

Pixel Stretch

User Guide



Automatic Installation

For a hassle-free installation, use the *aescripts + aeplugins manager app*:

<https://aescripts.com/learn/aescripts-aeplugins-manager-app/>

Manual Installation

MacOS

- The plugin is a folder `PixelStretch.plugin` located in `Install/macOS`
- Open a new Finder window and navigate to:
`/Library/Application Support/Adobe/Common/Plug-ins/7.0/MediaCore/`
- Drag & drop `PixelStretch.plugin` into this folder, enter your password to confirm writing to a protected folder.
- Restart After Effects and/or Premiere.

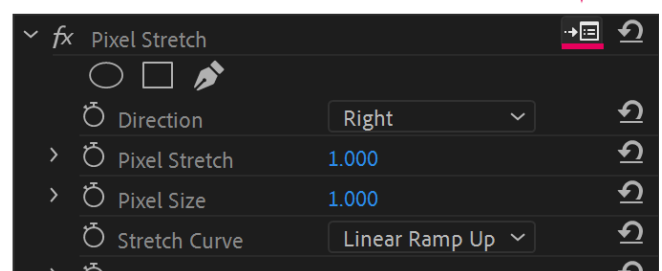
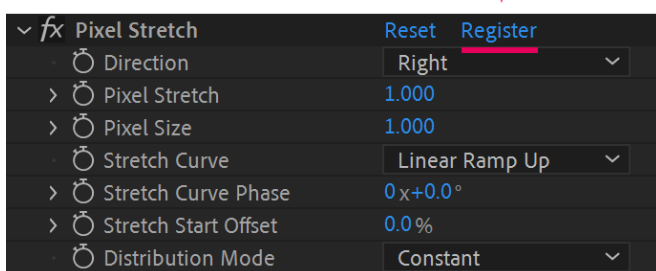
Windows

- The plugin is located in `Install\Windows\PixelStretch.aex`
- Open Windows Explorer and navigate to:
`C:\Program Files\Adobe\Common\Plug-ins\7.0\MediaCore\`
- Drag & drop `PixelStretch.aex` into this folder, confirm you want to make changes.
- Restart After Effects and/or Premiere.

The plugin should be visible in the Effects panel (Visual Effects in Premiere) under the category Satori after a successful installation.

Registration

To remove the watermark, register the plugin using the Register button (After Effects) or the "Setup" icon (Premiere). Enter the code you received when you purchased the plugin on aescripts.com.

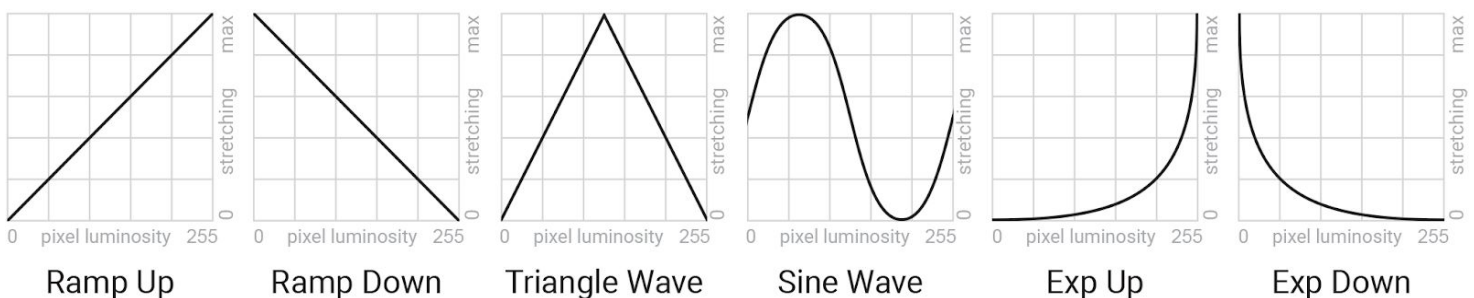
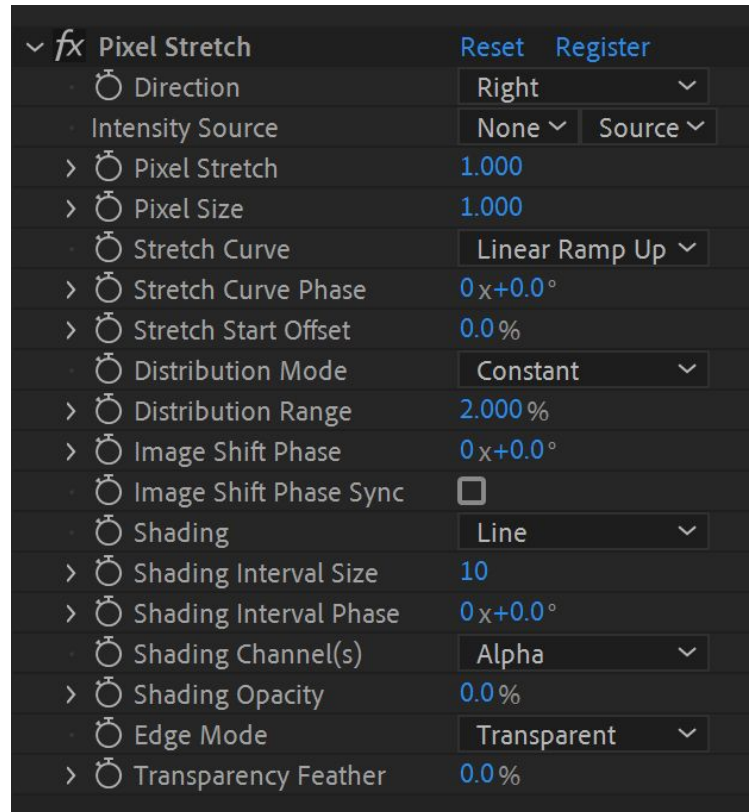


