

Create an Illustration from an Adobe Stock Photo with After Effects



Image source: Adobe Stock / R. Gino Santa Maria.



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Adobe Products in this article



Combine the Hue/Saturation and Levels with the Cartoon effects in [After Effects](#) to create a unique stylized illustration from an [Adobe Stock](#) photo.

Finding the right image on Adobe Stock

For this project, we'll use an image of an athlete shot against a solid color. Search Adobe Stock with the keyword "soccer" to find and create a dynamic image. Check the Isolated Only option under the Isolation filter to get an image against a solid color.

Search for images on Adobe Stock
stock.adobe.com

Enter the keyword "soccer" into the Adobe Stock search field

Enable the Isolated Only filter option for your search

Add this image to your CC Library or download to your computer

Save the image directly to a [Creative Cloud Library](#), or download a copy to your hard drive.

The Cartoon effect

To begin working with the image in After Effects, click and drag the image from the Creative Cloud Libraries panel in After Effects to the Project panel. Then, drag the image once again from the Project panel to the Composition panel.

In After Effects, drag the image from the Libraries panel to the Project panel

Create a new composition by dragging the image from the Project panel

This creates a new composition that is sized to match the image dimensions, and also places the image on a new layer in the Timeline panel. Now, we're ready to apply the Cartoon effect.

Shading Steps: 2
Shading Smoothness: 30

Threshold: 2
Width: 3
Softness: 0

Search for "Cartoon" in the Effects & Presets panel and locate the effect in the Stylize group. Click and drag the effect to the image in the Composition panel. In the Effect Controls panel, adjust the Shading Steps to 2 and the Shading Smoothness to 30 to begin seeing the effect. Next, set the Threshold to 2, the Width to 3, and the Softness to 0. These settings will stylize the color areas and create a hand-drawn look around the edges of the image.

Remove colors using HUE/Saturation effect

Apply multiple effects to the image to achieve additional results. In the example below, the color was removed by using the Hue/Saturation effect. Then, the Levels effect was used to increase the contrast.

Combine the Levels and Hue/Saturation effects to the Cartoon effect to create a pen and ink illustration effect from a photo in After Effects

The two additional effects combined with the Cartoon effect results in a hand-drawn illustration effect.

Learn even more techniques for enhancing photographs with After Effects

Looking to add a little "something extra" to a [stock photo](#), or reimagine a less-than-stellar photo? Join us for a completely new way to augment and stylize your photography.

Watch the recording of [After Effects for Photography](#), which includes:

- Explore unique coloring techniques
- Add lighting effects
- Simulate natural phenomenon
- Create custom textures and patterns

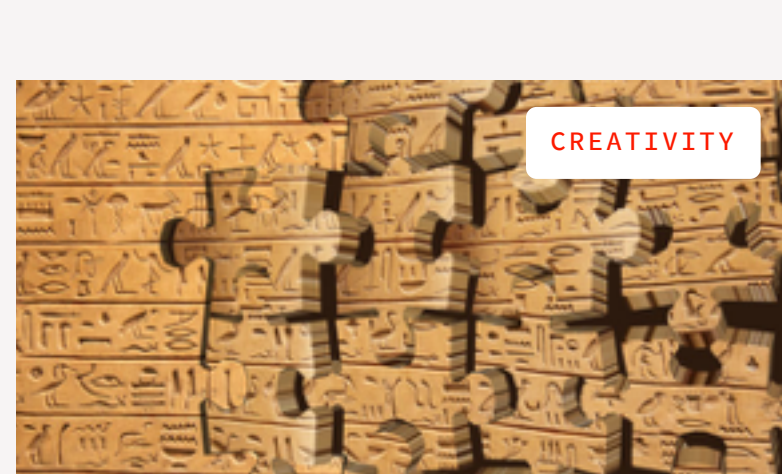
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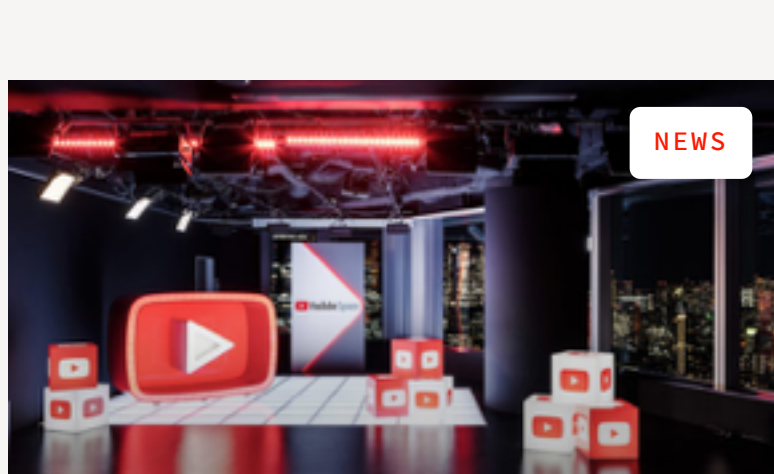
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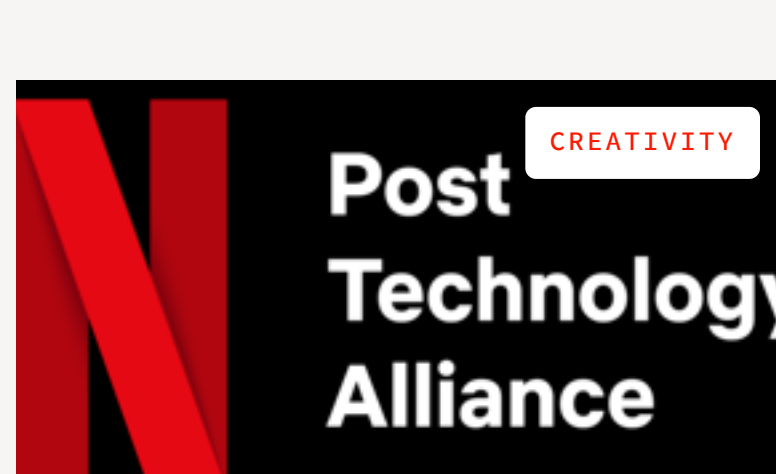
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