

CAR Video Unit – Video Editing Using AVID

Part 4 Using Trim Mode and Segment Mode to Produce a Fine Cut. Using Transitions.

When we have our rough cut finished and on the timeline, we can then 'fine cut' the piece to improve the 'flow' to produce a more polished final result. Editing is more art than science and, as a result, is often very subjective. No two editors will ever cut the same piece in exactly the same way. Sometimes cuts work, sometimes they don't, and an often used phrase in editing is 'cut with your gut'. If a cut 'feels' right – it probably is. If it doesn't feel right we have to amend it.

Trim Mode

We enter Trim Mode by clicking on the icon which is second on the left in the toolbar immediately above the timeline. This will make 'rollers' appear at the cut nearest to the blue line on the timeline. The clips affected can now be treated as though they were clips of film or audio tape, and 'rolled' in or out as required to alter the length of the clip.

When 'double rollers' are shown, rolling out one clip has the effect of rolling in the other. In other words, we extend one clip at the expense of the clip next to it.

Clicking in the clip monitor or the timeline monitor leaves us with only one roller in evidence, either to the left or the right of the designated clip. This allows us to roll out or roll in the designated clip without affecting the clip next to it.

By using trim mode, we can ensure that clips are of exactly the length we wish them to be – doing this frame by frame if necessary – and it allows us to do this far more quickly than would be the case if we were extracting or lifting designated areas (as we were doing in the last session).

To get out of Trim Mode, click on the trim icon once more.

Segment Mode

We enter Segment Mode by clicking on the Red Arrow icon below the timeline. Once in segment mode any video or audio clip we click on will turn pink (press and hold the SHIFT key to designate multiple clips).

Any 'pink' clips can now be moved around on the timeline – either by using the single/10 frame arrow keys on the keyboard, or by left clicking and holding with the mouse. Clips which have been highlighted in pink can be moved anywhere – even to different audio or video tracks.

To get out of Segment Mode, click on the icon once more. **NB If you forget to do this you will find that you are moving clips when you don't want to when continuing to edit.**

Transitions

Sometimes, cuts just don't work, no matter how you trim them. In these circumstances, editors tend to mask the fact with transitions (though transitions are also used to create a desired effect even when straight cuts work, of course).

The most commonly used transition in factual programming is the 'dissolve' - where one clip is faded out as the next is faded in. To insert a dissolve, place the blue line marker on the timeline over a cut and then click on the 'Quick Transition' icon (fifth from the left above the timeline). A box appears which allows you to designate the length of the dissolve, determine where it should start and finish, and so on. When these are to your satisfaction, click on the 'add and render' button to place the transition on the timeline.

There are many other transitions which can be used – click Tools => Effect Palette on the top toolbar and click and drag the purple icon over a cut to see what is available. Most of them seem a bit 'gimicky', however, which is why they aren't often used in factual programmes.

As with other effects, many transitions need to be rendered before work properly. To render an effect, place the blue timeline marker above the effect, then press the 'render effect' button (sixth from the left above the timeline). If this doesn't work, mark in and out points either side of the effect, then click Clip => Render In/Out on the top tool bar. The latter method allows multiple effects to be rendered at once.

To remove a transition or other effect, place the blue timeline marker above it, make sure the track is activated, then click the 'Remove Effect' – eighth button from the left above the timeline.