easyRulers v1.74 - user guide

description

easyRulers is a script for Adobe After Effects, specifically designed to create any type of graphical measuring ruler, fast and easy. It is ideal for artists who create gauges, scopes, speedometers, graphical equalizers, HUDs, UI elements, historical timelines, instrumentation layouts, infographics etc.

installation

easyRulers can be run as a dockable panel or as a window.

To install and run as a dockable panel (will be visible in the "Window" menu):

1. Copy the file **easyRulers.jsxbin** into the folder:
   "..Support Files/Scripts/Script UI Panels" (on Windows)
   or "..Scripts/Script UI Panels" (on OS X) of your After Effects installation.
2. Restart After Effects

To install and run as a window (will be visible in the File -> Scripts Menu):

1. Copy the file **easyRulers.jsxbin** into the folder:
   "..Support Files/Scripts/" (on Windows)
   or "..Scripts/" (on OS X) of your After Effects installation.
2. Restart After Effects

interface 1/5

The script can be run as a dockable panel (will be visible and run from the “Window” menu of After Effects) or in “window mode” (visible and run from the File -> Scripts menu). The mode depends on which folder you install the script in (see instructions on page 2)

Adjusts the total lines of a ruler. Bigger numbers, create longer rulers.

You can use the slider to adjust the total number of lines or insert the number you wish directly into the text box.

Adjusts the gap between each line of the ruler. The bigger the number, the longer the ruler.

You can use the slider to adjust the gap of the lines or insert the number you wish directly into the text box.

Select if the ruler would be created in a line or aN arc/circle

Select which side of the ruler to populate:

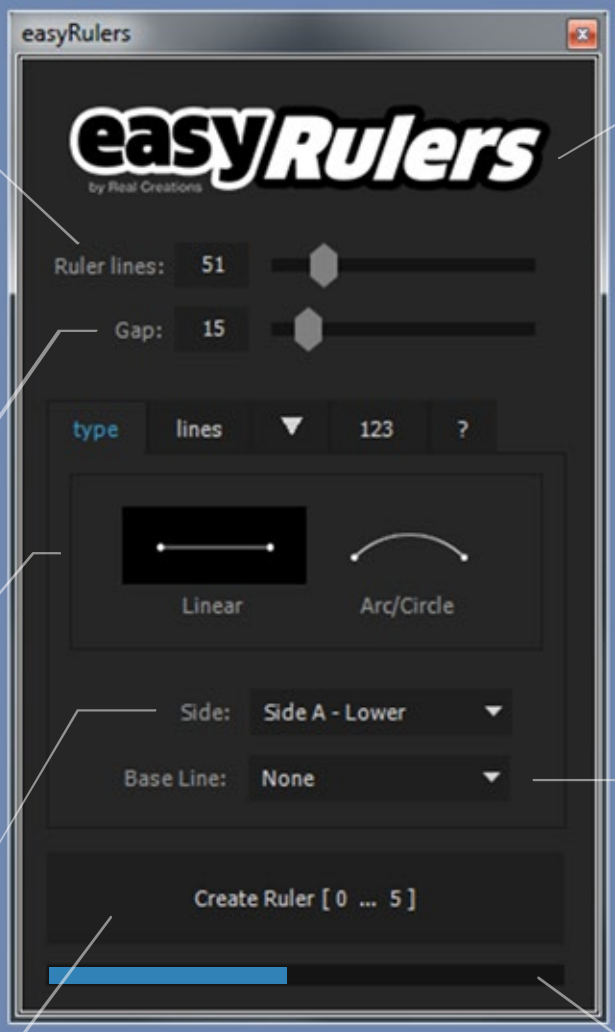
_ Side A
_ Side B
_ Both sides

Creates the ruler!
The button also shows the range of numbers that is going to be created.

A plus sign appears when the number of lines set, will not create a whole number of lines.

For example if you set 52 Ruler lines in a type (e) ruler (devided by 10) then you will create a ruler from 1 to 5, seperated by 10 subdivisions plus one additional line.

