



# After Effects : "Make Movie"

## 1 What Up

After Effects is great for assembling, editing, and previewing all manner of digital media. These steps will guide you through the process of exporting your composition from After Effects into a format that can be viewed and enjoyed by others.

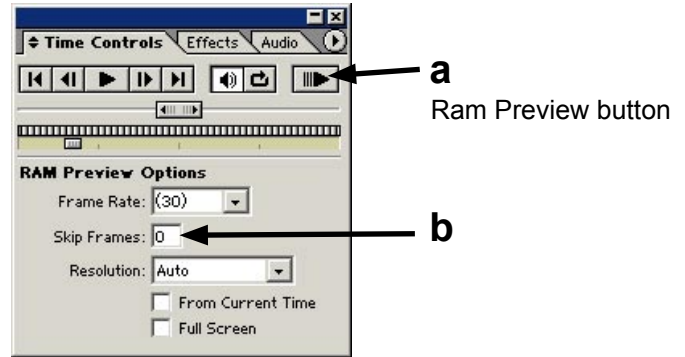
## 2 But First

Older versions of After Effects required you to 'render to file' in order to preview work -- a medium-sized pain. Now we can use the swell 'RAM preview' (a) command to generate a video of your work-in-progress, before you render the final video clip.

The video clip will be as long as possible, depending on the amount of available memory, which is why it is called RAM preview, hmmm.

**IT'S GONE?!** If the Time Controls window is not displayed, you can get it back via **window--time controls** or typing **CTRL-1**.

The Time Control window



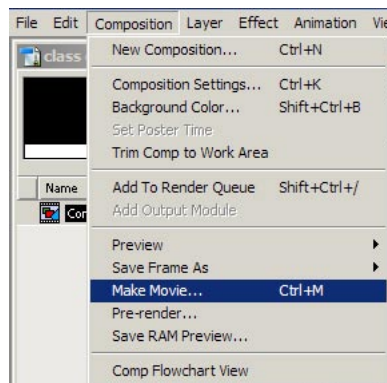
If you run out of RAM and your preview needs to be longer, you can skip every other frame to save memory. Type in a '1' in the skip frames (b) box to render every two frames, a '2' to render every third frame, etc.

### What is this 00:00:00:00 anyway?

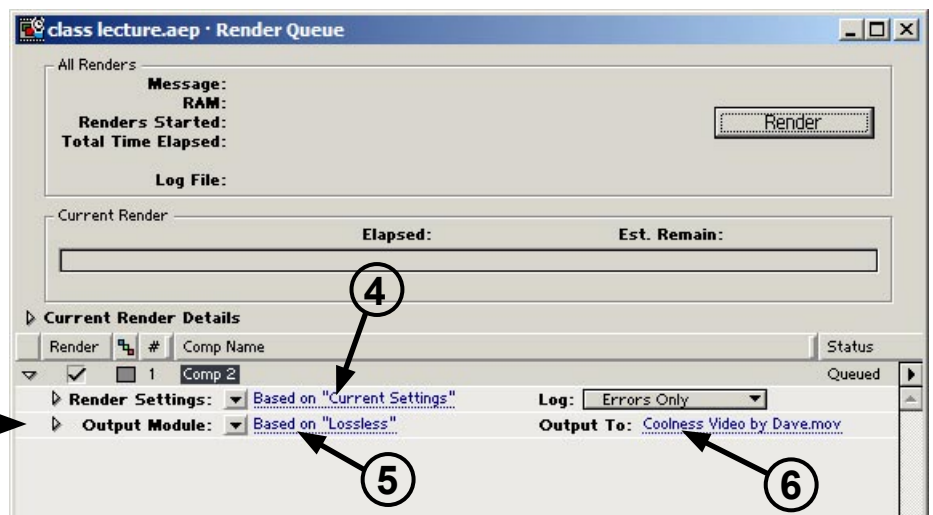
Time is displayed in this format for all video and animation work. It stands for **hours : minutes : seconds : frames** and frames are typically 30 per second.

