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# Beginner's Guide To Adobe After Effects

with freelance designer Gareth David

*"Join me as I build a video  
presentation from scratch."*



48 Episode Series



GET STARTED >

## Overview

Learn all about this course and what we will be learning and creating over the next 48 episodes.

[VIEW PAGE](#)

## Section 1 Introduction

In this section I will be introducing you to Adobe After Effects and discussing some of the important things you need to be aware of before you begin to use After Effects.

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## Section 2 Essential practise

In this section I will be introducing you to the key creative tools in After Effects.

In this section you will have the chance to get hands on with the worksheets available in the project folder.

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## Section 3 Create a project

In this section, we will be taking all that we have learnt in the essential practise section to create a project from scratch.

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# Overview

## The complete Beginner's Guide To Adobe After Effects

[WATCH VIDEO ▶](#)

### Overview

Hello and welcome to the complete Beginner's Guide To Adobe After Effects.

If you are a designer and looking to apply effects and transitions to your video, or create animated logos, illustrations or infographics After Effects is the program to edit in.

The tools in After Effects make it very easy to build video compositions, add video effects and motion graphics to bring your presentation to life.

Now a lot of videos you see on youtube and TV with animated sequences have been created using After Effects. This is the industry standard software for simple video animation and I create all my videos in After Effects.

Now This course has been carefully created to bring you up to speed with the program so not only will you be able to create a simple project yourself you will be able to watch many more

On this course you will learn all the methods I use to create my videos, so if you have never used After Effects before, wonder how the software works and want to try some simple animation.

### This course is for you.

Now the topics that are going to be covered in this course are the basics so whether you have the most up to date version of After Effects or you're using an older version, you should be able to follow along just fine.

In this series we will be starting from the very beginning and working our way across 48 episodes to learn all the basics and eventually put it all into practise and build a video presentation project of your own.

Now this may seem like a lot of episodes, but trust me, after this creative adventure, you will be able to use Adobe After Effects proficiently.

After watching this series you will be able to create your very own video presentation in After Effects ready to export and share.

To help break down the process I have structured the course in 3 main sections:

### 1 - Introduction

### 2 - Essential Practise

### 3 - Create a project

So that is an overview of this After Effects beginners course

Once you have downloaded the project PDF and the project folder,

Let's get into it!



# What to do first

Before starting the course there are a few things I would recommend you do to ensure that everything works perfectly so you can enjoy the course smoothly:

## 1 - Download the project folder

Before starting the course I would recommend you get your hands on the project folder.

Learn more and get the project folder here:

[GET FOLDER >](#)

## 2 - Install the project font (LemonMilk)

This is a font used on lots of worksheets and examples through the course.

Unfortunately I can not provide the font in the download folder but it can be downloaded FREE online here:

[GET FONT >](#)

## 3 - Download the Rollandrop.mp3 audio track

This is a music track used later on in the course when we come to building a project together.

Unfortunately it can not be provided in the download folder but it can be downloaded FREE online.

Once downloaded be sure to place it into the project folder.

[GET AUDIO TRACK >](#)

# Download the project folder

The download folder comes with lots of exercise documents we will be using on this course that have been carefully developed to aid your learning experience.

The folder also comes with document resources such as **videos**, **graphics** and **images** you can use to build your first video presentation from scratch later on in the course.

To get the full learning experience I recommend you get the project folder.



## AE\_Project\_Folder.zip

Be aware the project folder comes as a **.zip** file.

This is a compressed file format and will need to be extracted first before opening files in After Effects and viewing the media assets.

Need help? [View file extraction process help here.](#)

GET THE PROJECT FOLDER HERE



## What you get?

The project folder comes with:



**40+ After Effects worksheet doc examples**

(Files are compatible with CS6 & CC)



**25+ Video samples**



**100+ Image & graphic samples**

The assets included have been carefully designed and prepared for you.  
The project folder is a **.zip** file [Approx 1.8GB]

# What we will be creating on this course

In section 3 we are going to create a 2D video presentation, that could be used online or on TV.

We are going to create an advert for a travel blog and the theme will be five must see destinations in London.

This is going to include all the key techniques we learnt in the section 2 which will put you in good stead to create your own project in future.

To create the project we are going to be working with video, images and animating some 2D layers.

Watch what we will be creating here:

WATCH VIDEO ▶



# After Effects shortcut keys

To help with your workflow I have prepared some easy keyboard shortcut sheets.

These include all the shortcuts featured on this course and should help you get up to speed and use the program more swiftly.

Adobe After Effects Shortcuts [Mac OS]

Composition Panel Shortcuts

Workflow	
New Composition:	cmd ⌘ + N
Show Comp Settings:	Hold cmd ⌘ + K
Quick Place Media:	Hold cmd ⌘ + /

View	
Full Resolution:	Hold cmd ⌘ + J
Half Resolution:	Hold cmd ⌘ + Shift ⇧ + J
Quarter Resolution:	Hold cmd ⌘ + Shift ⇧ + Alt + J
Toggle Bounding Box:	Hold cmd ⌘ + Shift ⇧ + H
Toggle Rulers:	Hold cmd ⌘ + R
View Grid:	Hold cmd ⌘ + '
Zoom Out & In:	, or .
Zoom to Fit Comp Panel:	Hold Alt + /
Zoom 100%:	/
Maneuver around canvas area:	Hold space bar + click & drag

With Object Selected	
Move in Larger Increments:	Hold Shift ⇧ ⌵ while pressing arrow keys
Scale Object:	Hold Shift ⇧ + drag
Snap to Angle:	Hold Shift ⇧ + click & drag
Drag Smoothly Across or Up & Down:	Hold Shift ⇧ + click & drag
Fit to Canvas Area:	Hold Alt + cmd ⌘ + F
Fit to Height:	Hold cmd ⌘ + Shift ⇧ + Alt + Gz
Fit to Width:	Hold cmd ⌘ + Shift ⇧ + Alt + H

