

### “Digital Clock Maker” – How To Edit

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## Congratulations and thank you for purchasing Digital Clock Maker!

This After Effects file allows you to create your own digital clock counter in three different styles, and in three time formats.

### Features :

- Simple slider adjustment
- No fonts required
- Three styles (LCD, red LED and green LED)
- Three time formats
- After Effects CS5 and above

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Within this guide I am using the terms :

**Time Format** to denote the clock layout (ie. HH:MM:SS)

**Clock Style** to denote the visual style of the clock (LCD, LED Red and LED Green)

**Visible Timer** to denote the on-screen time value of the graphic clock

**Actual Time** to denote the real-time position on your timeline

### Clock styles

Each **time format** can be used in three different styles :

- LCD – good for technical applications, suggests precision timing
- LED Red – gives a sense of urgency, an alarm clock or a bomb detonator
- LED Green – a softer alternative to the Red, not so dramatic

You can find these compositions in the ‘Clocks’ folder.

### Time formats

There are three **time formats** for each **clock style**. You need to decide what duration you are looking to display on the **visible timer** and for how long (**actual time**).

There are three time formats :

Format 1	Hours Minutes and Seconds (HH_MM_SS)
Format 2	Minutes Seconds and Milliseconds (MM_SS_MS)
Format 3	Minutes and Seconds only (MM_SS)

Not all clock formats work best for every scenario. Trying to squeeze 3 hours of time into 10 seconds will obviously result in the 'seconds' (on the visible timer) to become redundant – remember you will only be rendering at 30 frames per second (only 30 visual changes will be seen each second and there are 10,800 seconds in three hours!).

Shorter durations work best.

#### Format 1 (HH:MM:SS)

This timer has a maximum duration of 3 hours (180 minutes)

If you need to display more than three hours you could use Format 3 (MM:SS) and use minutes to represent hours and seconds to represent minutes.

Adjust the duration of this **visible timer**, in MINUTES, using the slider effect labelled 'Minute Slider' – the top layer. Add keyframes along the timeline to animate your clock.

#### Format 2 (MM:SS:MS)

This timer has a maximum duration of 29 minutes (1740 seconds)

If you need to display more than 29 minutes you should use Format 3 (MM:SS).

Adjust the duration of this **visible timer**, in SECONDS, using the slider effect labelled 'Second Slider' – the top layer. Add keyframes along the timeline to animate your clock.

### Format 3 (MM:SS)

This timer has a maximum duration of 59 minutes (3540 seconds)

Adjust the duration of this **visible timer**, in SECONDS, using keyframe values on the slider effect labelled 'Second Slider' – the top layer. Add keyframes along the timeline to animate your clock.

### Output / Rendering

Once you are happy with your clock animation I would suggest rendering the composition and using the resulting video in your production. Perhaps incorporating the video into an alarm clock, wrist watch or even a bomb detonator!

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Thanks again for purchasing, enjoy!