Welcome...

...and thanks for your purchase!

SPICE

200+ Animated Elements

A Drag & Drop Element Library to help you make your projects more vivid and dynamic.

CONTENTS

1. WHAT'S IN THE PACKAGE?

- After Effects (AE) file (2 versions: CS5.5, CS6, compatible with newer versions as well)
- Audio files
- This tutorial pdf – seems you've already found it.

> Please make sure, that you keep the current folder structure of the project, so that After Effects can see the audio files and will not show you an error message.

2. AT FIRST GLANCE
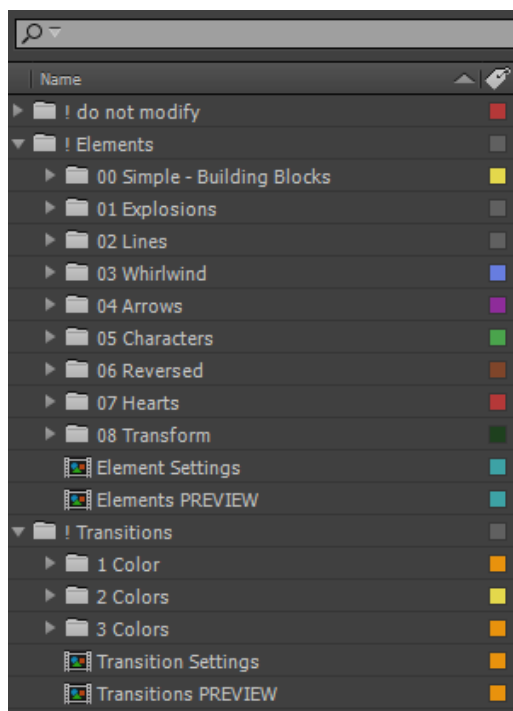
The elements and transitions are **categorized** and placed into several folders. They are divide into two big groups: **Elements** and **Transitions**.

You will find all the elements (explosions, lines, etc.) in the *Elements PREVIEW* and all the transitions in the *Transitions PREVIEW* compositions.

All the compositions are **color coded** and the preview comps are labelled with **markers** to make your search faster and easier.
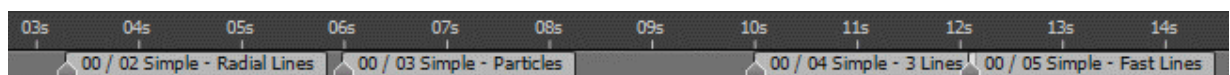
2.1. Tags

I have used a **tagging system** to help you find the elements faster. A few keywords you might find useful are *off screen, circular, dashed, CCW,* etc. Use the **search bar** in the project panel to type the keywords.

List of Tags:

- *off screen* - elements leaving the screen or entering out of the screen
- *circular* - circle like shape
- *rectangular* - rectangle like shape
- *spiral* - spiral like shape
- *circle, rectangle, triangle, plus* - contains only these particles
- *edgy* - no smooth curves, only sharp edges
- *random* - mimics random motion
- *delay* - e.g.: an explosion that does not happen instantly
- *dashed* - contains dashed strokes
- *45'* - 45' orientation lines
- *particle* - contains particle like elements
- *opposite* - elements coming in from opposite angles
- *1,2,3...n* - number of lines in Straight Lines
- *binary* - contains only 0s and 1s
- *science* - contains advanced math symbols
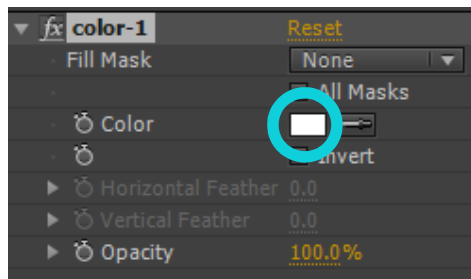- *reverse* - reversed transitions