## 3 Ready to render!

To render the final video clip, select composition--make movie, or type **CTRL-M**



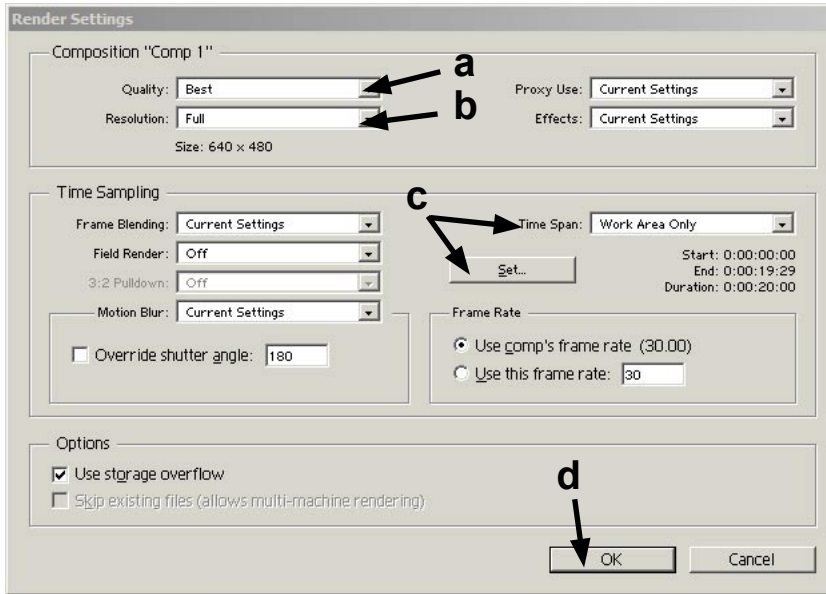
The **Render Queue** window opens as below and provides three dialog boxes to adjust settings before you render. These are labeled (4)(5) and (6) and are detailed on the next two pages.





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### 4 Render Settings dialog



**a** Select **Quality: Best**

**b** Select **Resolution: Full**

You can also pick a smaller size if you want to render faster.

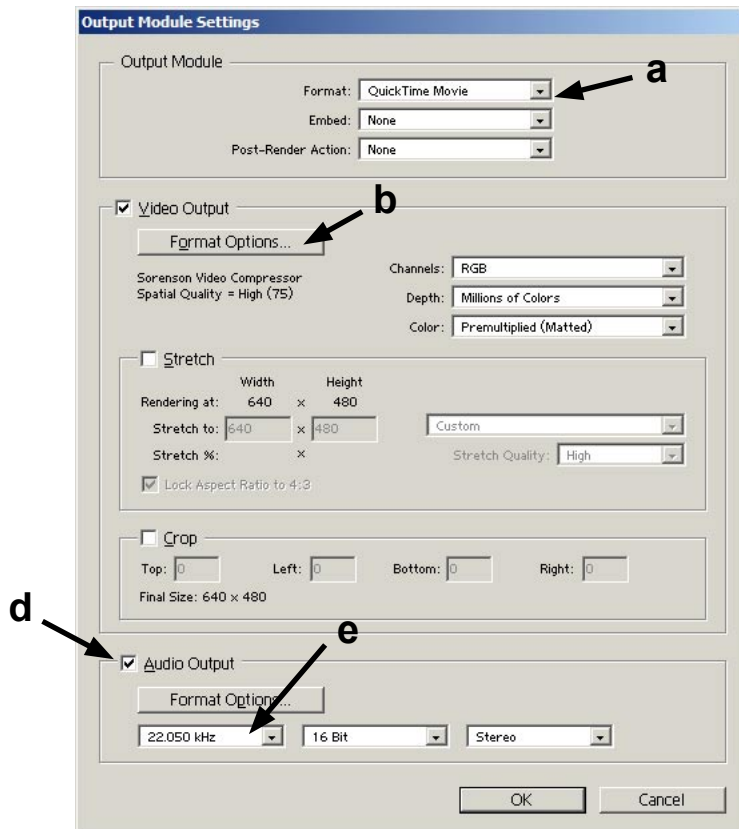
**c** Default **Time Span: Work Area Only**

You can also click **Set** to render a portion of the overall comp, instead of the entire length.

