

A soft-edged shadow appears behind the nested layers of the destinations_logo layer—the logo graphic, the rotated type, and the words *travel Europe*—in the Composition panel. You can customize the effect using the Effect Controls panel, which appears in front of the Project panel when you apply an effect.

Applying and controlling effects

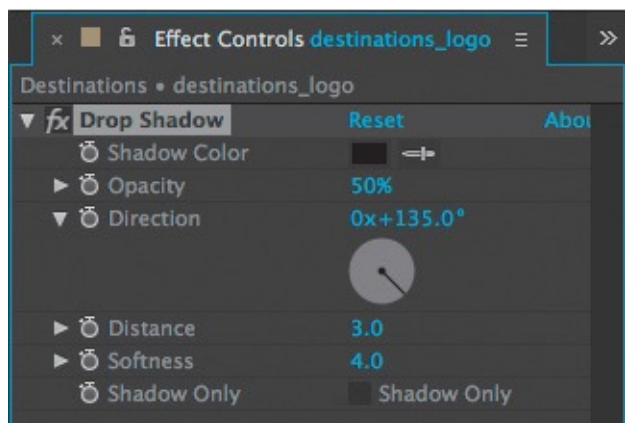
You can apply or remove an effect at any time. Once you’ve applied effects to a layer, you can temporarily turn off one or all of the effects in the layer to concentrate on another aspect of your composition. Effects that are turned off do not appear in the Composition panel, and typically aren’t included when the layer is previewed or rendered.

By default, when you apply an effect to a layer, the effect is active for the duration of the layer. However, you can make an effect start and stop at specific times, or make the effect more or less intense over time. You’ll learn more about creating animation using keyframes or expressions in [Lesson 5](#), “[Animating a Multimedia Presentation](#),” and [Lesson 6](#), “[Animating Layers](#).”

You can apply and edit effects on adjustment layers just as you do with other layers. Note, however, that when you apply an effect to an adjustment layer, the effect is applied to all layers below it in the Timeline panel.

Effects can also be saved, browsed, and applied as animation presets.

3. In the Effect Controls panel, reduce the drop shadow’s Distance to **3** and increase its Softness to **4**. You can set these values by clicking the field and typing the number or by dragging the blue value.

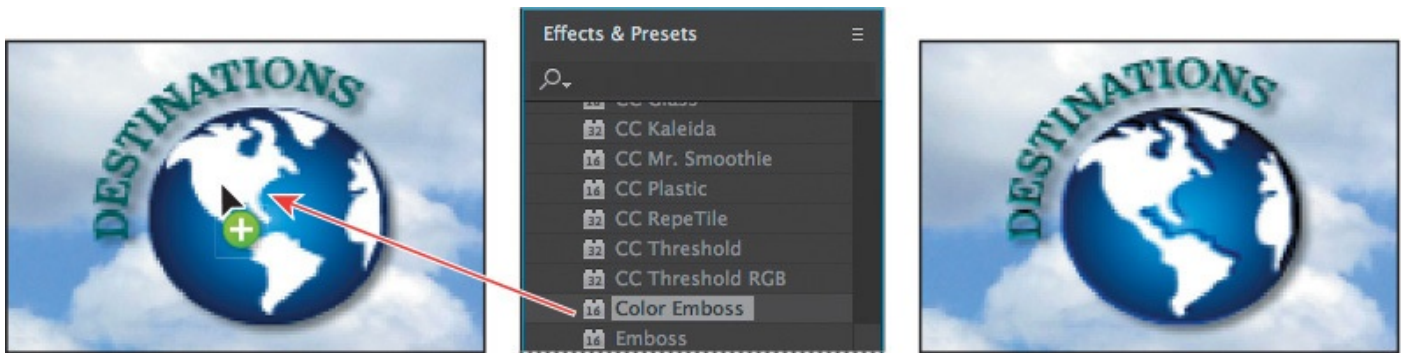


The drop shadow is nice, but the logo will stand out even more if you apply an emboss effect. You can use either the Effect menu or the Effects & Presets panel to locate and apply effects.

4. Click the Effects & Presets tab to open the panel. Then click the triangle next to Stylize to expand the category.
5. With the destinations_logo layer selected in the Timeline panel, drag the Color Emboss effect into the Composition panel.