(the total number of lines includes also the 0 point)



Clicking on the logo brings up a window with small help tips

This option creates an additional line at the base of the ruler:

_ **None:** does not create a base line

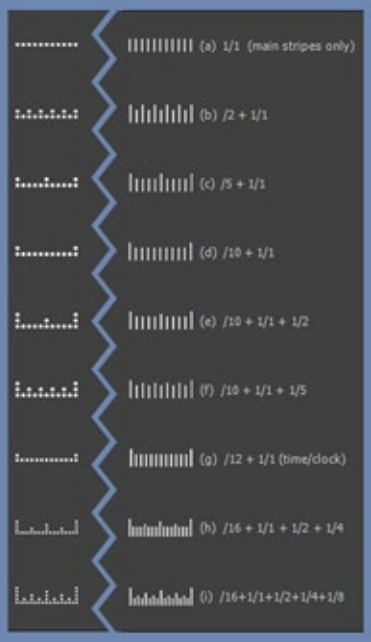
_ **Bottom only:** creates one base line at the bottom of the ruler

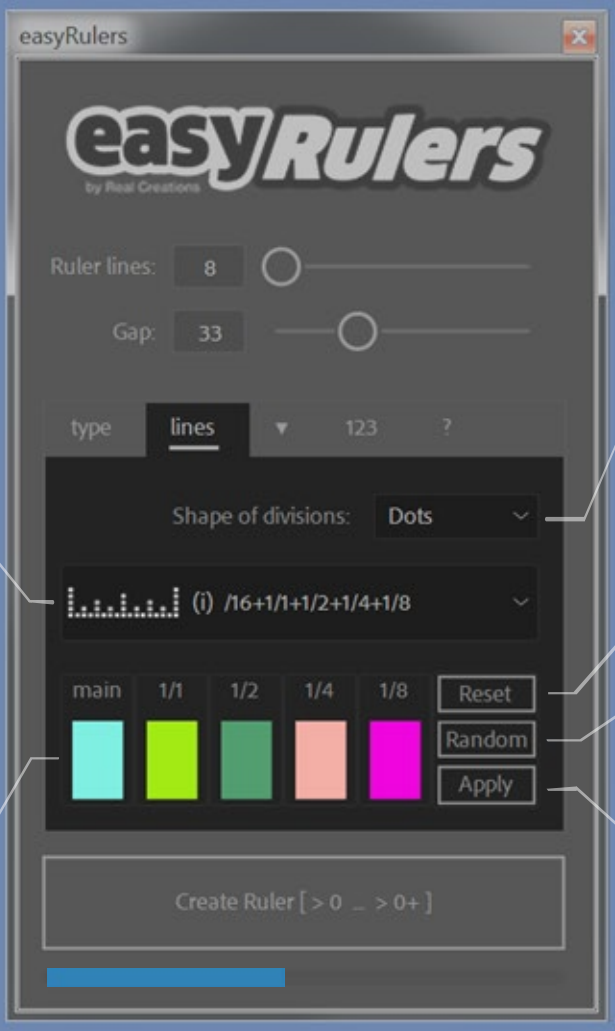
_ **Multiple:** creates multiple base lines, one for each subdivision category

Progress bar
(only visible when script is run in “Window” mode)

interface 2/5

select between 9+9 different
-dotted or striped-
types of subdivision lines





Select the shape of the ruler subdivisions: Stripes or Dots.

Resets all colors to white

Randomizes all colors

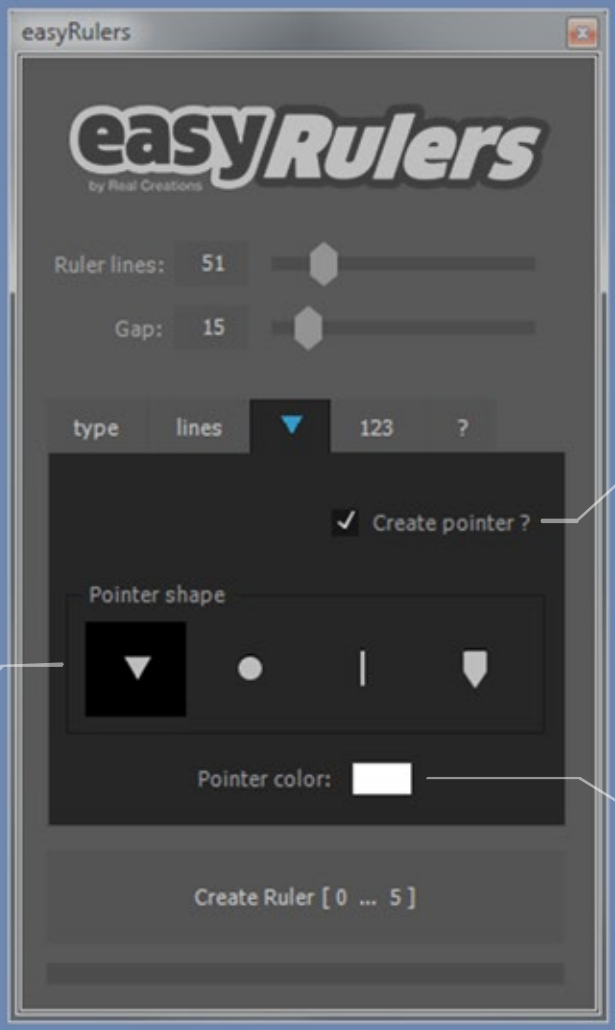
Applies the current combination of colors to an existing easyRuler shape layer. (must be selected)

