

CONTENTS

Contributors	xiii
About the Author	xiv
Acknowledgments	xv
Foreword	xvi
Chapter 1 Introduction to Plug-Ins	1
What Is a Plug-in?	1
Why You Need Third-Party Plug-ins	2
Criteria for Choosing What Plug-ins to Include in the Book	2
Big Suites versus Single Plug-ins	3
Boris Continuum Complete	3
GenArts Sapphire and GenArts Monsters	4
Noise Industries FxFactory Pro	5
Trapcode Suite	6
Red Giant Magic Bullet Suite	7
Digieffects Delirium	8
RE:Vision Effects Efections Bundle	9
Tiffen Dfx Digital Filter Suite	9
CoreMelt Complete	10
The Foundry's Plug-ins	11
Timeline of After Effects Plug-ins	12
About the DVD	14
Chapter 2 Color Correction and Color Effects	17
Three 3-Way Color Correctors in After Effects	19
Boris Continuum 3-Way Color Grade	20
Red Giant Magic Bullet Colorista II	20
Synthetic Aperture Color Finesse	21
Improving Color with Boris Continuum 3-Way Color Grade	22
Adding a Vignette with Boris Continuum 3-Way Color Grade	25
Isolating a Single Color with Red Giant Magic Bullet Colorista II	27
Saving Underexposed Footage with Red Giant Magic Bullet Colorista II	30
Dazzling Black and White with Synthetic Aperture Color Finesse	31
Red Giant Magic Bullet Looks, Magic Bullet Quick Looks, and Magic Bullet Mojo	33
A Tour of the Magic Bullet Looks Interface	35

A User Story: Shooting Video with Looks in Mind, with Anthony E. Griffin, UnSafe Film Office	37
Using Red Giant Magic Bullet Looks for Compositing Greenscreen Footage	39
Color Effects	39
Bleach Bypass	39
Film/Video Tinting	40
Day for Night	42
Working with Skin Tones	43
Working with Skin Tones in Red Giant Magic Bullet Mojo	43
Using Gels to Correct or Warm Skin Tones	45
Improving Skin Texture with Red Giant Magic Bullet Colorista II	46
Automatic Skin Retouching Digital Anarchy Beauty Box	48
Chapter 3 Effects	51
Blur, Defocus, and Lens Effects	51
Gaussian Blur, Fast Blurs, and Box Blur	51
“Smallantics,” a.k.a. the Tilt-Shift Effect with Sapphire	
Rack Defocus or Other Blurs	53
Motion Blur: RE:Vision Effects ReelSmart Motion Blur	56
Bokeh	59
Cycore FX CC Vector Blur	64
Radial Blurs and Spin Blurs	65
Light Effects: Light Rays, Glints, and Glows	66
Dream Look with Boris Continuum Complete BCC Colorize Glow	66
Comparing Some After Effects Glows	67
Light Rays, Glows, and Glints with idustrial revolution Volumetrix	69
Create a Creepy Atmosphere with Trapcode Shine and Digieffects Delirium DE Fog Factory	71
Trapcode Shine Samples	73
Boris Continuum Complete BCC Light Zoom from within a Planet	75
Glints	76
Making Your Composition a Masterpiece	77
Creating and Applying Custom Brushes using RE:Vision Effects Video Gogh	77
GenArts Monsters M_Brush	82
Storek Studio nVeil by FxFactory	83
Warhol-Style Art with Noise Industries FxFactory Pro Pop Art	84
Cartoon Look	84
Creating a Comic Book Look	87
Aged Film Effects	90

