



## description

**easyRulers 2** is a tool 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, car dashboards, infographics etc.

## installation

**easyRulers 2** is a hybrid tool, meaning that it is a script and a plugin fused together. It requires, two files to be installed on your system.

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

**1.** Copy the file **easyRulers.jsxbin** into the folder:

"..Support Files/Scripts/Script UI Panels" (on Windows)

or "..Scripts/Script UI Panels" (on macOS) of your After Effects installation.

**2.** Copy the file **easyRulers.aex** (on Windows) or **easyRulers.plugin** (on macOS) into the folder:

"..Support Files/Plugins"

**3.** Restart After Effects.

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

**1.** Copy the file **easyRulers.jsxbin** into the folder:

"..Support Files/Scripts/" (on Windows)

or "..Scripts/" (on macOS) of your After Effects installation.

**2.** Copy the file **easyRulers.aex** (on Windows) or **easyRulers.plugin** (on macOS) into the folder:

"..Support Files/Plugins"

**3.** Restart After Effects.

# interface 1/4

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 installed 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.

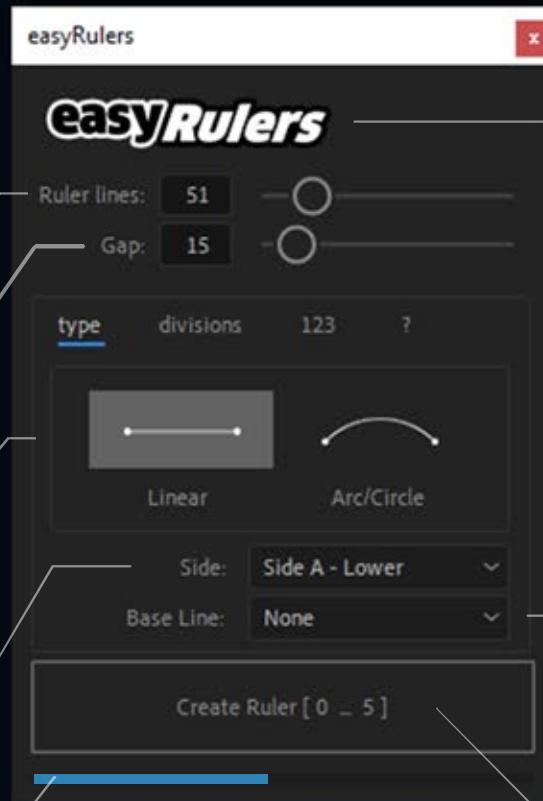
You can use the slider to  
adjust the gap of the lines or  
insert the number you wish  
directly into the text box.

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

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



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 sub-  
division category

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

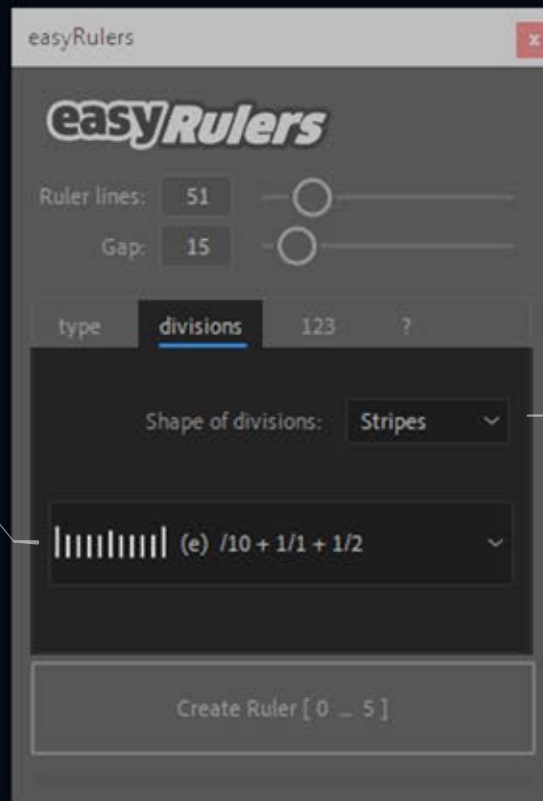
A plus sign appears when the number  
of lines set, will not create a whole  
number of lines.