If you hold the CTRL key pressed, the colors are first randomized before they are applied.

Set the colors of the various parts of the ruler.

- main = main lines
- 1/1 = big division lines
- 1/2 = half subdivision lines
- 1/4 = quarter subdivision lines
- 1/5 = fifth subdivision lines
- 1/8 = eighth subdivision lines

interface 3/5



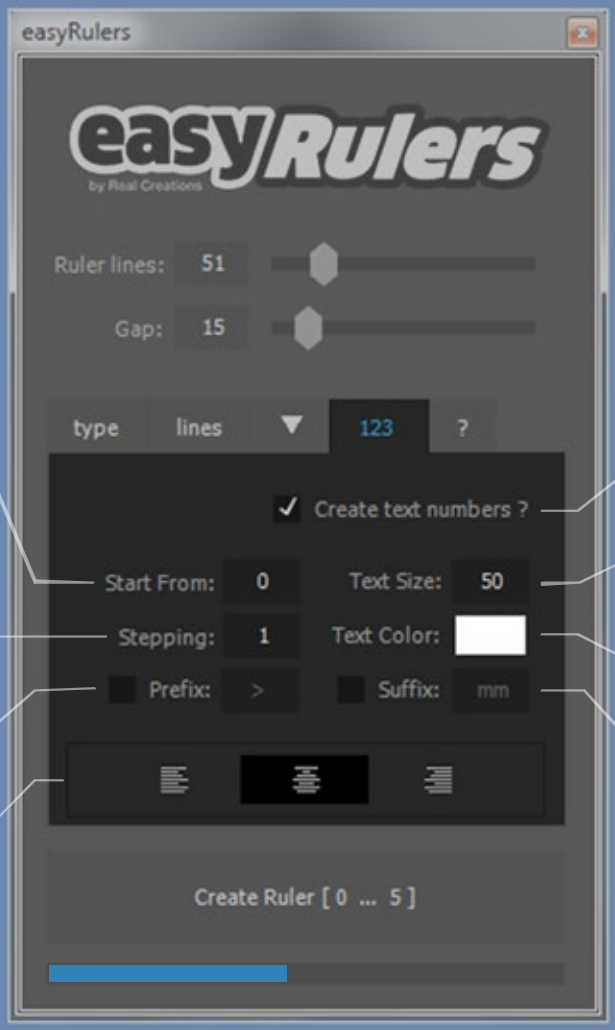
choose between 4 different pointer shapes:

triangle _
circle _
line _
squared triangle _

check if you want to create a pointer or not

set the color of the pointer

interface 4/5



set the starting point of the numbering

set the stepping of the numbering
e.g. starting from 0, a stepping of 5 will create the following numbers:
0, 5, 10, 15...
this field also accepts decimal numbers (either with the use of a comma or a dot)
e.g. 0.52 or 0,52

inserts a prefix in front of each text number

set the alignment for the text numbers (left, center, right)