4
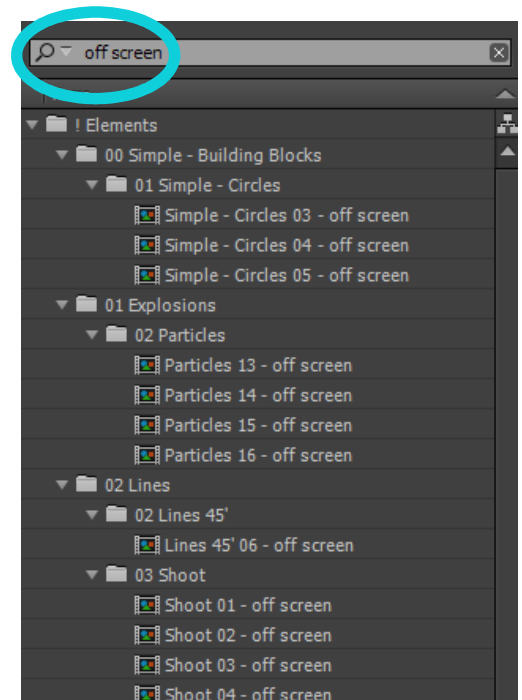
3. ELEMENTS

3.1. Element Settings

To adjust the main colors and the shadows, open the *Element Settings* composition.
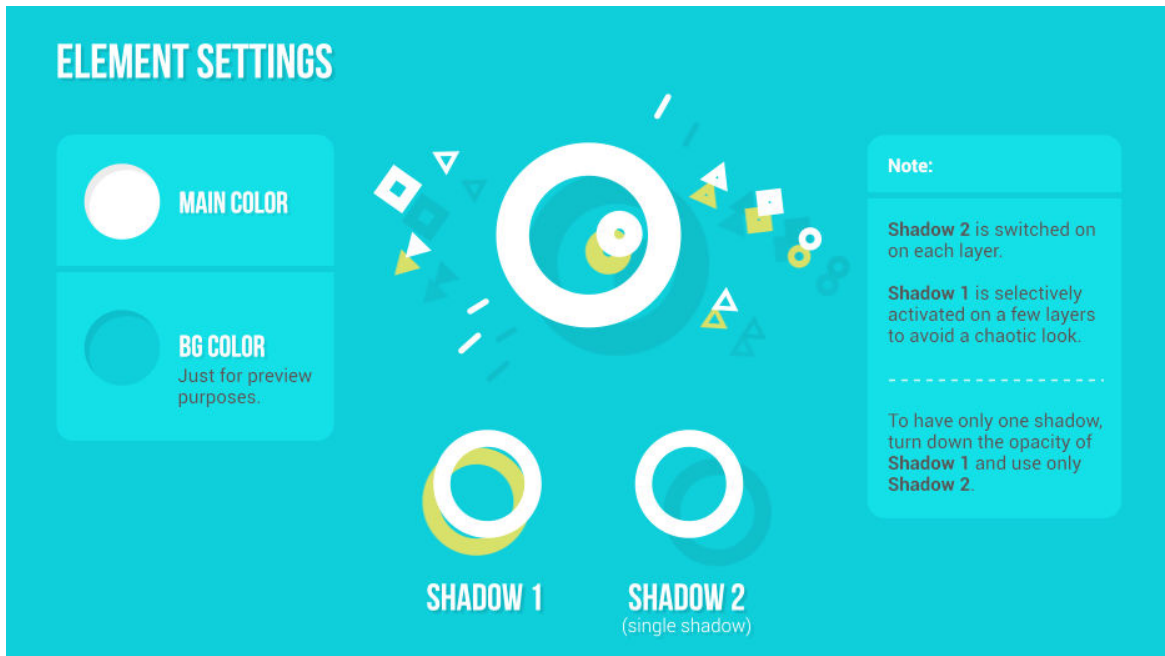
3.2. Global Color Settings

1. Left click on the MAIN COLOR circle (or the layer with the name: **MAIN color**);
2. Open the **Effect Controls** Panel (*Window > Effect Controls*);
3. Adjust the *color-1* effect.