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

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

# interface 2/4

select between 9+9 different  
-dotted or striped-  
types of subdivisions



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

### Legend:

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

# interface 3/4

easyRulers

easyRulers

Ruler lines: 51

Gap: 15

type divisions 123 ?

Create numbers ?

Start From: 0

Stepping: 1

Prefix

Suffix: mm

Anchor Point Grouping per character?

Text Size: 50

Text Color: [white]

Create Ruler [ 0 ... 5 ]

check if you want to create text number layers

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

this setting will affect texts with more than 2 digits on circular rulers.

If checked, texts will curve around the circle/arc on per character basis. Otherwise texts will be treated as whole words and will not curve around the circle.

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

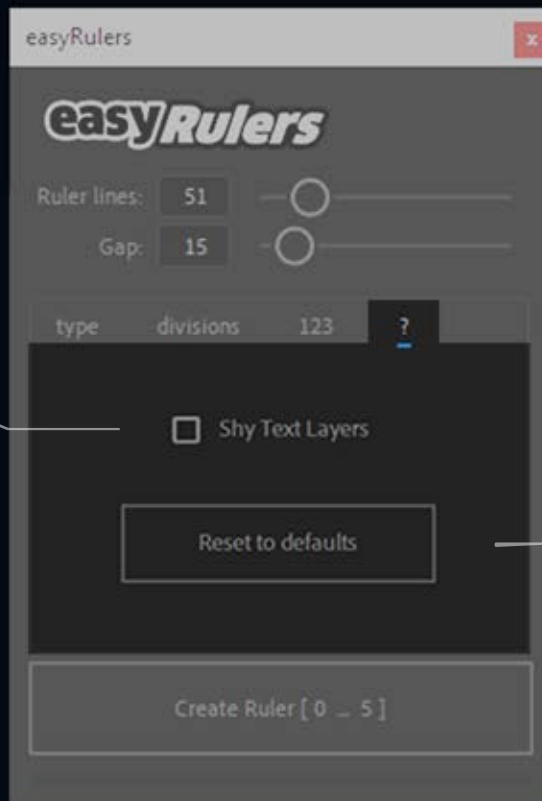
set the size of the text numbers

set the color of the text numbers

inserts a suffix after each text number

# interface 4/4

Enables the "shy" switch on all generated 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 visible to the effects control panel.** For example, if you select not to generate text numbers then the “Text Settings” group of effects, will not be visible.

Effect controls of a **Linear Ruler**

## main settings

Adjusts the **Gap, Width and Height** of each line of the ruler  
The **Height Bias** adjusts the relative height of the ruler stripes between subdivisions

## text settings

Adjusts the **Color, Scale, Rotation and Opacity** of all text layers of the ruler.  
You can also offset the position of all text layers in relation to the ruler with the **Position Offset X and Y** controls.

## color settings

Adjusts the **Color** between all different subdivisions of the ruler.  
The **Randomize** button randomizes all colors.  
The **Reset** button, resets all colors back to white.

Adjusts the **Secondary Color** for all ruler subdivisions.  
With the **Start & End** controls you can have a gradient secondary color between the start and end of the ruler.

The **Offset %** adjusts the static position of the secondary color.  
The **Link to Pointer Completion %**, links the position of the secondary color to the position of the pointer (following the pointer)