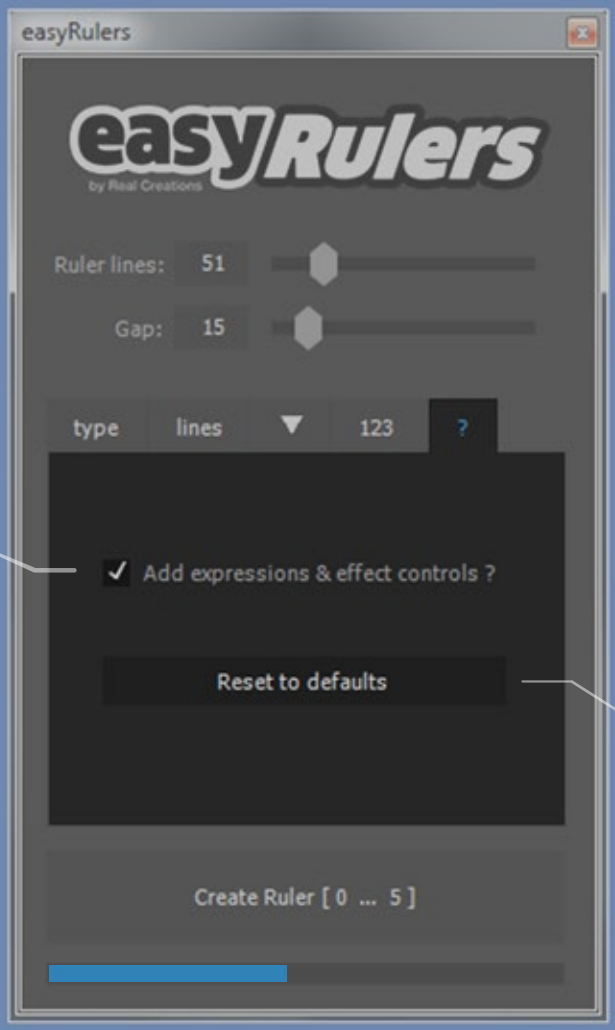
check if you want to create text number layers

set the size of the text numbers

set the color of the text numbers

inserts a suffix after each text number

interface 5/5

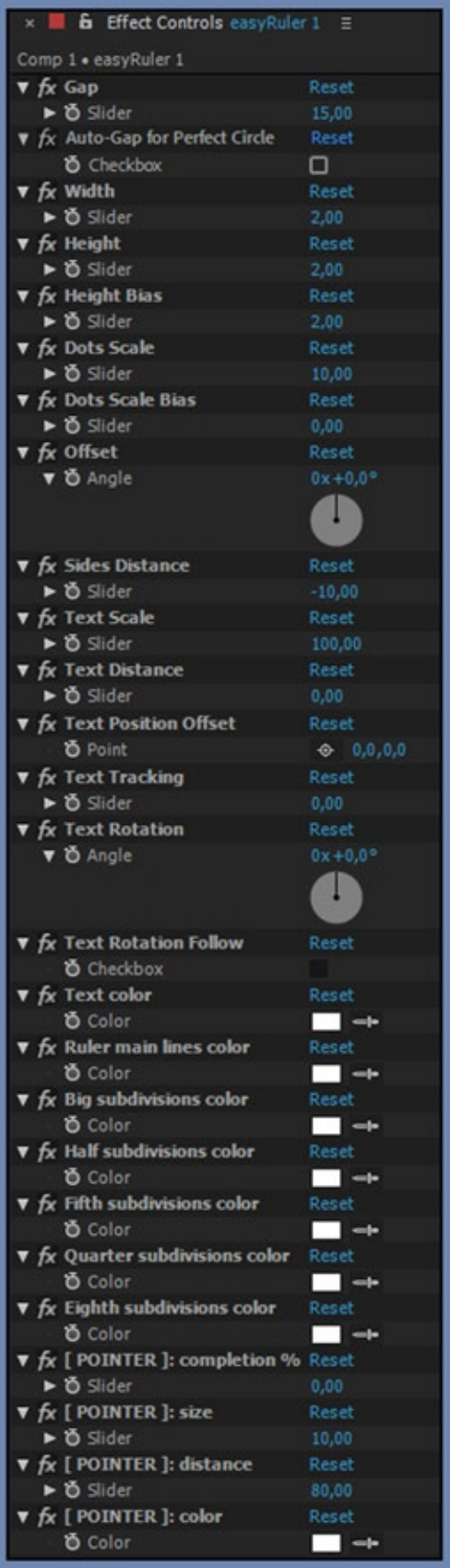


Adds expressions and effect controls to the shape and text layers.

