S08

4 Color Gradient

CHAPTER ASSIGNMENT

Name _____ Class _____ No. _____ Date _____

Practical assignment for Adobe Premiere Pro 2026 | Grade 12. Follow every step in Premiere Pro; use the lines to note your settings and file names.

Questions from the Guru Jazzy session page, for classroom use.

Colour-Stylised Mood Clip Using 4 Color Gradient

Task **Your task:** Create a colour-stylised mood clip using the 4 Color Gradient effect. Choose one of three mood themes:

- Retro: dusty orange, faded yellow, muted teal, warm brown — use Multiply or Overlay
- Sci-fi: electric blue, deep purple, cyan, black — use Screen or Overlay
- Warm Sunset: deep orange, magenta, golden yellow, coral pink — use Overlay or Soft Light

(1) **Step 1 — Build your base clip**

Place at least 3 different video clips on the timeline, edited using Mark-In (I) / Mark-Out (O). Total duration: 20–30 seconds.

(2) **Step 2 — Apply 4 Color Gradient directly (to understand it first)**

1. Open the Effects panel: Window > Effects, then search "4 color" — it's in Video Effects > Generate > 4-Color Gradient

2. Drag it directly onto a clip on the timeline — the clip is now completely covered by four solid colour blocks (this is expected, with no blending mode yet)

3. In Effect Controls > 4 Color Gradient, click each of the four colour swatches (Point 1–4, one per corner) and assign a colour from your chosen theme

4. Adjust the Blend slider — lower values give harder colour zones, higher values a smoother blend. 50–80 works well for most mood clips

(3) Step 3 — Blending mode and opacity

1. In Effect Controls, find Opacity and the Blend Mode dropdown next to it
2. Change Blend Mode from Normal to Overlay (brightens light areas, darkens dark areas — the recommended starting point), Screen (brighter, good for sci-fi glows), or Multiply (darker, good for moody/retro looks)
3. Reduce Opacity from 100% to roughly 60–75% — 100% with a blending mode usually looks too strong
4. Try at least three blending modes and compare which suits your theme best

(4) Step 4 — Move the grade onto an Adjustment Layer

An Adjustment Layer applies its effects to every clip below it on the timeline, non-destructively.

1. Go to File > New > Adjustment Layer — confirm settings match your sequence (1920×1080, 25fps) — click OK
2. Drag the Adjustment Layer from the Project Panel onto V2, above all your footage on V1
3. Extend it to cover the entire duration of the sequence
4. Delete the 4 Color Gradient from the individual clip (if you applied it directly in Step 2)
5. Drag 4 Color Gradient onto the Adjustment Layer instead — assign the four corner colours, set Blend Mode, and set Opacity to around 65%
6. Press play — the grade now applies to every clip below it at once

(5) Step 5 — Add a text element

Using Essential Graphics (Session 4), add at least one text element that describes the mood or location.

(6) Step 6 — Final check and export

1. Confirm the footage is clearly visible through the colour grade — not completely covered
2. Save: Ctrl+S / Cmd+S — file name: `YourName_Session8_MoodClip`
3. Export: File > Export > Media > Format: H.264

Help Common problems and fixes

Problem	Fix
Gradient is covering the footage completely	The blending mode is still Normal — change it to Overlay, Screen, or Multiply
Colour grade looks too strong and unnatural	Reduce Opacity — start at 50% and increase gradually
Four colours look harsh and blocky, not smooth	Increase the Blend slider in the 4 Color Gradient settings (50–80)
Adjustment Layer is affecting the wrong clips	It must be on a higher track than the clips it should affect — move it to V2
Can't find 4 Color Gradient in the Effects panel	Type "4 color" into the search bar at the top of the Effects panel

End of assignment · Check your answers against the chapter at gurujazzy.com/subjects/video-editing/session-08-4-color-gradient/