

# Cartoon Paper Pencil Presentation

You've got something to share? Sketch it out and show everyone!

## Getting Started



**First of all, thank you for purchasing this template! This guide will show you how the template works and will run you through a step by step tutorial for customizing your video in Adobe® After Effects®.**

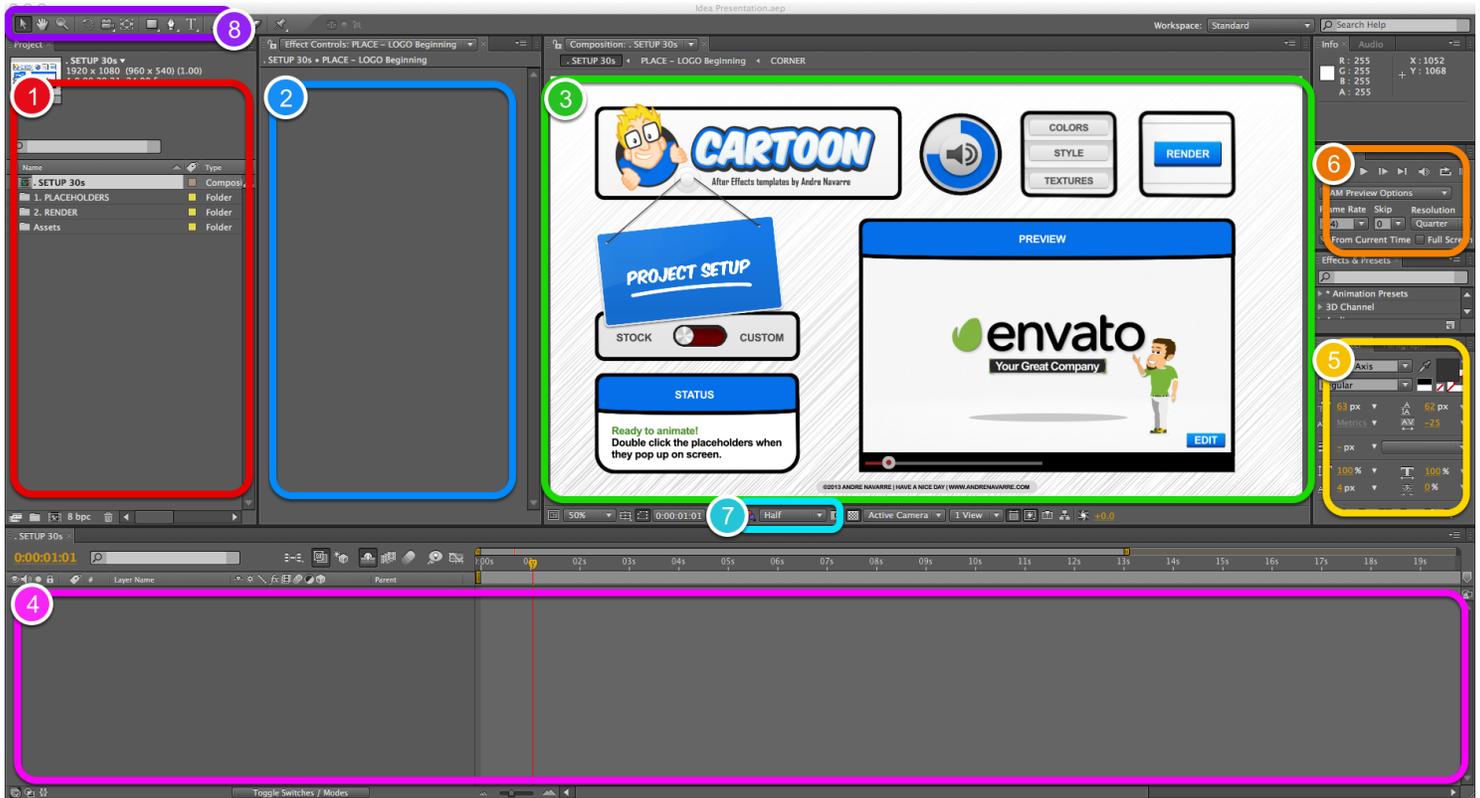
Here are a few key points to help you get started:

- The animation template is in FULL 1080p HD, 24fps (with options for lower resolutions)
- The template works on both Mac and PC using Adobe® After Effects® CS4 and later versions
- There are 2 project files for the template: *the promo video template*, and *the character generator template*

**Tip:** Setup your project using the default stock character first to get a feel for how your video will look. It will be quicker to finish this way as you will get a better sense of how it will all come together. Once you've customized the video template, you can then customize your character to match the video by using the character generator template.