Resets all settings of easyRulers back to their default values

effect controls

Once the ruler has been created, you will find a number of the following effect controls in the effect panel of the shape layer of easyRuler. **Only the effect controls that are needed are added to the effects control panel.** For example, if you select not to generate text numbers then the "Text Scale", "Text Distance", Text Rotation" and "Text Color" will not be added as they are redudant.



adjusts the gap between each line of the ruler

if checked, adjusts the gap for a perfect circlular ruler **

adjusts the width of the ruler stripes

adjusts the height of the ruler stripes

adjusts the relative height of the ruler stripes between subdivisions

adjusts the scale of the dots ***

adjusts the relative scale of dots between subdivisions ***

adjusts the offset rotation between the ruler shape and text numbers **

adjusts the distance between the two sides of the ruler

adjusts the scale of the text layers

adjusts the distance between the text layers & the ruler **

offsets the position of the text layers *

adjusts the tracking of the text layers

adjusts the rotation of the text layers **

when checked, text layers rotation center is based on the ruler's anchor center **

sets the color of the text layers

sets the color of main ruler lines

sets the color of the big subdivision lines of the ruler

sets the color of the half subdivision lines of the ruler

sets the color of the fifth subdivision lines of the ruler

sets the color of the quarter subdivision lines of the ruler

sets the color of the eighth subdivision lines of the ruler

adjusts the position of the pointer in relation to the ruler length

adjusts the pointer size

adjusts the distance of the pointer from the ruler

adjusts the pointer color

* only available in linear rulers | ** only avaialble in arc/circular rulers | *** only avaialble in rulers with dotted subdivisions

compatibility

The script is compatible and has been successfully tested on:

- After Effects CS6
- After Effects CC
- After Effects CC 2014
- After Effects CC 2015
- After Effects CC 2015.3
- After Effects CC 2017
- After Effects CC 2018
- After Effects CC 2019
- After Effects CC 2020

on both Windows and OS X platforms.

trial limitations

You can test easyRulers free for 7 days. In trial mode these limitations apply:

- you can create a maximum of 10 text layers
- 3 (out of 9) ruler subdivision options are disabled

version history

1.74 November 19, 2019

- added: support for After Effects CC2020
- added: support for MacOS Catalina

1.73 December 27, 2018

- optimized: easyRulers is now fully compatible with After Effects CC 2019
- changed: the "Steeping" field now accepts decimal numbers (separated either with a comma or a dot e.g. 0.52 or 0,52)
- fixed: several bug fixes on the colors of stripes, dots and baselines

1.71 October 14, 2018

- fixed: small bug fix in the "Add expressions & Effect Controls" button that affected circular rulers
- changed: easyRulers no longer uses the "Tahoma" font as the default font for every text layer it generates. It will now use whatever font is selected in the After Effects Character Panel upon generation.
- changed: small cosmetic changes in the UI
- optimized: more informative warning/alert messages + popup help tips

1.70 May 6, 2018

- optimized: maintenance update for better compatibility

1.65 November 24, 2017

- changed: renamed a few effect controls for a more uniform look
- added: "Text rotation" effect control for Linear Rulers
- added: "Auto-Gap for Perfect Circle" effect control - adjusts the Gap value for a perfect circle
- fixed: dropdown menus not appearing on some resolutions
- fixed: some icons not appearing in AE CS6
- fixed: pressing Undo, after creating a ruler, doesn't crash older versions of AE

1.60 January 6, 2017

- changed: code optimization and fixes. HUGE speed increase! easyRulers is now 700% faster.
- added: pointer option. You can now create a pointer and choose between four pointer shapes
- added: text alignment options (left, center, right)
- added: randomize, reset and apply colors
- added: you can now use the UP/DOWN arrow keys on your keyboard to change any value of any text box of the interface

1.51 October 4, 2016

- fixed: small fix of a bug that prevented easyRulers from starting on After Effects CS6 (unable to create temporary image file - error)

1.50 September 1, 2016

- changed: simpler & smaller interface through the use of more tabbed panels
- changed: the "Create Ruler" button now shows a plus sign when the number of lines set, will not create a whole number of ruler lines
- changed: changed the "mirror" option to "Sides". Now you can create the upper/inner side of the ruler or the lower/outer or both sides
- added: shape selection for the ruler lines (dots or stripes)
- added: ruler baseline with three options (none, bottom only, multiple)
- added: reset-to-defaults button

1.20 February 21, 2016

- changed: smaller and simpler user interface
- changed: "Create Ruler" button now shows the range of numbers that is going to be created
- changed: changing the "width" property/slider on a circular ruler, keeps the lines aligned by compensating the rotation
- added: new "text offset" effect control for linear rulers
- added: new "time" lines division preset
- added: prefix and suffix capability

1.01 December 18, 2015

- fixed: small bug fix for non-english AE installations

1.00 December 10, 2015

- inital release

This script is provided "as is," without warranty of any kind, expressed or implied. In no event shall the author be held liable for any damages arising in any way from the use of easyRulers.

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