The Color Emboss effect sharpens the edges of objects in the layer without suppressing the original colors. The Effect Controls panel displays the Color Emboss effect and its

settings below the Drop Shadow effect.

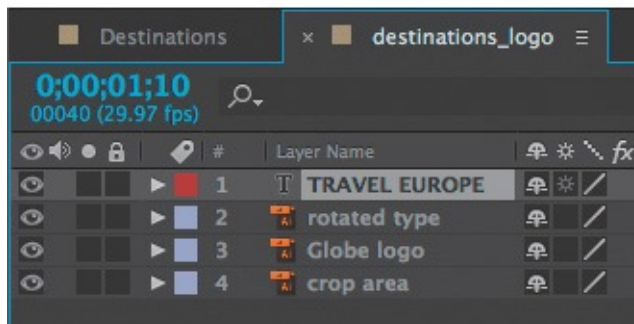


6. Choose File > Save to save your work.

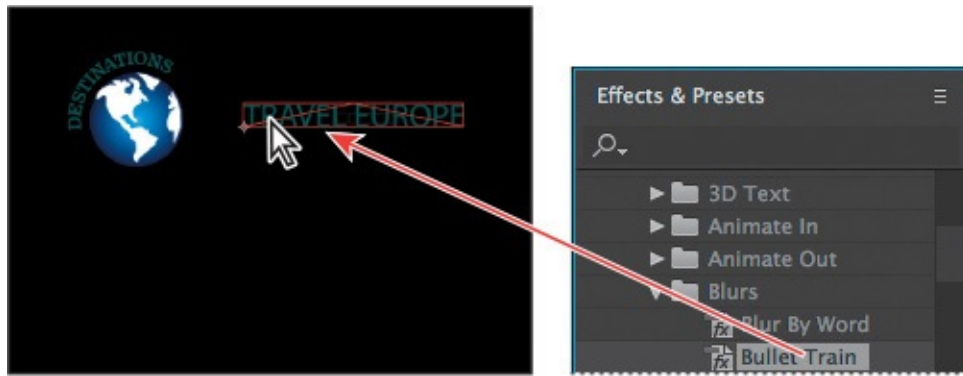
Applying an animation preset

You've positioned the logo and applied some effects to it. It's time to add some animation! You will learn several ways to animate text in [Lesson 3](#); for now, you'll use a simple animation preset that will fade the words *travel Europe* onto the screen next to the logo. You'll need to work in the `destinations_logo` composition so that you can apply the animation to only the TRAVEL EUROPE text layer.

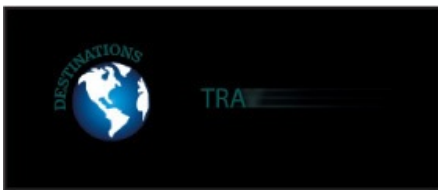
1. Click the `destinations_logo` tab in the Timeline panel, and select the TRAVEL EUROPE layer.
2. Move the current-time indicator to 1:10, which is the point at which you want the text to start fading in.



3. In the Effects & Presets panel, choose Animation Presets > Text > Blurs.
4. Drag the Bullet Train animation preset onto the TRAVEL EUROPE layer in the Timeline panel or over the words *travel Europe* in the Composition panel. Don't worry about the text disappearing—you're looking at the first frame of the animation, which happens to be blank.



5. Click a blank area of the Timeline panel to deselect the TRAVEL EUROPE layer, and then drag the current-time indicator to 2:00 to manually preview the text animation. The text appears, letter by letter, until the words *travel Europe* are fully onscreen at 2:00.

