

Moving markers from ProTools to Avid Media Composer

This article give a simple illustration on how to move markers that have been created in a ProTools session over to a Media Composer as a group of time line Locators.

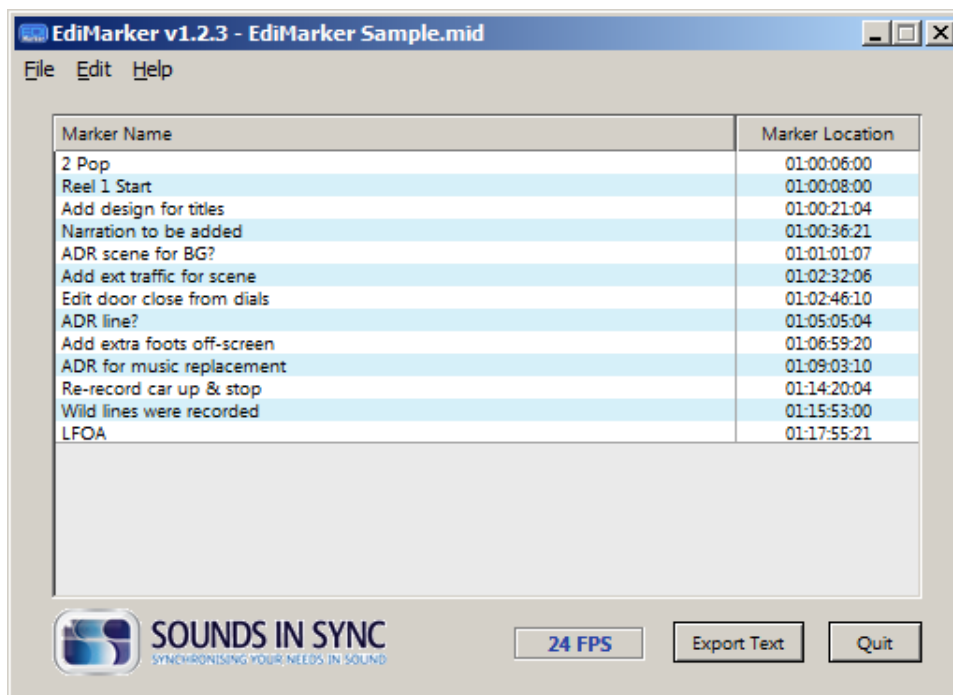
As there is no simple one button solution to move the marker info from a Protools session to Media Composer a third party piece of software is needed to achieve this and this comes in the guise of EdiMarker (www.soundsinsync.com/products/edimarker) This is a great piece of software that allows you to take a MIDI session from the Protools and then extract the locators info from the session as a simple text TAB delimited file. So how do you go about making a file that a Media Composer can read?

Step1

Create a MIDI file from the ProTools session that has the marker info you want to get into your Avid.

Step 2

Download and install EdiMarker onto your workstation and then open the MIDI file... I've used the example file that SoundsInSync provide for this guide. Don't forget to donate to them if you found this software useful and timesaving!



Hit the 'Export Text' button and the system creates a text file for you that will look like this...

```
2 Pop 01:00:06:00
Reel 1 Start 01:00:08:00
Add design for titles 01:00:21:04
Narration to be added 01:00:36:21
ADR scene for BG? 01:01:01:07
Add ext traffic for scene 01:02:32:06
Edit door close from dials 01:02:46:10
ADR line? 01:05:05:04
Add extra foots off-screen 01:06:59:20
ADR for music replacement 01:09:03:10
Re-record car up & stop 01:14:20:04
Wild lines were recorded 01:15:53:00
```