Creating Shapes	
Toggle Corners:	Press Up or Down
Toggle Guides:	Hold cmd ⌘ + ;
Toggle Point Length:	Hold cmd ⌘ + Press Up or Down
Toggle Points:	Press Up or Down


Set End of Work Area:	N
Move Across the Timeline 1 Frame:	Hold cmd ⌘ + left or right
Toggle Timeline Switches:	F4

Move in Larger Increments:	Hold Shift ⇧ ⌵ while pressing arrow keys
Scale Object:	Hold Shift ⇧ + drag
Snap to Angle:	Hold Shift ⇧ + click & drag
Drag Smoothly Across or Up & Down:	Hold Shift ⇧ + click & drag
Fit to Canvas Area:	Hold Alt + cmd ⌘ + F
Fit to Height:	Hold cmd ⌘ + Shift ⇧ + Alt + Gz
Fit to Width:	Hold cmd ⌘ + Shift ⇧ + Alt + H

U	
ime:	K
:	J
ance Time:	Hold Alt + click & drag
	Hold cmd ⌘ + click keyframe

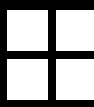
	Hold Alt + [
	Hold Alt + ]
	Hold cmd ⌘ + D
	Hold cmd ⌘ + Shift ⇧ + C
n:	Hold cmd ⌘ + [ or ]
	Hold Shift ⇧ ⌵ while dragging
Snap to Start or End of a Layer:	Press I or O
Select Layer Above or Below:	Hold cmd ⌘ + up or down
Split Clip:	Hold cmd ⌘ + Shift ⇧ + D

	Hold cmd ⌘ + click to select individual
	Hold Shift ⇧ ⌵ + click to select
	Hold cmd ⌘ + Z



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## Section 1 - Introduction

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## Section 1 - Introduction

# Ep 1 What is After Effects?

[WATCH VIDEO](#) ▶

Before you begin the course, make sure to complete the to do list!

[GO TO PAGE](#) >

### Overview

In this video I am going to discuss what After Effects is. I will also be discussing the difference between Adobe After Effects and Adobe Premiere Pro so as a beginner you will have a good understanding of the differences between them, what they are used for and which one is right for you and your project.

### What is After Effects?

Adobe After Effects is used in post production, 'after' the video footage has been produced and exported from programs such as Adobe Premier, hence 'After Effects'

Since 1995 with its first release, After Effects has been available to add:

#### Visual effects to video

#### Create motion graphics

and

#### Animation sequences

In the industry After Effects is used in the post-production process of filmmaking and television production and also in design and social media.

For those not familiar with After Effects it may help to imagine After Effects as a mix of Premier and Photoshop.

If you are familiar with Photoshop, you will be aware of all the colour effects, masking and blending mode capabilities that can be applied to 2D images.

In After Effects very similar effects can be applied just like in Photoshop but to video footage across time.

After Effects is based on compositing and works not only with video footage but with image, Audio, type and files brought in from other programs like Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, 3D programs and also Premier to create video presentations.

## Section 1 - Introduction

# Ep 2 Interface introduction to Adobe After Effects

[WATCH VIDEO](#) ▶

### Overview

In this tutorial we are going to kick things off from the very start, in this video we are going to take a look at the Adobe After Effects interface.

The first Adobe version of After Effects was released in 1995. With all the innovations and new features that have been introduced over the years, up until now the interface itself has not changed all that much.

For those of you that are completely new to After Effects, In this video I am going to show you around, and introduce you to some of the key things you need to be aware of starting out.

So let's get into it!



Section 1 - Introduction

Ep 3 Layers & the timeline panel

WATCH VIDEO

Overview

In this tutorial we are going to take a closer look at layers and the timeline panel in Adobe After Effects.

In the previous episode I introduced you to the After Effects interface, where I briefly introduced you to the timeline panel.

Now this panel is one of the most important panels in this program.

There is a lot to learn and understand about this panel which is important before we move on in the course.

After this video you will get a better understanding of how this all works and hopefully feel more comfortable to move forward.

So let's get into it!

Topics Covered

Layers	00:02:40
The Time Indicator	00:05:25
RAM Preview	00:10:30
The Timeline Work Area	00:13:57

Section 1 - Introduction

# Ep 4 Compositions

WATCH VIDEO ▶

## Overview

In this tutorial I am going to discuss compositions in After Effects.

In After Effects all the layers we see down in the timeline panel are contained in what is called a 'composition'.

'Compositions' are what we use to help build video presentations in After Effects.

After this video you will get a better understanding of how compositions work so you feel more comfortable to move forward.

So let's get into it!

## Topics Covered

What are compositions?	00:00:52
Composition Tabs	00:06:06
How to create compositions?	00:08:08

Section 1 - Introduction

Ep 5 The project panel 'links panel'

WATCH VIDEO

Overview

In this tutorial we are going to take a closer look at the project panel.

In After Effects every element that is brought into the program is placed into the project panel.

It may help to think of this as a kind of links panel.

As a beginner there are a few important things you will need to learn about this panel before we move on.

In this video I am going to discuss the project panel in a bit more depth and show you how media elements, brought into the program are managed and placed into your timeline panel ready for editing.

After this video you will get a better understanding of how this works so you feel more comfortable moving forward.

So let's get into it!

Topics Covered

The Project Panel	00:02:06
Managing links	00:04:35
Managing assets in the project panel	00:07:58
Placing media elements from the project panel into your compositions	00:13:04

## Section 1 - Introduction

# Ep 6 Animation principles

[WATCH VIDEO](#) ▶

### Overview

Once you have media elements in your composition it's time to start animating and adding effects!

To understand how to animate and add effects you will first need to understand the animation principles and how they work in After Effects.

In this video we are going to learn the key animation principles and how they are applied.

So let's get into it!



