AUTO CROP

Version 3.0.0

BatchFrame

Auto Crop

Version 3.0.0

> Auto Crop crops a composition to the size of its contents with a single click.

What's new in Auto Crop 3.0.0?

- Auto Crop is now a native plug-in, allowing for faster, more accurate cropping.
- Auto Crop is now can now be run from the 'Layer' menu, no panel needed.
- Cropping can now be done directly on a composition, it does not have to be a pre-comp.
- When cropping a pre-comp, every instance of that pre-comp in the entire project will be correctly repositioned after the cropping
- Crop Duration now crops accurately and the progress bar updates more often during analysis

Compatibility

Auto Crop 3.0.0 is compatible with After Effects CS6 and newer

Installing

> If you purchased Auto Crop through aescripts.com, you can use the <u>aescripts + aeplugins manager app</u> to take care of the installation

Auto Crop has two parts, the plug-in and the dockable panel. The panel is not required if you would prefer to run Auto Crop only from the menu. The location of where these files need to be installed will depend on your operating system and your version of After Effects. Within your Auto Crop download, open the folder that matches your operating system.

> Important: Plug-in files are OS specific. `Auto_Crop.aex` is for Windows and `Auto_Crop.plugin` is for Mac, however the script file `Auto_Crop_Panel.jsxbin` is the dockable panel which is used for both Windows and Mac.

Windows

Copy `Auto_Crop.aex` into one of the following directories.

To install for a specific version of After Effects:

```
C:/Program Files/Adobe/After Effects VERSION/Support Files/Plug-ins
```

To install for all versions of After Effects, version CC and newer:

```
C:/Program Files/Adobe/Common/Plug-ins/7.0/MediaCore
```

The `Auto Crop.jsxbin` file needs to be copied into each version of After Effects where you want the panel to be available, there is no common location.

```
C:/Program Files/Adobe/After Effects VERSION/Support Files/Scripts/ScriptUI
Panels/
```

Mac

Copy `Auto_Crop.plugin` into one of the following directories.

To install for a specific version of After Effects:

```
~/Applications/After Effects VERSION/Plug-ins
```

To install for all versions of After Effects, version CC and newer:

```
/Library/Application Support/Adobe/Common/Plug-ins/7.0/MediaCore
```

The `Auto Crop.jsxbin` file needs to be copied into each version of After Effects where you want the panel to be available, there is no common location.

```
~/Applications/After Effects VERSION/Scripts/ScriptUI Panels
```

Script UI Alternative

In After Effects CC 2019 and newer, you can also install Script UI panels from within After Effect by going to:

```
File > Scripts > Install ScriptUI Panel...
```

Using Auto Crop

There are 4 different options for running Auto Crop. To keep the clutter down in the menu, Auto Crop only shows up in a single menu slot. Each of the 4 options can be accessed by using a different combination of modifier keys. (You can also select the different options by using the dockable panel.)

> On Mac, you must hold the modifier keys before opening the menu

Modifier Keys	Function
None	Standard Auto Crop
Ctrl / CMD	Auto Crop Duration
Shift	Auto Crop Preferences
Shift + Ctrl / Shift + CMD	Mask Crop

Standard Auto Crop

A standard Auto Crop will crop the selected pre-comp(s) at the current frame. If a composition is cropped that is being used in other compositions within the project, all instances of that composition will be automatically corrected after the crop has completed.

The standard Auto Crop can crop a pre-comp or the current composition. To crop a pre-comp, just select it in the Timeline panel. (You can crop any number of pre-comps at once by selecting all of the layers you would like to crop). To crop the current composition, verify that no layers are selected in the Timeline panel, but that either the Timeline or Composition panel is active. Then go to:

```
Layer > Auto Crop
```

> The Auto Crop menu item will be disabled if the current selection is invalid

Auto Crop Duration

Auto Crop Duration will crop a composition while taking its entire length into account. This is perfect if you have animated layers within a composition and you want to get the smallest possible composition dimensions without cutting off any details.

Things to remember when running Auto Crop Duration:

- If you run a full quality crop, Auto Crop will be running a full quality render of the entire composition. This means that if you are cropping a more complex composition, it will take as long to run the Crop Duration as it would to render the composition. Auto Crop Duration can be cancelled by holding the Shift + Ctrl (Shift + CMD) keys.
- Crop Duration will always crop the entire duration of the composition being cropped. It does not pay attention to the Work Area or any in/out points set on a pre-comp

To use Auto Crop Duration, select a pre-comp in the Timeline. If you would like to crop the current composition, verify that no layers are selected in the Timeline, but the Timeline or Composition panel is active. (Unlike the standard Auto Crop, you can not run Auto Crop Duration on multiple pre-comp layers at once)

Then hold `Ctrl` or `CMD` and go to:

```
Layer > Auto Crop Duration
```

Mask Crop

Mask Crop will modify the bounds of a composition to match the bounds of a mask that is applied to it.

> Mask Crop can only be run on pre-comps, you can not run it on the current composition.

To run Mask Crop, select a pre-comp that has a mask applied to it.