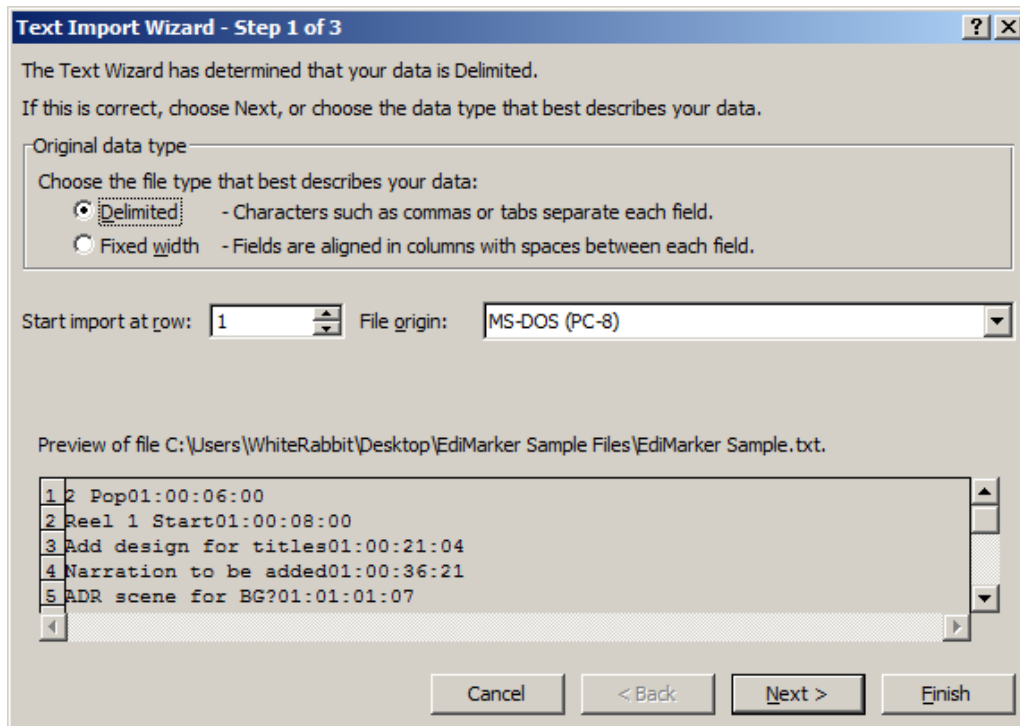
Step 3

Avid Media Composer has the ability to import and export locator information and this is done with TAB delimited files with a specific layout, an example of which is show below...

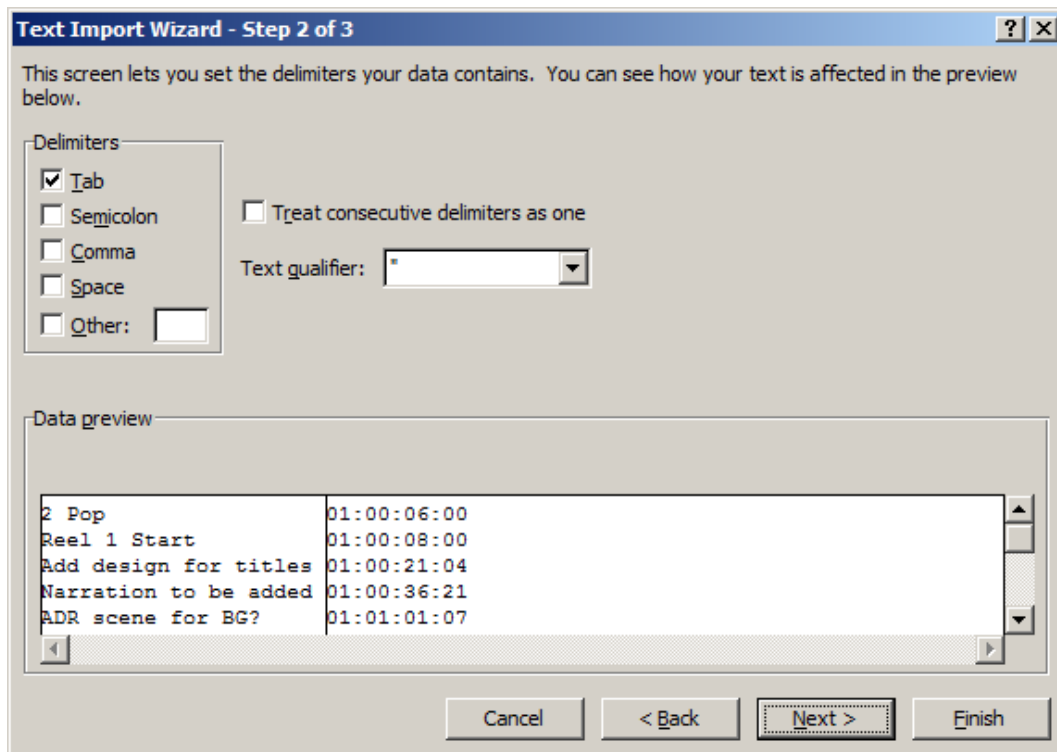
	A	B	C	D	E
1	User	TC	Track	Locator colour	Comment
2					
3	Andy Wild	01:03:13:24	V1	red	andrew first
4	WhiteRabbit	01:08:07:01	V1	red	Andrews second
5	WhiteRabbit	01:16:24:10	V1	blue	andy third

