

Masking a Video in Adobe After Effects CC



Topics Covered:

- Importing video clips into After Effects.
- Using the Shape Layer and Shape Tools.
- Creating a mask on a video clip.
- Creating a scale animation.
- Using the Drop Shadow effect.
- Rendering using Adobe Media Encoder CC.



The screenshot displays the Adobe After Effects CC 2014 interface. The top menu bar includes Apple logo, After Effects, File, Edit, Composition, Layer, Effect, Animation, View, Window, and Help. The title bar reads "Adobe After Effects CC 2014 - Untitled Project *". The interface is divided into several panels:

- Project Panel:** Located on the left, it shows a list of assets. The "Original" asset is selected, with details: 1920 x 1080 (1.00), Δ 0:00:49:19, 29.97 fps, Millions of Colors, H.264, 48.000 kHz / 32 bit U / Stereo.
- Composition Panel:** The main workspace, titled "Composition Video Masking". It shows a video of a black Polycom Versature phone. A white circular mask is applied to the phone's keypad.
- Info Panel:** Located on the right, it displays the position of the selected layer: X: 910, Y: 287.
- Effects & Presets Panel:** Also on the right, it shows a search bar with "drop sh" entered. The "Drop Shadow" effect is listed under the "Perspective" category.
- Timeline Panel:** At the bottom, it shows the composition's timeline with three layers: "Original" (Layer 1), "Shape Layer 1" (Layer 2), and "Original" (Layer 3). The "Drop Shadow" effect is applied to Layer 1.

The bottom status bar indicates the current time is 0:00:00:00 (29.97 fps) and the zoom level is 66.5%.

In the Effects & Presets panel to the right, search for the Drop Shadow effect in the search toolbar.

The screenshot displays the Adobe After Effects CC 2014 interface. The top menu bar includes File, Edit, Composition, Layer, Effect, Animation, View, Window, and Help. The main composition window shows a video clip of a Polycom Versature phone with a triangular mask applied to the left side of the keypad. A green arrow points from the 'Drop Shadow' effect in the Effects & Presets panel to the masked video clip. The Effects & Presets panel on the right shows the 'Drop Shadow' effect selected. The bottom timeline panel shows the video clip and the shape layer used for masking.

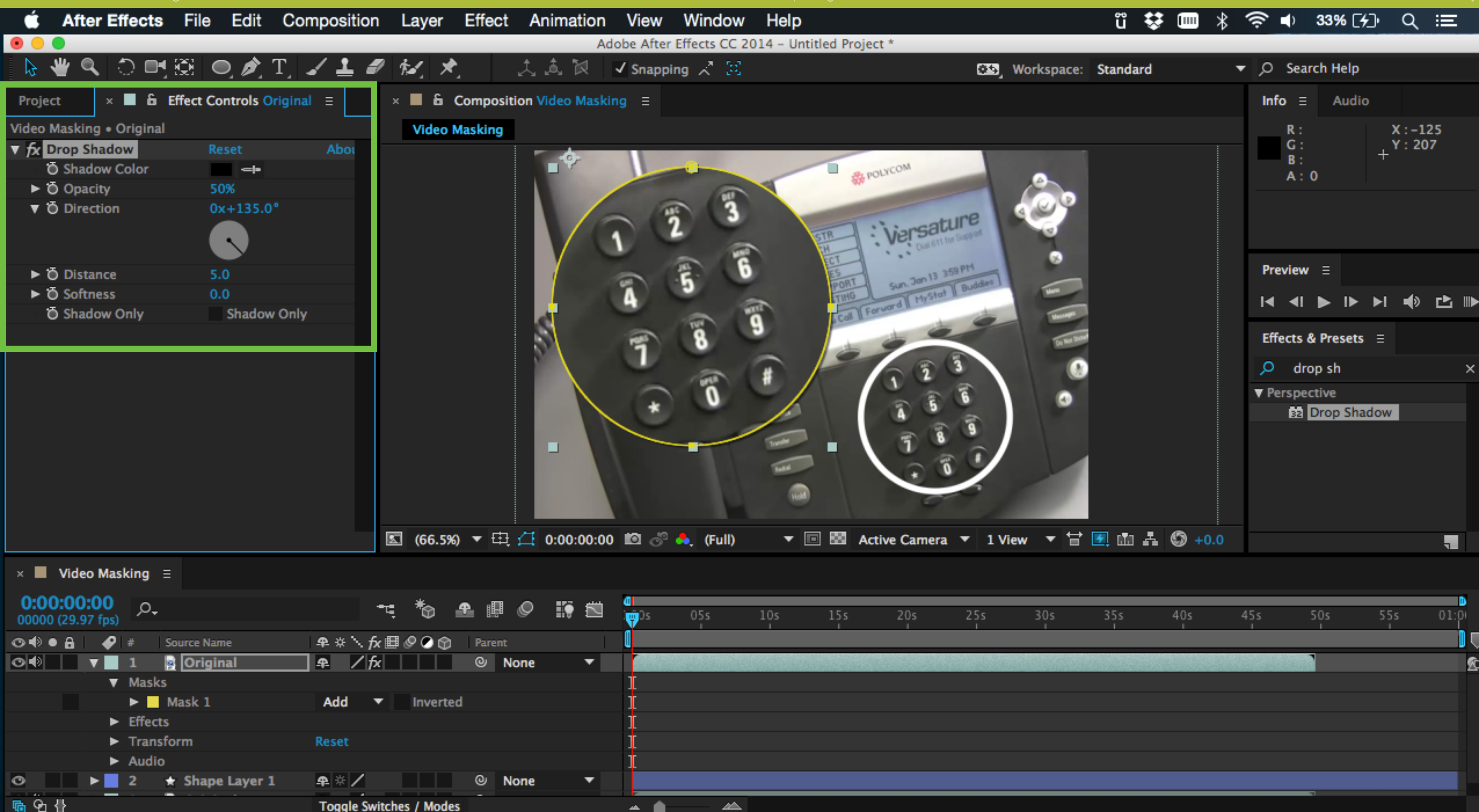
Project Panel: Original (1920 x 1080, 29.97 fps, H.264, 48.000 kHz / 32 bit U / Stereo)