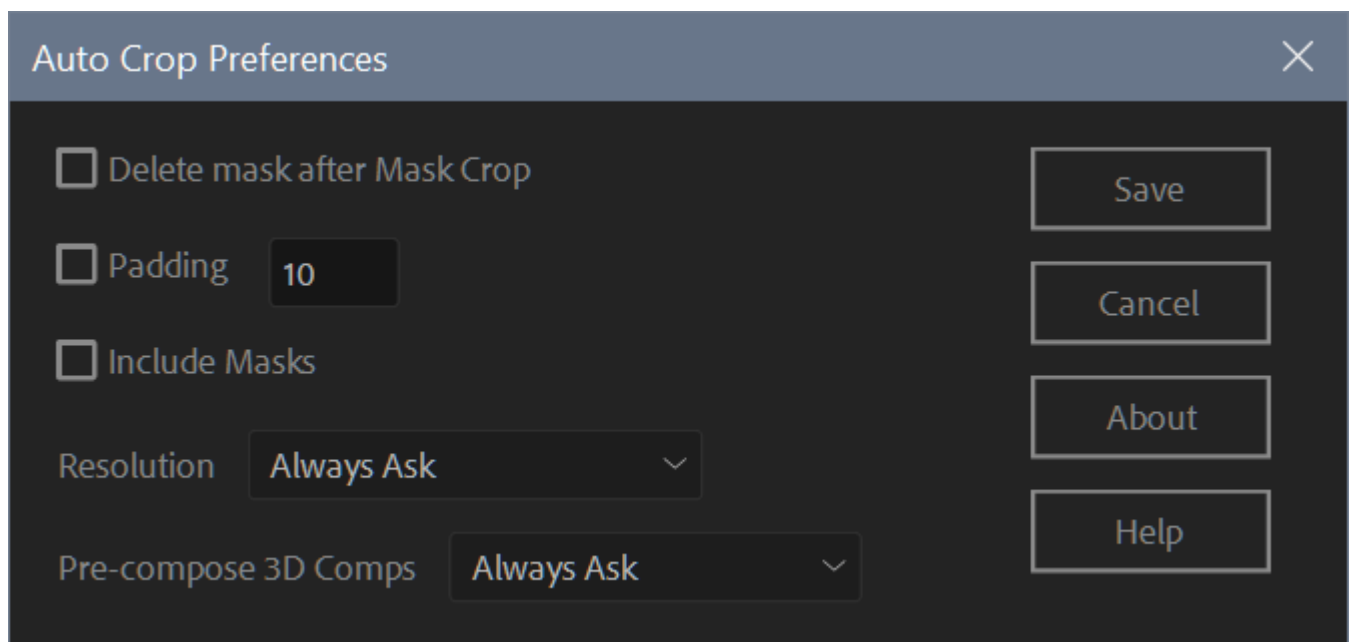Then hold `Shift + Ctrl` or `Shift + CMD` and go to:

```
Layer > Mask Crop
```

Mask Crop can only take a single mask into account when cropping:

- If a pre-comp has only a single mask applied to it, Mask Crop will automatically use that mask.
- If a pre-comp has multiple masks applied to it and you select a specific mask in the Timeline, Mask Crop will automatically use the selected mask
- If a pre-comp has multiple masks applied to it and you do not select a specific mask, you will be presented with a list of masks to choose from for cropping

> If you need to expand the size of a composition, Mask Crop can be used with a mask that is larger than the composition being "cropped" and it will actually be enlarged.

Auto Crop Preferences

To open the Auto Crop Preferences, hold `Shift`, then go to:

```
Layer > Auto Crop Preferences
```

Or choose 'Preferences' from the Auto Crop dockable panel.

Delete mask after Mask Crop

This setting only applied to 'Mask Crop', and is fairly self-explanatory. If this option is checked, Auto Crop will crop the pre-comp to the bounds of the mask and the delete the mask after cropping is complete. If this is left un-checked, the mask will be left un-touched.

Padding

Padding applied to all crop types. This option allows you to specify an amount in pixels that will be added to each crop, basically adding a buffer. Negative values can be used to crop an extra amount, however if a negative value is used that is more than half the size of the content, you will get errors.

Include Masks

This option applied to Auto Crop and Auto Crop Duration only. If this option is checked, the crop will not recognize any content that is hidden by masks applied to the pre-comp. If this is left un-checked, any masks applied to the pre-comp will be disregarded.

Resolution

Auto Crop works best when it analyzes the full resolution data, however it will also be slightly slower (depending on the complexity of the composition) than if it analyzes at 1/2, 1/3, 1/4 or any other lower resolution. If you are working at a resolution other than 'Full', by default, Auto Crop will *always ask* if you would like to crop at full resolution or at the current resolution.

Changing this preference will prevent Auto Crop from asking each time. You can choose to either always use the full resolution or always use the current resolution.

> If you crop without using the full resolution, your crop will not be pixel-accurate at full-res

Pre-compose 3D Comps

If the composition you are cropping contains 3D layers, changing the size of that composition can cause the 3D layers to shift unexpectedly. Pre-composing the composition will copy the entire composition into a secondary composition and then crop the secondary composition. Otherwise, it will just crop the comp as usual and may have unexpected and inaccurate results.

> Inaccuracies from 3D comps will be more noticeable as layers are pushed further back or further forwards in Z-space. For the most accurate results every time, pre-composing is recommended, however it might be worth testing the non-pre-composed version to see if its results are acceptable.

This preference can be set to 'Always Ask', which will show a popup each time a composition is found with 3D layers inside. If you do not want to see the popup, you can choose either 'Always Pre-compose' or 'Never Pre-compose'

Buttons

Save

Save the current preferences

Cancel

Disregard any changes to the preferences and revert to the previous settings.

About / Register

If your copy of Auto Crop is not registered, you will see the 'Register' button. Clicking this will bring up another window where you can enter your serial number. If you do not register Auto Crop, you will be running in Trial Mode which is limited to one crop per day for 10 days.

If you have already registered Auto Crop, you will see the 'About' button. Clicking this will bring up another window showing the currently installed version of Auto Crop and the name of the registered user. This window also contains an option to de-activate the current license in the event that you need to activate it on another computer.

Help

The help button will open the online version of this help guide.

Version History

- May 2019 - Initial 3.0.0 Release

Questions / Comments

If you have any questions or comments, please send an email to contact@batchframe.com or use the contact form at www.BatchFrame.com/contact