



I am very excited to offer the first colour grading pack of this nature available anywhere to my knowledge. Cineform offer a free pack with their grading tool but this tool adds a few more to your arsenal. Welcome to a new way of video editing, I truly feel that this platform is going to prove to be revolutionary in the world of indie film-making. Included are three hundred look files for you to add colour and punch to your video productions. Unleash your creativity with the once unreachable ability to use **3D Luts** directly to shape and massage the colours of your videos.

Colour grading has been a mysterious pursuit for editors and very expensive venture for the independent filmmaker. That has not changed but I am hoping to provide you with tools that will allow you get a good start in getting an emotional feel from your footage whatever your budget and no matter how your footage was derived. You may well be pleased to the point that you may not need to finish with an expensive colourist who charges by the hour. Colour grade as you edit and master at your leisure.

I am not a professional colourist by any stretch of the imagination but I have got my head around some of the basic concepts that an artist uses to paint his/her picture and the tools required to connect to a vision. Just for some background - I am an artist first after all and love to paint and draw professionally as well.

This package was made using **Iridas Speedgrade Onset**. You should be able to open them and edit them in any version of Iridas programs that work with look files provided you have all the required luts.

I specifically made this set to work with Cineform's firstlight application and they are optimised to work with low contrast footage. That is to say, high quality footage derived from high end cameras such as the Alexa, Red cameras, Sony F3 with S-log etc. The 3D luts are of the highest quality and are all 64 X 64 X 64. I have also made a tutorial to show you how to optimise High contrast imagery derived from low quality codec sources such as VDSLRs and camcorders that shoot to AVCHD or H264 mp4 formats. The technique will work best with footage from 8 Bit 4:2:0 sources and works especially well with footage that has compression artefacts and poor colour science. It can work wonders but not miracles so the better your source footage is the better the results. It will also work very well with high quality 8 Bit 4:2:2 footage such as Nanoflash footage. Basically we work towards making our footage flatter and then grade from there. You can find the tutorial here in three parts with a showcase as well to illustrate the variety of looks.

<http://www.vimeo.com/henryolonga>

Please note – this technique does produce rather large files so prepare to invest in large fast storage. Please experiment to see what settings best suit the way you want your footage to look. This workflow requires that you purchase the Cineform Codec and a few other tools to enable file clean up and batch processing. Those tools are not mandatory but a Cineform licence is.

The package contains numerous presets with various different starting points. Using the various sliders will allow you to dial in just about any look you desire and if you own Speedgrade Onset you can also edit the files to derive your own looks. Of particular interest may be the film looks that allow you to give your footage the look of film prints with a real emotional hit. I have given you plenty of wiggle room as there are numerous presets with subtle and also vast differences. My naming convention is just to give a rough guide. Please understand that not all looks will work for everything as your mileage will vary according to the content.

The most useful slider may well be the simple contrast slider as, with most looks, that is all that will be required to get a good start. The changes made are immediate as the Cineform codec uses meta data to apply any changes to your footage and the changes happen under the hood so there is no need to render to see the changes.

Firstlight is very powerful and enables you to correct exposure issues, white balance issues and also provides all the rudimentary colour timing controls one needs to make footage sit better in the edit.

Installation is simple. Unzip the package and install the looks by simply double clicking on them. As long as a Cineform product is installed the **look installer** will install them for you. Of course you can select multiple files and simply press enter to open them all at once. This may place a large memory load so I advise you install about ten at a time.

Once installed they are immediately available in Firstlight. Then HAVE FUN!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

A couple more hints for VDSLR users In My humble Opinion.....

Firstly – camera settings are so important. If your camera allows a low contrast cine style gamma curve – use it if you wish to colour grade with my looks. The flatter the image the better - If you own the 5D Mark II or 7D etc, use the Technicolor log picture style. If you own a GH2 use the Smooth setting with contrast, colour, sharpness and noise reduction turned down. We can easily fix the yellow cast later with white balancing.

Understand also that noise is the enemy but if you must chose camera settings on cheaper cameras – expose for the highlights. We can always clean up noise but cannot recover lost detail in the highlights.

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Get a high quality variable ND filter – I use a Singh Ray and it is amazing.

Get some really fast prime lenses. For example the Voigtländer 25 mm 0.95.

Get the Rode Videomic pro. Stellar.

Get the GH2 – it is better after processing than even the GH13 IMHO.

Get a cheap steadycam type contraption.

Stop lusting after the high end gear if you cannot afford it..... He he he he. You know I'm right....

If you are interested in any audio products as well you may wish to know that I also offer q-clone presets for the Waves plugin that will take your audio quality in your NLE ( that works with VSTs ) to a whole new level.

<http://www.henryolonga.net/Blog/?p=266> .

<http://www.henryolonga.net/Blog/?p=478> .

<http://www.henryolonga.net/Blog/?tag=q-clone-impulses>

Good luck mixing with my tools and I hope that they give you absolutely first class results.

Best wishes.

Henry

Oh..... and please I beg of you, don't distribute these look files freely to others. A lot of hours went into their production and I have kept the price down to more than reasonable – please recommend them instead.

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