

# Going from After Effects > Quicktime > iDVD successfully

## 1. Rendering your final project from After Effects

(your project composition should have been built at 640 x 480 [or 720x 540 if you're fancy])

### Before hitting command-M (make movie):

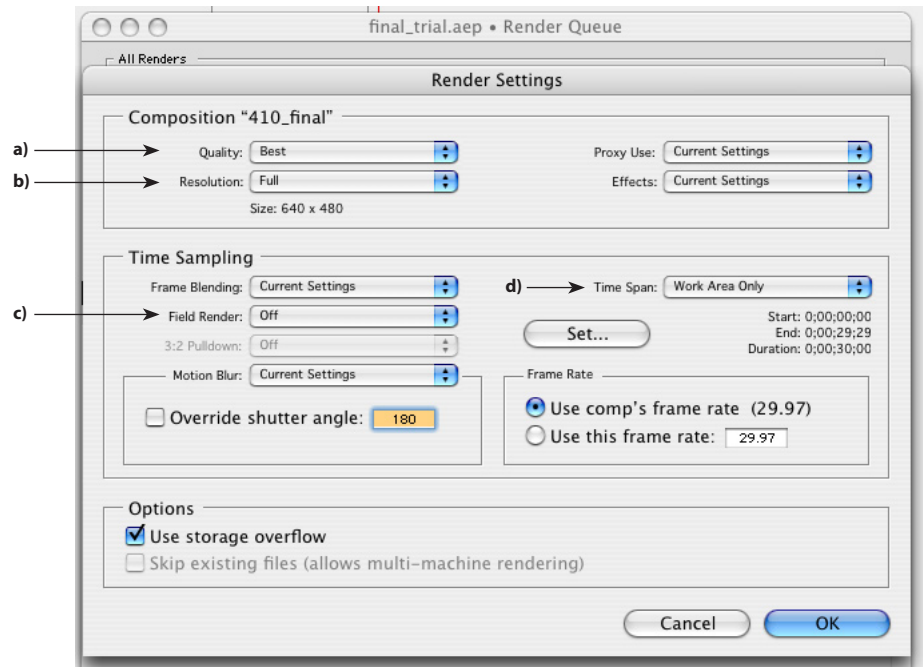
Make sure your work area is set to the correct time, or in and out points.

Make sure all your continuous rasterization switches are on



### After hitting command-M (make movie):

- a) render at best quality
- b) render at full resolution
- c) render without fields
- d) time span = work area

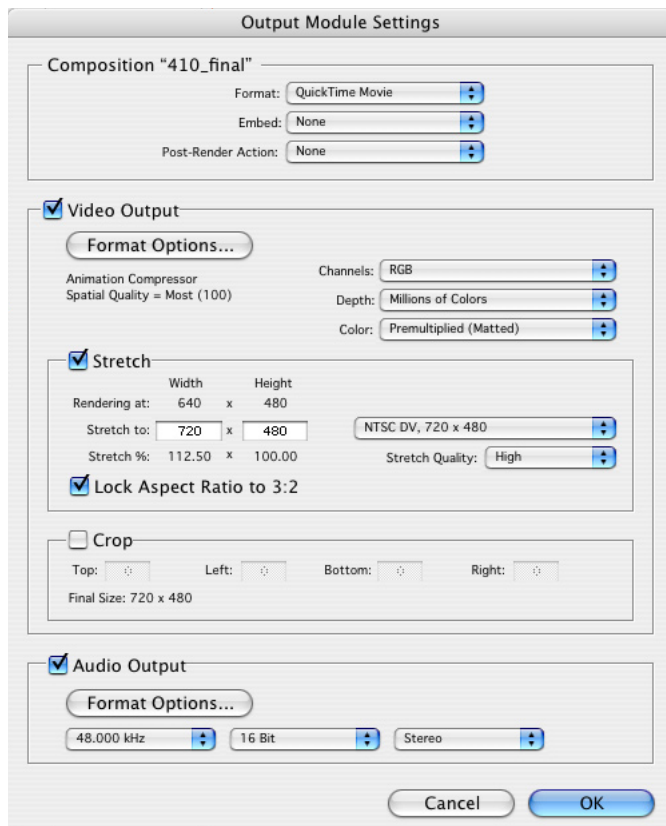


Your render settings window should look very similar to this.

## 2. Output module settings

(These settings apply whether you have a 640 x 480 comp or a 720 x 540 comp. The only advantage to starting out with a 720 x 540 pixel comp is that you are compressing down or squishing your comp, and with 640 x 480 you are stretching it out. The difference is imperceptible, so don't fret if your comp is 640 x 480—it's what I, the teacher, always use.)

Render out a 720 x 480 (NTSC DV), Animation compressed, Quicktime movie with sound. **You'll need to check the "Stretch" box.** This will give your currently square pixel movie a non-square pixel ratio that will play correctly on DVDs. Don't forget to check the Audio Output box. You should export your sound at 48,000 KHz — the preferred audio bitrate for DV.



Your output module window should look like this.

## **Getting Quicktime into iDVD**

Now, many hours later, you should have a rendered Quicktime file, in the location you specified in the Render Queue's "Output to:" box. You can drag this movie into the iDVD interface, where it says "Drag files and movies here." It really couldn't be much easier.

Any movie in QuickTime format except QuickTime VR, MPEG files, and Sprites can be added to an iDVD project.

\*NOTE: For best results, export your movies as QuickTime files that are in Animation format (less compression) or DV/digital video format (tends to munch small text.)

## **Burning the DVD**

You'll need to buy DVD-R discs (get more than one, to account for mistakes.) Avoid getting any other kind like DVD-RW, DVD+R, or DVD+RW (for maximum compatibility with the iMacs, DVD set-top boxes, and all computers.)

It's very simple in iDVD to burn your disc, after putting all the content in the right place, and setting up buttons or programming it to autoplay (which is a great idea.) You have to click "Burn." iDVD does the rest. If you're going to program your DVD to autoplay, you'll probably only want to put one movie on the disc; otherwise viewers won't know what movie they're watching.