Using the format show here (I've added the column heading to help clarify what column does what) it is simply a question of importing the text file created by EdiMarker into Excel and then reordering the columns to match what Media Composer is expecting, as above. So all that needs to be done is to import the file into Excel...

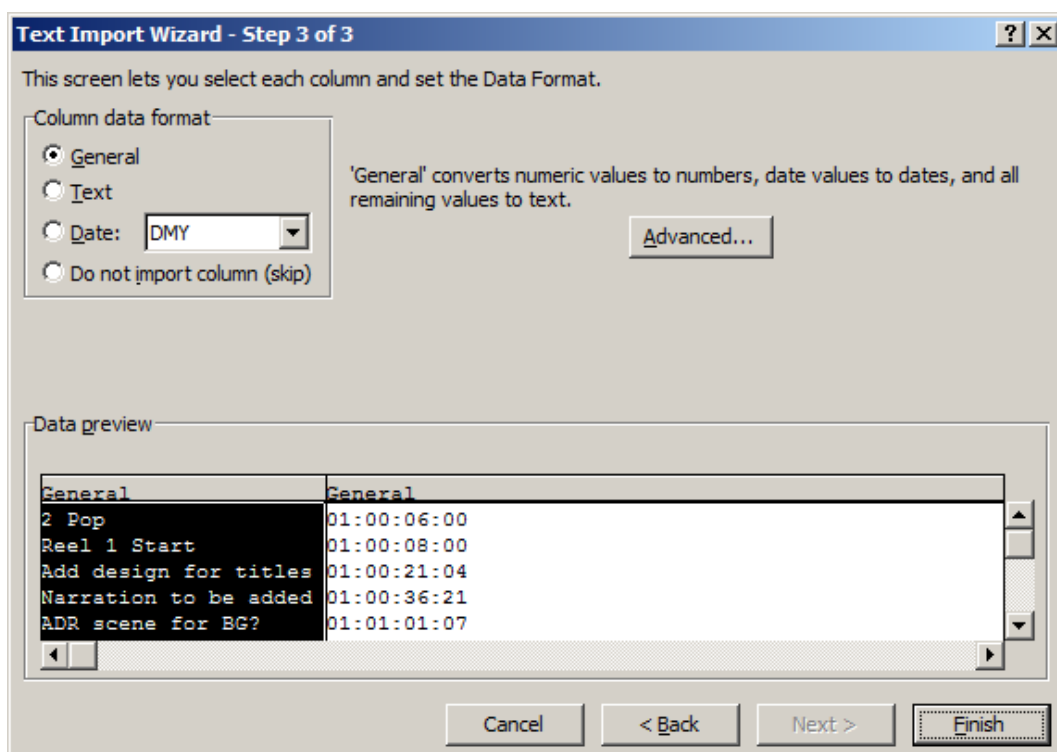
Launch Excel and then simply choose Open from the File menu and find the text file that you created earlier from the EdiMarker software. Excel should sense that the file is Delimited and will ask you how it should interperate the file.



Choose Next here to agree that the file is delimited.



Make sure that Tab is selected as this is how the file is delimited. The preview panel can help you decide if the lay out looks right or not.



Finally choose General for the column type as we are not too fussed how Excel treats the cells that are created.

You should now have a file that looks something like this...