**Note:** The entire process of making your video with a custom character can take a while, and this guide will help you achieve this even if you have very little experience with the software. So get a cup of mocha or some nice hot tea, settle in a comfortable chair, and join me on this fun creative adventure!

## After Effects Basics



There are **2 free fonts** used in this project. **Before you open the project files**, make sure to download and install these fonts on your computer:

- **Cul De Sac:** <http://www.dafont.com/cul-de-sac.font>
- **EraserDust:** <http://www.dafont.com/eraser.font>

First, make sure to extract the downloaded archive from Videohive so you can access the project file and save it on your computer. Right click on the .aep project file and select "Open With After Effects".

Alright let's dive into this! Here are the main areas of the software:

- **1. RED: Project panel**, where you import your media files and where you can also access the placeholder compositions
- **2. BLUE: Effect Controls panel**, where you will change settings to modify appearance effects such as colors and styles
- **3. GREEN: Composition window**, where you will select settings to change and also preview your video
- **4. MAGENTA: Timeline**, where you can drag the Current Time Indicator to scrub through the video
- **5. YELLOW: Character palette**, where you can change the text settings such as font size and color
- **6. ORANGE: Preview panel**, where you can generate a quick video preview before exporting a final video
- **7. TEAL: Resolution factor**, that you can lower to make the software run faster if you have a slower computer
- **8. PURPLE: Tools palette**, where you use the arrow tool to select buttons and move elements around in the Composition

## The Setup Window



The SETUP composition has a visual user interface to help you customize your video. The interface includes a preview video player where you can immediately see your changes being applied to the video. Scrub the timeline with the Current Time Indicator to see the video at different times.

There are 2 types of buttons in the visual interface:

- **Settings buttons:** select the "color" button and "stock/custom" button and their settings appear in the Effect Controls panel
- **Placeholder shortcuts:** double-click the blue "edit" button and audio button to edit the placeholder contents



**Example:** audio placeholder shortcut button on the left, color settings buttons in the middle, and render shortcut on the right.

**Tip:** All placeholder compositions can also be accessed in the Project panel through the folder structure.

Ready to make an awesome video? Here we go! Follow these easy steps to get started...

## Editing Your Promo Video



### 1. Add your logo:

Go to the SETUP composition and go near the beginning of the timeline. You'll see the default "envato" logo in the preview video player. You'll also see a blue "EDIT" button in the bottom right of the video player. *When the red arrow is visible, you can double click the video player to edit the placeholder content that is visible on screen.* Double-click the video player to open the beginning logo placeholder.

Import your logo file from your computer into the Project panel. Once imported, drag your logo into the placeholder composition's timeline. Position and scale your logo layer so that it's a good size in the middle of the window. You can reveal the position and scale properties by selecting your logo layer and hitting "p" and "s" (hold shift to keep both visible) on your keyboard. You can then delete the "envato" logo.

You can also use text instead of a logo, or add a text subtitle by creating a new text layer. You can resize your text or change the font by selecting the text layer and using the Character palette tools.

**Note:** *The beginning and ending logos are made up of separate placeholder compositions so that you can display different information on each ends of your video.*