Composition Panel: Video Masking

Effects & Presets Panel: drop sh, Drop Shadow

Timeline Panel: 0:00:00:00 (29.97 fps), Source Name, Parent, Mask 1, Transform, Audio, Shape Layer 1, Original

Drag and drop the effect from the Effects & Presets panel onto the masked video clip.



The Drop Shadow control panel is shown on the right.

Adobe After Effects CC 2014 - Untitled Project *

Workspace: Standard

Search Help

Project: Effect Controls Original

Video Masking • Original

Drop Shadow

- Shadow Color: [Black]
- Opacity: 60%
- Direction: 0x+135.0°
- Distance: 28.0
- Softness: 94.0
- Shadow Only: [Checked]

Video Masking

Info

Original

Duration: 0:00:49:19

In: 0:00:00:00, Out: 0:00:49:18

Preview

Effects & Presets

drop sh

Perspective

Drop Shadow

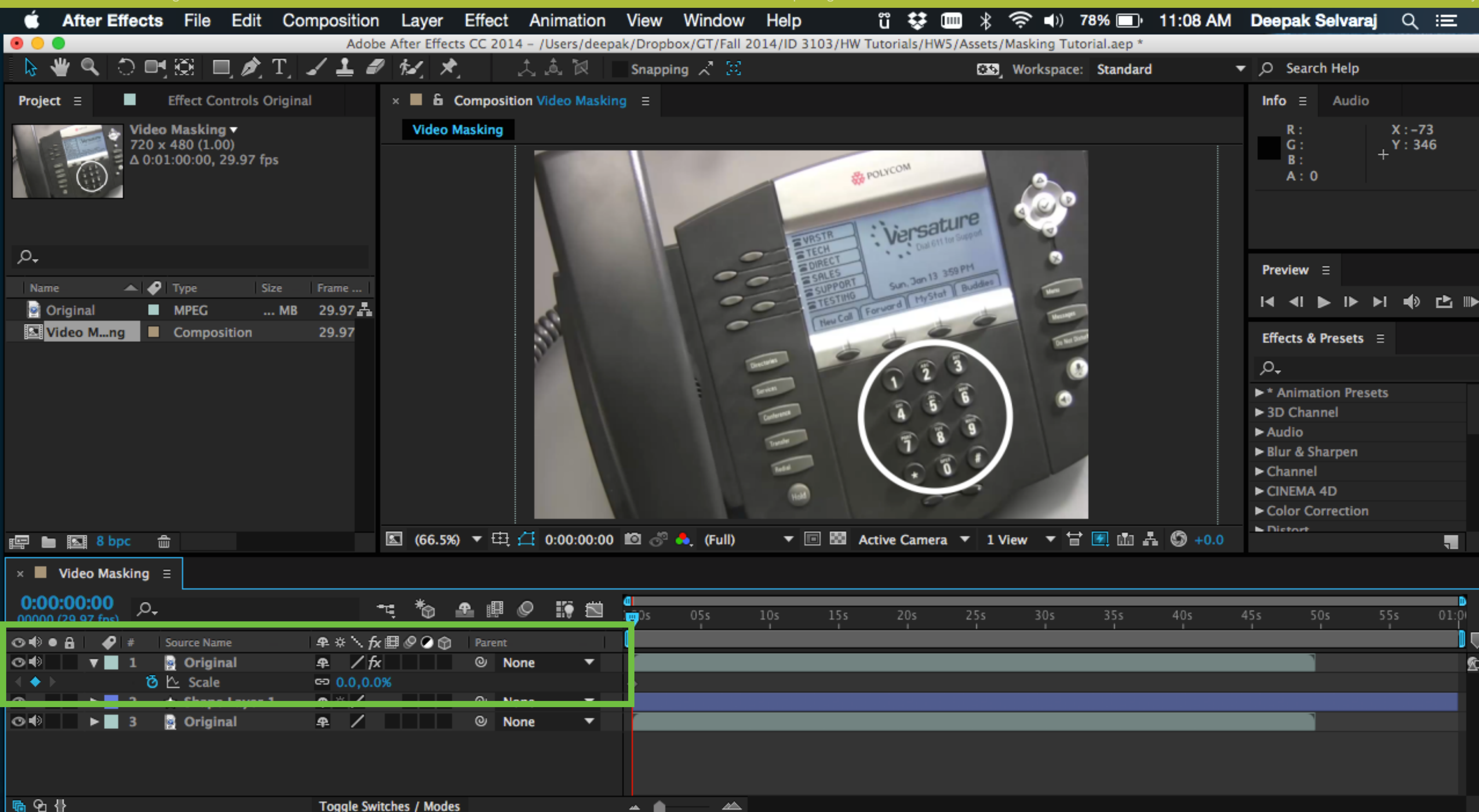
0:00:00:00

00000 (29.97 fps)

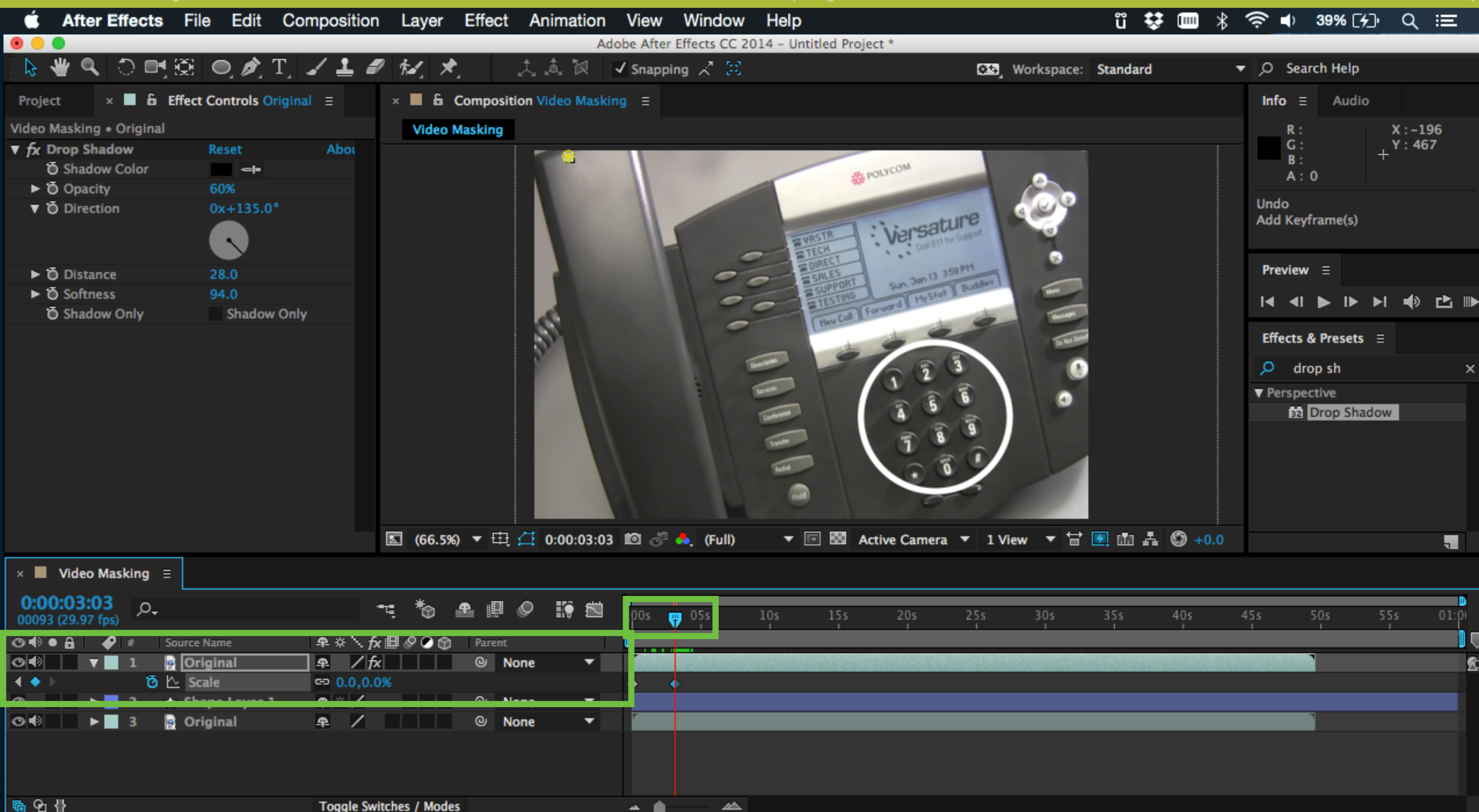
#	Source Name	Parent
1	Original	None
2	Shape Layer 1	None
3	Original	None

