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User Guide

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VHS Toolkit
After Effects Template

Congratulations on purchasing this totally rad VHS Toolkit project!

Simply import your footage and place the VHS effects layers on top.

The project includes tape functions, such as PLAY, PAUSE and REWIND, distortions such as chromatic aberration, screen warps and tracking noise - plus a bunch of retro 80s animated titles and VCR sound effects!

Let's get started!

Install Missing Fonts

On opening the project, you'll be warned of missing fonts. Go ahead and install these first. They are all **free** and can be downloaded from the following links.

VCR OSD Mono
https://www.dafont.com/vcr-osd-mono.font

Permanent Marker
https://www.fontsquirrel.com/fonts/permanent-marker

Alte Haas Grotesk
https://www.dafont.com/alte-haas-grotesk.font

BigNoodleTitling
https://www.dafont.com/bignoodletitling.font

Tahu!
https://www.dafont.com/tahu.font

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Explore the Presets

00. Presets and Example Sequences

Start exploring the main features of the project here. This folder includes handy presets and example sequences which enable you to quickly and easily apply VHS effects to your footage.

Base VHS Look
This is the basic VHS look and should be added to all your sequences.

Effects Preset 1 - Subtle Damage
Applies the kind of low-key distortions you'd normally find on VHS tapes.

Effects Preset 2 - Medium Damage
Applies the tracking and distortion effects often experienced when playing older, worn VHS tapes.

Effects Preset 3 - Severe Damage
Applies the look of a heavily damaged VHS tape. Please note that render time is significantly increased further when using this preset.

Example Sequence - All Effects
Displays a few seconds of each Effect overlay, useful for creating a handy test sequence, with your footage, to evaluate which Effects work best. Experiment by turning each Effect layer's visibility on and off, trimming and/or combining them.

Example Sequence - Tape Functions
Shows how a selection of Tape Functions can be added together to form a sequence.

Once you're done experimenting with the presets and examples you'll probably want to fine-tune your sequence manually, using the individual overlays, backgrounds and titles contained in the following folders.

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Add Individual Effects

You can create your own sequence from scratch by importing your footage into an empty composition and applying the effects and overlays manually.

When adding overlays always **remember to** :

- Add Effects and Functions **on top** of your footage.

- Toggle the **Collapse Transformations** switch on all added overlays.

01. Tape Function Overlays

The Tape Function Overlays can be placed over your footage to mimic standard VCR playback functions such as PLAY, PAUSE and REWIND.

Camcorder Overlay
A handy home movie style overlay containing editable Record, Time, Date and Battery indicator graphics.

Play from Start
Mimics the effect of a VHS cassette being played from its beginning, just after insertion into the VCR.

Play
This overlay is useful when you need a PLAY function to follow on from another function (e.g. PAUSE, REWIND), as opposed to playing a tape from the beginning.

Fast Forward
You will want to speed up your base footage when applying this overlay. To do this simply right-click your footage and choose Time > Time Stretch… Apply a percentage value lower than 100 (such as 50) to increase the speed of your footage.

Rewind
You will want to reverse and speed up your base footage when applying this overlay. To do this simply right-click your footage and choose Time > Time Stretch… Apply a negative percentage value (such as -50) to reverse your footage and increase its speed.

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Pause
You will want to freeze a frame of your footage when applying this overlay. To do this simply right-click your footage and choose Time > Freeze Frame.

Stop
This overlay replaces your footage with a blue/black screen.

Eject
This overlay replaces your footage with a blue/black screen.

02. Damage Effects Overlays

The Damage Effects Overlays can be placed over your footage to mimic VHS distortions such as chromatic aberration, bad tracking and warping.

Tips for using Effects :

- Always add Effects and Functions comps over your footage.

- Toggle the Collapse Transformations switch on all added overlays.

- Combine Effects overlays to further distort your footage.

- Reduce the strength of each Effects overlay layer by changing its Opacity.

- Trim the Effects layers to add glitches to your sequence - handy for creating glitchy transitions between footage clips.

- Please note asterisks (*) denote the level of CPU use. Multiple use of double asterisk effects (**) will significantly increase render times.

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Subtle Effects -

Chromatic Aberration*
Color channels split and bleed.

Color Loss
Image desaturates to black and white.

Flecks
Small white specks flicker in and out.

Ghosting
Shifting faint double-image.

Magnetic Ripple
Distortion blocks move up and down.

Medium Effects -

Bad Tracking*
Areas of white noise at the top and bottom of the screen.

Damaged Tape**
Areas of white noise cover the screen.

Popping Lines
Thin white lines flicker in and out.

Ripple Smear
Blocks of smeary distortion roll from top to bottom.

Rolling Lines*
Thin white lines roll up and down.

Severe Effects -

Damaged Tape Severe**
Noise and distortion make the footage practically unwatchable.

Frame Jitter Severe
Screen jitters up and down.

Gaussian Warps
Distorted white lines cover the screen.

Warped Distortion
Smeary waves of distortion.

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03. Tape Backgrounds

Background comps to be used to replace your footage.
Should be placed underneath any Function or Effects layers.

Includes :
Black Screen
Blank Tape
Blue Screen
Color Bars
TV Static

04. Graphical Backgrounds

5 animated backgrounds for use as backdrops for
your own text or graphics.

Includes :
80s Sun
Clouds
Double Grid
Nebula
Star Field

05. Title Intro Backgrounds

10 intro animations for you to add your own text or logos.
These are perfect for adding retro titles to the beginning of your
sequence or for corporate branding (as logo reveals). Please
note that not all sequences can incorporate a graphical logo so
have been split into two sub-folders.

Text Only Intros
Contains 5 retro 80s style title intros. Red layers are editable
(such as text or color changes), blue layers are pre-comps
which require double-clicking to edit. You can also edit text pre-
comps by opening them from the folder "Edit Main Text"

Text or Logo Intros
Contains 5 retro logo reveals. Red layers are editable (such as
text or color changes), blue layers are pre-comps which require
double-clicking to edit. Add your logo using the folder "Edit
Logo". You can also add text in here instead of a graphical logo.

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06. VCR Tape In & Out

Two animated sequences to top and tail your production, featuring a VHS cassette being inserted into a VCR - and then been ejected. The cassette tape label writing and logo are both editable from the folder "Edit Tape Details".

07. Audio

A selection of sound effects to emulate the noises of VCR functions and CRT TV sounds.

Includes :
Forward / Rewind
Tape Eject
Tape Function Change
VHS Tape In Out
White Noise Buzz
White Noise Static

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