	A	B	C
1	2 Pop	01:00:06:00	
2	Reel 1 Start	01:00:08:00	
3	Add design for titles	01:00:21:04	
4	Narration to be added	01:00:36:21	
5	ADR scene for BG?	01:01:01:07	
6	Add ext traffic for scene	01:02:32:06	
7	Edit door close from dials	01:02:46:10	
8	ADR line?	01:05:05:04	
9	Add extra foots off-screen	01:06:59:20	
10	ADR for music replacement	01:09:03:10	
11	Re-record car up & stop	01:14:20:04	
12	Wild lines were recorded	01:15:53:00	
13	LFOA	01:17:55:21	
14			
15	Original file:	EdiMarker Sample.mid	
16	Timecode format:	24 FPS	
17			
18	Created using:	EdiMarker v1.2.3	
19	Text Encoding:	System Settings (Win)	
20	More info:	http://www.soundsinsync.com/edimarker/	
21			

You don't need the info at the end of the file, so in the case above, I can delete Rows 15 to 20 as its going to confuse the Avid.

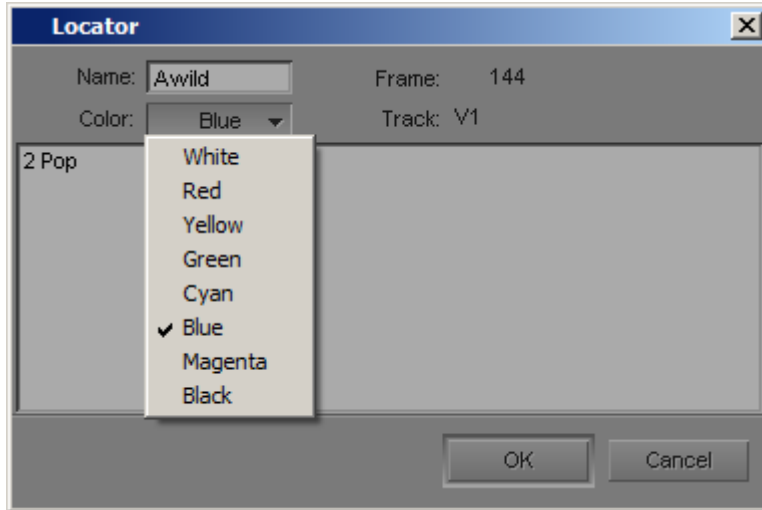
Step 4

You now need to move the columns about so that the Avid understands the file when it is read. So column A needs to be moved to column E and column B can stay as it is.

	A	B	C	D	E
1		01:00:06:00			2 Pop
2		01:00:08:00			Reel 1 Start
3		01:00:21:04			Add design for titles
4		01:00:36:21			Narration to be added
5		01:01:01:07			ADR scene for BG?
6		01:02:32:06			Add ext traffic for scene
7		01:02:46:10			Edit door close from dials
8		01:05:05:04			ADR line?
9		01:06:59:20			Add extra foots off-screen
10		01:09:03:10			ADR for music replacement
11		01:14:20:04			Re-record car up & stop
12		01:15:53:00			Wild lines were recorded
13		01:17:55:21			LFOA
14					

Now all that needs to be added is the additional information in the blank columns else Media Composer will give errors.

In the A column a name needs to be added, in my case I've added my name alternatively you can use the name Protocols so I can see where this info has come from, it up to you. In column C you need to nominate a track on the Avid timeline to place the locators. In this case I've chosen V1. Column D now simply needs a colour for the locator, in my case I've chosen blue. Other colours you can choose from are...