Toggle Switches / Modes

Modify the values to apply a drop shadow effect under the masked video clip.



With the masked Original layer selected, press S to bring up the scale settings. Click the stopwatch icon to set a key frame and set the scale to 0%.



Move the scrubber a few seconds in the timeline and set another keyframe. This ensures that the zoomed view stays at 0% scale until 3 seconds.

The screenshot displays the Adobe After Effects CC 2014 interface. The main composition window shows a video of a Polycom Versature phone with a white circular mask applied to the numeric keypad. The left sidebar contains the 'Effect Controls' panel for the 'Drop Shadow' effect, with settings for Shadow Color (black), Opacity (60%), Direction (0x+135.0°), Distance (28.0), Softness (94.0), and Shadow Only (checked). The bottom timeline shows a video layer named 'Original' and a shape layer named 'Shape Layer 1'. A red vertical line indicates the current time position at 0:00:03:21. A green box highlights the 'Add or remove keyframe at current time' button (a diamond icon) in the timeline controls.

Adobe After Effects CC 2014 - Untitled Project *

Workspace: Standard

Search Help

Info

Audio

R: X: -196
G: Y: 467
B: +
A: 0

Undo
Add Keyframe(s)

Preview

Effects & Presets

drop sh

Perspective

Drop Shadow

0:00:03:21
00111 (29.97 fps)

Source Name

1 Original

Scale 0.0,0.0%

2 Shape Layer 1

Add or remove keyframe at current time

Toggle Switches / Modes

Move the scrubber about one second from its current position and insert another keyframe by clicking on the diamond icon to the left.

The screenshot displays the Adobe After Effects CC 2014 interface. The main composition window shows a video of a black Polycom Versature phone. A yellow circular mask is applied to the left keypad, and a white circular mask is applied to the right keypad. The 'Effect Controls' panel on the left shows the 'Drop Shadow' effect for the 'Original' layer, with settings: Shadow Color (black), Opacity (60%), Direction (0x+135.0°), Distance (28.0), Softness (94.0), and Shadow Only (checked). The 'Video Masking' panel on the right shows the 'Drop Shadow' effect in the 'Perspective' view. The 'Timeline' panel at the bottom shows three layers: 'Original' (Layer 1), 'Shape Layer 1' (Layer 2), and 'Original' (Layer 3). The 'Scale' property of Layer 1 is highlighted with a green box, showing a value of 85.0%.

Adobe After Effects CC 2014 - Untitled Project *

Workspace: Standard

Search Help

Info

Audio

R: X: -196
G: Y: 467
B: +
A: 0

Preview

Effects & Presets

drop sh

Perspective

Drop Shadow

0:00:03:21
00111 (29.97 fps)

