

User Tip: Pan and Scan

All Avid editing products (with the exception of the Avid DS Family) support the Avid Pan and Scan effect; this feature will be added to Avid Xpress Pro with v5.2.1.

With the explosion of HD, HDV and 16:9 anamorphic programs, the need to work with different aspect ratios is becoming more of a challenge every day. Adding to the challenge is having to mix 4:3 sources or deliver to both 4:3 and 16:9 aspect ratio formats. The Avid Pan and Scan effect offers the easiest and fastest interface to meet those challenges.

Pan and Scan is part of the reformat tool found in the effects palette.

In addition to the preset formats using letterboxing or sidebar, the Avid Pan and Scan effect allows the user to reformat the program on a per shot basis using the best composition for that shot. These shots can also be keyframed to simulate a camera move (the pan effect).

This kind of reformatting may be used, for example, when taking a 16:9 anamorphic program and creating a flat 4:3 that goes beyond the fixed center crop used by decks and other solutions .

It can also do what is sometimes referred to as a “Tilt and Scan” which is taking a 4:3 source and creating 16:9, especially helpful when taking older footage that only exists as 4:3 into a new 16:9 show. The user simply selects source aspect ratio, then a target aspect ratio, and the grid is automatically set up. The grid also allows for safe title and action as well as markers for the theory of “thirds” for resetting the composition.

The Pan and Scan effect can be added to any single clip in the Avid timeline, or to a top layer to quickly change the aspect ratio of an entire program. The subdivide effect, as seen in the second timeline below, breaks down the Pan and Scan for each cut, eliminating the tedious work of keyframing every shot. The user can now jump from shot to shot and grab the grid and move it to its new position based on the best framing for that shot.

Pan and Scan is a real-time effect for final play out or can be used as an offline tool for an HD conform using Avid Symphony Nitris or Avid DS Nitris. The track can be used as part of the SD delivery process, giving the final program the best composition possible for the aspect ratio required.