Section 1 - Introduction

Ep 7 Keyframes

WATCH VIDEO

Overview	Topics Covered	
In this tutorial we are going to take a close look at keyframes.	We also learnt where animation is composed down in the timeline panel.	After this video you will get a better understanding of how keyframes work so you feel more comfortable moving forward.
In a previous episode we learnt the 4 main animation principles you will come to use in After Effects:	At the end of the video I introduced you to keyframes, the little shapes that we saw under the layers with effects applied.	So let's get into it!
<div>Position</div> <div>Scale</div> <div>Rotation</div> <div>and</div> <div>Opacity</div>	Now Keyframes are what set the parameters for all effects over time.	
	Before we move on, there are some more details you will need to know about keyframes so you can be ready to create your own project.	
	In this video we will be taking a closer look at 'Keyframes', learning more about them, how they work and how they are managed over time.	

Section 2 - Essential Practise

# Ep 8 Simple video editing

WATCH VIDEO

## Overview

In this tutorial I am going to show you how to manage video In After Effects and how to perform simple video edits.

Now it's important to state that After Effects is not a video editing program by design.

Now that's not to say you can not do video editing in After Effects, in this video I am going to show you how.

But it's important to note that Adobe After Effects is primarily used for post production.

Any video you use in After Effects will have typically been edited in a specialised video editing program like Adobe Premiere first, exported and then brought into After Effects.

**Remember:**

After Effects is based on compositing and works not only with video footage but with still images, type and files brought in from other programs like Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator and 3D programs to create video presentations.

What you will come to learn, is that video editing in Premier as opposed to After Effects is a far more easier task.

However, when we bring in video that has been exported from other programs, we still need to 'edit it' in After Effects to a certain degree.

In this video I'll be showing you an example of how to edit video simply in After Effects.

So let's get into it!

## Topics Covered

Importing video into After Effects	00:04:29
Editing video clips in the timeline panel	00:08:06

Section 2 - Essential Practise

Ep 9 Simple animation

[WATCH VIDEO](#) ▶

Overview

In this tutorial I am going to demonstrate how you can create a simple animation in After Effects.

In a previous episode we learnt about keyframes and how they are used to create animation sequences in After Effects.

Now it's time to get more hands on with keyframes.

After this video you will have a good understanding of how to use keyframes to animate.

So let's get into it!

Topics Covered

Adding keyframes	00:10:23
Setting keyframe properties	00:11:08
Duplicating properties	00:12:19

Section 2 - Essential Practise

Ep 10 Easing

WATCH VIDEO

Overview

In this tutorial I am going to demonstrate how you can add easing to your keyframes in After Effects.

In a previous episode we learnt how to create a simple animation using keyframes.

In this video I will be showing you how to add smoothness to your animation by using easing.

After this video you will understand how to apply easing to keyframes to animate.

So let's get into it!

Want to learn more about the types of keyframes?

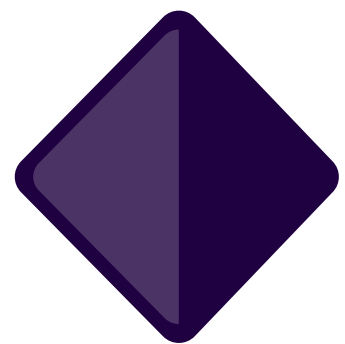
READ HERE

Topics Covered

What is easing?	00:01:30
Different types of easing	00:04:49
Applying easing	00:11:15



## Types of keyframes

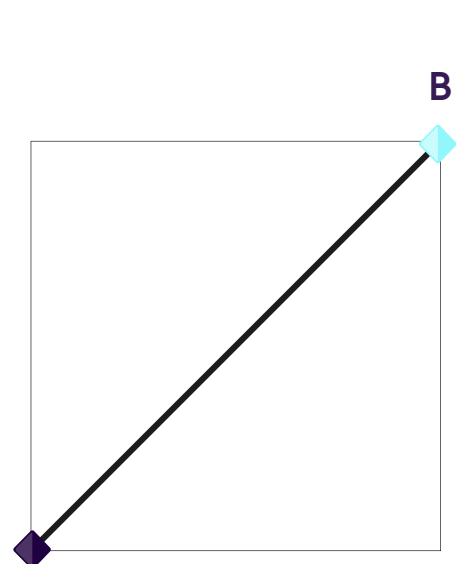


### Linear Keyframe

These are the default keyframes created when you add effects to your layers initially.

And these typically create plain and direct movement.

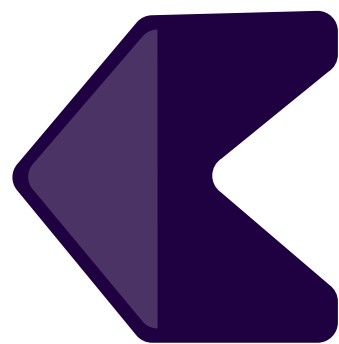
On a diagram it appears like this:



A

A linear keyframe as described creates a simple line of movement over time.

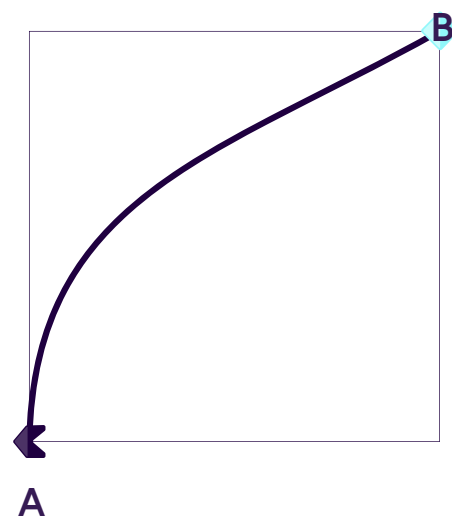
Where an object, in this example a circle will move from point A to point B within a certain time frame at a constant speed with a rigid movement.



### Ease Out Keyframe

This keyframe can be applied to add smoothness to the start of a sequence.

