

PLAN 9 STUDIOS

Working with a Post Sound Facility

Often I'm asked by Directors and Editors what does a postproduction sound team need and what does the workflow look like? Whether you use Plan 9 or not, here's a quick guide to get you started.

Conformalize

During the editing process, your editor should conformalize (or place in sync) all the audio files recorded during production. S/he should:

- Create a separate track for each character in the film with a speaking part
- Create a separate track for each boom microphone (which typically covers multiple characters)

Export

Generate an AAF file (or a legacy OMF) of all tracks. This is a session file for sound that Pro Tools can import. The AAF does not embed video. (Adobe Premiere instructions [here](#))

- Include all dialog tracks, temp music and temp sound FX
- Export with at least 5 second handles (the length of extra audio each clip can be adjusted)
- Only include camera audio if no other sound is available

Generate an XML (or a legacy EDL). This is a list of every clip you edited into the film and where it was placed. In the event you change sync by re-editing, this will become critical for your sound team to match. (Adobe Premiere instructions [here](#))

- Many Sound Editors (especially in indie film) will charge a penalty for sync changes because of the level of effort required to reconformalize (re-sync often thousands of audio clips) so it's in your best interest to make your final edit, your final edit.

Render a QuickTime copy of your final film.

- 1080p (anything less isn't accurate enough for precise sound work)
- Acceptable CODECS
 - DNxHD
 - Apple ProRes
 - M-JPEG
 - *Avoid MPEG, H.264, and anything downloaded from Vimeo*

Provide a copy of the script in PDF format. This allows for easy and accurate reference if ADR is needed.

Delivery

Physical drives are sometimes the fastest, but there are also several online services that are reliable and secure that can be used to send your files: Dropbox, Google Drive, WeTransfer are among the most popular, but you can also contact us for a free FTP login to our website.