



# Upscaler Offline Manual (PDF)

v1.0.0

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## 1 Getting Started

After importing Upscaler be sure to restart Unity. This must be done so that Upscaler's native plugin can load into memory. If you neglect to restart Unity at this point, expect Unity to crash as soon as you try to use Upscaler. After you have done that, go to the **Assets→Conifer→Upscaler→Runtime** directory and drag and drop the **Upscaler.cs** script onto the camera that you want to upscale.

Consult [Using the Unity Editor GUI](#) for more information on how to control the upscaling from the Unity Editor. See [Changing Settings](#) to learn how to control the upscaling from within your scripts. Finally, check out [GUI Integration](#) in order to add upscaling controls to your game's GUI.

## 2 Using the Unity Editor GUI

This section provides detailed descriptions on the uses of each of the elements in Upscaler's Unity Editor GUI. Each upscaler with its own advanced options. Please note that currently X<sup>e</sup>SS does not have any advanced options.

### 2.1 Upscaler Settings

The “Upscaler” dropdown menu allows you to select one of the available upscalers (referred to as **techniques** in the code). The “None” upscaler forces the game to render at the output resolution. It entirely removes Upscaler from Unity's render pipeline. It disregards all of the other settings; ultimately, it behaves as an off switch for Upscaler. Selecting “Deep Learning Super Sampling” will enable the DLSS on this camera. DLSS passes motion vectors, the depth buffer, and the color buffer through a neural network to quickly perform high quality upscaling. DLSS is only available on NVIDIA GPUs. Selecting “Fidelity FX Super Resolution 2” will enable FSR2 on this camera. FSR2 is an open source project backed by AMD. It takes motion vectors, the depth buffer, and the color buffer, and processes them with cross-platform, cross-vendor, handcrafted upscaling algorithms. Selecting “Xe Super Sampling” will enable X<sup>e</sup>SS. X<sup>e</sup>SS is an AI powered upscaling algorithm that is developed by Intel. While it is able to work on any vendor's GPUs it is specially designed to leverage the acceleration hardware found on Intel's GPUs. Use an Intel GPU for best results.

The “Quality” dropdown menu allows you to select a quality mode at which to run the upscaler. This setting is ignored if the “Upscaler” option is set to “None”.

Consult the charts below for more information. Note that actual numbers may slightly vary depending on the resolution due to the fact that images are sized with a whole number of pixels.

DLSS has six quality modes, five of which scale by a constant amount, and “Auto”.

#### DLSS Quality Mode Effects on Render Resolution

Quality Mode	% of pixels rendered per-axis	% of pixels rendered
AntiAliasing	100%	100%
Quality	66.6%	44.4%
Balanced	58%	33.6%
Performance	50%	25%
Ultra Performance <sup>1</sup>	33.3%	11.1%

FSR2 has five quality modes, four of which scale by a constant amount and “Auto”.

#### FSR2 Quality Mode Effects on Render Resolution

Quality Mode	% of pixels rendered per-axis	% of total pixels rendered
Quality	66.6%	44.4%
Balanced	58.8%	34.6%
Performance	50%	25%
Ultra Performance	33.3%	11.1%

X<sup>e</sup>SS has eight quality modes, seven of which scale by a constant amount and “Auto”.

#### X<sup>e</sup>SS Quality Mode Effects on Render Resolution

Quality Mode	% of pixels rendered per-axis	% of total pixels rendered
AntiAliasing <sup>2</sup>	100%	100%
Ultra Quality Plus	76.9%	59.2%
Ultra Quality	66.7%	44.5%
Quality	58.8%	34.4%
Balanced	50%	25%
Performance	43.5%	18.9%
Ultra Performance	33.3%	11.1%

The comparisons shown in the charts above are always between the total number of pixels in the given resolution and the total number of pixels in the output resolution.

<sup>1</sup> DLSS ‘Ultra Performance’ quality mode does **not** support dynamic resolution scaling.

<sup>2</sup> X<sup>e</sup>SS ‘AntiAliasing’ quality mode does **not** support dynamic resolution scaling.