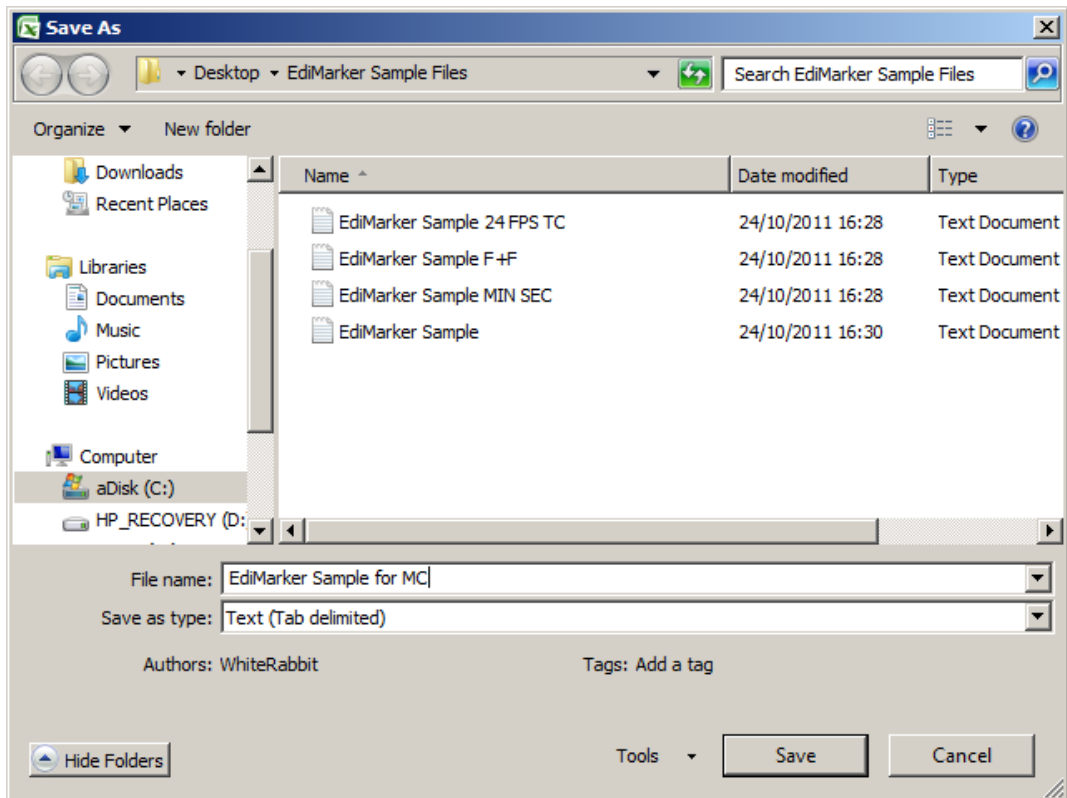


The file should now look something like this...

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Awild	01:00:06:00	V1	blue	2 Pop	
2	Awild	01:00:08:00	V1	blue	Reel 1 Start	
3	Awild	01:00:21:04	V1	blue	Add design for titles	
4	Awild	01:00:36:21	V1	blue	Narration to be added	
5	Awild	01:01:01:07	V1	blue	ADR scene for BG?	
6	Awild	01:02:32:06	V1	blue	Add ext traffic for scene	
7	Awild	01:02:46:10	V1	blue	Edit door close from dials	
8	Awild	01:05:05:04	V1	blue	ADR line?	
9	Awild	01:06:59:20	V1	blue	Add extra foots off-screen	
10	Awild	01:09:03:10	V1	blue	ADR for music replacement	
11	Awild	01:14:20:04	V1	blue	Re-record car up & stop	
12	Awild	01:15:53:00	V1	blue	Wild lines were recorded	
13	Awild	01:17:55:21	V1	blue	LFOA	
14						
15						
16						
17						
18						

Step 5

Now all that is need is that the file be saved out from Excel again as a Tab delimited text file.

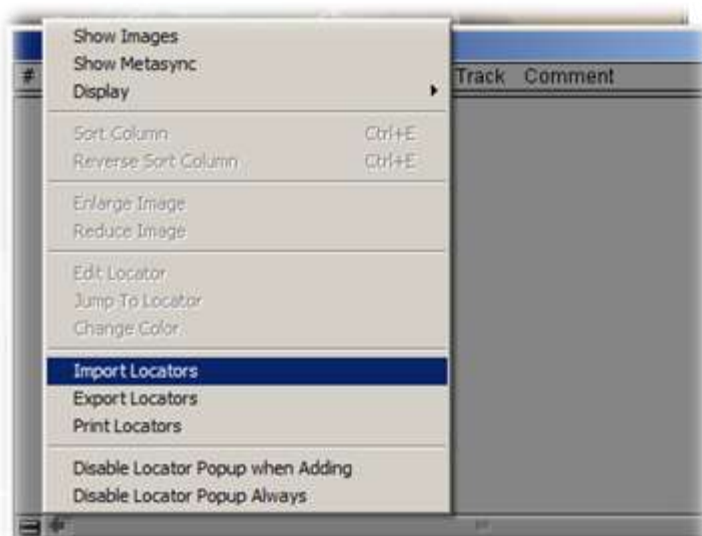


Make sure you name it appropriately so you know which one to import into the Avid.

