to change the sample rate of your microphone and/or speakers. You can do this by changing the sound properties in your computer operating system.

5. When you finish recording, click the Stop button in the Editor panel (**Figure 6**).

   Note: You can also click the Pause button to pause recording. Click the Pause or Record button again to resume recording.

   A waveform for the new audio file appears in the Editor panel (**Figure 8**).

   Note: The file has been automatically saved as a Waveform file (WAV). To save the file in a different format, such as MP3, select the file in the Files panel and select 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.

6. Position the Current Time Indicator (CTI) at the beginning of the clip in the Editor panel, and press the spacebar or click the Play button to play the new recording. Press the spacebar again or click the Stop button to stop the playback.

Figure 6 Editor panel

Figure 7 Levels panel

Figure 8 Recorded narration waveform in the Editor panel