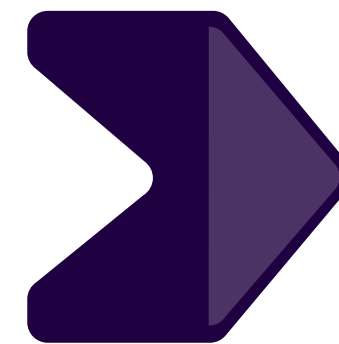
On a diagram it appears like this:



A

An Ease out keyframes creates a subtle delay in time at the start where an object will move 'out' from point A, starting slowly then building momentum in to point B within a certain time frame tho with a flowing movement.

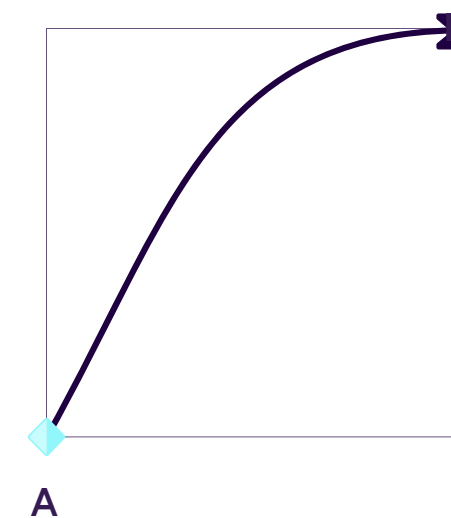
It's called ease 'out' because it creates a subtle delay moving outwards from a keyframe



### Ease In Keyframe

So this keyframe is the exact opposite of the previous

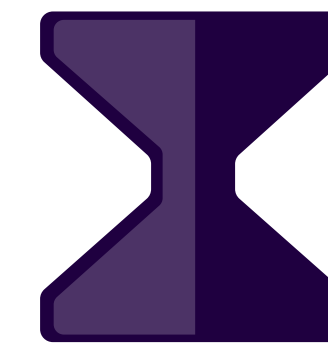
On a diagram it appears like this:



A

An Ease In keyframes creates a subtle delay in time at the end where an object will move out from point A then decrease momentum in to point B within a certain time frame tho with a flowing movement.

It's called ease 'In' because it creates a subtle delay moving inwards to the keyframe

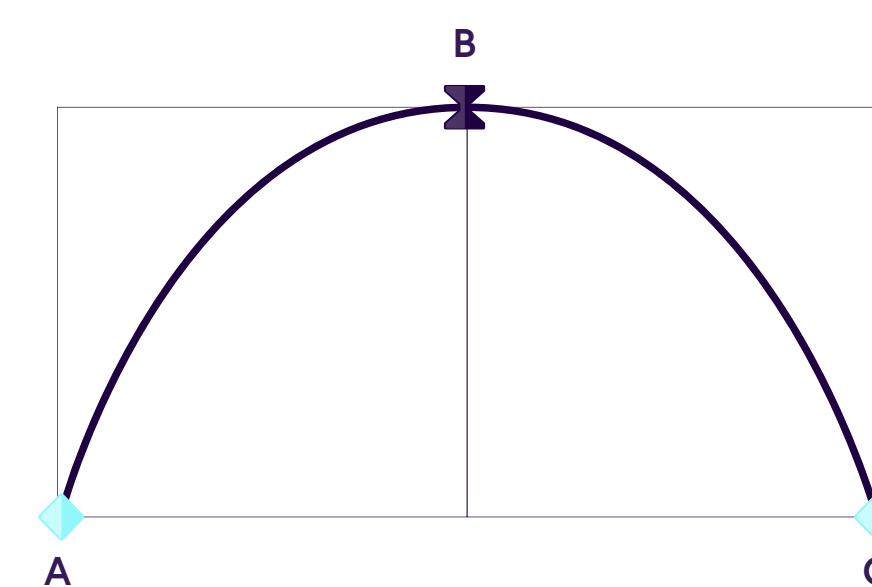


### Easy Ease Keyframe

This keyframe is referred to as an easy ease keyframe.

This keyframe can be applied to add smoothness in a sequence and these typically creates smooth momentum, used between sequences.

On a diagram it appears like this:



A

B

C

An easy ease keyframe creates subtle delay of movement over time instead of a consistent speed.

This tends to create a swing type movement where an object will move from point A and appear to curve over point B slowing down subtly then swing over to point C within a certain time frame with a flowing movement.

Section 2 - Essential Practise

# Ep 11 Time stretching

WATCH VIDEO

## Overview

In this tutorial I am going to demonstrate how you can easily slow down or speed up your video and keyframe sequences.

Now one of the main factors when creating a video sequence is time.

We use the timeline to set out keyframes to animate and to edit our video to create a video presentation to a specific time.

As you start to build in After Effects there are going to be various occasions where you will want to customize the time it takes for an effect to happen, the speed of an animation, or even the speed of a video.

You may want to slow something down, or speed something up.

In this video I am going to demonstrate how you can easily slow down or speed up your keyframe sequences and use a feature called 'Time stretching' to slow down or speed up your video.

So let's get into it!

## Topics Covered

Adjusting a keyframe sequence over time	00:02:50
Video time stretching	00:06:20

Section 2 - Essential Practise

Ep 12 Precomposing

WATCH VIDEO

Overview

In this tutorial I am going to be discussing precomposing in After Effects.

In a previous video we learnt how to edit multiple video clips in After Effects in a single composition.

Now at this point it would be helpful for you to learn about precomposing in After Effects.

Precomposing basily allows you to take multiple layers in a composition, and place them into a simple composition, to allow you to control that one composition separately.

Precomposing in After Effects can make your workflow much easier and improve your organisation.

For those of you familiar with Photoshop it may help to think of precomposing like grouping, or using smart objects.

It allows you to work much more effectively.

So let's get into it!

Topics Covered

What is precomposing?	00:03:00
Precomposing layers in After Effects	00:05:32

Section 2 - Essential Practise

# Ep 13 Importing files into After Effects

WATCH VIDEO

## Overview

In this tutorial I will be discussing how to import media files into After Effects and manage them in After Effects.

Now we have lots of the fundamentals covered, It's now time to look how we can use assets and media brought in from other design programs to create in After Effects.