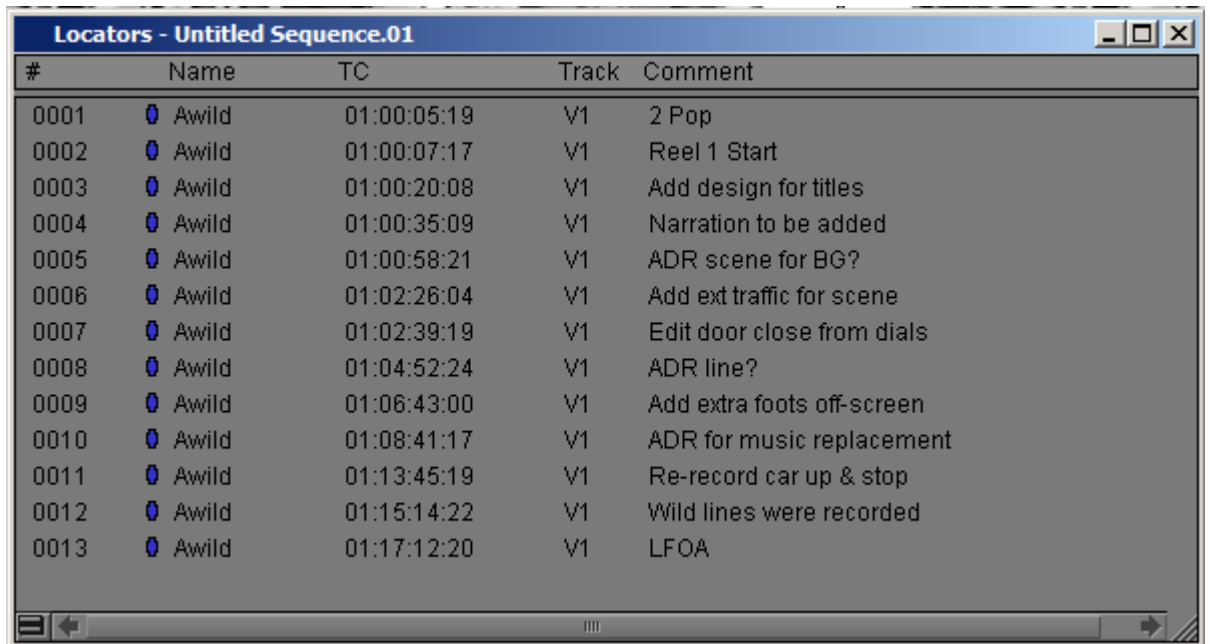
Step 6

Ensure that you have the correct sequence loaded into the Avid because if the sequence does not match the length of the imported locators' errors will be generated and some locators may well be missing.

With the correct sequence loaded now go into the Tool menu and select Locators and from the fast menu at the bottom of the window choose 'Import Locators.'



Once you have selected the file you exported from Excel earlier the locators should then appear in the window as shown below



#	Name	TC	Track	Comment
0001	Awild	01:00:05:19	V1	2 Pop
0002	Awild	01:00:07:17	V1	Reel 1 Start
0003	Awild	01:00:20:08	V1	Add design for titles
0004	Awild	01:00:35:09	V1	Narration to be added
0005	Awild	01:00:58:21	V1	ADR scene for BG?
0006	Awild	01:02:26:04	V1	Add ext traffic for scene
0007	Awild	01:02:39:19	V1	Edit door close from dials
0008	Awild	01:04:52:24	V1	ADR line?
0009	Awild	01:06:43:00	V1	Add extra foots off-screen
0010	Awild	01:08:41:17	V1	ADR for music replacement
0011	Awild	01:13:45:19	V1	Re-record car up & stop
0012	Awild	01:15:14:22	V1	Wild lines were recorded
0013	Awild	01:17:12:20	V1	LFOA