### “Auto” Quality Mode

Output Resolution	Chosen Quality Mode
Less than or equal to 2560x1440	Quality
Less than or equal to 3840x2160	Performance
Greater than 3840x2160	Ultra Performance

## 2.2 Advanced Settings

Upscaler’s advanced settings change based on the selected Upscaler. Note that X<sup>e</sup>SS does not have an advanced settings foldout menu.

### 2.2.1 Advanced DLSS Settings

The “DLSS Preset” dropdown menu gives you several options to help DLSS work better with your game. Most games will not need to deviate from the “Default” preset, but some games may benefit from them.

- Use “Stable” if the contents of your camera’s view changes slowly. This option favors older information for better antialiasing at the expense of a higher probability of ghosting. It may show a sharper image when used with the “AntiAliasing” quality mode.
- Use “Fast Paced” if the contents of your camera’s view changes quickly. This option favors new information for better clarity at the expense of antialiasing quality.
- Use “Anti Ghosting” if some of the contents of your camera’s view lacks motion vectors. This can be useful when working with third party plugins that do not correctly handle motion vectors.

### 2.2.2 Advanced FSR2 Settings

A non-zero “Sharpness” value adds FSR2’s internal sharpening pass after upscaling. The value of the slider controls the amount of sharpening that FSR2 will perform.

The “Use Reactive Mask” checkbox enables automatic reactive mask generation in FSR2. Though default FSR2 will work acceptably in many scenarios, this opens up a number of fine tuning options. The defaults for these options are set as recommended by AMD, though AMD also recommends that each title refine the numbers to provide the best results.

- The “T/C Threshold” setting can be increased to provide a more stable image, or decreased to reduce ghosting.

- The “T/C Scale” setting can be lowered to increase stability at hard edges of translucent objects.
- The “Reactive Scale” setting can be increased to make FSR2 react to changes in the input image faster.
- The “Reactive Max” setting can be used to cap the effect of the “Reactive Scale” setting.

## 2.3 Debug Settings

- ‘Overlay Rendering Area’ allows you to visualize the screen area that is actually being rendered. This can be useful for visualizing Dynamic Resolution changes while testing.
- ‘Force History Reset’ instructs Upscaler to clear the history every frame. This can be useful for a variety of things such as better understanding how clearing the history behaves or seeing how long it takes the upscaler to recover from a history reset.
- ‘Dynamic Resolution’ allows you to change the render resolution straight from the Unity Editor.

## 3 URP Integration

While integrating with the URP, it is not only important to add the **Upscaler** script to the camera; the **UpscalerRendererFeature** must also be added to the URP Renderer which that camera is using. Failing to do either will result in an error. A help box will appear in the Upscaler’s Editor GUI on the camera when an **UpscalerRendererFeature** is not present in that camera’s URP Renderer.

The **UpscalerRenderPass** is bound to the [RenderPassEvent.BeforeRenderingPostProcessing](#) event. After performing upscaling, it blits the depth buffer into a present resolution image, then binds that along with the upscaled results as the camera’s target.

## 4 Jitter

Jitter values are queried from the C++ backend then added to the camera’s projection matrix to offset the camera by that many pixels. When integrating Upscaler into your rendering system, be aware that [Camera.ResetProjectionMatrix](#) is called in the [Update](#) method. This happens so that the last jitter values are cleared from the projection matrix before we add new ones.

## 5 Dynamic Resolution

Change the resolution using the **Upscaler.RenderResolution** property. There is no need to call **Upscaler.ApplySettings()** when updating the dynamic resolution. The resolution will be clamped to within a valid range as defined by **MaxRenderResolution** and **MinRenderResolution**. While Upscaler does support dynamic resolution, not all quality modes support it. Attempting to adjust dynamic resolution while using a quality mode that does not support dynamic resolution will fail as Upscaler will clamp the requested resolution to the only allowed value. See [Upscaler Settings](#) for more information about quality modes.. Upscaler's Editor GUI will notify you when such a quality mode is in use.

## 6 Changing Settings

Upscaler allows you to change the settings through C# scripts using its API. Below is an example script that shows how one can get the Upscaler object, then use the API it provides to change upscaling settings on-the-fly.