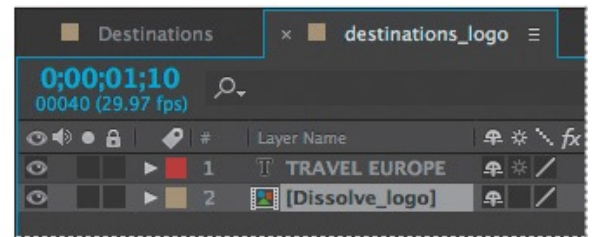
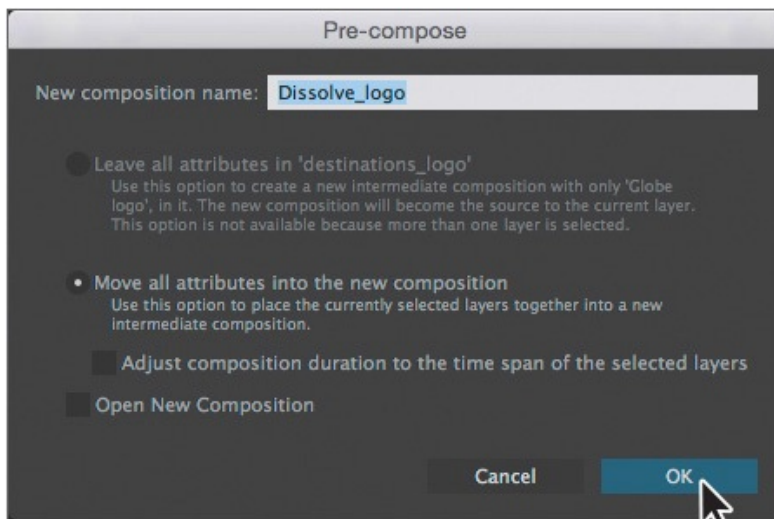


Precomposing layers for a new animation

The travel show ID is coming along nicely, and you're probably eager to preview the complete animation. Before you do, however, you'll add a dissolve to all of the logo elements except the words *travel Europe*. To do this, you need to precompose the other three layers of the destinations_logo composition: rotated type, Globe logo, and crop area.

Precomposing is a way to nest layers within a composition. Precomposing moves the layers to a new composition, which takes the place of the selected layers. When you want to change the order in which layer components are rendered, precomposing is a quick way to create intermediate levels of nesting in an existing hierarchy.

1. Shift-click to select the rotated type, Globe logo, and crop area layers in the destinations_logo Timeline panel.
2. Choose Layer > Pre-compose.
3. In the Pre-compose dialog box, name the new composition **Dissolve_logo**. Make sure the Move All Attributes Into The New Composition option is selected. Then click OK.



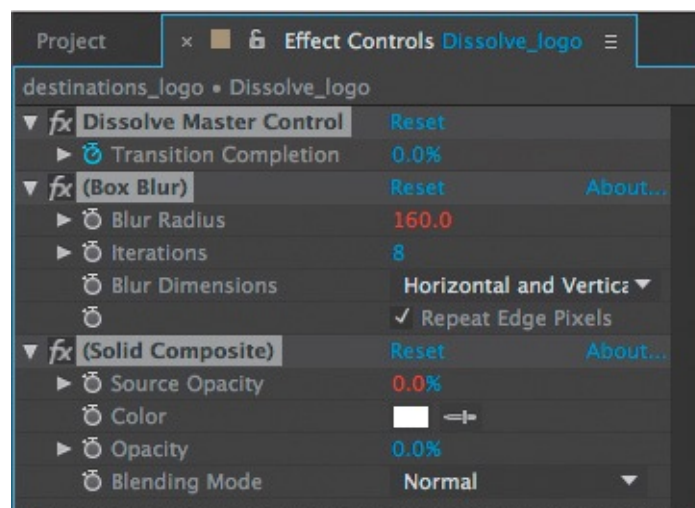
The three layers are replaced in the destinations_logo Timeline panel with a single layer, Dissolve_logo. This new, precomposed layer contains the three layers that you selected in step 1. You can apply the dissolve effect to it without affecting the TRAVEL EUROPE text layer and its Bullet Train animation.

4. Make sure the Dissolve_logo layer is selected in the Timeline panel, and press the Home key or drag the current-time indicator to go to 0:00.

Tip

To locate the Dissolve – Vapor preset quickly, type **vap** in the search box in the Effects & Presets panel.

5. In the Effects & Presets panel, choose Animation Presets > Transitions – Dissolves, and then drag the Dissolve – Vapor animation preset onto the Dissolve_logo layer in the Timeline panel or onto the Composition panel.



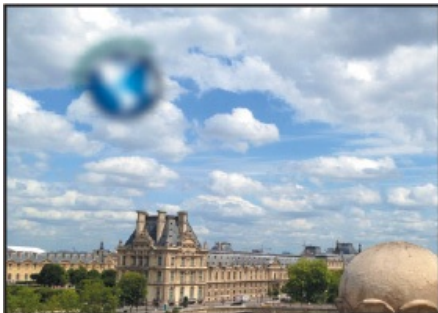
The Dissolve – Vapor animation preset includes three components—a master dissolve, a box blur, and a solid composite, all of which appear in the Effect Controls panel. The default settings are fine for this project.