Now After Effects is a really dynamic program that does not just work by itself.

As a designer, you will no doubt be creating files in all sorts of programs.

You may create initial artwork and compositions in Photoshop.

You may create Logos and illustrations in Adobe Illustrator and you may even create 3D models in 3D programs.

After Effects allows you to bring in all the files, so you can incorporate them into your video and animation sequences.

In this Video I will be discussing how to import media from other programs and manage them in After Effects.

After this video you will get a better understanding of how this works so you feel more comfortable moving forward.

So let's get into it!

## Topics Covered

Importing media files into After Effects	00:16:52
Managing media files in After Effects	00:17:56



Section 2 - Essential Practise

Ep 14 Creating shapes

WATCH VIDEO

Overview

In the previous video we looked at how to bring media elements into our After Effects documents to start building compositions.

Next it's time to start to look at how we can create inside After Effects.

In this video we are going to begin by looking at how we can create shapes in After Effects.

There are lots of reasons why you would build shapes in After Effects.

Shapes can be used to add visual elements to your composition, they can gives us a basis to build our artwork and they can be used to create masks. Which we will be learning about later in the course.

So Let's get in to it!

Topics Covered

Types of shapes that can be created

00:01:26

Creating shapes from the shape builder tool

00:05:19

Editing simple shapes from the shape builder tool

00:10:29

Creating shapes from Type

00:18:10

Creating shapes from Vectors

00:19:27

Section 2 - Essential Practise

Ep 15 Pen tool & paths

WATCH VIDEO

Overview

In this tutorial we are going to learn about the pen tool and paths in After Effects.

In the previous episode we looked at making shapes using the shape builder tool and the various ways they can be customised.

Now there is another way of making shapes.

In After Effects we have what is called the pen tool.

In After Effects this can used to create custom paths, which can join to make shapes which can be used for animation sequences.

In After Effect the pen tools works quite similar to how it works in Illustrator and Photoshop.

In this tutorial I am going to discuss the pen tool and the concept of paths in After Effects.

By the end of this tutorial you will know everything you need to know about the pen tool.

So let's get into it!

Topics Covered

What is the pen tool

00:02:38

Drawing with the pen tool

00:08:08

Modifying shapes with the pen tool

00:17:46

Section 2 - Essential Practise

# Ep 16 Fill & stroke effects

WATCH VIDEO ▶

## Overview

In this tutorial we will be looking at the fill & stroke effects we can apply to our shapes in After Effects.

Over the past few episodes we have learnt the many ways we can create and modify shapes, now it's time to look at how we can apply colour and stroke effects.

In this video I will be demonstrating how you can apply a variety of fill and stroke effects to your shapes in After Effects

So let's get in to it!

## Topics Covered

Simple fill colour	00:05:35
Strokes	00:06:55
Gradients	00:16:54

Section 2 - Essential Practise

# Ep 17 Animating along a path

WATCH VIDEO

## Overview

In this tutorial I am going to demonstrate how you can animate along a path in After Effects.

In a previous episode we undertook a simple animation exercise where we moved a circle shape from left to right across a straight path.

Shortly after that we learnt how to create paths using the pen tool.

Now In After Effects we can use paths to animate things like images and shapes across.

In this video I'll be showing you, how to animate along a path.

After this video you should be able to animate easily along a custom path in After Effects.

So let's get into it!

## Topics Covered

Animating along a path00:04:44

Animating on a path from a shape00:18:43

Animating on paths from Adobe Illustrator00:31:16

Section 2 - Essential Practise

# Ep 18 Effects & presets

WATCH VIDEO ▶

## Overview

In this tutorial we are going to take a look at effects and presets in After Effects.

Over the past few episodes we have been looking at how to animate manually from scratch, creating shapes, paths and animating media we have brought in from other programs.

Now After Effects comes pre installed with a whole range of effects and presets you can use to add a variety of dynamic effects to your sequences at a click of a button.

In this video I will be introducing you to one of the most useful panels in After Effects.

'The effects and presets panel'

Where I will be showcasing a number of simple and easy effects and presets you can use in your video sequences.

After this video you will get a better understanding of how effects and presets work so you feel more comfortable moving forward.

So let's get into it!

## Topics Covered

The effects and presets panel	00:01:40
Effect controls	00:07:52



Section 2 - Essential Practise

# Ep 19 Text animation presets

WATCH VIDEO ▶

Overview	Topics Covered
One of the cool things we can use effects and presets for is to animate type.	
Animating type is hugely popular in After Effects for designers.	
In this video I'll be discussing type in After Effect and looking at how we can use some common effects and presets to animate type.	
So let's get into it!	
	Animating Type with presets00:07:53
	Animating type manually00:14:57

Section 2 - Essential Practise

# Ep 20 Video transition presets

WATCH VIDEO ▶

## Overview

So now we are starting to learn some fundamental techniques we can use to build a project.

In the last video we learned how to use effects and presets, to add dynamic animation effects to our type.

Now we are going to look at how we can use effects and presets to add transitions to our video and animation sequences.

So let's get into it!

## Topics Covered

Video Transition presets	00:02:17
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Section 2 - Essential Practise

# Ep 21 Colour effects

WATCH VIDEO

Overview		Topics Covered	
After Effects is not just good for adding animation.			
A lot of designers will use After Effects to colour grade and adjust colour to their video footage.			
In this video we will be looking at how we can use After Effects to adjust colour to our video footage.			
So let's get into it!			
		Colour effects	00:02:27

Section 2 - Essential Practise

# Ep 22 Adjustment layers

WATCH VIDEO ▶

## Overview

Now as you build your video presentations there will be times where you build complex compositions consisting of multiple layers and you will want to apply a single colour effect to the entire comp.

It would take some time and be a bit tedious to apply the same effect to every layer.

Well in After Effects there is an easy way. We can use what are called adjustment layers.

In this video we will be looking at how adjustment layers work and how they can be used to apply an effect to an entire composition.

