Transitions Premiere Pro
What Are Film Transitions?

A Film Transitions is an editing technique used in post-production.

Transitions are usually used to convey a mood, tone, a change in location or to show the passing of time (forward or backwards). It can also be used as a low budget special effect.
How it works

Starting from one image (A), combined with a 2nd image (A to B), and final finishing on the 2nd image (B).
Most Common Transitions

- **Fade in**
  - Commonly used at the beginning of a scene or film.

- **Fade out**
  - Commonly used at the end of a scene or film.

- **Cross Dissolve**
  - Commonly used to suggest a change in location or a change to a different scene. Can be used as a low budget special FX, or a match cut.

- **Wipe**
  - Commonly used to suggest a change in location or a change to a different scene. Can be used for an opening or end of a film.
Notice the timeline has several tracks you can use for both video and audio. Video tracks go up and audio tracks go down.

Much like Photoshop, Premiere works in Layers (tracks). Meaning the top track is seen first and anything below is seen 2nd or not at all. Premiere by default, shows a black screen as its background when there is no footage present on the timeline. This black screen can be used to fade in from, or out to (– fade to/from black).
Creating a Manual Cross Dissolve requires 2 pieces of footage. One to transition from and another, to transition to.

These need to be on separate layers. For example my first piece of footage is on track 2 which I plan to dissolve into the footage on track 1.
Manual Cross Dissolve pt3 – Opacity

If by any chance you don’t see the Opacity line. Right click your footage and select the bottom option: Show Clip Keyframes > Opacity > Opacity

It’s best to extend the view of your tracks. Do this by dragging the top and bottom, on the left, where the name of your layers are.

You should notice a line now going through your footage on the timeline. This is the opacity of your footage.
Manual Cross Dissolve pt4- Key frames

To continue to the next step, select the Pen Tool (P) from the Tool bar.

If the opacity line is at the top of the clip, this means its 100% opacity (fully viewable). If you were to lower this line to the very bottom of the clip, it would be 0% opacity.

By using the Pen Tool, we can set keyframes (points) to a particular opacity percentage. We can do this by clicking on the opacity line. Set the first at 100% and the second at 0%. The longer the space between these two keyframes, the longer the transition takes. The closer the two keyframe points are from one another, makes a faster transition.
How Not To Do A Manual Cross Dissolve

If it looks like this, the fade will happen too soon. See where the 2nd piece of footage starts and where your 1st keyframe is. This will start to go black before fading. Don’t do it this way ;)

If it looks like this, the fade will seem off. You don’t need to fade both pieces of footage. Just one to another. Don’t do it this way ;)

If it looks like this, the fade will fade to black and play the 2nd piece of footage after. See there is nothing under the fade to fade to. Don’t do it this way ;)

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Video Transitions pt1 - Pre-sets

This is not the only way to use transitions in premiere. There are Video Transition Pre-sets built into the software.

Beware, these are not great to use, adding loads of transitions and effects will not make your film / video better.
To find the video transition pre-sets. Click in the Project window and select the effects tab.

Go down and expand the list on Video Transitions.

Go down and expand the list on Dissolve.

Now select the Cross Dissolve transition.
Your footage must be on the same track in order for this to work. Drag the transition across from the effects window to the point the two clips meet on the time line. Let go of the mouse button and you should notice you have a small box that covers the gap between the two pieces of footage.
Video Transitions pt4 - Pre-sets

You can stretch the transition so that it makes the dissolve last longer if you wish. The shorter it is the quicker it is. The thing I find with this method, is that you have limited control, it feels rather generated unlike the manual method. I would always suggest using the manual method over the pre-sets.