
10: Playlisting & Comping

Pro Tools 2

APP 3

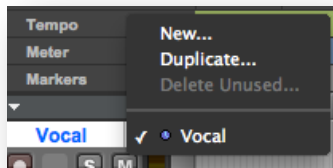
Nov 17, 2015

Overview

By the end of this chapter you should be familiar with all of Pro Tools Playlisting options as well as how to utilize focus keys and quick keys to comp fast and effectively.

New Playlist, Duplicate Playlist, Delete Playlist

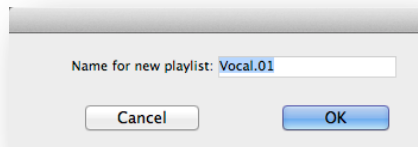
To create a new playlist on a track you can click on the dropdown menu beside the individual track name and select New. You will notice below this option there is also a Duplicate playlist option. Both of these have Quick Keys!



Playlists are NOT linked to their audio tracks. This means that we can pull up any playlist on any track at any time! Though an extremely useful feature jumping playlists around from track to track can get confusing fast so be careful!

Naming Conventions:

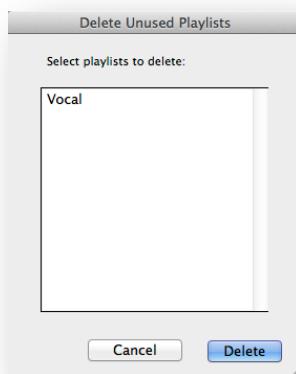
I highly recommend that you leave your primary playlist or your “master take” named with no extensions.



Pro Tools will automatically name new playlists for you with an incremented number. If you have an audio track named Vocal, upon selecting new playlist Pro Tools will automatically name the new playlist Vocal.01, the next new playlist will be named Vocal.02 and so on. By not recording on your un numbered playlist you can leave it available for comping and later for your master take.

Deleting a Playlist

Deleting Playlists is a slightly more difficult task. Because playlists are accessible from any track they exist outside of the bounds of any single track. Click on the drop down menu on ANY audio track and select Delete Unused Playlists. This will open a new dialogue box that will allow you to browse and select and playlists due for deletion.



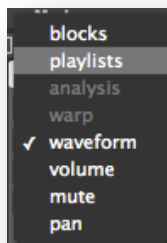
Quick Keys:

New Playlist:
Control + \

Duplicate Playlist:
Command ⌘ + Control + \

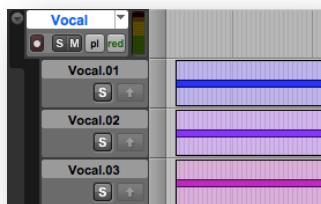
Enter Playlist View

Playlist view is a relatively new feature and pro tools so lets take a look. First make sure that the audio track(s) that you're comping have the desired comp track selected. If you've followed the naming convention mentioned previously it could be Vocal or another excellent naming option would be to create a new audio track named Vocal.00.Comp. This will place your comp track at the top of your playlists menu right underneath your master take, leaving it available for the future.



Select playlist view option from the dropdown menu below the name of the track or cycle to the playlist view with your Quick Key!

Playlist view should now appear showing you all available playlists within the track.



Navigating Playlist View

You can easily navigate your selections up and down by using the focus keys (p) for up and (;) for down.

Once you have your selection you can monitor each playlist by clicking the solo button or using the Quick Key!

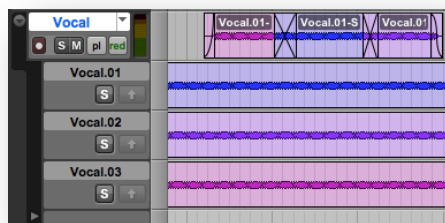
Once you have found something you like then you can promote your selection to the active playlist by clicking the up arrow on the track or by using the Quick Key!

Now all that is left is to listen and make your selections!

Cleaning up your comp

Now that you have a comp track you may notice that the audio cuts and jumps. We will need to use the Trim Tool to adjust the lengths of the waves and then apply crossfades in order to combine the audio cleanly.

A crossfade simply reduces the volume of one clip to 0 while increasing the following audio file from 0.



Quick Keys:

Cycle Track View:

Command ⌘ + Control + ←

Command ⌘ + Control + →

Track Solo: Shift + S

Promote Selection to Active Playlist:

Option + Control + V

Chapter Review

You should now be able to create and delete playlists as well as comp audio from the playlists to a master track while utilizing the playlist view option in pro tools.

Quick Keys:

New Playlist:

Control + \

Duplicate Playlist:

Command ⌘ + Control + \

Cycle Track View:

Command ⌘ + Control + ←

Command ⌘ + Control + →

Track Solo: Shift + S

Promote Selection to Active Playlist:

Option + Control + V