Basic principle

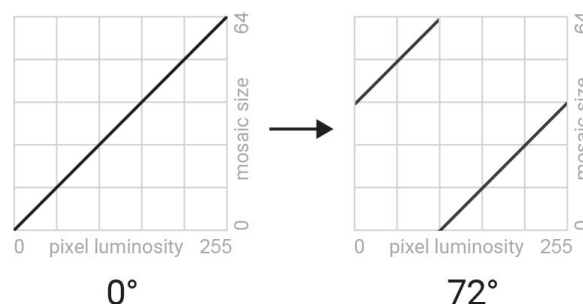
Pixels are stretched according to their luminance/brightness in every row or column. The stretching is **cumulative**, ie. a stretched pixel offsets all the following pixels in the direction of stretching. This is the main difference between Pixel Stretch and simple "line stretch" effects. This means that brighter pixels produce more stretching (by default) in a particular row/column.

Parameters guide

- **Direction** defines towards which edge the stretching occurs.
- **Intensity Source** - use a different layer to stretch the current one. This can be thought of as a "stretch mask".
- **Pixel Stretch** - the maximum length by which a pixel can grow. With the default stretch curve, darkest pixels add 0 and brightest pixels add this value to the final length.
- **Pixel Size** - base size of a pixel. The final pixel size is between Pixel Size and Pixel Size + Pixel Stretch, eg. 1 to 2 in the UI screenshot.
- **Stretch Curve** specifies how pixel brightness maps to stretching. The default mode (*Linear Ramp Up*) doesn't stretch dark pixels at all and stretches bright pixels by maximum amount. Linear Ramp Down is the opposite behavior. The following chart illustrates all the available mappings:



- **Stretch Curve Phase** offsets the values of stretch curve mapping. This can be best illustrated visually:

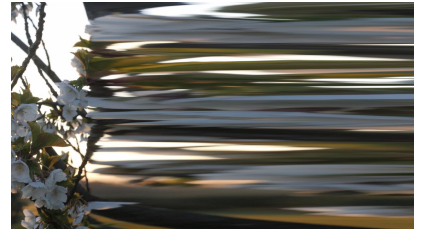


- **Stretch Start Offset** - skips a percentage of the image before pixel stretching starts.
- **Distribution Mode** - defines how pixel stretching is spread over the image
 - Constant - the stretching occurs over the whole image evenly.
 - Linear Ramp Up - the stretching gradually ramps up from no stretching to the values defined by Pixel Size + Pixel Stretch.
 - Linear Ramp Down - the stretching starts at the values defined by Pixel Size + Pixel Stretch and gradually ramps down until no further stretching occurs.
- **Distribution Range** - defines what percentage of the image should be affected by stretching. Values from 0 to 1 affect from 0 up to 100% of the image width (or height, when stretching vertically). Values above 1 move gradually into infinity - if you use Pixel Size smaller than 1, the image may be repeated and this is when values above 1 come into play. The default value is 2, ie. infinity.
- **Image Shift Phase** - offsets the image in the stretch direction.
- **Image Shift Phase Sync** - when shifting the image using *Image Shift Phase*, the luminosity values can be picked from the shifted image (on) or the original image (off)
- **Shading** overlays shading patterns over the stretched image - see chart for *Stretch Curve* for function reference.
- **Shading Interval Size** - defines how thick the shading patterns are.
- **Shading Interval Phase** - offsets the shading pattern.
- **Shading Channel(s)** allows you to select whether shading dims the image (RGB) or the alpha channel
- **Shading Opacity** specifies how opaque the shading patterns are.
- **Edge Mode** - when using starting pixel sizes lower than 1, the stretched image may not cover the whole frame. The edge mode defines how the image should be repeated, when this occurs.
- **Transparency Feather** - when using the Transparency *Edge Mode*, edges where the image ends may be smoothed using this option.

Usage hints

- 1) You can replicate the simple "line stretch" effect like by:
 - adjusting the Stretch Start Offset to desired row/column
 - increasing Pixel Stretch and Pixel Size values to maximum

If you want the line stretch to be more organic, try tweaking the Distribution Mode and Range.



- 2) Use more instances of the effect on the same layer/clip. Stretch Start Offset used together with Distribution Mode and Range are handy to alter only the desired part of the image.
- 3) Edge Mode set to Transparent with Transparency Feather on are useful for transitions. The same goes for using Shading Opacity with the layer's opacity.

- 4) Extending narrow images:
Apply the effect twice in opposite directions. Set Stretch Start Offset on both to around 60-80% according to the aspect ratio, Distribution Mode to 'Linear Ramp Up,' Distribution Range to 0.1-0.2, and finally tweak Pixel Stretch and Pixel Size value until you fill the whole width. Try different Stretch Curves and Stretch Curve Phases to find the ones that best fit your image.



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