

1. After Effects Notes – Basics

Folder Protocol

Set up a PROJECT folder: within the folder create a

- PREVIEW folder and
- ASSETS folder

Launch After Effects, Save file within your Project Folder, name as: Basics

Explore the workspace, timeline and tool bar...

Use Workspace STANDARD or SMALL SCREEN

New Composition:

Preset>HDTV 1080 25, (1920x1080 with 25frames per second), duration:5seconds

Text Animation

Create a composition

Use Text tool,

Character panel, change: typeface, size, colour etc

Twirl down to POSITION Options

Current Time Indicator (playhead) has to be on required keyframe when you change values as keyframes are inserted wherever indicator currently is.

With Time Indicator at start/zero drag text to required position

Click Stopwatch icon, this puts first keyframe on timeline, move Time Indicator to 1sec, drag text to new position, this creates final keyframe.

Experiment with ROTATION, OPACITY, SIZE

Shortcut P = Position

Shortcut R = Rotation

Shortcut S = Size

Shortcut T = Opacity

With layer selected U = shows all keyframes

Press space to play

With Time Indicator at 0 Position

Text on a Path (using shape)

New Composition> create text

With text layer selected, use Shape tool draw eg oval

Text> PATH >PATH OPTIONS> choose mask1

Choose REVERSE path

With Timeline Indicator at 0, FIRST MARGIN click stopwatch for first keyframe

Might need to resize text and alter tracking

After Effects – Basics continued

Text on a Path (using pen tool)

New Composition> create text

With text layer selected, use PEN tool draw a curvy loop

Text> PATH >PATH OPTIONS> choose mask1

Reverse not needed

With Timeline Indicator at 0, FIRST MARGIN click stopwatch for first keyframe

Add keyframes to pause animation

To make your animation smooth and more natural add EASE

Select Keyframes, Animation> Keyframe Assistant> Easy Ease

keyframes change from diamond to hourglass shapes to show ease applied

Text Effects

In a new composition, create your text

(Edit> Duplicate Layer)

Open the Effects and Presets Panel> Animation Presets>Text>

Animate In> Center Spiral

Organic> Hummingbird

Drag effect either onto text or onto text layer, timeline on zero

Export

With composition selected File> Export> Media Encoder

H.264 encoder, match bitrate,

Click to name and where to be saved (choose your PREVIEWS folder), then click green triangle to start rendering (exporting).

Nested Compositions

New composition for 15 second duration

Drag in other comps, stagger on timeline, then export.

2. After Effects – Basics continued... logo

Set up a new PROJECT folder: using Folder Protocol

- PREVIEW folder and
- ASSETS folder gather files: CA logo .png, CA logo.ai, logo, watercolours-1920.png

Launch After Effects, Save file within your Project Folder, name as: logo animation

Import files from ASSETS folder into PROJECT PANEL

intro1 – use png version of logo

Create New Composition: intro1, white background #FFFFFF

Drag CA logo .png into layers and animate, eg: Position, Opacity etc

Also add Effect>Transitions>Twister, change COMPLETION value to animate

Drag watercolour png into layers and animate eg size, opacity

Add Effects> Colour Correction> eg HUE SATURATION, can animate in EFFECTS PANEL or Layers on timeline adding keyframes and changing values

Adjustment Layer

This is a more flexible way of applying effects and animations to your layers

Layer>New>Adjustment Layer, add same HUE SATURATION effect to the adjustment layer (can copy and paste Effect from watercolour, use Edit, or recreate)

Intro2 – animate illustrator logo layers

Create New Composition: intro2 (OR can DUPLICATE intro1 rename and delete unwanted layers)

Import CA logo illustrator to Project Panel as> COMPOSITION retain layers (as prepared in Illustrator) brings in a composition and folder.

Open and animate each layer/letter, eg: Position, Opacity, size etc

You may want to change comp size to match main intro2 comp> Composition Settings

If enlarged click STARBUST icon on each layer for CONTINUOUSLY RASTERISE (as illustrator no longer vectors in AE, now pixels)

In main comp: intro2

Drag Composition CA logo .ai into layers

Drag watercolour png into layers

Copy and paste Adjustment Layer from previous comp intro1 or recreate

Export

Export to PREVIEWS folder