**Tip:** *Most colors are controlled through the colors button in SETUP.*



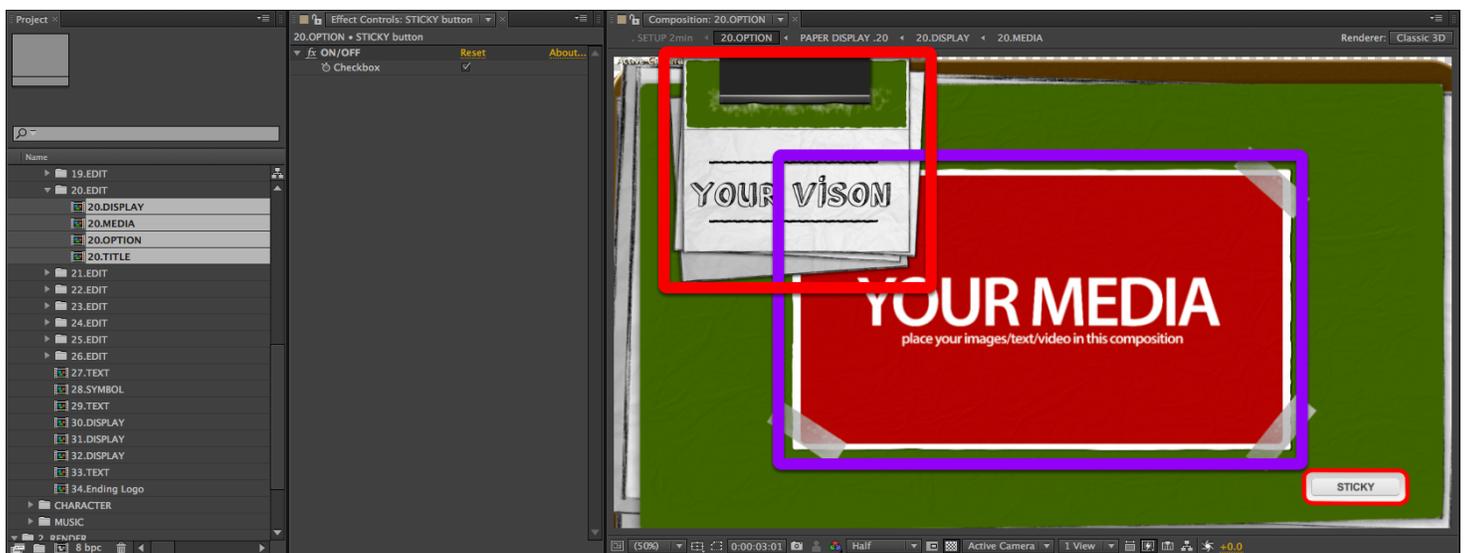
## 2. Edit the text and images in the display screens:

Use the same technique as the previous step to edit all the text elements and display contents. When you see a red arrow, you can double-click it to enter the placeholder area.

