025:250 COMPOSITION: ELECTRONIC MEDIA I
Summer 2013
Fades in Pro Tools

1. I'd like to create a demo and handout for fades in Pro Tools.

2. From the EMS samples, find a piano note of C3 ff. Import into PT and take a snapshot, using the format that I showed Dan and Will at the beginning of the summer. Paste the snapshot into a Word document.

3. Copy and paste it in the same PT track and place it to the right of #2. Normalize it and paste its snapshot into Word.

4. With the cursor, highlight exactly 3 seconds, starting at 1" from the beginning of the file. Paste the same image as in # 3, but with the highlighted area shown.

5. Paste the highlighted area to the right of #3 and paste the image into Word.

6. Copy and paste this area to the right of #5 and normalize it. Paste the image into Word.

7. Note that everything that results with an image pasted into Word will exist as a unique region in the PT track. This is because this presentation will have an audio component.

8. Following the same principles as above, select 0 – 1" and paste the image.

9. In Word, explain how to use cmd F to open the fade-in window. When writing a key command into Word, use the cmd symbol rather than the abbreviation cmd. Since we always use Times New Roman 11 point, stay with 11-point for the symbol. I am not sure if you can use the same font or not.

10. You may have to backtrack for this. When you make the selection from 0-1" in the region, discuss why the left-most starting point needs to start before the region starts.

11. Choose one of the fade types and apply it. Paste the image of the fade window after you have selected the desired fade. Paste the image of the region after the fade has been applied.

12. Copy and paste the original region without the fade in the track, then make your selection again, but instead of starting as close to 0" in the region as you can, start the selection 0.25" before the region. Paste the image.

13. Apply the same fade type, which will show how the region doesn't start at 0 db, but a little louder (I am sure you know why, as we talk about this in class in Peak all the time). I'll stop instructing you to paste snapshots, as I am sure you get the idea. Since this is also going to be an audio demo, I want to make sure that we will be able to hear that soft click when the region begins not at 0 db, but a little louder.

14. Repeat the fade-in steps but with a fade-out, from 2 – 3". Make sure you capture the image and sound when you end the fade-out at 0.25" after the region ends. As before we will hear a little click.

15. This is the end of Part I, although you don't need to use these words. Now that you have shown the reader the basic principles of avoiding clicks, you should methodically go step-by-step through every possible fade type. Every example should be its own region, and every image should be pasted into Word.

16. After you have gone through all of the fades, turn your attention to what happens to region that has a fade in it when you copy and paste it after altering the volume and pan automations. There should be an edit point where the fade joins the rest of the region. Show what happens with time expansion and reverb, and how these are screwy with the fades present. This will lead up to a discussion of consolidation. Show how much better behave automated volume and pan are, as well as time expansion and reverb.

17. Once you have thoroughly discussed the importance of consolidating fades, then go through and consolidate all of the faded regions. Make sure you do this to copies, not the originals.

18. Conclude this demo in Word by discussing the relation of fades and automated volume. Make the point that you can do everything in this demo by not using fades at all, but using automated volume instead. The reason I teach fades is so that I can use automated volume to control overall loudness of a region, as well has using it to create interesting loudness curves.

19. I may be a little mixed up about fades and time-based operations, as well as automated volume and pan. By the way, when you discuss automated pan, do it for both L and R. This makes more work for you, but is clearer and more complete for the reader. A hidden message in doing this is so that the reader learns to appreciate and expect to deal with precise details.

20. This will be the most important demo/handout because you are establishing format principles in terms of track layout and screen shot sizes.

21. This resulting work that you produce with be a PT session with every region, fade, and example that you discuss. You will also produce a Word doc that could conceivably be used in an html document or even a print book. I haven't decided whether to go the book route yet. That will depend on funding and publishing. You will be liberally and fully cited for your contributions.

22. In the Word doc, use my general format, which often refers to the example of image below. Let us avoid using example numbers for now. However, it would be very useful to use timings from the PT session.

23. I'm sure you will have many questions. You can email me docs and snapshots, and you can either come over to my house or I could come in to school.