CropBox

INSTALLATION & USER GUIDE

A visual composition-cropping tool for Adobe After Effects.

INSTALL

The easiest way to install and license is by using the aescripts + aeplugins manager, or you can install with the ZXP/UXP Installer.

https://aescripts.com/learn/post/aescripts-aeplugins-manager-app

To install a trial you can select 'Add Trial' from the 'Account' menu.

MANUAL

If you prefer to install CropBox manually, follow the directions for your operating system on the next page.

MANUAL INSTALLATION

macOS

1. Close Adobe After Effects.
2. Locate CropBox.plugin in the downloaded package.
3. Copy it to: Applications → Adobe After Effects [Version] → Plug-ins.
4. Reopen After Effects.
5. Find CropBox under Effect → FL Tools → CropBox.

If macOS blocks the plug-in, open System Settings → Privacy & Security, locate the security message, and choose Open Anyway.

Windows

1. Close Adobe After Effects.
2. Locate CropBox.aex in the downloaded package.
3. Copy it to: C:\Program Files\Adobe\Adobe After Effects [Version]\Support Files\Plug-ins.
4. If Windows requests administrator permission, click Continue.
5. Reopen After Effects.
6. Find CropBox under Effect → FL Tools → CropBox.

Important

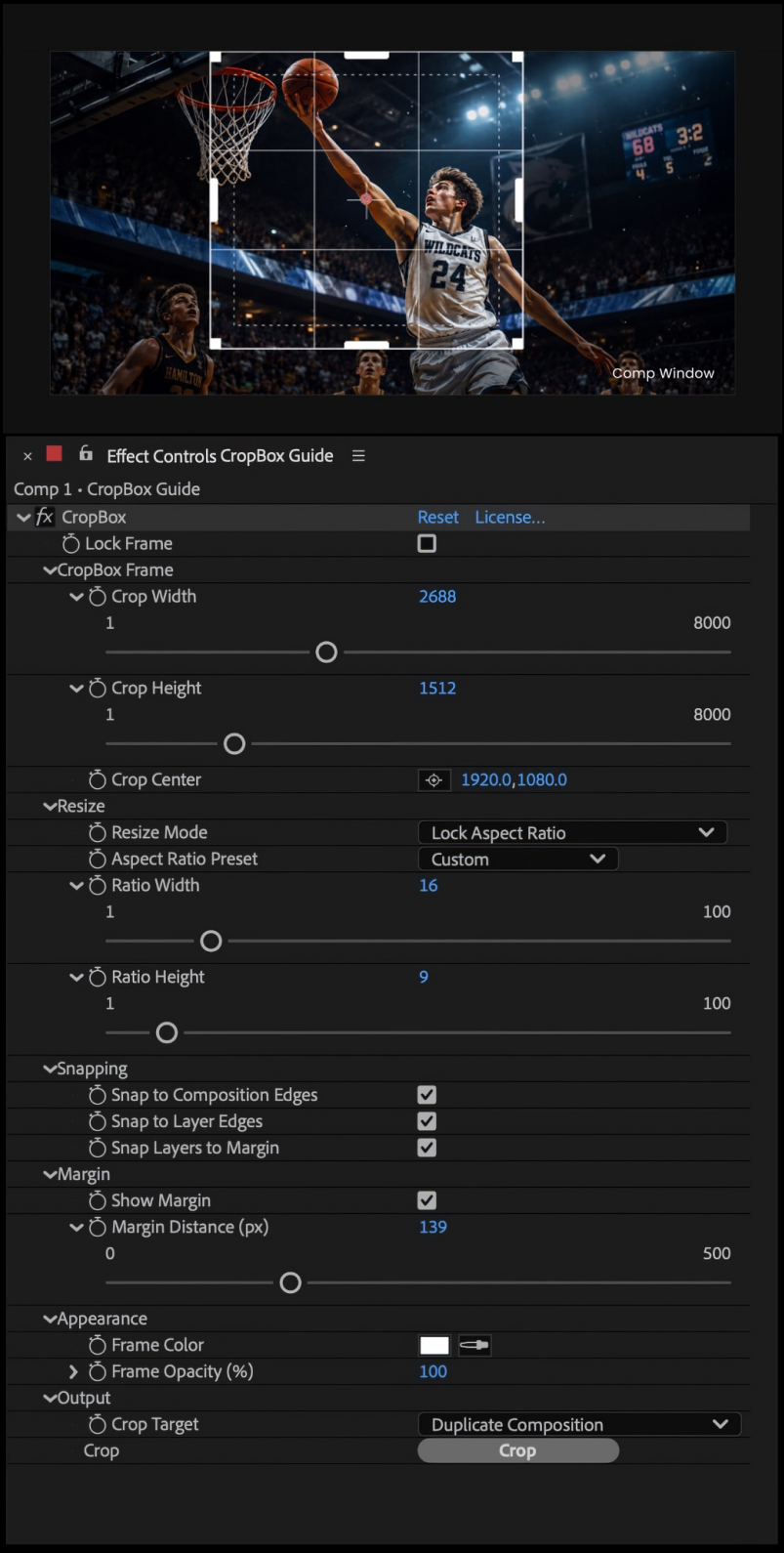
- Install CropBox.plugin on macOS or CropBox.aex on Windows. Do not install both.
- Remove older copies before updating to prevent duplicate plug-in warnings.
- If you use multiple After Effects versions, install CropBox in each version's Plug-ins folder.