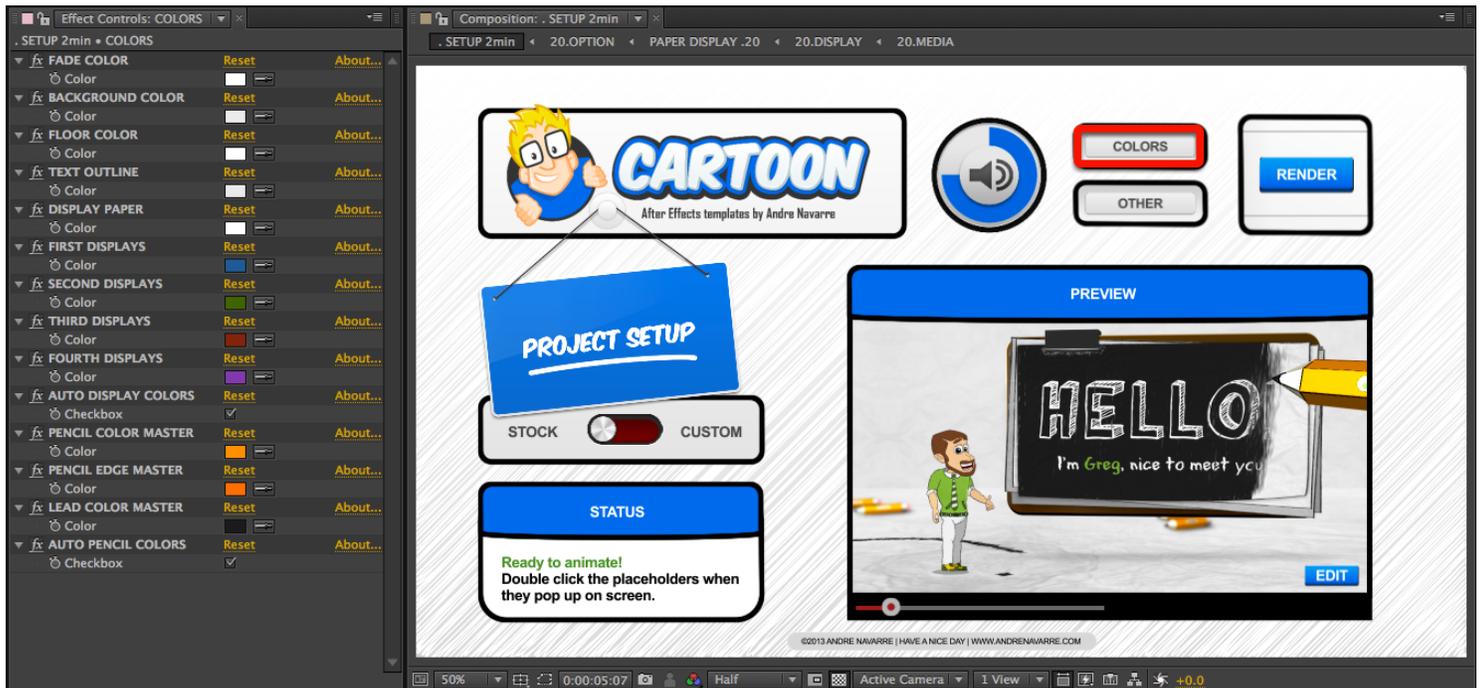
The displays that have optional sticky notes on the top left corners (*above image*) need an extra step to enable or disable those sticky notes. Double click the placeholder to enter the editing area (*image below*). You will see a button called "sticky"... select it first and then go to the Effect Controls panel to enable or disable the sticky using the ON/OFF switch.

To edit the sticky note, and the image area, double click on those areas in the placeholder comps to edit them.

Rinse and repeat for the remaining elements.



**Pro Tip:** find the "DISPLAY" comps in the project panel to redesign the display layouts if you wish to change some of the design elements or proportions. Some layers will be hidden with the hide/shy layers switch in the timeline.



### 3. Change the colors:

Once you have some of your own content in the placeholders, you'll want to change the colors to match your branding. Go to the SETUP composition and select the "colors" button, which will reveal the color settings in the Effect Controls panel. Once you change the color boxes, the video preview will update immediately.

#### **3.1. Display colors:** there are 2 types of display backgrounds...

- the black background displays: those backgrounds are black by default because the master pencil's lead color is black, and the pencil draws on the display. You can change that color, but the pencil will draw that color on the floor throughout the whole video (see pencil colors below for more info).
- the colored background displays: there is a 4 colored theme for the coloured displays that you can quickly customize. If you want manual control over all display background colors, disable "AUTO DISPLAY COLORS". You will now be able to manually change each individual BACKGROUND THEME LINKED layers' Fill color in the placeholder compositions.

