Adobe Authorised Training Centre

Introduction to Adobe After Effects CS3

media training

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Course description

Adobe After Effects allows you to create the type of sophisticated video effects previously only available to television graphic designers and film special fx producers. This two day introduction is designed to allow those new to video post production techniques to get the most from this immensely powerful software.

The emphasis throughout this introduction is on practical exercises. These exercises will cover incorporating video with Photoshop and Illustrator graphics, video layering techniques, working with key frames, using filters for special effects and rendering your final project. You will also look at different rendering techniques and ways to optimise the finished production.

Feel free to tailor the course to your exact needs if you wish. This course is based on the Professional Edition of After Effects. If you would like a course on the Standard Edition, please call for details.

Course information

Course duration

Two days

Course cost

Public scheduled course: £450 plus VAT per person.
This course runs as a public scheduled course on a regular basis.
Please call 020 7359 9855 or visit www.mediatraining.ltd.uk for dates.

Private course costs:
£840 plus VAT for two days of individual tuition. £995 plus VAT for two delegates.
£1,350 plus VAT for three delegates. Each additional delegate: £175 plus VAT.

Course location

We have two fully equipped training centres in central London; one is in Highbury and Islington (one stop from Kings Cross) and one next to Waterloo station.
We can also run courses onsite at your offices if you prefer.

Pre course requirements

There are no pre course requirements.

Post training support

The cost of the course includes lunch, course notes to take away, a certificate and six months telephone Helpline support.

Follow on courses

Advanced After Effects, Video Optimisation Techniques.

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DAY ONE

Starting a project
• Importing layers from Photoshop
• Using the Project window
• Working with layers over time
• Animating layers independently
• Using multiple key frames
• Animating antialiased text
• Using Bezier motion paths
• Applying effects to layers

Importing footage
• Nesting footage
• Precomposing footage
• Using alpha channels
• Looping video footage
• Drafting a project
• Interpreting footage

Working with layers
• Different layer masking techniques
• Creating animated Bezier mattes
• Exposing elements of your last project
• Changing playback speed
• Changing playback direction

Parent/child relationships
• Working with the z-axis
• Text layers
• Trimming layers

Working with key frames
• Animating graphic elements
• Precisely controlling animations
• Using markers to synchronise actions

Introduction to using mattes
• Using colour keys to create simple mattes
• Making layers react interactively
• Using Free Transform Mode
• Working with multiple effects
• Using paths in After Effects
• Using the align palette
• Using adjustment layers
• Previewing in RAM
• Using the Keylight keyer

Compiling your project
• Optimising project settings
• Rendering the composition

Practical exercises

DAY TWO

Filters and transitions
• An in-depth look at After Effects filters including:
- Levels
- Creating drop shadows
- Perspective filters
• Using texturise
• Setting mattes
• Bevelling the Alpha channel
• Bevelling edges of rectangular objects
• An in-depth look at transitions
• Using the Comp window
• Creating text effects
• Animating text

More about key frames
• Further principles of key framing
• Copying and pasting key frames
• Key frame assistants
• Time reverse key framing
• Simultaneously editing multiple key frames

Compiling your project
• Using the pen tool to edit the value graph
• Issues involved in interpolation methods
• Precise control over velocity
• Controlling speed of change
• Nesting complex compositions
• Mixing interpolation methods

Linear and Bezier interpolation
• Previewing in wire frame
• Using audio effects
• Importing a project from
• Adobe Premiere

Final rendering
• Creating custom rendering templates
• Faster rendering techniques
• Efficient use of RAM
• Setting field rendering order

Saving your work for film, video, multimedia and the web

Questions and answers