

Automate mixes on the fly


From the experts at Adobe

Whether you're creating a 30-second radio advertisement or a complete movie soundtrack, manually adjusting every track in a large multitrack mix can be time-consuming. With the versatile Mixer panel in Adobe® Audition® 2.0, however, you can quickly create sophisticated mixes by recording dynamic parameter changes during playback.


The files used in this tutorial are on Disc 2 of the Total Training Video Workshop (included with Adobe Audition and Adobe Production Studio). Copy the Adobe Audition 2.0 folder from that disc to your desktop. Alternatively, you can follow along using the default multitrack session that installs with the application, Audition-Theme.ses.

Set up a session for efficient mixing

In Adobe Audition 2.0, you can arrange self-adjusting panels in an optimal configuration for any task. The Mixer panel is tailor-made for automating mixes.

1 Start Adobe Audition, click the Multitrack View button  in the toolbar, and choose File > Open Session. In the Adobe Audition 2.0 folder you copied to the desktop, select Mixer.ses, and click Open.

2 Click the tab for the Mixer panel to bring it forward.

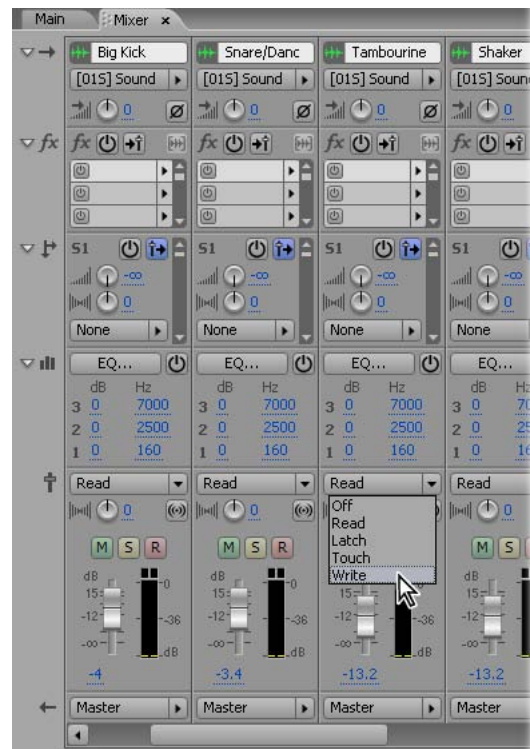
 Choose Window > Workspace > New Workspace to create a custom panel arrangement you can recall instantly.

Record mix automation

Adobe Audition 2.0 lets you record a perfect mix in one or more passes. Simply enable track automation and adjust settings such as volume, pan, and EQ. If you have a compatible hardware control surface, you can even adjust multiple tracks simultaneously.

1 From the Track Automation Mode menu for the Tambourine track, choose Write.


Note: If you want to record changes for multiple tracks at the same time, repeat step 1 for each track.



After you set Track Automation Mode to Touch, Latch or Write, you can simply play a session and record dynamic changes for volume, pan, and effects parameters.

2 Press the spacebar to play the session. While it plays, slowly adjust the volume fader for the Tambourine track (and any other tracks you enabled in step 1).

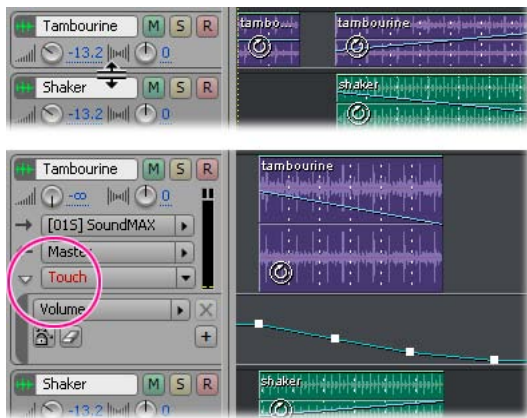
- 3 Press the spacebar to stop playback, and then press it again to start playback from the beginning of the session. Note that volume faders on the adjusted tracks move automatically, matching the changes you recorded in step 2.
- 4 To avoid inadvertently overwriting your changes, choose Read from the Track Automation Mode menu for the adjusted tracks.
- 5 Repeat steps 1 through 4 for any other tracks you want to automate.

 The Read option protects an entire track from inadvertent changes. To protect individual parameters, enable their Safe During Write option. For more information, see Adobe Audition Help.

Fine-tune automation with envelopes


Visual envelopes let you fine-tune recorded automation or create a dynamic mix from scratch. Envelope edit points in Adobe Audition 2.0 are similar to keyframes in Adobe Premiere® Pro and After Effects®. These points let you vary mix parameters precisely over time.

- 1 Click the tab for the Main panel to bring it forward.
- 2 In the Tambourine track, click the triangle to the left of the Track Automation Mode menu. (To reveal the triangle, you may need to drag the lower edge of the track controls downward.)



- 3 The automation lane for the Volume parameter includes an envelope that reflects the automation you recorded in the Mixer. Place the pointer over the envelope, but away from your previous changes. Click to add an edit point, and drag it to the desired time location and volume level.

- 4 Press the spacebar to hear your changes. To make adjustments, drag the edit point to a new location. Or, to remove the edit point, simply drag it off the automation lane.


 For more information about envelopes and automation lanes, see Adobe Audition Help.



Mix down the session

After you fine-tune a session, it's time to mix it down to a file that you can distribute via the web or an audio CD.

- 1 Choose File > Export > Audio Mix Down, and specify a file name, location, and format.

 The default format, Windows PCM, is the best choice for audio quality and broad compatibility.

- 2 In the Mix Down Options section, select Master to include the output of all tracks. To automatically open the exported file, select Insert Mixdown Into, and choose the desired view from the menu.

- 3 Click Save. Your automated mix is ready for delivery.

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