#### **3.2. Pencil colors:** you can change all of the pencil's colors...

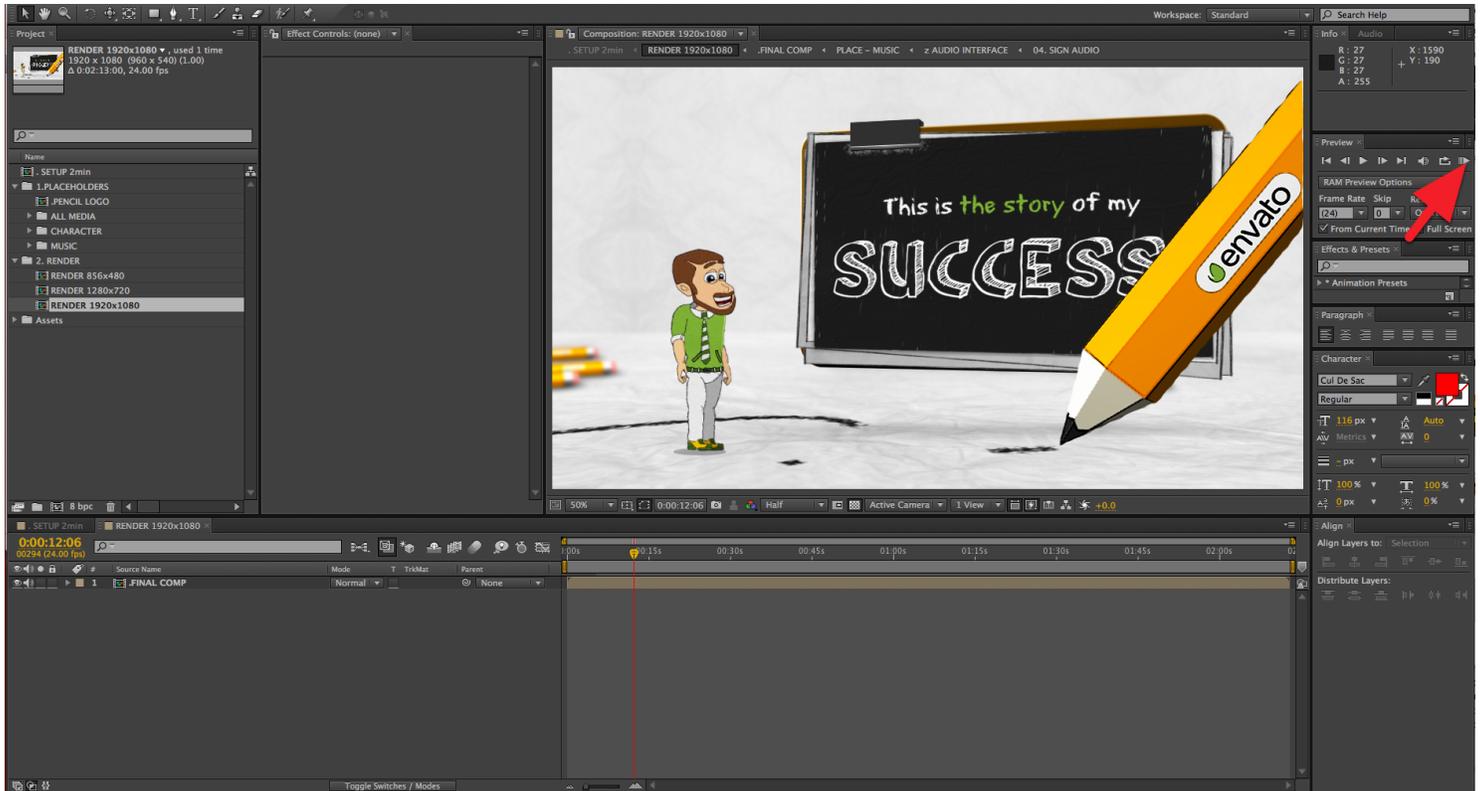
- PENCIL COLOR MASTER settings on the "COLORS" button changes the colors for the big pencil that draws on the displays. The background pencils will update to that same color so long as you have the AUTO PENCIL COLOR switch enabled.
- You can have the background pencils be separate colors by disabling the AUTO PENCIL COLOR switch. Once you deselect that switch, you can control the background pencil colors by editing the settings on the "OTHER" settings button.

### 4. Preview with stock character:

The template will default with a stock character. Preview the video with the stock characters first, this will help you visualize what your video will look like with your custom character later on.