Source Name

Parent

1 Original

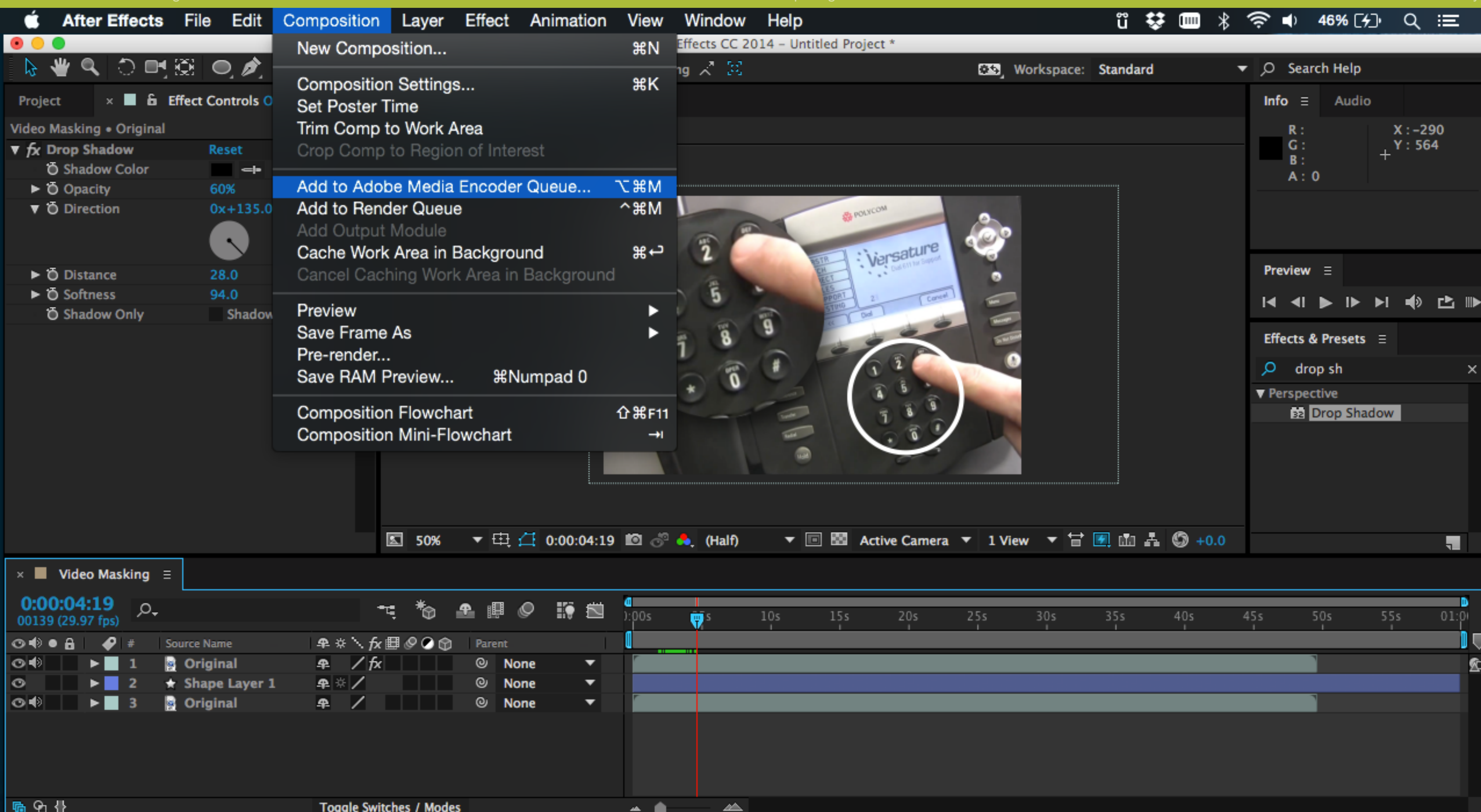
Scale 85.0%

2 Shape Layer 1

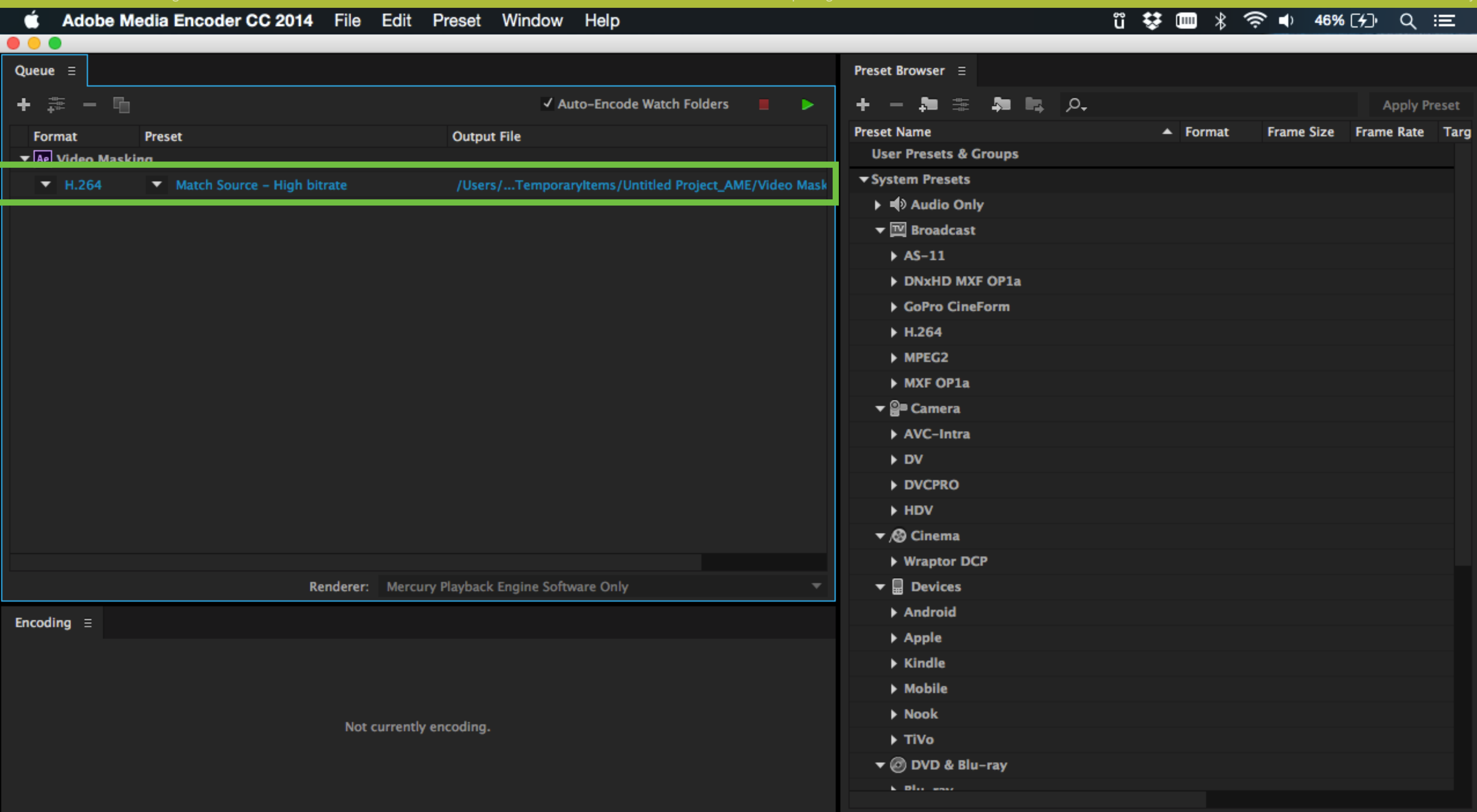
3 Original

Toggle Switches / Modes

Set the scale back to its original value (85%). This creates an animation that scales the zoomed view from 0% to its full scale.



With the Video Masking composition selected, choose Composition > Add to Adobe Media Encoder Queue...



The Adobe Media Encoder opens with the current composition loaded in the render queue.

Adobe Media Encoder CC 2014 File Edit Preset Window Help

Queue

Auto-Encode Watch Folders

Format	Preset	Output File
▼ Ae Video Masking		
▼ H.264	▼ Match Source - High bitrate	/Users/...TemporaryItems/Untitled Project AEM/Video Mask
	• Match Source - High bitrate	
	Match Source - Medium bitrate	
	3GPP 176x144 15 fps Level 1	
	3GPP 176x144 15 fps	
	3GPP 220x176 15 fps	
	3GPP 320x240 15 fps	
	3GPP 352x288 15 fps	
	3GPP 640x480 15 fps	
	Amazon Kindle Fire Native Resolution - 1024x580 23.976	
	Amazon Kindle Fire Native Resolution - 1024x580 25	
	Amazon Kindle Fire Native Resolution - 1024x580 29.97	
	Android Phone & Tablet - 480p 23.976	
	Android Phone & Tablet - 480p 25	
	Android Phone & Tablet - 480p 29.97	
	Android Phone & Tablet - 480p Widescreen 23.976	
	Android Phone & Tablet - 480p Widescreen 25	
	Android Phone & Tablet - 480p Widescreen 29.97	
	Android Phone & Tablet - 800x480 23.976	
	Android Phone & Tablet - 800x480 25	
	Android Phone & Tablet - 800x480 29.97	
	Android Phone & Tablet - 960x540 23.976	
	Android Phone & Tablet - 960x540 25	
	Android Phone & Tablet - 960x540 29.97	
	Android Phone - 320x240 23.976	
	Android Phone - 320x240 25	
	Android Phone - 320x240 29.97	
	Android Phone - 360p 23.976	
	Android Phone - 360p 25	

