

Expand to New Tracks by Time Code Only Read Me

June 3, 2008 — Modified in Pro Tools HD & LE 7.4cs5 for Mac OS X & Windows*

**Please Note: Time code features in Pro Tools LE require DV Toolkit 2 option.*

Modification: Expand to New Tracks by Time Code Only (Item # 102582)

Expand To New Tracks By Time Code Only capability lets you expand a track or selected region to new tracks, revealing all other regions recorded at the same time code location, regardless of channel name or number. In previous versions, other metadata needed to match in addition to time code for this feature to work.

Background

This approach is useful when expanding edited guide tracks to original source audio which was recorded while referenced to time code, but channel names or numbers were not written to the audio files. For example, when a live concert is recorded in Pro Tools, then a guide audio track is edited along with the video, then the edited guide track is returned to Pro Tools and needs to be expanded to the original source tracks for mixing.

Typical Workflow

1. Multitrack audio is captured in Pro Tools while chasing time code. A mono or stereo mix is recorded simultaneously as a guide track.
2. The picture and audio guide tracks are then edited in a video editing application.
3. The edited audio guide tracks are exported from the video editor as an AAF or OMF sequence, including handles of at least 2 frames.
4. The AAF/OMF sequence is imported into Pro Tools as a new session.
5. The original source audio files and unedited guide track are also imported into the session.
6. The original unedited guide track is relinked to the session (see below).
7. The Pro Tools editor right-clicks on the guide track's name plate and selects Expand to New Tracks > By Time Code. The original source tracks will expand to new tracks with edits and fades that match the guide track.

Relinking the Original Unedited Guide Track

After importing the AAF or OMF sequence and original source audio files into the session, it is recommended that you relink the edited guide track to the original unedited source audio file(s) as follows:

1. Go to Window > Project Browser and expand the Audio Files folder for the session.
2. Right-click on the edited guide track audio file and choose Relink Selected.
3. In the upper pane of the Relink window, navigate to the original unedited guide track audio file which was recorded in Pro Tools. (Note: if the original unedited file is not available, you can relink to any of the source audio files as long as they have the same start and end times as the guide track.)
4. In Select Files To Relink, highlight the edited guide track file.
5. Drag the original unedited guide track audio file into the Candidates pane. If a dialog appears stating that one or more files are shorter than the media file you are trying to relink, click Yes to select it for relinking anyway.
6. Check the box to the left of the file in the Candidates pane so that the Link icon appears.
7. Choose Commit Links at the top of the Relink window and then close the Relink window.
8. You can now right-click on the guide track's name plate and select Expand To New Tracks > By Time Code. All expanded tracks should be in synchronization with the guide track.

Known Limitations with Expand to New Tracks by Time Code

- Qualified with Broadcast WAV files only, other file types are untested.
- Supported with mono tracks only—you must split stereo tracks into mono, or drag them onto two mono tracks before expanding.
- Do not use AudioSuite or fade files on guide audio tracks in Pro Tools prior to sending them to the video editing application, as this will break the time code relationship with the original files.
- When recording the original files in Pro Tools, it is best to either record while chasing time code, or record in Grid mode with the grid set to 1 frame. This ensures that the files begin on frame boundaries and helps prevent loss of synchronization when exchanging the guide tracks with the video editor.