After this video you will understand how to use adjustment layers easily in your video sequences.

So let's get into it!

## Topics Covered

What are adjustment layers? 00:03:49

How to use adjustment layers 00:07:35

Section 2 - Essential Practise

# Ep 23 Blending modes

WATCH VIDEO

## Overview

In After Effects we can also use what are called blending modes which can be used to add more dynamic colour and video effects to your compositions.

In this tutorial we are going to look at blending modes and how they work in After Effects.

By the end of this tutorial you will have a good understanding of how to use blending modes.

So let's get into it!

Want to learn more about the types of blending modes?

READ HERE

## Topics Covered

What are blending modes?	00:00:54
How to use blending modes	00:10:36



## Blending modes

Blending modes are the ability to visually blend layers together.

We can use blending modes, to create various visual effects.

For those of you that are experienced with Adobe Photoshop, you may already be familiar with blending modes, as they work much the same in After Effects as they do in Photoshop.

In After Effects when we want to use blending modes they can be located down in the timeline panel over on the left, near the layer names.

If you click on the mode drop down you will see a big list. This is a list of all the possible blending modes we can use.

Looking at the list we can see the it's divided into eight sections. Each of these sections applies a particular type of blending mode.

Normal Dissolve Dancing Dissolve	Normal modes	No blending occurs
Darken Multiply Color Burn Classic Color Burn Linear Burn Darker Color	Darken modes	Darkens the image and removes white
Add Lighten Screen Color Dodge Classic Color Dodge Linear Dodge Lighter Color	Lighten modes	Lightens the image and removes black
Overlay Soft Light Hard Light Linear Light Vivid Light Pin Light Hard Mix	Contrast modes	Enhances contrast, -50% gray, uses multiple blending modes
Difference Classic Difference Exclusion Subtract Divide	Comparative modes	Highlights differences between layers
Hue Saturation Color Luminosity	Colour modes	Performs various color shifts based on hue, saturation, and luminosity
Stencil Alpha Stencil Luma Silhouette Alpha Silhouette Luma	Matte modes	Converts Layer 2 into a matte for Layer 1, based on various parameters
Alpha Add Luminescent Premul	Utility modes	Special use modesw

**Reference:**

Author: Ben Thompson  
March 19 2019  
actionvfx.com  
Retrieved [here](#)

**Learn more about blending modes here:**

actionvfx.com

[READ HERE >](#)

Section 2 - Essential Practise

Ep 24 Masking

WATCH VIDEO 

Overview

Now as you start to use After Effects more and more, there are going to be times where you will want to cut something out, or only see a certain part of the video to create a curtain effect.

What we can do in After Effects is use what we call masking.

In this video I will be introducing you to masking, and showing you how to use it.

After this video you will get a better understanding of masking and how it works, so you will feel confident using masks in your projects.

So let's get into it!

Topics Covered

What masking is? 00:01:07

How to mask with:

Simple shapes 00:08:56

The pen tool 00:11:54

With paths pasted in from Illustrator 00:21:35

## Section 2 - Essential Practise

# Ep 25 Animate a shape layer mask

[WATCH VIDEO](#) ▶

### Overview

In this video we are going to build on top of what we learned in the previous video and look at how we can animate a mask to create a dynamic animation sequence like this.

After this video you will get a better understanding of masks and how to animate them.

So let's get into it!

### Topics Covered

Animating shape masks	00:03:22
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Section 2 - Essential Practise

# Ep 26 Track mattes

WATCH VIDEO

## Overview

Now masking in After Effects can get even more dynamic. In After Effects we can use what are called track matts.

These track matts will often be used by designers to add more dynamic masking effects in After Effects

In this video we will be building on top of what we learned about basic masking and moving on to see how track matt's work.

So let's get into it!

## Topics Covered

What is a track matte? 00:01:19

And how to track matte with:

Type 00:14:25

An Image 00:16:26

A video 00:17:21

Section 2 - Essential Practise

Ep 27 Null objects & parenting

WATCH VIDEO

Overview

Over the past few episodes we have looked at precomps, and how they help to group layers together to apply effects and tracks mattes as a whole.

In After Effects there is another way we can group multiple layers and manage things like position and scale of multiple layers at once.

In After Effects we can create what is called a Null object, and use something that is called parenting.

In this Video I will be discussing null objects and parenting and how this works in After Effects.

So let's get into it!

Topics Covered

What is a null object?00:02:22

What is parenting layers?00:02:54

How to use a null object00:06:15

How to parent layers00:08:20



Section 2 - Essential Practise

# Ep 28 Exporting

WATCH VIDEO

## Overview

So now we are coming to the end of the essential practise section on the course.

Once we have finished our animation sequences and built our video presentations it is time to export them.

Now there are a few ways to export in After effect, but there is only one you should really consider using.

In this video I will be demonstrating how to export your finished projects off in After Effects.

After this video you will get a better understanding of how to export your projects in After Effects.

So let's get into it!

## Topics Covered

The Export checklist	00:03:05
Exporting using the media encoder	00:04:38
Exporting using the render queue	00:11:03
Exporting the work area	00:07:53

## Section 2 - Essential Practise

# Ep 29 10 Handy tips in After Effects

WATCH VIDEO

### Overview

So now we are at the end of the essential practise section.

Over the past few episodes we have practised some of the basic tools and familiarize ourselves with some of the features in After Effects.

Now we are ready to embark on a full project exercise. But before that I want to recap and cover some essential tips which will help you before we get into the nitty gritty of creating a project from scratch in After Effects.

The tips I am going to cover in the next few minutes are things that are going to improve your workflow and help you use the program effectively and also bring you up to speed with how the program works and what to look out for in future.

So it will help you a lot to remember what we are about to cover.

After this video you will get a huge insight into some of the tips that are going to help you use the programs more productively.

So let's get into it!