**Note:** You can change the clothing, faces, hair, skin tones and colors when you generate your own custom character.

## See how it looks



### **7. Add your music:**

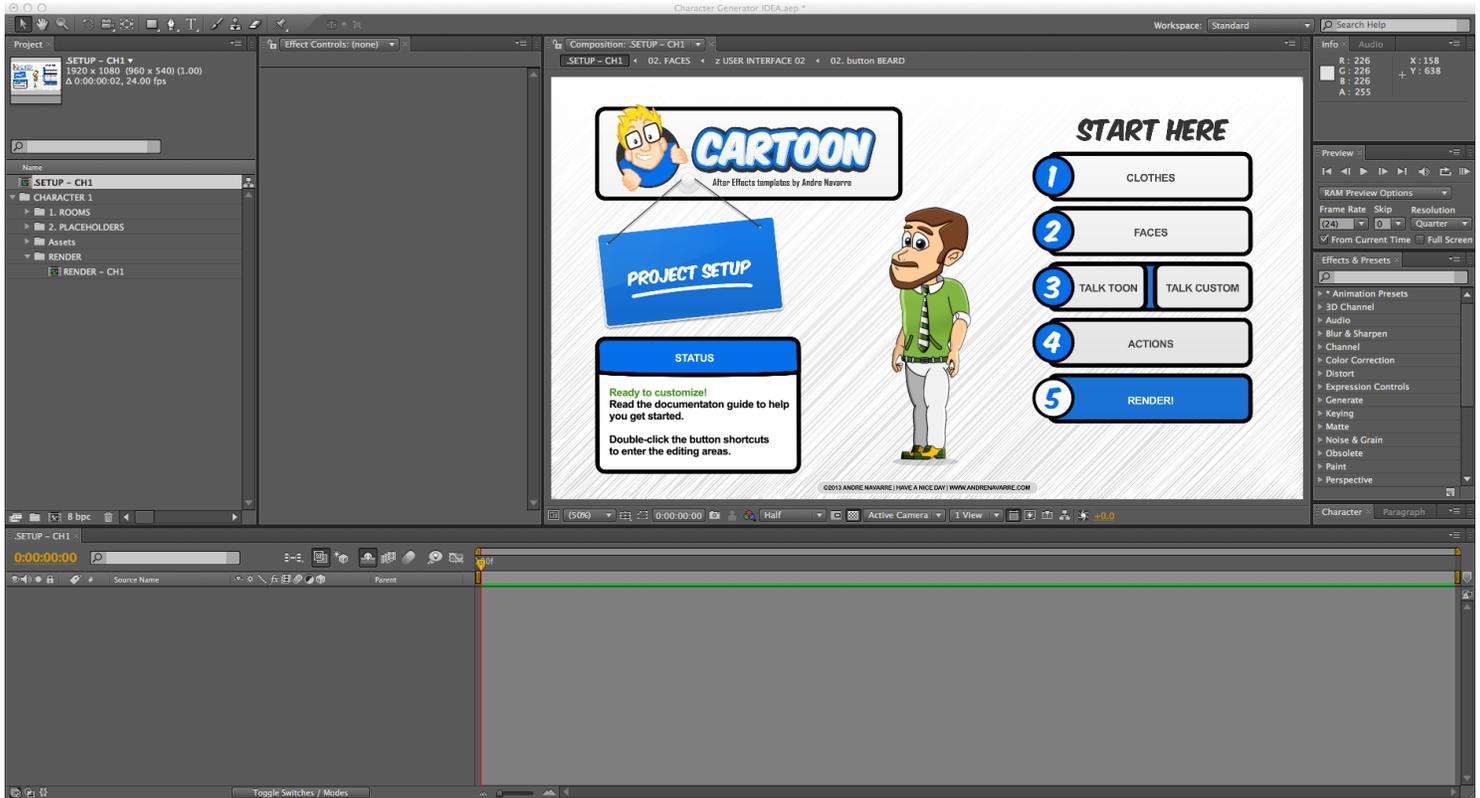
In the SETUP composition, double click on the audio icon and put your music file in the audio placeholder.

### **8. Preview your video:**

Alright! It's time to see how we're looking so far. In the SETUP composition, double click on the RENDER button to open the RENDER composition. Go to the Preview panel and click the far right play button (with the 3 lines) to generate a preview of the video. It will work a lot faster if you render at a quarter resolution, and if you skip 1 or 2 frames. This will not affect your final video export resolution, it only makes previewing quicker.

**Like what you see? If needed, go back to make changes and do another ram preview. Once you like how it's looking, let's move on the next part and create your own custom cartoon character.**

## Custom Character



Alright! It's time to create your own custom characters to use in your video. Save your changes to the video template, and the head on over the template folder and open the "**Character Generator**".aep file. This template will allow you to create your personalized character to use in the video template.

Open up the **Character Generator Tutorial PDF** to guide you through the process of customizing your characters. You may want to print out a copy for quick referencing. The tutorial will also show you how to export your characters so that they're compatible with this video template. Have fun!