Encoding

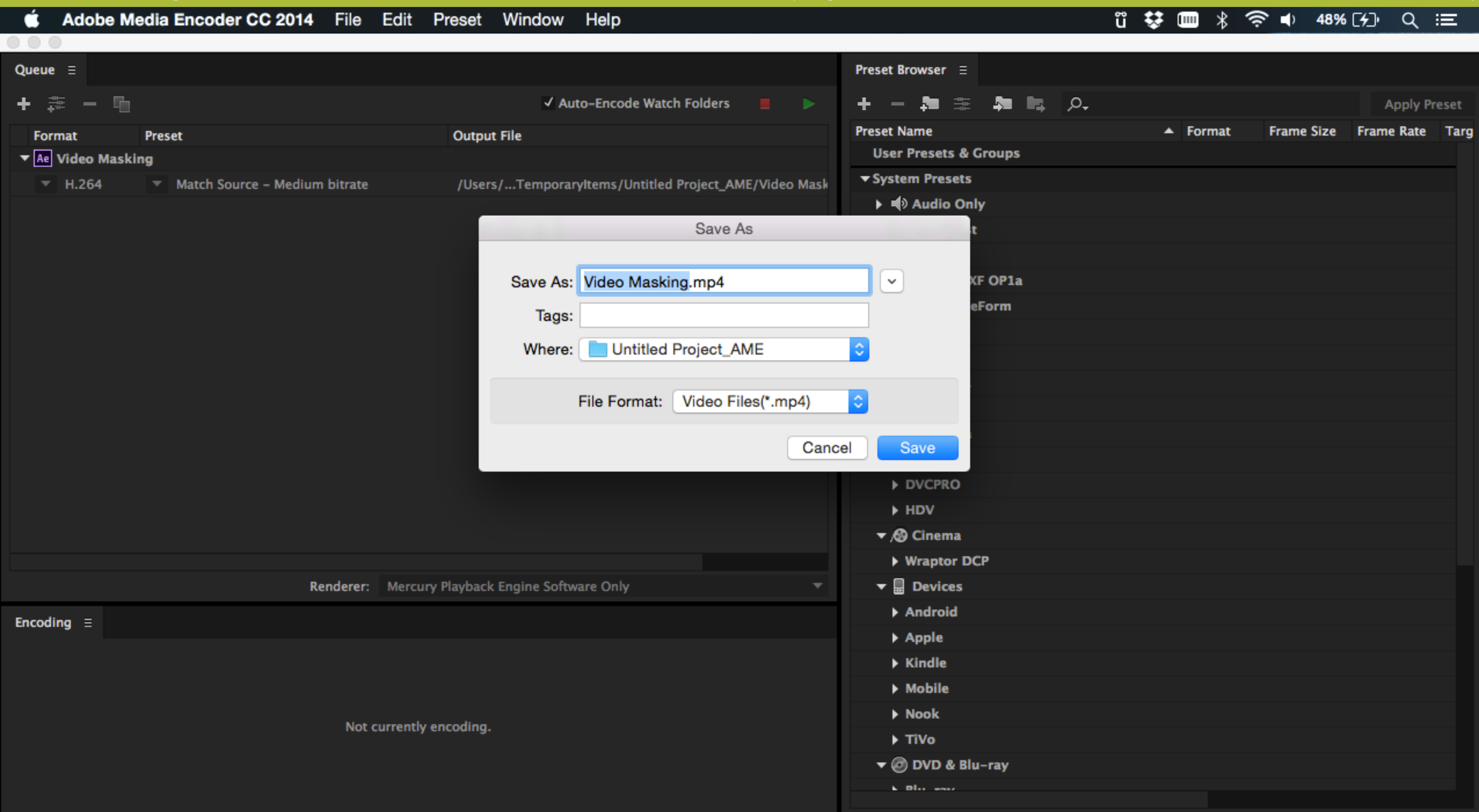
Preset Browser

Apply Preset

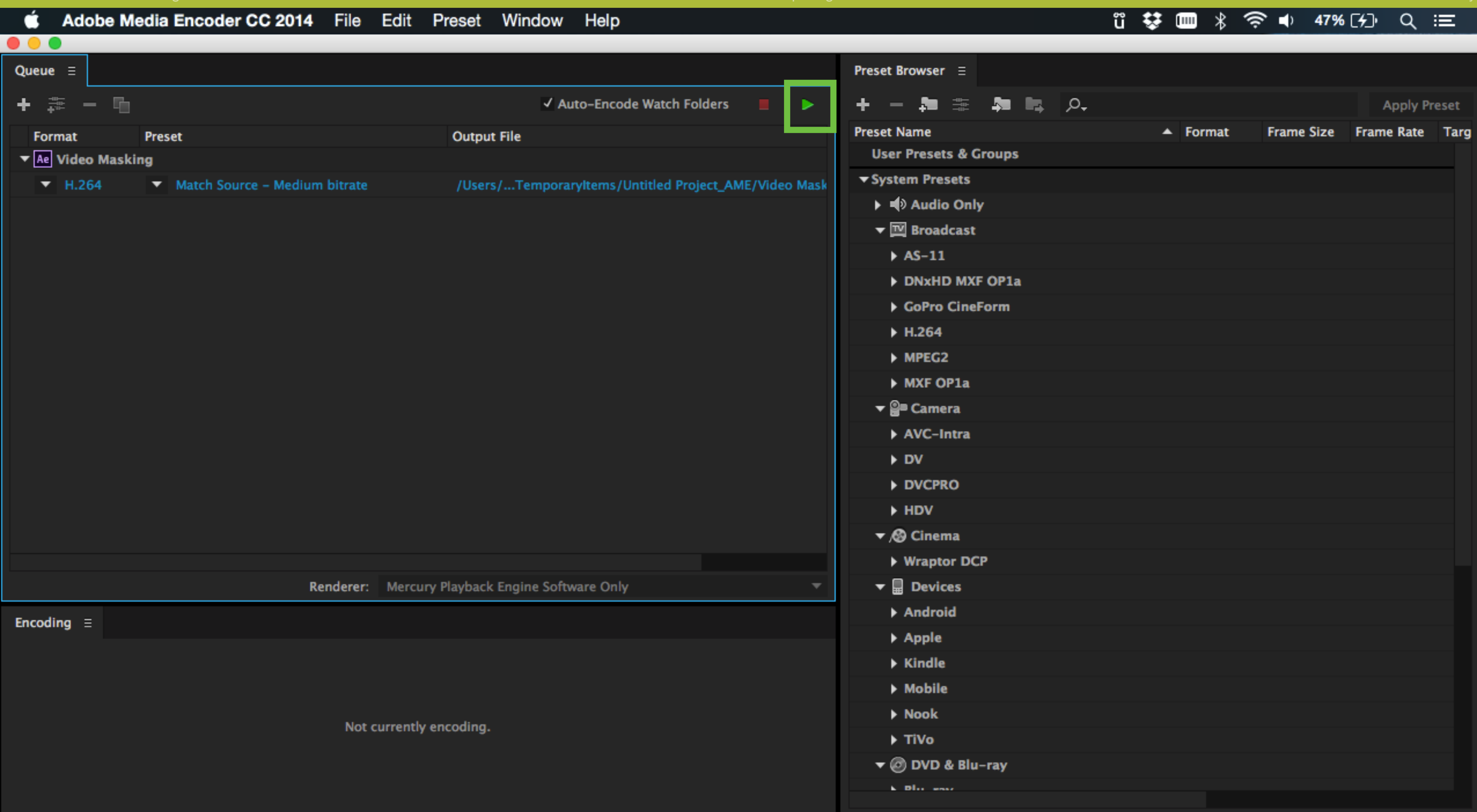
Preset Name	Format	Frame Size	Frame Rate	Targ
User Presets & Groups				
▼ System Presets				
▶ Audio Only				
▼ Broadcast				
▶ AS-11				
▶ DNxHD MXF OP1a				
▶ GoPro CineForm				
▶ H.264				
▶ MPEG2				
▶ MXF OP1a				
▼ Camera				
▶ AVC-Intra				
▶ DV				
▶ DVCPRO				
▶ HDV				
▼ Cinema				
▶ Wraptor DCP				
▼ Devices				
▶ Android				
▶ Apple				
▶ Kindle				
▶ Mobile				
▶ Nook				
▶ TiVo				
▼ DVD & Blu-ray				
▶ Blu-ray				

Under presets, choose 'Match Source - Medium Bitrate'.





Enter a name and choose a location to save the file.



Click on the green play button to start the start the render.

Adobe Media Encoder CC 2014 File Edit Preset Window Help

Queue

Auto-Encode Watch Folders

Format	Preset	Output File
▼ Ae Video Masking		
H.264	Match Source - Medium bitrate	/Users/deepak/Desktop/Video Masking_1.mp4

Renderer: Mercury Playback Engine Software Only

Encoding

Source: Video Masking (tmpAeToAMEProject-Video Masking1.aep) 1 output encoding

Elapsed: 00:00:01 Remaining: 00:01:50

Output Preview

File Name: Video Masking_1.mp4
Path: /Users/deepak/Desktop/
Format: H.264

Preset Browser

Apply Preset

Preset Name	Format	Frame Size	Frame Rate	Targ
User Presets & Groups				
▼ System Presets				
▶ Audio Only				
▼ Broadcast				
▶ AS-11				
▶ DNxHD MXF OP1a				
▶ GoPro CineForm				
▶ H.264				
▶ MPEG2				
▶ MXF OP1a				
▼ Camera				
▶ AVC-Intra				
▶ DV				
▶ DVCPRO				
▶ HDV				
▼ Cinema				
▶ Wraptor DCP				
▼ Devices				
▶ Android				
▶ Apple				
▶ Kindle				
▶ Mobile				
▶ Nook				
▶ TiVo				
▼ DVD & Blu-ray				

The rendering progress and the estimated remaining time is shown in the Encoding panel. The file is saved in the specified location.