



Writing On the Wall: Graffiti in After Effects

DIFFICULTY




Step One: Getting Started

1. Open a new project in After Effects.
2. Select **New Composition**.
3. Give your composition a **Name** (example: Your Name Graffiti).


Step Two: Create a Background

4. Click **File -> Import -> File** and select "Concrete Wall.jpg" (in **Dropbox->Video Track Projects**). The image will then appear above your composition in the **Project Tab** (on left side of your screen).
5. Drag and drop it onto your composition (which should be just below the Concrete Wall.jpg, in the Project Tab). Your composition background will then look like a concrete wall.
6. If you want, you can shrink the image (click and drag in the corners) to make it less pixelated.

Step Three: "Scribble" Your Name


1. Click on **Text Tool**: 
2. Click on the screen and type your name.
3. Highlight your text and select the **TagsXtreme** font:



4. Change the **color** and **size** of the text (your choose!) and **center** it.
5. Select the **Pen Tool**  and draw the text by clicking around the letters in order, as though you are writing it:



TIP: Be sure that your entire name is only one line. If the line is broken, it won't work. You'll need to press **ctrl-z** (undo) until you get back to your original line and start drawing from there.

6. Select the **Selection Tool**  and click anywhere on your drawn pen lines. This turns your sketch into a **Mask**, which lets you edit and animate it.

Step Four: Adding Effects

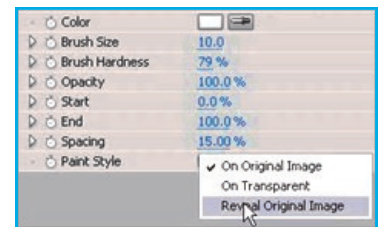
1. Click **Effect -> Generate -> Stroke**.
2. Increase the **Brush Size** just enough to cover up the colored text:



3. If needed, adjust the **Mask Points** to better fit your text:



4. Click **Reveal Original Image**:

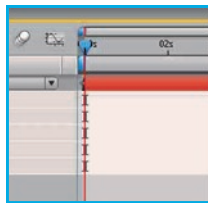


5. Click **Hide Mask**:



Step Five: Animate!

1. Move the **Time Indicator** to 0:



2. Click the **Alarm Clock** next to **End**:



3. Drag the **End %** to 0%:



4. Move the **Time Indicator** to 2 seconds.

5. Drag the **End %** to 100%.

Step Six: Behold, the writing on the wall!

Move the **Time Indicator** back to 0 and **Press the Space Bar** to play your animation!

YOU'RE DONE! HERE ARE SOME NEXT STEPS YOU COULD TAKE:

Review this project, add paint splatters, and turn it into 3D here:

http://www.videocopilot.net/tutorials/graffiti_writing/

Watch some other basic After Effects tutorials: <http://www.videocopilot.net/basic/>