**Note:** When you are done, come back here to see how to complete the final render.

## Import Custom Character

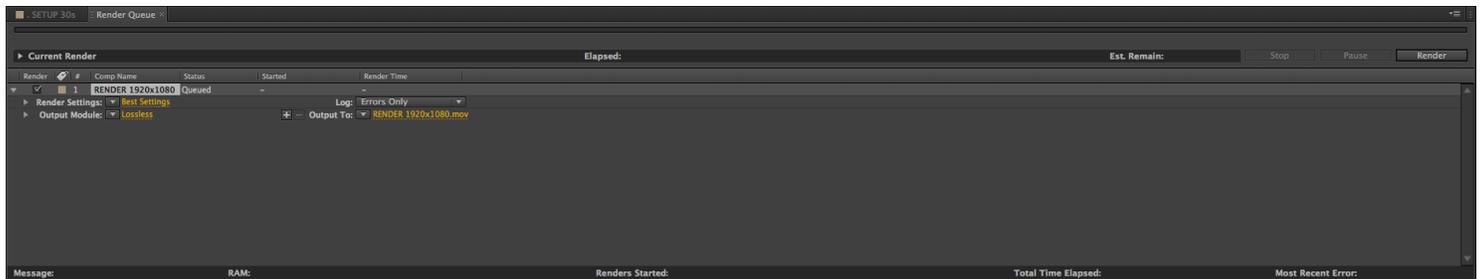
Once you've created your new custom character video file, import that character video file into the video template.

- In the SETUP window, make sure to enable the CUSTOM character switch you want to change
- Double click on the edit button to put your characters in the character placeholders



## Export Final Video

# DONE!



**Alright, so you're ready to finish your video, are you?**

Open the RENDER composition from the SETUP menu button. Once the RENDER composition is open:

1. Go to the top menu > Composition > Add to Render Queue
2. The Render Queue will open, select where you want to save the file
3. Change the Output Module to your desired settings, and make sure to enable the audio
4. Click render and go get yourself a bite to eat while you wait for your beautiful video!

The final render of the video should take anywhere between 3 to 8 hours to render, depending on your computer's performance and your render settings.

**Tip:** The default export resolution will be 1080p full HD. You can select smaller resolution export compositions in the RENDER folders from the Project panel.

**Note:** If you are exporting your video to upload to Youtube, select Quicktime movie for the Format with the H264 codec. Because this is a compressed format and it takes time to render, I prefer to export a full quality file first, using the Animation codec, and then I compress that video file to the H264 codec. This will allow you to experiment with H264 settings without having to re-render the project multiple times, which will save you a lot of time.

Thank you!



thanks!

Thanks for purchasing this template. I'm glad that it can be of use to you. I've put a few months into developing the cartoon character series and making it as easy as possible for you to customize, and I hope you've enjoyed your time with me today!

Feel free to get in touch via the [contact form on my profile](#) page with any comments or questions, suggestions or feedback.

Nothing makes me happier than to receive a link to your finished video. If you feel like sharing, please let know!

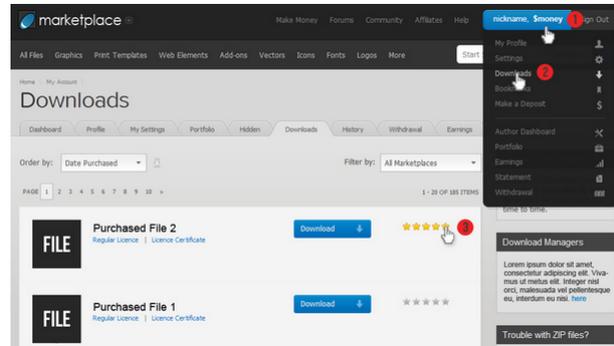
All the best,

**Andre Navarre**

www.andrenavarre.com

twitter: @andrenavarre

## Please rate this file



Please rate this file on Videohive through your downloads section. It takes about 5 seconds of your time to do, but it makes a big difference for me in order to gauge the quality of my items and help me make more templates for you in the future.

**Thanks for your consideration!**

## Problems?

Sorry to hear you're having some difficulties... I hope this helps.

