

# Sound Cheat Sheet

## Collecting sound for video

### Thinking about sound while shooting

Video may be your preferred visual medium, but clean sound is essential to make your piece complete. Just as you want your visual sequences to contain a range of shots, you want to gather a variety of clear sounds to help you edit a well-paced video.

**Natural (nat) sound** punctuates your piece between interview clips and helps to drive your narrative arc. **Ambient sound** can help to set the mood and give a sense of place to your viewer.

## Recording Sound with the C100

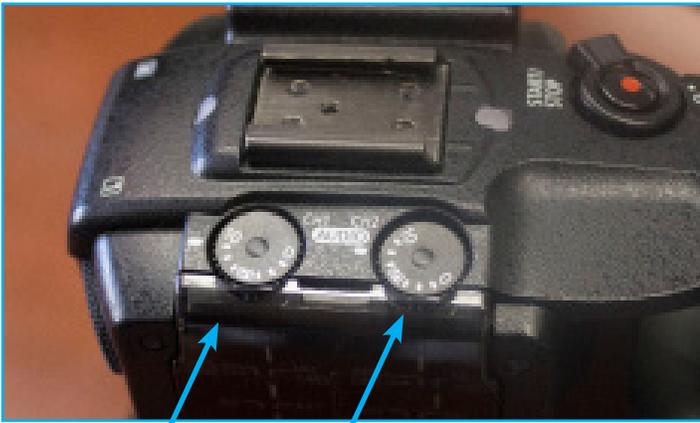
### Audio Gain

If you record sound too loudly or too softly, the quality diminishes. For best results, your target volume when recording sound should be **close to 10 decibels**. You'll see the audio monitor jumping in the right corner of the LCD screen of the C100.

Audio that is too quiet can be made a little louder during post-production, but audio that is too loud is generally damaged beyond repair. Staying in the safe zone will save you work later.



The audio monitor on the C100.  
The sound displayed here is too quiet.  
It should hit right around 10 decibels.



These dials adjust the audio gain.

If your audio levels are too quiet, roll the wheel for the corresponding channel (1 or 2) toward '10.' If they're too loud, roll the wheel toward '0.'

You will need to monitor and adjust these throughout your shoot, because the volume of the surrounding environment changes as you change location.

*Always wear your headphones to monitor what's being recorded, but continue to watch your meters to determine volume.*



Get close to whatever you're recording for a clearer sound.

Just as the student did in the picture, you can take your shotgun mic off of the top of your camera to move closer to the subject you're recording.

Monitor your audio levels as you record- the same guidelines for ideal volume apply here, too.

*TIP: Gather your ambient sound and your interview sound SEPARATELY.*

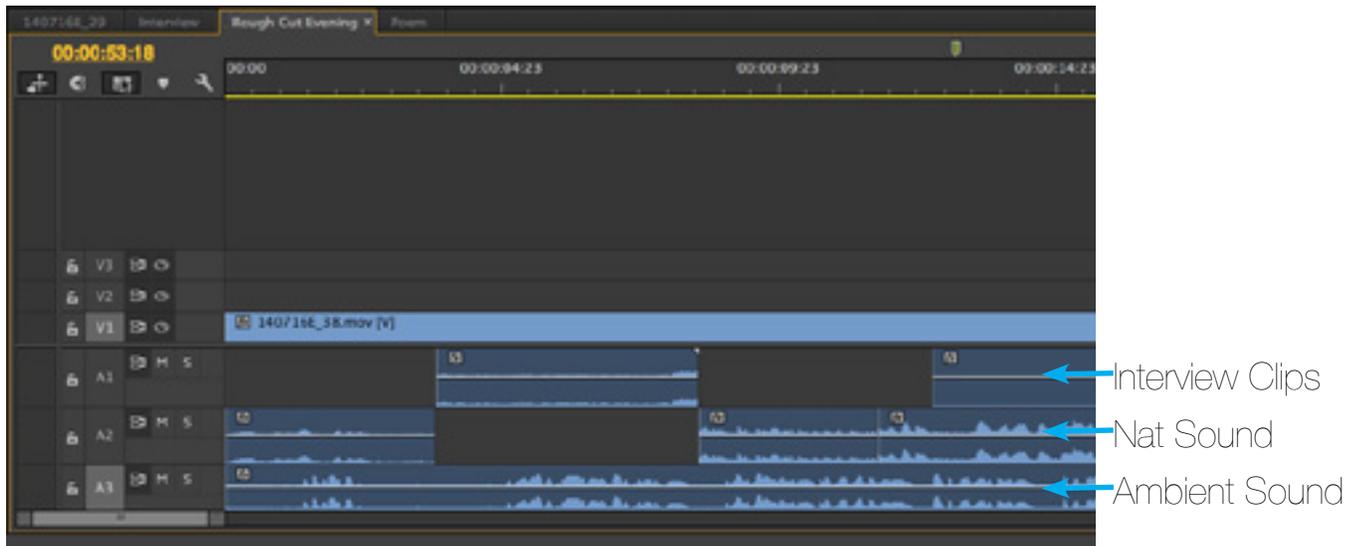
If you're looking for nat sound (like running water or the sound of a pen dropping), make sure the ambient sound in the background doesn't overwhelm it.

The same goes for ambient sound - make sure no additional noise is polluting it. If you record them as two distinct sounds, you can control the mix in your piece.

# Post-Production in Premiere

## The Radio Cut

A radio cut is the first cut of your piece. It's the primary audio edit, without polished visuals. At this point, you've probably transcribed your interviews, selected the audio clips you want to use and mixed in all of the natural sound.



## Using Nat Sound

Natural sound can be used in-between interview clips to create breathing room, to represent a changing scene or to change your pacing.

**TIP:** Give your narration and your characters' voices space to breathe. Silence isn't always a bad thing in video! You shouldn't place all of your clips immediately next to one another.

**TIP:** Edit transitions between clips cleanly. You don't want sudden breaks in nat sound, total silence or a bump caused by one clip running into the next. Use audio transitions or the pen tool to make sure they transition more smoothly.

## Using Ambient Sound

Ambient sound (the noise in the background of a location) can be used at the beginning or end of a piece to set the scene. It can also be faded in and out throughout the piece to complement your existing audio or to smooth transitions between interviews and nat sound.

# Premiere Keyboard Shortcuts

Start and stop playback	Spacebar
Ripple delete	Option+delete
Marker in timeline	M
Razor blade tool	C
Group clips	Command+G
Redo	Shift+Command+Z
Undo	Command+Z
Cut	Command+X
Copy	Command+C