6. Choose File > Save.

Previewing the effects

It's time to preview all of the effects together.

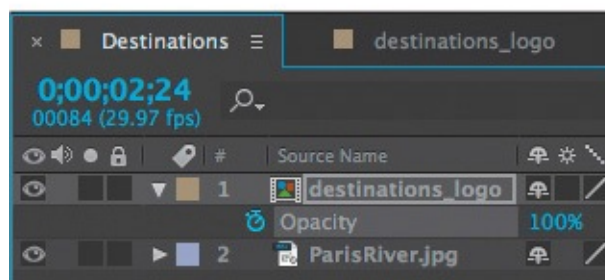
1. Click the Destinations tab in the Timeline panel to switch to the main composition. Press the Home key or drag the current-time indicator to make sure you're at the beginning of the time ruler.
2. Make sure the Video switch (👁) is selected for both layers in the Destinations Timeline panel.
3. Click the Play button (▶) in the Preview panel, or press the spacebar, to watch the preview. Press the spacebar to stop playback at any time.



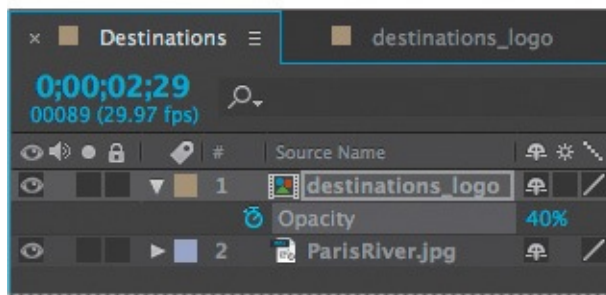
Adding transparency

Many TV stations display logos semitransparently in the corner of the frame to emphasize the brand. You'll reduce the opacity of the ID so that it can be used this way.

1. Still in the Destinations Timeline panel, go to 2:24.
2. Select the destinations_logo layer, and press T to display its Opacity property. By default, the Opacity is 100%—fully opaque. Click the stopwatch icon (🕒) to set an Opacity keyframe at this point in time.



3. Press the End key or drag the current-time indicator to go to the end of the time ruler (2:29), and change the Opacity to **40%**. After Effects adds a keyframe.



The logo appears, the words *travel Europe* fly in, and it all fades to 40% opacity.

4. Click the Play button (▶) in the Preview panel, press the spacebar, or press 0 on your numeric keypad to preview your composition. Press the spacebar to stop playback when you're done.
5. Choose File > Save to save your project.

Rendering the composition

You're ready to prepare your travel show ID for output. When you create output, the layers of a composition and each layer's masks, effects, and properties are rendered frame by frame into one or more output files or, in the case of an image sequence, into a series of consecutive files.

Making a movie from your final composition can take a few minutes or many hours, depending on the composition's frame size, quality, complexity, and compression method. When you place your composition in the Render Queue, it becomes a render item that uses the render settings assigned to it.

After Effects provides a variety of formats and compression types for rendering output; the format you choose depends on the medium from which you'll play your final output or on the requirements of your hardware, such as a video-editing system.

Note

For more about output formats and rendering, see [Lesson 14](#), “[Rendering and Outputting](#).”

You'll render and export the composition so that it can be broadcast on television.

Note

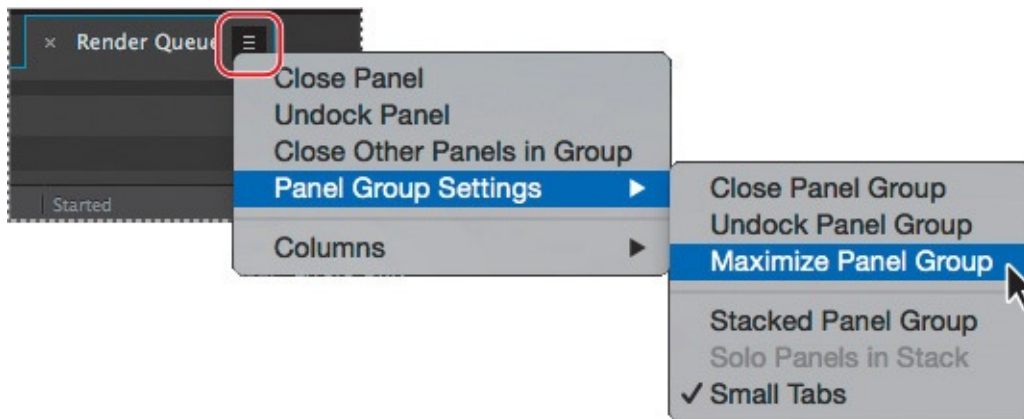
For output to final-delivery formats, you can use Adobe Media Encoder, which is installed when you install After Effects. You'll learn about Adobe Media Encoder in [Lesson 14](#), “[Rendering and Outputting](#).”