### SO MANY COMP WINDOWS ARE OPEN AND I'M LOST:

This can happen. It's good practice to close a placeholder composition Timeline after you're done editing it. To help get around this problem, I've created the SETUP composition, and it should be right there in the project panel. You should be able to trace your steps easily from the SETUP window and get on with your day.

### MY CUSTOM CHARACTER HAS A BLACK BACKGROUND:

After you export your character from the Cartoon Character Generator, it may display on black when viewed in a video player from your desktop. When you import your character into After Effects, only the character should show and the background becomes transparent. If your character is surrounded with a black or colored background in After Effects, I'm afraid that you may not have included the Alpha Channel when you exported your character file from the generator template. Please double check your export settings and render the character again with the alpha channel.

### YOUR RENDERED VIDEO IS A BILLION GIGABITS IN SIZE and IT'S CHOPPY DURING PLAYBACK:

Fine, that was a bit of an exaggeration. It could end up being up to 18 GB in size if you selected the "Animation" codec in your export settings. You can't play it back, or it might look really choppy and freeze after a while, but the video is actually fine. It's just that the data rate is too high for your computer to play smoothly (it's too high quality!). Actually, I like using this codec as it gives me a good color accuracy. Take that video, import it into After Effects, drop it in the composition icon at the bottom of the Project panel to make a new composition. Export to H264 this time, Youtube loves this codec and it does a good job at making high quality small sized videos. You will be able to watch this H264 video smoothly.



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### **GRRrrrr.... WHY IS IT TAKING SO LONG TO RENDER:**

The render can take a different amount of time to render depending on the power of your machine and the configuration of RAM you have and how you are using it. On a iMac 27 inch core i7 with 16 GB of RAM, the full resolution 1080p project could take anywhere from 2 to 6 hours depending on the placeholders and options selected. But on a slower and less powerful machine, it could be normal for it to take a few hours or more. You may be thinking "Hey, this is way too long! Something must be wrong!". Well, you're right that it does takes a long time, but nothing is technically wrong... this project uses many high resolution layers and effects to make this amazing professional video. If you absolutely need a full 1080p resolution HD video, the best thing to do is to let it render overnight.

If you don't need that resolution and have less time to spare, and need your video ASAP, I have some tips to make the render shorter if you really need to save time: In your render queue, in the Render Settings pop up menu, select Resolution: "Half" and press ok. What this will do is render the video in half the quality and it will take half the time. You will get a video at 960 x 540 resolution (much higher than standard definition which is around 640 x 480). If you do this, the quality may suffer a little and you might notice some funny business, maybe it will be ok, it depends on a lot of things. But it will make the render much more speedy so it could be worth a shot.

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**IF AFTER EFFECTS IS GIVING YOU ERRORS:** Your machine or some of your components may not be powerful enough to use After Effects and high resolution rendering. Now I am not sure any of this will help you, but these techniques have helped me in the past on less powerful machines. If you are continuing to have problems after these suggestions with crashes or error messages, I don't know what else to suggest other than taking the issue up with Videohive Support or Adobe Support. I'm sure they could help you with the issue but it may take some patience.

- Disable Open GL
- Go to your AE preferences > Memory & Multiprocessing, and make sure you have at least 3 gigs of RAM left for other applications
- Enable the caps lock key when rendering, which will turn off the preview and make things a bit quicker

After Effects CS4:

- In the AE preferences, hold the Shift key and click on Media & Disk Cache. A hidden menu should show. (This is the AE secret menu) Select disable Layer Cache and Purge Every 1 Frames...

After Effects CS5 & CS6:

- From the top menu, hold shift as you click on the General tab to enter the AE preferences. A secret menu will show at the bottom of the preferences menu list. Select disable Layer Cache and Purge Every 1 Frames...

Additionally, here is a nice guide that could also help:

<http://generalspecialist.com/troubleshooting-after-effects-all-versions/>

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**If you are approaching a deadline and are really screwed, or simply want me to customize the project for you, [contact me](#) to arrange for me to render your project for you. The rate will be discussed on a per project basis. Good luck, thanks a million times for purchasing this template, and good luck on your project! -Andre**