The same process goes with the background color (*BG color*). Please note, that it is for **preview purposes only**. All elements come with a transparent background, the background layer will not be visible (rendered).

3.3. Custom Color Settings

You can set a **custom color** per element. It means that this custom color will override the global color if it is enabled. To apply a custom color:

1. Open a composition (e.g. "Straight Line 02");
2. Select the **top layer** called *Settings*;
3. In the **Effect Controls** Panel (*Window > Effect Controls*) uncheck *Global Color*;
4. Adjust your custom color.
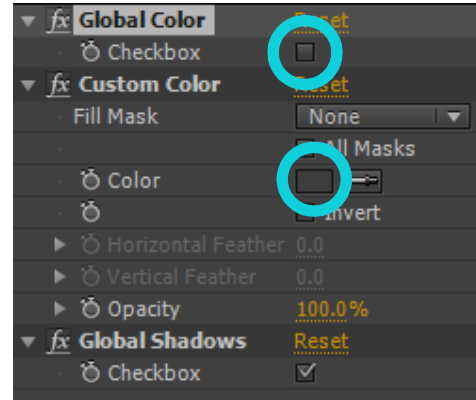
> There is one exception – in the **Reversed** elements, you will need to make an extra step: open the top composition to find the Settings layer.

3.4. Shadow Settings

There are 2 shadows. *Shadow 2* is switched on on all layers, *Shadow 1* is only selectively enabled giving some extra spice. To adjust them:

1. Select any of the two circles above the titles: *Shadow 1* or *Shadow 2* or select the layer *shadow1* or *shadow2*.
2. In the **Effect Controls** Panel (*Window > Effect Controls*) you will see an effect called *drop-shadow-1/2*;
3. Adjust its settings (**Distance**, **Direction**, etc.) and it will be applied to all compositions.

No Shadows:

Set the opacity of *both shadows* to zero.

Single Shadow:

Set the opacity of *Shadow 1* to zero.
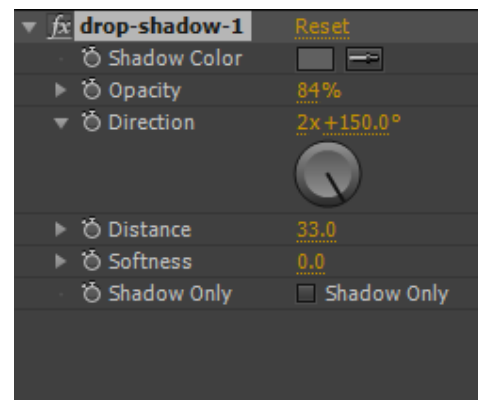
3.5.   Custom Shadow Possibility

Currently there is only a Global Shadow setting, i.e. you can't use individual shadows per element by default- if for instance, you would like to use yellow / green shadows for one element and let's say red / blue for another one. I might work out a solution later.

Until then, the easiest way is to import the project several times. Before a new import, rename the *Element Settings* and *Transition Settings* compositions in the Project Panel and voilà, you have more color variations.

3.6.   Build your own

When creating new compositions or you plan to extract elements from a comp make sure that they are accompanied by an instance of the Settings layer unless you will get an error message and the shadows + colors will not work.

Important: if you are not experienced with AE expressions, don't extract elements out of compositions because you might get an error.
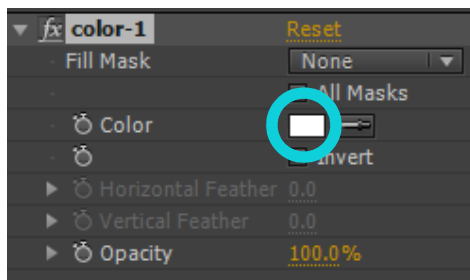
4. TRANSITIONS

4.1. Transition Settings

So far there are three types of transitions based on the number of the colors they have. To adjust these colors open the *Transition Settings* composition.

