

Adobe After Effects 3.1 for Mac OS and Windows

Importing and Exporting SGI Images

You can use the SGI plug-in to import images in the Silicon Graphics Image (SGI) format into an Adobe® After Effects® 3.1 project—either as a numbered sequence of images or as individual image files—and to render a composition as a sequence of SGI images or output frames as individual image files. The SGI format, widely supported on the UNIX platform, can be used for black-and-white, grayscale, full-color images, and full-color images with an alpha channel.

Installing the plug-in

To install the SGI plug-in file, you simply copy the file to the After Effects plug-ins folder as described below; a separate installer is not required. Once installed, SGI appears as a format option in the Import Footage dialog box and in the Output Module Settings list.

To install the plug-in:

- 1 Quit After Effects.
- 2 Open the the After Effects 3.1 folder and, depending on your platform, do one of the following:
 - (Mac™ OS) Copy the file into the Input/Output folder within the Standard folder inside the Plug-Ins folder.
 - (Windows®) Copy the file into the Plugins\Standard\Formats folder.
- 3 Start After Effects.

***Note:** The SGI plug-in is not supported for use with any applications other than Adobe After Effects 3.1.*

Importing SGI images

You import SGI images as you would any other file type, such as the PICT or TIFF formats.

To import a single SGI image:

- 1 Choose File > Import > Footage File.
- 2 Make sure the All Acceptable Files option or the SGI option is selected in the File Type menu.
- 3 Select the image you want to import, and click OK.

If you cannot import the file, note the following:

- (Windows) The image's filename must include an extension valid for the image format (.rgb or .sgi, for example), otherwise After Effects will not recognize the image.
- (Mac OS) Choose File > Import > Footage As, choose SGI from the File Type pop-up menu, and then double-click the SGI image to import it.

To import a sequence of SGI images:

- 1 Move all the files in the sequence to the same folder.
- 2 If necessary, rename the files so that they appear in the order you want when you sort them by name.

- 3 Choose File > Import > Footage File.
- 4 Make sure the All Acceptable Files option or the SGI option is selected in the File Type menu.
- 5 Select any one of the images in the sequence.
- 6 Check the SGI Sequence option, and then click OK.

As with any other still image sequence, After Effects sets the entire sequence to the dimensions and bit depth of the first image in the sequence.

Outputting SGI images

You can output individual frames as SGI images, or render a composition as a sequence of images; in either case, you can specify whether or not to create a Run Length Encoded (RLE) image file. RLE is a method of structuring internal image data, and can result in compressed file sizes, particularly if the source image includes repetitive data (say a static, flat-color background). However, RLE can also create image file sizes greater than they would be with normal SGI encoding, particularly for visually-complex imagery (such as a continuous-tone photograph). It's best to use the RLE method only for visually simple frames.

To export a frame as an SGI image or a composition as an SGI sequence:

- 1 Select the frame you want to save or the composition you want to work with.
- 2 Do one of the following:

- To export a single frame, choose Composition > Save Frame As.
- To export a composition, choose Composition > Make Movie.

- 3 In the dialog box that appears, type a file name, and click OK.

The filename extension .sgi is appended automatically as each image is generated. If you are creating an SGI sequence, numbers are added to the filename as each image is generated.

- 4 In the Render Queue window, choose Custom from the Output Module menu.
- 5 From the Format menu, choose SGI sequence (even if you are saving a single frame).
- 6 Click the Format Options button in the Video Output section of the Output Module Settings window, and, depending on the complexity of the source image, select or deselect the RLE encoding option.
- 7 Click OK twice to save the SGI-specific setting and return to the Render Queue window, and then click Render to begin outputting.

Creating an Output Module Template

To simplify the creation of SGI sequences, you can create an Output Module Template, specifying the settings you require. For more information, see “Using output module templates” in Chapter 10 of the *Adobe After Effects 3.1 User Guide*.



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