**d** Click **OK** to close.

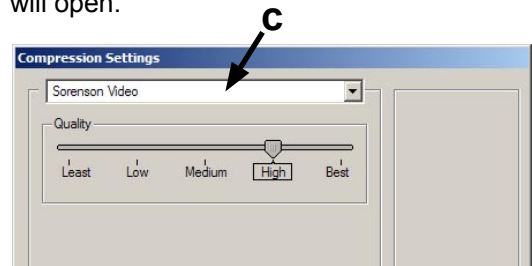
What is this **00:00:00:00** format?  
**hours:minutes:seconds:frames**  
frames are typically 30 per second.

### 5 Output Module dialog



**a** Select **Format: QuickTime Movie**, which is the .mov file format.

**b** Click **Format Options...** and the dialog below will open.



**c** Select **Compressor: Sorenson** and pick a quality level, like **High**

You can adjust the other settings later -- if your file needs to a specific size of data rate. Otherwise, this will work OK.

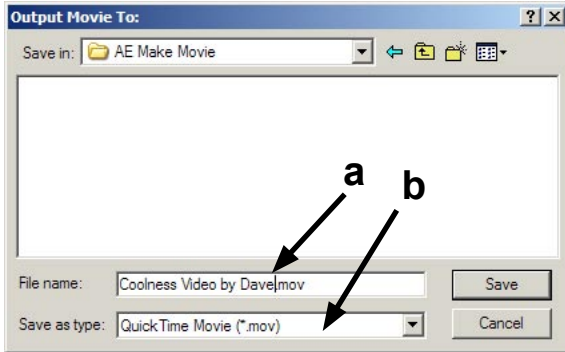
**d** Click **Audio Output** to render an audio track. Otherwise you will not hear any sound!

**e** Select **22,050 kHz** to choose a sound quality level. Anything higher is overkill, and **11,025 kHz** can be used if your file is too large to play smoothly.



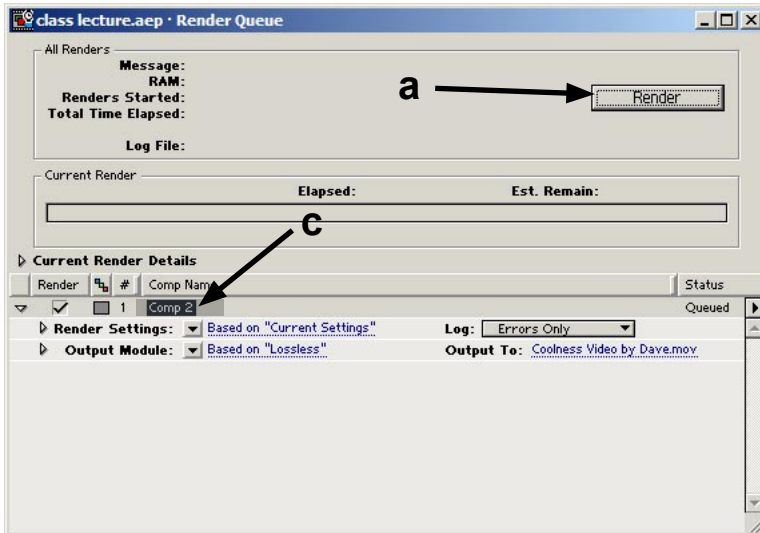
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## 6 Output To dialog



- a** Type a file name and select a place to save.
- b** Verify that the file is still set to .mov
- c** Click **Save**

## 7 Click it. Play it. Dig it.



- a** Click the **render** button to start!
- b** Now play it!  
Open up your QuickTime Player and play the movie file you just made. If anything needs tweaking, you must go through all the steps [3 -- 7] again.  
There is no way to avoid it unless you want to accept all the defaults -- which you don't!
- c** Getting busy in the Queue?  
The latest/current comp to render is always at the bottom in the Queue. Do you have a lot of older listings that are in the way? Select their name (c) and click the delete button on your keyboard.

Once they are complete, you no longer need the render queue listings. After Effects provides the opportunity to render multiple comps in an unattended sequence, so that is the reason you can have more than one. Delete all the queue listings that have finished.