Creating an Edgy, Chaotic Look with Digieffects Aged Film and Digieffects Damage, by Joe Mason.	92
Television Inspired Effects	96
CoreMelt Channel Change.	97
GenArts Sapphire S_TVChannelChange.	98
Boris Continuum Complete BCC DamagedTV.	99
Closed Circuit Television with GenArts Monsters CCTV	100
Quick and Easy Reflections Using the Video Copilot Reflect Plug-in, by Joe Mercier.	102
Chapter 4 Distortions, Warps, Tiling, and Time Effects.	107
Create the Predator Effect, by Eran Stern	107
The Push Effect with GenArts Sapphire Distortion Plug-ins	112
Create an Instant Alien with Cycore FX Warps.	118
Morphing in After Effects	120
Morphing with RE:Vision Effects RE:Flex	121
Repeating Video with Cycore CFX Path Tools Rakka.	124
Time Effects	125
Creating Super Slo-Mo Effects with Re:Vision Effects Twixtor.	126
User Story: Jeremy Hanke on RE:Vision Effects Twixtor	131
The Foundry Kronos	132
Chapter 5 Creative Transitions: When a Simple Cut Just Isn't Enough!	135
CoreMelt Complete Transitions: PolyChrome Transitions, TRX-Filmic and High-Color Transitions, and Delta V Motion Transitions	135
Sci-Fi Wipe with CoreMelt C2 Film Blowout Wipe	139
Allergy Ad Page Curl	142
Noise Industries FxFactory Transitions	144
Industrial revolution ParticleMetrix Sci-Fi Teleportation Effect	146
Pixelan CreativeEase Transitions	149
Boris Continuum Complete Wipes and Transitions.	149
Footage Shatter with Boris Continuum Complete BCC 2D Particles.	150
"Orbing" with Boris Continuum Complete Particle Array 3D	152
GenArts Sapphire S_SwishPan Transition	157
Chapter 6 Generators.	161
Lens Flares	161
Comparisons of Lens Flare Plug-ins on the Market.	161
Faking a Sun with Video Copilot Optical Flares	164

Quick and Dirty Concert Lights with Video Copilot Optical Flares . . .	167
Creating a Glowing Eye with Boris BCC Lens Flare Advanced	171
A Simple Light Array Backdrop with Knoll Light Factory by Harry J. Frank.	175
Particle Systems: Fire and Bubbles and Snow Flakes, Oh My!	181
VIRUS23: Distorted Text with Trapcode Form (Part 1 of Tutorial).	182
VIRUS23: Explode Text into Particles with Trapcode Particular (Part 2 of Tutorial)	188
Wondertouch particleIllusion for After Effects by GenArts versus Trapcode Particular	195
Making a Title Animation with Noise Industries FxFactory Particle System	195
Willowglow: Sparkling Text Wipe-on with Digieffects Delirium Fairy Dust	200
A Tornado with Cycore FX CC Particle World	205
Backgrounds and Textures	208
Gradients and Ramps.	209
Recipes for Ethereal Moving Backgrounds.	210
Make a Planet with Boris Continuum Complete BCC Granite and BCC Sphere	212
Chapter 7 Invisible and Natural Effects	215
Generating Water.	215
Creating Photorealistic Water with Red Giant Psunami	216
Simulating Water Movement with Boris Continuum Caustics and Fractal Noise	217
Generating Moving Water with GenArts Monsters Pool3D.	220
Generating Rain.	221
Replacing Skies and Cosmos	224
Recreating Long Exposure Star Trails	226
Replacing a Sky with CoreMelt Pigment Sky Replace.	229
Clouds Generators	230
Sun.	231
Other Atmospheric Effects	232
Spooky Title Animation with Digieffects Delirium Fog Factory and Trapcode Shine	232
Lightning and Electrical Arcs	235
Rainbows.	241
Aurora Borealis.	242
Fire and Fireballs	243
Muzzle Flash	245

Chapter 8 Text and Graphic Elements.....	247
Text Elements.....	247
Create a Custom Side and Bevel in Boris Continuum	
3D Objects Type On Text.....	247
FxFactory Type Plug-ins.....	254
Industrial revolution Decimal Counter.....	254
Yanobox Motype (FxFactory).....	255
Futurismo Titles.....	256
Creating a Mock User Interface or Heads Up Display.....	258
Red Giant Text Anarchy.....	258
SUGARfx HUD by FxFactory.....	260
London Underground Station Graphic Animation	
with Yanobox Nodes (FxFactory).....	260
Lines and Paths.....	265
Create an Animated Spirograph-Style Animation	
with Cycore CFX Path Tools Wiggle Stroke.....	266
A Newsreel Style Globe with a Travel Path with Cycore Systems	
Sphere Utilities Map Lines, Cycore FX CC Sphere, and Boris	
Continuum Complete Film Damage.....	268
Swooshing Lines with Trapcode 3D Stroke.....	272
 Chapter 9 Generating 3D Elements in After Effects.....	 277
Creating Unique Structures in Zaxwerks 3D Invigorator	
by Joe Mason.....	277
Gnarly Man-Eating Devil Flowers with Zaxwerks 3D	
Serpentine.....	283
Jumping into 3D the Painless Way by Zax Dow of Zaxwerks.....	292
Create a Spooky 3D B-Movie Title with Boris Continuum	
Complete 3D Extruded Text.....	297
Animated Cables with Trapcode 3D Stroke.....	302
Extruding Mountains from a 2D Picture of the Earth	
with an Elevation Map and Digieffects FreeForm or FreeForm	
3D Displacer by Dustin Klein.....	305
 Chapter 10 Working With the 3D Camera.....	 311
Digieffects Camera Mapper.....	312
Trapcode Horizon.....	315
User Story: One-Click 3D Workflow with Zaxwerks LayerTools	
by Matt Silverman.....	322
Stereoscopic 3D in AE.....	325