### Topics Covered

1 - Workflow Tips	00:03:53
2 - Zoom & Maneuvering Tips	00:07:39
3 - Interface Tips	00:09:01
4 - Visual Aid Tips	00:12:55
5 - Creative Tips	00:17:39
6 - Timeline Panel Tips	00:21:13
7 - Layer Tips	00:24:47
8 - Editing Tips	00:31:30
9 - Keyframe Tips	00:33:36
10 - Exporting Tips	00:36:31

## Section 3 - Create a Project

# Ep 30 What We Will Be Creating on This Course

WATCH VIDEO ▶

### Overview

So now we are getting into the 'Create a Project' section of this course.

Over the past 29 videos, I introduced you to After Effects, showcased some handy tips and we practised some essential tools and techniques.

Now it's time to take all that we have learned and create a project from scratch.

After this section you should be able to undertake projects alone and create more work comfortably in After Effects.

So before we start on the journey into building a video presentation I just want to go over exactly what we will be creating, so you have a good idea what is instore ahead.

So let's get into it!

### Topics Covered

Section 3 - Create a Project

Ep 31 Plan & Design for Your Video Presentation

WATCH VIDEO

Overview

Now creating video presentations can be complex and time consuming.

I always find it helps to have a plan before jumping into After Effects as it gives me something to work to.

Once you know or have a rough idea of what you are creating, it's a lot more fun putting it together rather than making it up as you go along.

Before I start any project in After Effects I will typically take a little time to plan and design my video presentation.

This will typically include the following steps:

**1 - Project preparation & checklist**  
**2 - Planning the structure**  
**3 - Planning my timeline**  
**4 - Storyboarding**  
**and**  
**5 - Designing my artwork in Photoshop**

In this video I will be discussing these steps and how I plan and design a video presentation and offer some tips which I hope will help you.

So let's get into it!

Topics Covered

1 - Project preparation & checklist	00:01:10
2 - Planning the structure	00:02:14
3 - Planning my timeline	00:03:01
4 - Storyboarding	00:03:29
5 - Designing artwork in Photoshop	00:04:02

Section 3 - Create a Project

Ep 32 Prepare & Set up a document

WATCH VIDEO

Overview

In the last video I demonstrated the plan and design process I go through when I start a video presentation.

Once I have spent time planning and designing my video presentation I will then start to bring it all to life in After Effects.

In this video we are going to start by reviewing the things we will need to keep in mind before and after we begin an After Effects project.

So before we jump into Adobe After Effects I want to quickly talk about preparation.

In my experience I have created lots of small projects in After Effects, and it's always helped me to be organized.

When working with a project in After Effects it's as important to be as organised out of After Effects as it is, in After Effects.

A typical After Effects project will include a wide variety of media so it helps to be organised with the media before you bring it into After Effects.

To solve this I always start with a project folder. This is where I organise and keep all my media elements before I place them into After Effects.

This way I know exactly where everything is, so its' not scattered about on my computer.

So let's get into it!

Topics Covered

Making a project folder	00:03:45
Setting up a new After Effects document	00:04:08



Section 3 - Create a Project

# Ep 33 Animating Type With an Image

WATCH VIDEO ▶

## Overview

In this video we are going to start with the first section of the video presentation.

We are going to look at how to create the first section and animate, type and graphic elements.

So let's get into it!

## Topics Covered

Animating type	00:08:48
Animating an image	00:11:46

Section 3 - Create a Project

# Ep 34 Animating a Bouncing PIN

**WATCH VIDEO** ▶

## Overview

So in the previous episode we made a start on our video presentation where we animated some type and a background image.

In this video we are going to continue on and add the next animation elements.

So let's get into it!

## Topics Covered

Animating a graphic	00:04:36
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Section 3 - Create a Project

# Ep 35 Animating a Simple Transition

WATCH VIDEO ▶

## Overview

In the previous episode we continued our animation intro sequence and added in the bouncing pins.

Next we are going to continue on and add the next animation sequence. In this video I am going to show you how to animate a simple transition from frame 1 to another.

So let's get into it!

## Topics Covered

Editing shapes with the pen tool	00:03:39
Animating a graphic	00:05:46

Section 3 - Create a Project

# Ep 36 Animating a British Flag Sequence

WATCH VIDEO ▶

## Overview

In the previous episode we continued our animation intro sequence and added in the transition sequence between frame 1 and 2.

In this video we are going to continue on and add the next animation sequence for Frame 3.

So let's get into it!

## Topics Covered

Importing a Photoshop doc into After Effects	00:06:51
Editing photoshop layers	00:08:46

Section 3 - Create a Project

Ep 37 Synchronising to Music After Effects

WATCH VIDEO

Overview

Now most of the time, when people use audio for their videos it's most commonly simply played in the background.

It just plays, and there is no real connection between the visual and the audio.

Now sometimes you will see a video presentation that is edited to an audio clip, and the edit is in time with the background track.

For the video presentation we are creating we are going to edit it alongside an audio track.

Now editing a clip along an audio track can be a little complicated and tricky to do.

In this video I am going to share a technique I often use which works quite well for me, which I hope will help you.

In this video I am going to bring in a music file and we are going to look at how we can prepare to sync the entire video presentation to music.

So let's get into it!

Topics Covered

Listening for audio cues in music00:06:20

Planning structure around music00:11:43

Synchronising a presentation to music00:12:51

## Section 3 - Create a Project

# Ep 38 Edit a Video Sequence

**WATCH VIDEO** ▶

### Overview

In the previous episode we analysed a music background track and placed markers on the timeline which we are going to structure our video presentation around going forward.

In this video I am going to demonstrate how you can edit a video sequence in After Effects.

So let's get into it!

### Topics Covered

Video transition	00:08:27
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Section 3 - Create a Project

# Ep 39 Duplicate & Edit an Animation Sequence

WATCH VIDEO ▶

## Overview

In the previous episode we created the video sequence that will play in the background of the first section of the video presentation.

In this video we are going to focus on the animation sequence right at the start of the section.

So let's get into it!