4.2. Global Color Settings

1. Left click on any of the 4 circles (or the layer with the name: *colorX* or *BG color*);
2. Open the **Effect Controls** Panel (*Window > Effect Controls*);
3. Adjust the *color-X* effect.

4.3. Custom Color Settings

Similar to the Elements, you can set custom Colors to the transitions as well.

1. Open a transition (e.g. "Transition – 3 Colors 01");
2. Select the **top layer** called *Settings*;
3. In the **Effect Controls** Panel (*Window > Effect Controls*) uncheck *Global Colors*;
4. Set your custom colors.
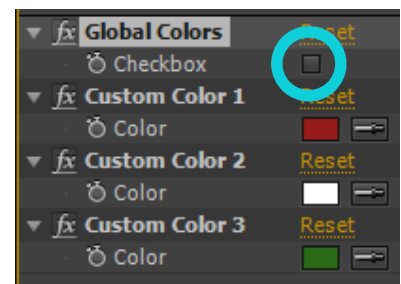
5. FURTHER CUSTOMIZATION

As all elements consist of shape layers only they are 100% resizable without any loss of quality. You can also rotate, scale and reflect them according to your needs.

To **horizontally flip** an animation, hit *s* on the composition layer (e.g. "Overlap 01") to reveal the *scale* property, uncheck *constrain proportions* and write **-100** to the **first value of scale**.

The same applies to a **vertical flip,** except **-100** goes to the **second scale value**.

Hit *r* to **rotate** a composition.

6. DRAG & DROP

Use the *Preview* comps to find what you are looking for as fast as possible. You can copy (*ctrl + c*) and paste (*ctrl + v*) the chosen composition from there or you can drag & drop it from the Project Panel folder structure. If you copy & paste it from the preview comp, hit *ctrl + alt + Home* if you can't see the composition.

> After dragging an element into your composition, do not forget to switch on the **"Continuously Rasterize"** option to reserve the sharp edges of the objects.
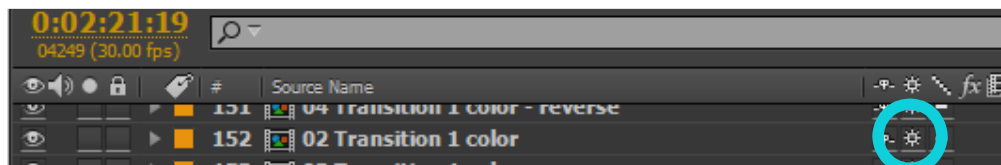
This also **reduces** the **active (clickable) area** so you will not need to bother with moving huge comps inside your project.
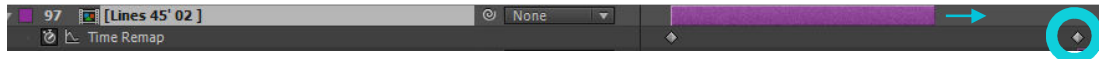
7. SOUND EFFECTS

7.1. Changing the Volume

To modify the volume hit *L* on a composition layer (e.g. "Burst 03") to reveal the *Audio Levels* property and change the dB value.

7.2. Removing the Sound Effects

The easiest way to remove them is to **delete** the *Audio* folder in the Project Panel (not the actual files on your hard drive!).

8. DURATION CHANGE

If you would like to change the duration of a certain composition, you can use the *Time Remapping* feature of AE. After placing a composition into your project, hit *ctrl + T* on the composition layer (e.g. "Lines 45' 02").

Move any of the two keyframes to modify the length. If you lengthen it, don't forget to lengthen the layer itself as well!

> Please note, that the sound effects will also get "stretched", so there is a limitation here unless you mute the composition.

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Good luck with the elements!