Obtain an instance of the Upscaler class from the main camera. It is highly recommended that you ensure that the camera actually exists. The example below works, but is not error protected at all. Use it with caution.

```
Upscaler.Upscaler upscaler = Camera.main!.GetComponent<Upscaler.Upscaler>();
```

You can immediately change settings. For example to change the active **technique** use:

```
upscaler.technique = Upscaler.Technique.FidelityFXSuperResolution2;
```

Use **ApplySettings** to push your changes to the active upscaler immediately. This gives you a chance to handle errors right away. In the case that you do not call **ApplySettings** then your changes will be propagated during the Upscaler's next **Update** call and any errors would then need to be handled by the registered error handler. See [Handling Errors](#) for more information about error handling.

```
upscaler.ApplySettings();
```

## 7 Handling Errors

Errors can occur when requesting a settings change. By default, when this happens the default error handler will reset the current upscaler to "None". This will remove the

Upscaler plugin from the pipeline ensuring that Upscaler does not cause any rendering errors. If this is not the behavior that you want, you can choose to override the error handler. You may want to instead revert back to the last settings that worked, print the error to the console, or anything else.

First, to override the error handler, replace the empty lambda with the function that you wish to respond to errors in the code below.

```
Upscaler.Upscaler upscaler = Camera.main!.GetComponent<Upscaler.Upscaler>();
upscaler.ErrorCallback = (status, message) => { };
```

Next, if you wish to perform any settings changes within your error handler, refer to section [Changing Settings](#). Note that error handlers should call the **ApplySettings** function after making any settings changes.. If there is still after the registered error callback is called then the active upscaler will be set to “None” to prevent fatal errors.

The error handler is always called from the **Update** method of the **Upscaler** class in the frame after the error to which it is responding occurs or, in the case of a settings related error, the same frame.

## 8 Things to be Aware of

The following is a list of advice from Conifer, NVIDIA, AMD, and Intel as given in the [DLSS developer guide](#), [FSR2 documentation pages](#), and [XeSS developer guide](#).

1. When an upscaler is active, disable all other forms of anti-aliasing including but not limited to MSAA, TAA, FXAA, and SMAA. Upscaler will notify you if any Unity provided anti-aliasing is enabled, but it is up to you to ensure that other third party packages are not injecting their own anti-aliasing solutions.
2. Use Upscaler for rendering directly to the screen **OR** rendering to an image that will be post processed before being presented directly to the screen. Do **NOT** use Upscaler to upscale things such as:
  1. The view through portals.
  2. The view of a security camera onto a monitor.
  3. Static textures.
  4. Shadow maps.



5. A depth pass.

Or any number of possible non direct-to-screen views.

3. DLSS is incompatible with RenderDoc as of RenderDoc v1.33. Upscaler will still load correctly and FSR2 and X<sup>e</sup>SS will work, but DLSS will be unavailable. Use NVIDIA's Nsight Graphics for graphics debugging if you require debugging abilities with DLSS enabled. You can connect to Unity's Editor by launching it from Nsight Graphics. Upscaler will be able to load and use DLSS successfully, and will not interfere with any captures. Nsight Graphics is available for both Windows and Linux and was used to help create this plugin.
4. Read the relevant parts of the [DLSS developer guide](#), [FSR2 documentation pages](#), and [X<sup>e</sup>SS developer guide](#) for more information.

## 9 GUI Integration

Consult the [DLSS UI Developer Guidelines PDF](#), the [FidelityFX Naming Guidelines](#), and/or the [X<sup>e</sup>SS developer guide](#) for more information about integration with in-game GUIs.

Do note that in contrast to what is suggested in the above guidelines, the 'Auto' setting does not disable upscaling under any circumstances. Conifer chose to do this because we believe that the settings that the user selects should be honored. If the user wants upscaling off, they turn off upscaling. If you choose to follow the guidelines more closely you will need to perform the required resolution check yourself. Furthermore, in an effort to unify the settings between upscalers an 'Auto' setting has been added to FSR2 and X<sup>e</sup>SS that follows the guidelines presented by the [DLSS developer guide](#).

## 10 Contact

This document will be kept up-to-date with the latest releases of Upscaler. The document version number will be the same as the Upscaler version number. If any errors in this documentation are found or you have any further questions, please report them to [briankirk@conifercomputing.com](mailto:briankirk@conifercomputing.com).