## Topics Covered

Duplicating comps 00:02:16

Editing comps 00:03:20

Parenting layers 00:04:55

Section 3 - Create a Project

# Ep 40 Build a Complex Layout & Animate

WATCH VIDEO ▶

## Overview

In this tutorial I am going to demonstrate how you can build a complex layout and animate in After Effects.

So let's get into it!

## Topics Covered

Build a complex layout & Animate	00:01:38
----------------------------------	----------

Section 3 - Create a Project

Ep 41 Animate a Shape Layer Mask

WATCH VIDEO

Overview

In this tutorial I am going to demonstrate how you can animate a mask in After Effects.

So let's get into it!

Topics Covered

Applying a mask to a shape layer	00:02:43
Animating a mask	00:04:19

Section 3 - Create a Project

Ep 42 Duplicate & Edit Comp Sequences

WATCH VIDEO

Overview

In this tutorial I am going to demonstrate how to easily duplicate and edit compositions in After Effects.

In this video we are going to move on and create the next sections in our video presentation.

In this video we are going to create sections 3, 4, 5, and 6 which is going to progress us along nicely which will take us almost to the end of the video presentation.

So let's get into it!

Topics Covered

Duplicating compositions	00:02:50
Editing composition links	00:06:59

Section 3 - Create a Project

# Ep 43 Animating Still Images

WATCH VIDEO

## Overview

In this tutorial I am going to demonstrate how to easily animate still images in After Effects.

In the previous episode we made some serious progress with the video presentation.

Where we easily created more sections by duplicating compositions and simply changing the contents inside.

In this video we are going to jump back into one of the sections to include some animating images to add more dynamic to the presentation.

So let's get into it!

## Topics Covered

Importing images into your compositions	00:04:20
Animating still images	00:08:30

Section 3 - Create a Project

Ep 44 Colour Enhancing Footage

WATCH VIDEO

Overview

Now working with video, you will always want to make sure it looks the best it can. Sometimes when we bring video into After Effects it can look a little flat.

Now After Effects is really good at colour grading and adding colour enhancements to video footage.

In this video we are going to look back over the video presentation we have been working on up to this point.

We are going to look at some of the video we have placed in to the video presentation so far and use some of the helpful effects and presets in After Effects to enhance the colour and quality.

I am going to demonstrate just how easy this can be done in After Effects.

So let's get into it!

Topics Covered

Auto contrast00:03:14

Edit levels00:07:43

Edit curves00:08:46



Section 3 - Create a Project

Ep 45 Create a 2D Scene

WATCH VIDEO 

Overview

In this video we are going to build the last section of our video presentation.

Section 7.

This is going to be similar to the intro section where we animated some simple 2D graphics.

In this video we are going to begin by building the 2D scene so in the next episode we can learn how to animate it together.

This is going to be a good exercise to follow because this is the type of thing you will find yourself doing in After Effects as you build your own video presentations!

Eventually we will end up with a nice 2D scene which we can then animate.

So let's get into it!

Topics Covered

Create a 2D Scene	00:04:06
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## Section 3 - Create a Project

# Ep 46 Animate a Simple 2D Scene

[WATCH VIDEO](#) ▶

### Overview

In this tutorial I am going to demonstrate how you can animate a simple 2D composition in After Effects.

In this video we going to apply some simple animation to our elements to complete the last section of video presentation.

We are going to create a dynamic transition where the buildings seem to pop up from the baseline, the type appears and the clouds animate in behind.

The 2D scene then lingers at the end so we can see some of the nice animated parts of the 2D scene.

So let's get into it!

### Topics Covered

## Section 3 - Create a Project

# Ep 47 Simple 2D Animation

WATCH VIDEO ▶

### Overview

In this video we going to apply some further animation to some of the buildings to add details.

In this video we are going to look at how we can isolate some of the artwork and apply some simple 2D animation.

We are going to finish our video presentation by adding these subtle animation details to the sequence.

This will be the final video in this project where we will complete the video presentation ready to export.

So let's get into it!

### Topics Covered

## Section 3 - Create a Project

# Ep 48 Exporting in After Effects

[WATCH VIDEO](#) ▶

### Overview

Once we have finished our video presentation it is now time to export, ready to share.

In this video I will be showing you how to wrap up our video project and export it off ready to share!

So let's get into it!

### Want to learn more?

**Check out some great resources online to learn more advanced features of After Effects:**

[GO TO PAGE](#) >

### Topics Covered

# Where to go next?

Once you have finished the course, you should now be up to speed with the program to start learning more advanced features of the program.

Here are a bunch of links to more After Effects content online you may be interested in that were not covered in this course.

If you find yourself there, don't forget to mention who sent ya!

Enjoy!

## Cool After Effects Videos

Here are a bunch of cool videos that should keep you learning:

How to Use the 3D Camera Tool	WATCH IT >
How To Use the Graph Editor After Effects	WATCH IT >
Puppet Tools in Adobe After Effects	WATCH IT >
Motion Tracking in After Effects	WATCH IT >
Easy Green Screen Keying in After Effects	WATCH IT >
After Effects 3D Camera Techniques	WATCH IT >
Animating Still Images to Look Like Video	WATCH IT >
Kinetic Typography Motion Graphics Tutorial	WATCH IT >
5 Great Text Effects in After Effects	WATCH IT >
Liquid Drip Effect After Effects CC Tutorial	WATCH IT >

## Cool After Effects Channels

Now these guys are huge so you will probably have already heard of them, but if not, check em out!

AE Tutorials w/ Mikey	CHECK IT OUT >
Justin Odisho	CHECK IT OUT >
TutVid	CHECK IT OUT >
Olufemii Tutorials	CHECK IT OUT >
Kriscoart	CHECK IT OUT >
Adobe Creative Cloud	CHECK IT OUT >
Video Copilot	CHECK IT OUT >
Greyscalegorilla	CHECK IT OUT >
Mt. Mograph	CHECK IT OUT >



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**Website:** [garethdavidstudio.com](http://garethdavidstudio.com)

**Contact:** [creative@garethdavidstudio.com](mailto:creative@garethdavidstudio.com)