Quick Export from After Effects Instructions
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The following instructions are for rendering quick tests of your After Effects work that may be viewed on a NTSC monitor via a DV (FireWire) device or on the desktop.

These steps assume the use of the “NTSC, 640x480” Composition preset, but may be used as a guide if another preset or a custom setting was used.

To export your Composition:

1. Open the Render Queue by choosing Window > Render Queue.

2. Drag and drop your composition from the list of footage items in the Project window to the bottom portion of the Render Queue.

3. Click on the Render Settings pop-up menu and choose “Best Settings”. If doing a test render, you may also use “Draft Settings” to work faster; however, your image quality will be less than if you use “Best Settings”.


4. Click on the **Output Module** pop-up menu and choose “Custom…”.

5a. For a movie that will play to a DV device connected to the FireWire port, set the following in the **Output Module** dialog box:

   - **Composition Settings**
     - Format = QuickTime Movie
     - Embed = None
     - Post-Render Action = None
   - **Video Output** = Checked
     - DV/DVCPRO – NTSC Compressor; Spatial Quality = High (100)
     - Channels = RGB
     - Depth = Millions of Colors
     - Color = Premultiplied (Matted)
   - **Stretch** = On
     - Stretch to = NTSC DV, 720x480 preset (choose from pop-up menu)
   - **Note**: Only use this setting if you are not rendering fields in the Render Settings (the “Best Settings” set above in step 3 does not include fields).
   - **Quality** = High
   - **Crop** = Off
   - **Audio Output** = Off (On only if using audio.)
Click OK to continue and go on to step 6.

5b. For a movie that will play well on most computers, set the following in the **Output Module** dialog box:

- **Composition Settings**
  - **Format** = QuickTime Movie
  - **Embed** = None
  - **Post-Render Action** = None
- **Video Output** = Checked
  - Sorenson Video 3 Compressor; **Spatial Quality** = High (100)
  - **Channels** = RGB
  - **Depth** = Millions of Colors
  - **Color** = Premultiplied (Matted)
  - Note: Sorenson Video or Photo-JPEG may also be used.
- **Stretch** = On
  - Stretch to = Medium, 320x240 preset (choose from pop-up menu)
  - **Note:** You may leave this setting off and render your movie at 640x480 if storage space allows; however, the movie may not play well on older computers.
- **Crop** = Off
- **Audio Output** = Off (On only if using audio.)
Click OK to continue.

6. Set the Log pop-up menu to “Errors Only” (this is the default).

7. Click on the text next to Output to: to name your movie and pick a location for it to be saved to.

8. Click the RENDER button at the upper right of the Render Queue window.
To view your finished movie:
Open and play your finished movie in QuickTime Player.
Note: DV/DVCPRO - NTSC movies are likely appear “fuzzy” looking unless you enable “High Quality” mode in the Movie Properties dialog box (Movie > Movie Properties; set the left pop-up to “Video” and the right pop-up to “High Quality”).

To play your finished movie out to a TV set via a DV device:
Open and play it in Final Cut Pro or Adobe Premiere with the video output preference set to Apple FireWire 720x480 (both applications have presets for this). Also, you must have a DV camcorder, DV deck or DV media converter connected with the input mode set correctly (usually “DV in”).

Saving your project:
Try to save your project often; including:
- Right after you drag and drop a Composition to the Render Queue.
- After specifying all of your settings.
- After the render is complete.

Should you encounter a problem during any of these steps, a recently saved project file will allow you to continue from where you left off.

About DV settings and Fields:
If you are exporting your final output of a Composition at DV - NTSC settings, do the following:
1. Nest your 640x480 into a new Composition.
2. Set the new, containing Composition to the “NTSC DV, 720x480” preset (your artwork will appear to stretch about 11% horizontally).
3. Drag and drop the containing Composition to the Render Queue.
4. Adjust the “Best Settings” in the Render Settings dialog box to include “Lower Field First”.
5. Set the Output Module to QuickTime with DV-NTSC compression and leave the Stretch option OFF (the current frame size should be 720x480).
6. Click RENDER.