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Quickstart for After Effects: ReSizer 2.0

Scale from SD to HD & Beyond.

An upcoming addition to the Instant HD product line.

Apply ReSizer in After Effects

In After Effects, the best way to use ReSizer is by applying it to a Solid layer. You do not apply ReSizer to the original footage. Once you have applied ReSizer to a Solid, you will use the Source popup to select the footage you want to scale up.

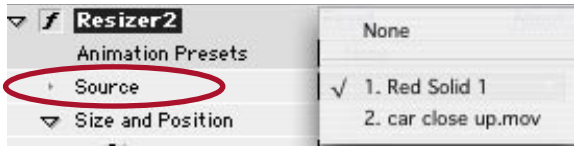
The steps to resize footage in After Effects are as follows:

1. Create a new composition that is set up to your target up-scaling size.

2. Create a solid that is the same size as the composition.

3. Import your raw footage into After Effects. Drop the footage into the new composition and hide its view.

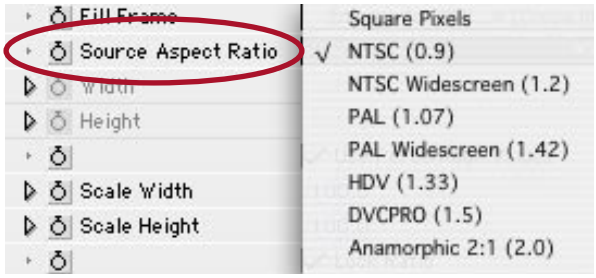
4. Apply ReSizer to the Solid. Open the Effect Controls window and set the 'Source' popup to your raw footage.



5. Select the resizing preset from the 'Preset' popup. We've loaded in several common DVC, HD, and Film resolutions that are used in production.

   If your particular resolution isn't present, you can set the Preset option to Comp Size. You can also checkmark 'Use Percentage Values' to scale the footage yourself using the 'Scale Width' and 'Scale Height' parameters.

6. Select which 'Fill Frame' mode you want to use. Tell ReSizer to Enlarge to Fill to fill the screen completely;
   Fit to Frame, which letterboxes or wideboxes your footage;
   or Stretch to Fill to fit the footage directly into the frame without maintaining the aspect ratio.

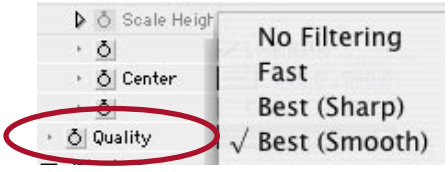


7. Select the 'Source Aspect Ratio' popup to match the aspect ratio of your footage.

8. Choose your 'Quality' settings. ReSizer defaults to the Best (Smooth) setting, which is usually sufficient.

   Alternately, set this option down to Best (Sharp). This unlocks the 'Smoothness', 'Sharpness', and 'Fine Tuning' controls, which gives you more control. Toggle between those settings until you get a result that you are happy with.

   The difference between the algorithms is explained in the 'Three Algorithms' section of this manual, but ultimately the choice will come down to your own preferred results.



9. If you are using interlaced footage, you can do one of two methods.
   Have After Effects interpret the footage with its own deinterlacing utility.
   Or, turn off AE's deinterlace function in order to use the 'Deinterlacer' built into ReSizer.

If you choose to use AE's deinterlacing interpretation, leave the 'Fields' parameter set to Progressive. Otherwise, choose the field option and toggle the 'Deinterlace' checkbox.

10. And that's it! Your footage has been resized and is ready for export. As a side note, you can always precomp your footage in order to add additional effects to it before the resizing, and just use the precomp as the 'Source' layer.

Solid Layer and Aspect Ratio

Here's the reason behind working the way we've just described. In some cases After Effects will rescale the footage to account for differences between the aspect ratio of your composition and the footage. If the pixel aspect ratio of the footage and the composition differ, pixel sizes won't match up.

This partially defeats the purpose of using ReSizer, of course. The AE rescaling will not happen if you apply our plugin to a Solid.

For example, in a 1920x1080, square pixel comp, if you set a 720x486 non-square pixel piece of footage (NTSC) to be 1920x1080, the enlarged footage will not fill up the entire frame. This is caused by the differing pixel sizes. It is important that you set the correct aspect ration in the Source Aspect Ratio parameter.

In addition, if After Effects sees a piece of footage with one aspect ratio (say, 0.9 for an NTSC clip) in a composition with a different aspect ratio (a square pixel HD comp), it will automatically scale the footage to account for the ratio difference.

For instance, if you were to use ReSizer to scale an NTSC clip up to HD resolution, After Effects would then scale it AGAIN to 'correct' the footage for the aspect ratio. This defeats the reason you're using ReSizer in the first place. You don't want After Effects to do the upconversion.

The easiest way around this issue is to create a Solid layer that has the same properties as the Comp (1920x1080, square pixels). Apply ReSizer to that layer and select the footage to be upconverted from the Source popup.

It's an extra step, but this ensures that After Effects doesn't interfere with what ReSizer is doing. If the aspect ratio of the Comp and the footage are the same, then this step isn't necessary. If you're zooming in on a piece of NTSC footage in an NTSC comp, then you can just apply it to the footage itself without any adverse affects.