1. Do one of the following to add the composition to the Render Queue:
 - Select the Destinations composition in the Project panel, and choose Composition > Add To Render Queue. The Render Queue panel opens automatically.

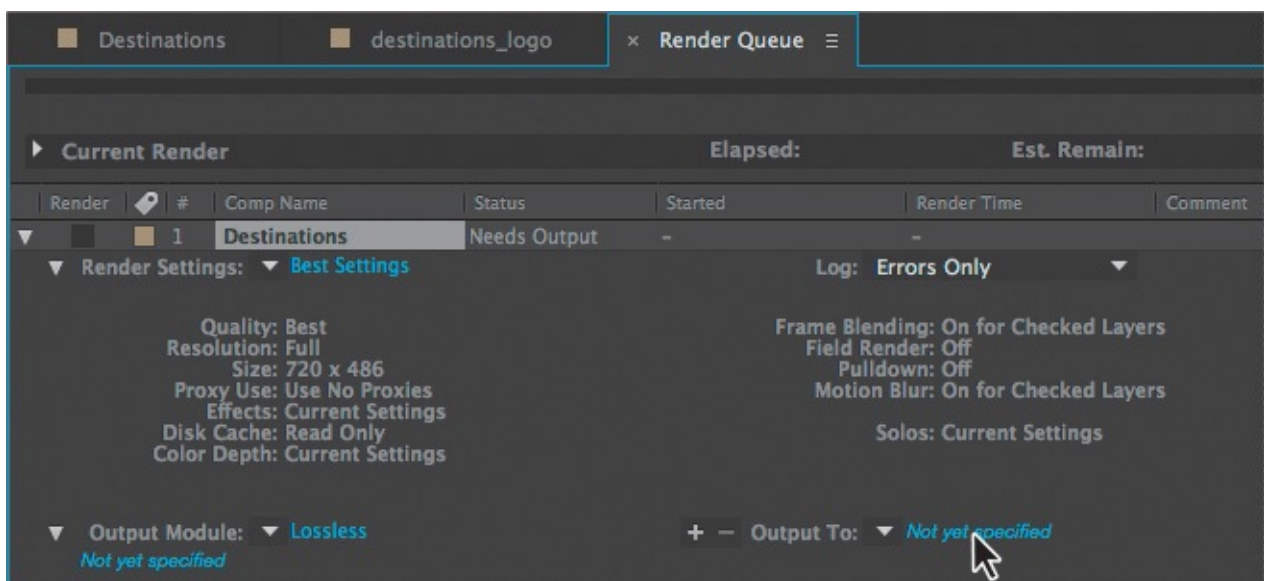
- Choose Window > Render Queue to open the Render Queue panel, and then drag the Destinations composition from the Project panel onto the Render Queue panel.
2. Choose Panel Group Settings > Maximize Panel Group from the Render Queue panel menu so that the panel fills the application window.