3D Snow in After Effects with Digieffects Snowstorm and 3D Glasses Plug-in	326
Stereoscopic 3D ViewMaster with Dashwood 3DToolbox	332
Chapter 11 Automation and Keyframe Generators	337
Automated Motion and Keyframes Generated from Audio	337
Trapcode Form Audio Reactor Presets	338
Creating an Audio Reactor Animation from Scratch in Trapcode Form	340
Dance Club Eye Candy with Trapcode Sound Keys and Video Copilot Twitch	346
Dancing Letters with Boris Continuum Complete Beat Reactor	352
Automating Photo Montages with CoreMelt ImageFlow Fx	359
Cover Flow Effects	363
Chapter 12 Keying and Compositing Greenscreen Footage	369
Preprocessing Greenscreen Footage	369
Keyers and Tools	372
The Foundry Keylight	372
Red Giant Primatte Keyer	378
Digital FilmTools zMatte	382
Boris Continuum Chroma Key	386
Compositing Tools and MatteTools	388
Alpha Channel and Matte Cleaners	389
Spill Suppression Comparison	390
Edge Blending	392
Color Matching Plates	394
Light Wraps	395
Special Effect Lighting for a Natural Composite: Digital FilmTools Composite Suite Gobos	396
Chapter 13 Tracking, Matchmoving, Motion Stabilization, and Rotoscoping	399
Motion Tracking	399
<i>Depleted:</i> Tracking with Imagineer mocha AE	401
Corner Pinning with mocha AE	407
Pixelation of a Face with Boris Continuum Complete BCC Witness Protection	409
Matchmoving Text to Live Footage with The Foundry CameraTracker	412

Motion Stabilization	418
Motion Stabilization with Boris Continuum	
Complete BCC Optical Stabilizer	419
Stabilizing Shaky Footage with CoreMelt Lock & Load X	422
Rotoscoping Tools in After Effects	423
Imagineer mocha shape	423
Colorization Effects with Digital Film Tools Power Stroke	427
Feathering Individual Mask Vertices with	
RE:Vision Effects PV Feather	431
Removing Unwanted Elements from a Shot	432
Removing an Element with Boris Continuum Motion Key	432
Wire/Rig Removal	435
Chapter 14 Fixing Video Problems	437
Noise and Grain	437
Noise and Grain Comparisons	439
Matching Grain or Noise	443
Flicker, Strobing, and Lighting Shifts	444
A Comparison of Video Upscaling Plug-ins	445
Interlaced Video	448
Rolling Shutter	449
Lens Distortion/Barrel Distortion	451
User Story: Fixing the Worst-Case Scenario—Stabilizing,	
Uprezzing, and Deinterlacing SD Footage, by Rob Birnholz	452
Chapter 15 Reference and Workflow	457
Practice Safe Broadcasting: Waveform Monitor and Vectorscope	457
Masks and Guides	461
Speed Up Workflow with Templates	463
After Effects Integration with Other Hosts	465
Automatic Duck Pro Import AE by Wes Plate	465
Working Boris XML Transfer from Final Cut Pro to After Effects	467
The Maxon Cinema 4D Exchange Plug-in for After Effects	
by Dr. Sassi	469
Boomer Labs MAX2AE for Autodesk 3ds Max to After Effects	475
Chapter 16 More On Plug-Ins: The FAQ	477
64-Bit Platform in CS5 and Your Plug-ins	477
How Much Memory Is Allocated to After Effects?	478
How to Install Plug-ins	478
Deactivating Plug-ins	481

Node-Locked versus Floating Licenses	481
How to Move Plug-ins from After Effects CS5 to CS5.5 Without Reinstalling	481
How to Transfer Licenses to a New Computer (or Uninstall Plug-ins)	481
Plug-ins in Render Farms: Specific Render Farm Policies	486
How to Contact a Company if You Need Support	488
Index	491