



Welcome to Final Effects Complete

Congratulations. You've got new power to create stunning animations and visual effects for film, video and digital media.

MetaCreations Final Effects Complete is a set of image design and control tools that plug into Adobe After Effects. These plug-ins expand your toolbox with an extraordinary range of effects.

Distortion effects bend and smear images. Particle effects are animation engines that create a variety of particles—everything from fire to snow. Perspective effects let you use flat footage in real 3D.

These are just a sampling of categories. There's lots more.

Your Final Effects Complete package includes:

- The Final Effects Complete CD-ROM
- The Final Effects Complete User Guide

- Your Final Effects Complete serial number
- A Software Registration Card

If you are missing any of these items, please contact your Final Effects Complete dealer or distributor, or contact MetaCreations Customer Service at (408) 430-4063.

Be sure to check out the sample movies and projects. They demonstrate the effects and suggest ways to take advantage of them.



Installing Final Effects

System Requirements

Macintosh

- CPU—68040 w/FPU or Power PC based Macintosh
- Adobe After Effects 3.0/3.1
- 10 MB of application RAM (12 MB on a PowerPC)
- Apple System 7.5.1 or greater
- 4 MB hard disk space

- Color monitor
- Apple QuickTime 2.1
- CD-ROM drive.

Windows 95/NT

- CPU—486/Pentium/Pentium Pro
- Adobe After Effects 3.0/3.1
- 16 MB system RAM (32 MB for Windows NT)
- Windows 95 or Windows NT
- 4 MB hard disk space
- Color monitor
- Apple QuickTime 2.1.2
- CD-ROM drive.



About Your User Guide

This manual provides all the information you need to get the most out of Final Effects Complete. It will help you learn the application and serve as a reference as you attempt more sophisticated procedures and effects.

This user guide assumes you are already familiar with basic Macintosh and Windows concepts—menus, dialogs, and mouse operations, such as clicking and dragging. If you need more information on these subjects, or on the Macintosh Finder or the Windows Desktop, refer to the Macintosh User's Manual or the Microsoft Windows User's Guide, respectively.

It also assumes that you are already comfortable with the basic concepts, features and terms of Adobe After Effects. If you're not familiar with terms like layer, footage and render, you should spend some time with the Adobe After Effects documentation before using this guide.

The Final Effects Complete plug-ins are organized on sub-menus under the Adobe After Effects >Effects menu.

The best way to learn Final Effects Complete is to read **“Getting Started” on page 9** and then complete the **“Tutorial” on page 17**. The tutorial leads you through the process of creating illustrations and animations in Final Effects Complete and also explains

some of the important concepts you'll need to know to model and animate in 3D.

After you complete the tutorial, open a new file and start building your own scene.

Conventions

The Final Effects Complete User Guide is for both Macintosh and Windows. By convention, Macintosh commands precede Windows commands in the text. For example, Command/Ctrl+I, is equivalent to the Macintosh Command-I and the Windows Ctrl+I. For simplicity, the term folder refers to directories as well as folders. Screenshots usually alternate between the Macintosh and Windows versions. The Final Effects Complete interface for both platforms is identical, unless otherwise specified.

There are also several conventions used to identify paths to certain tools and controls. The convention to a menu follows the rule of the menu name> menu item. The convention to a palette follows the rule of the palette name: subpalette name or palette item. The convention to a palette menu follows the rule of palette name: palette menu> menu item.

Modifier Keys

When a modifier key differs between the Macintosh and Windows platform, the Macintosh modifier is listed first followed by a slash and the Windows modifier key. Option/Alt means Macintosh users press the Option key and Windows users press Alt.



Customer Support

Technical Support is free* to registered users of Final Effects Complete. There are three easy options to contact technical support for questions about installation, configuration or functionality. These options are: Web, e-mail and phone support. For questions about creative technique, please see the Creative Support section below.

You will find the answers to most of your questions within the pages of this User Guide. If you need further assistance, you may contact MetaCreations's Technical Support in any of the following ways:

Web Support

Many of the answers to your questions are available 24 hours a day on our website:

<http://www.metacreations.com/support>

In addition to frequently asked questions, our web site provides troubleshooting techniques, late breaking product news, and other resources to get the most out of Final Effects Complete.

E-mail Support

To answer your technical support question most effectively and quickly, please use the e-mail form provided to you on our website:

<http://www.metacreations.com/support>.

If you do not have World Wide Web access, please send e-mail to:

effects@metacreations.com

Phone Support

Phone support hours are Monday–Friday, 8:00 AM–5:00 PM Pacific Standard Time, excluding holidays.

Call (408) 430-4081. When calling, please have your serial number handy and be at the computer that you need assistance.

Fax Support

(805) 566-6359

Please include your name and serial number on all correspondence.

Creative Support

If you have questions regarding creative technique, please refer to our message boards on our website:

<http://www.metacreations.com>

This area is available to you to meet and talk with other users of Final Effects to share knowledge, technique, and inspiration.

You can also check out Keyword "Cosa" at AOL to talk to After Effects power users.

* MetaCreations does not currently charge for technical support for Final Effects Complete. The only expense to the user is the telephone toll charges.


MetaCreations reserves the right to change its support policies at any time.

Who is MetaCreations?

MetaCreations is a major force in 2D and 3D graphic software, developing and marketing next generation products that unite traditional art and design techniques with digital technology. MetaCreations products are engineered to deliver real-time interaction, intuitive functionality and creativity to design professionals, graphics hobbyists and consumers who work on desktop computers.

MetaCreations' focus is maintained by three product values:

- Faithfully replicate Natural-Media® and real world looks in the digital medium.
- Facilitate and extend the range of creativity by allowing artists to do things they couldn't do before.

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- Capture human expression and allow the artist's perspective and intent to show through.



For More Information

For more information about MetaCreations' products, see our World Wide Web site on the Internet:

<http://www.metacreations.com>