Adobe Premiere™

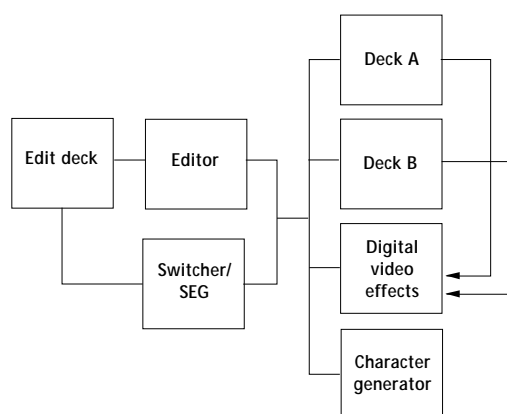# Adobe ℠ Customer Services

Avoiding A/B Roll Problems in Traditional Video Editing

The A/B roll is an important component of video postproduction. An A/B roll is achieved by rolling two videotape sources at the same time and making a transition from one source (A) to the other source (B). The result is then recorded to the master tape on the edit deck. Without the A/B roll, fades, wipes, keys, and many digital video effects would not be possible.

In a traditional video production environment, A/B rolls are done by a computerized video editor. For example, an A/B roll video system might be configured as follows:

Adobe Premiere can generate an Edit Decision List (EDL) that contains a list of all clips, transitions, and special effects in the movie. It is used by a postproduction video editor to assemble the master videotape from the original tapes. Adobe Premiere lets you export EDLs in many different formats, including the CMX 3400, CMX 3600, Grass Valley, Sony® BVE, and any additional formats supported by third-party plug-in modules.

If your postproduction system uses A/B roll editing, you should use the following guidelines when assembling a project in Adobe Premiere. With careful planning, you can use Adobe Premiere as a cost-effective, time-saving, off-line editor.

• Keep on separate reels; scenes that will have a transition between EDLs do not allow transitions between clips on the same reel of tape. For example, if a scene fades from a man sitting on a park bench to a shot of the city surrounding him, the shot of the man should be on one reel of tape, and the shot of the city should be on another. If you want to make a transition between scenes that are on the same reel, make a copy of the reel. You may lose a little quality, but at least you will be able to achieve the transition.

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• Give each reel a unique name. If the names are similar, reels could become confused with each other. On some postproduction systems, such as the CMX 3400, you can give your reels only numerical names (001, 002, and so on).

• Log your source material. View each tape, and take notes along with time code readings. Doing so will save wear and tear on the tapes and time, because you won't have to do extensive searching on the tapes during video capture.

• Include the reel name as part of the clip name when you capture. Doing so helps prevent accidentally making a transition between two scenes from the same reel. If the reel name is too long to include, enter it in the notes section of the Adobe Premiere Project window.

• If you intend to use unsupported effects (such as digital video effects, speed control, and audio fades), make sure you generate notes in your EDL so that you can manually produce the effect later .