Tip

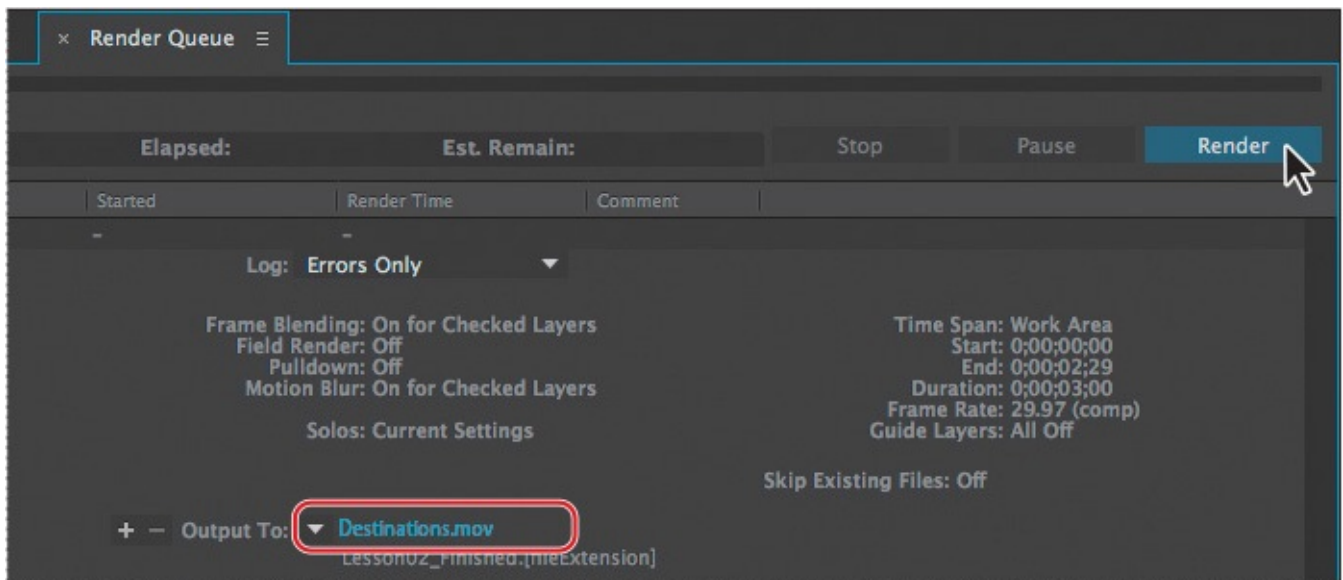
The keyboard shortcut for the Maximize Panel Group command is the accent grave character (`), which shares a key with the tilde character (~).



3. Click the triangle to expand the Render Settings options. By default, After Effects renders compositions with Best Quality and Full Resolution. The default settings are fine for this project.
4. Click the triangle to expand the Output Module options. By default, After Effects uses lossless compression to encode the rendered composition into a movie file, which is fine for this project. But you need to identify where to save the file.
5. Click the blue words *Not Yet Specified* next to the Output To pop-up menu.



6. In the Output Movie To dialog box, accept the default movie name (Destinations), select the Lessons/Lesson02/Finished_Project folder for the location, and then click Save.
7. Back in the Render Queue panel, click the Render button.



After Effects displays a progress bar in the Render Queue panel as it encodes the file, and issues an audio alert when all items in the Render Queue have been rendered and encoded.

8. When the movie is complete, choose Panel Group Settings > Restore Panel Group Size from the Render Queue panel menu to restore your workspace.
9. If you want to see your final product, double-click the Destinations.avi or Destinations.mov file in the Lessons/Lesson02/Finished_Project folder to open it in Windows Media Player or QuickTime, and then play the file.
10. Close the project file, and then quit After Effects.

Congratulations. You've created a travel show ID suitable for broadcast.

Review questions

1. How do you use Adobe Bridge to preview and import files?
2. What is *precomposing*?
3. How do you customize an effect?
4. How do you modify the transparency of a layer in a composition?

Review answers

1. Choose File > Browse In Bridge to jump from After Effects to Adobe Bridge. If Bridge isn't installed, you'll be prompted to download and install it. In Bridge, you can search for and preview image assets. When you locate the asset you want to use in an After Effects project, double-click it, or drag it to the Project panel.
2. *Precomposing* is a way to nest layers within a composition. Precomposing moves the layers to a new composition, which takes the place of the selected layers. When you want to change the order in which layer components are rendered, precomposing is a quick way to create intermediate levels of nesting in an existing hierarchy.
3. After you apply an effect to a layer in a composition, you can customize its properties in the Effect Controls panel. This panel opens automatically when you

apply the effect, or you can open it at any time by selecting the layer with the effect and choosing Window > Effect Controls.

- 4.** To modify the transparency of a layer, reduce its opacity. Select the layer in the Timeline panel, press T to reveal its Opacity property, and enter a value lower than 100%.