

keyframes, with the lowest portions of the curve representing slowest motion and the highest portions of the curve representing the fastest motion.

The **Bézier** curve in this example produces a movement between my **Position** settings that is slow in movement to about the three-second point, then increases in speed as it approached the second keyframe. (**Bézier** settings are a rather high-level concept, so you might want to experiment to develop a feel for how the various settings affect the results.)

72 Control a Video Track's Opacity over Time

✓ BEFORE YOU BEGIN

- 67 About Keyframing
- 68 About the Properties Panel

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- 69 Add Motion to a Still
- 70 Pan and Zoom Still Images a la Ken Burns
- 73 Control Volume at Specific Points

Just as you can map motion to specific points in a clip using keyframing, you can map other effects and properties (such as **Image Control** and **Opacity**) to specific points in a clip.

In [67 About Keyframing](#), we demonstrate that the automatic video **Fade In** and **Fade Out** effects are actually keyframed effects. Creating such an effect from scratch is also easy, the result being the video equivalent of the audio fade effect created in [73 Control Volume at Specific Points](#).

1 Select a Clip on the Timeline

Click to select a video clip on the main **Timeline**. If you have clips on more than one track and you want to adjust the opacity for one clip so another clip shows through the first clip, arrange the clips in the tracks so the clip to adjust is on an upper track and the clip you want to show through is on a lower track.

The **Properties** panel shows the standard properties of **Image Control**, **Motion**, and **Opacity** (see [68 About the Properties Panel](#)). If the **Properties** panel timeline isn't visible, click the **Show Keyframes** button at the top of the panel to reveal the timeline. Also click the triangle to the left of the **Opacity** property to reveal its detail settings.

1 Select a Clip on the Timeline

2 Create an Opening Keyframe

3 Set the Opacity for This Keyframe

4 Create a Second Opacity Keyframe

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▶ NOTE

The **Opacity** settings affect the transparency of a clip in your **Timeline**. If nothing is on the video track below the affected clip, making your clip transparent reveals the black background. If a clip does exist on the video track below the clip you're affecting, reducing the clip's **Opacity** reveals the clip on the track below.

2 Create an Opening Keyframe

Move the current time indicator (CTI) on the **Properties** timeline to the beginning of the timeline and click the stopwatch icon to the right of the **Opacity** label. A second hand appears on the stopwatch icon, indicating that the property is keyframed, and a keyframe point for the **Opacity** setting appears at the CTI on the timeline.

3 Set the Opacity for This Keyframe

As long as the CTI remains in position, you can adjust the settings for the current keyframe points. (Move the CTI to apply the current settings and create another set of keyframe points.) Set the **Opacity** value for the first keyframe point to 100%. The selected clip (for example, the clip on the Video 2 track), is displayed in the **Monitor** panel and the clip on the Video 1 track (the lower track) is not visible.

4 Create a Second Opacity Keyframe

Move the CTI to the right some distance and set the **Opacity** value for this point to 0%. A keyframe point is automatically added at the CTI as you change the **Opacity** settings for this clip. (You can reposition the keyframe point on the **Properties** panel timeline if you later decide to do so.)

In the **Monitor** panel, you'll see that the clip has become transparent, revealing the clip on the Video 1 track. (If there is no clip on a lower track, the black background shows through the selected clip.) As you scrub between the two points or play the clip, notice that Premiere Elements has filled in the transitional frames, creating essentially a dissolve from the clip on Video 2 to the clip on Video 1.

Creating additional keyframe points, you can continue to control the opacity of the clip at various points.

Any audio or video property can be keyframed to transition in this way. And, just as you can add motion to a still image by setting keyframe points (see [70 Pan and Zoom Still Images a la Ken Burns](#)), you can morph nearly all the effects and image adjustments by modifying the effect's keyframe settings.

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73 Control Volume at Specific Points

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- [67](#) About Keyframing
- [68](#) About the Properties Panel

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- [70](#) Pan and Zoom Still Images a la Ken Burns

Set Volume Levels in the Properties Panel

Keyframe Creator

1 Select a Clip on the Timeline

2 Set an Audio Keyframe Point

3 Create Additional Audio Keyframe Points

4 Position Keyframe Points

73 Control Volume at Specific Points

Unfortunately, some people speak too quietly on camera, and you need to bring up the audio on your video so you can hear them. Others speak louder than anyone else in the scene, and you need to bring down their audio to make the sound levels more even. And sometimes you just want to lower or completely mute the volume on a clip so an alternate track of music or narration can dominate.