QUICK START

CropBox lets you define a crop visually in the Composition panel, then resize the composition to the framed area.

1. In After Effects, select a layer in the composition you want to crop.
2. Choose Effect → FL Tools → CropBox. The crop frame appears in the Composition panel.
3. Drag inside the frame to reposition it. Drag a side or corner handle to resize it.
4. Choose a Resize Mode and, when needed, an Aspect Ratio Preset.
5. Set the snapping, margin, appearance, and output options described on the following pages.
6. Choose the Crop Target, then click the Crop button at the bottom of Effect Controls.

VISUAL REFERENCE



The Composition panel shows the interactive frame; Effect Controls contains the precise settings and Crop button.

FRAME & RESIZE CONTROLS

Interactive frame

- Drag inside the frame to move the crop area.
- Drag a side handle to adjust one edge.
- Drag a corner handle to change width and height together.
- The shaded area outside the frame indicates the portion that will be removed.

Lock Frame

Enable Lock Frame after positioning the crop. This prevents accidental changes to the frame's size or position while leaving the Appearance and Output controls available.

CropBox Frame

Use Crop Width, Crop Height, and Crop Center for exact numeric control. These values update as you adjust the frame in the Composition panel.

Resize

Use Resize Mode to determine how the frame behaves when resized. With Lock Aspect Ratio selected, the width and height remain proportional.

Use Aspect Ratio Preset for a standard format or choose Custom. When Custom is selected, enter the desired Ratio Width and Ratio Height, such as 16 and 9.

Common aspect ratios

16:9	Widescreen video
9:16	Vertical video
1:1	Square
4:5	Portrait social post

SNAPPING, MARGIN & OUTPUT

Snapping

- Snap to Composition Edges aligns the crop frame to the composition boundaries.
- Snap to Layer Edges aligns the crop frame to layer boundaries.
- Snap Layers to Margin uses the displayed margin as the snapping offset when snapping to layer edges.

Margin

Enable Show Margin to display an inset dotted guide inside the crop frame. Set Margin Distance (px) to control its distance from the crop boundary in pixels. Use it as a visual safe-area reference or together with Snap Layers to Margin.

Appearance

Choose a Frame Color and adjust Frame Opacity (%) to make the crop frame easy to see over your footage. These controls affect the working interface, not the cropped result.

Output

Choose the desired option from Crop Target. Duplicate Composition is the safest choice because it creates a cropped duplicate and preserves the original composition.

Complete the crop

1. Review the frame position, dimensions, and aspect ratio.
2. Confirm the snapping and margin settings.
3. Choose the desired Crop Target.
4. Click Crop. CropBox resizes the target composition to the framed area.

Tip

Use Duplicate Composition while testing a crop or whenever you may need the original dimensions later.

Crop confidently. Keep the original when it matters.