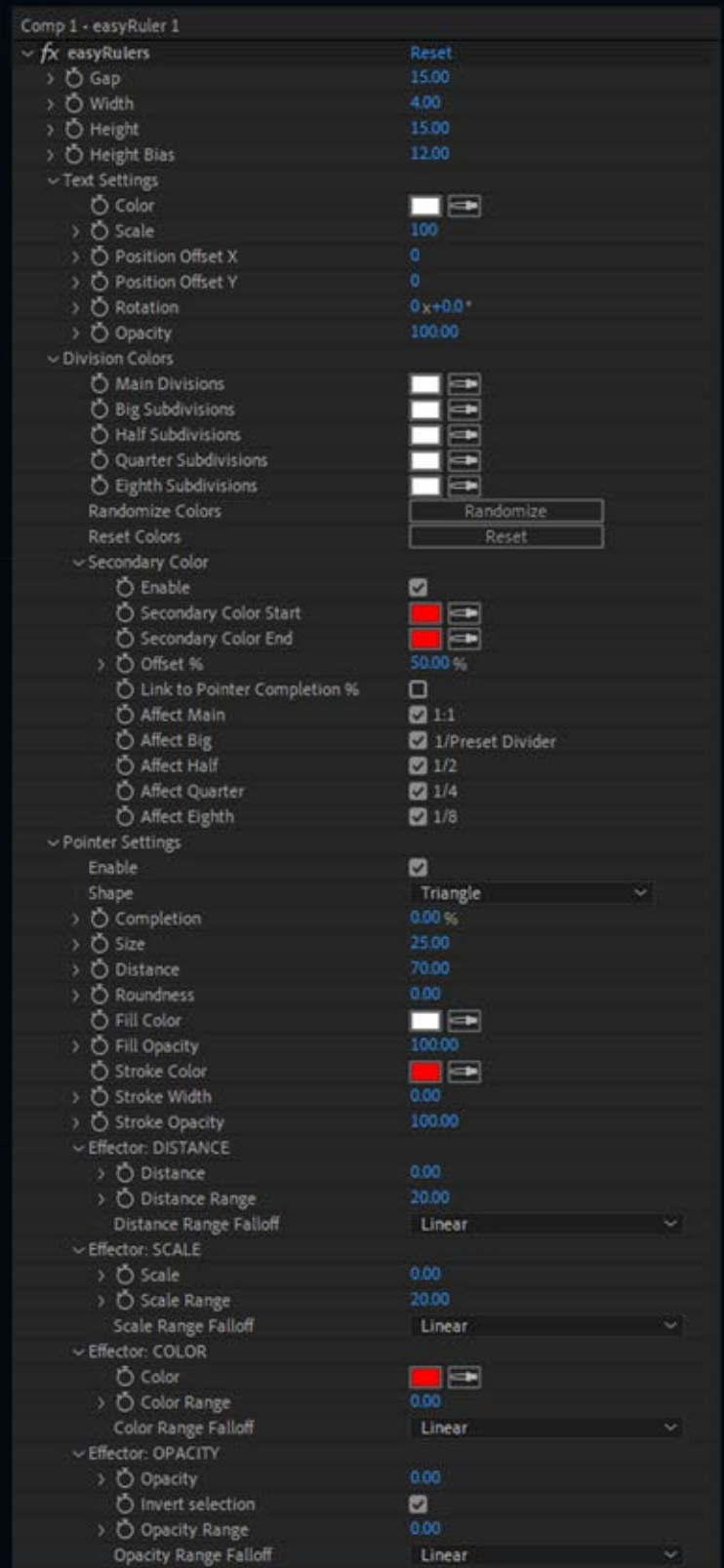
Adjusts between four types of pointer shapes. (triangle, dot, line, squared triangle).

The **Completion %** adjusts the position of the pointer in relation to the ruler length  
Adjusts the size, distance, roundness, fill & stroke color and opacity, and stroke width of the pointer.

## pointer settings

The **Distance, Scale, Color and Opacity** Effectors affect the text numbers near the pointer.

You can choose between 6 types of falloffs and also adjust the range of each effector.



# 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 visible to the effects control panel.** For example, if you select not to generate text numbers then the “Text Settings” group of effects, will not be visible.

Effect controls of a **Circular** Ruler

## main settings

Adjusts the **Gap, Width and Height** of each line of the ruler. The **Height Bias** adjusts the relative height of the ruler stripes between subdivisions. The **Auto-Gap** adjusts the **Gap** value for a perfect circle.

## text settings

Adjusts the **Color, Scale, Rotation and Opacity** of all text layers of the ruler. You can also offset the position of all text layers in relation to the ruler with the **Position Offset X & Y** controls. The **Rotation Follow** adjusts the rotation of the text layers to follow the circle/arc.

## color settings

Adjusts the **Color** between all different subdivisions of the ruler. The **Randomize** button randomizes all colors. The **Reset** button, resets all colors back to white.

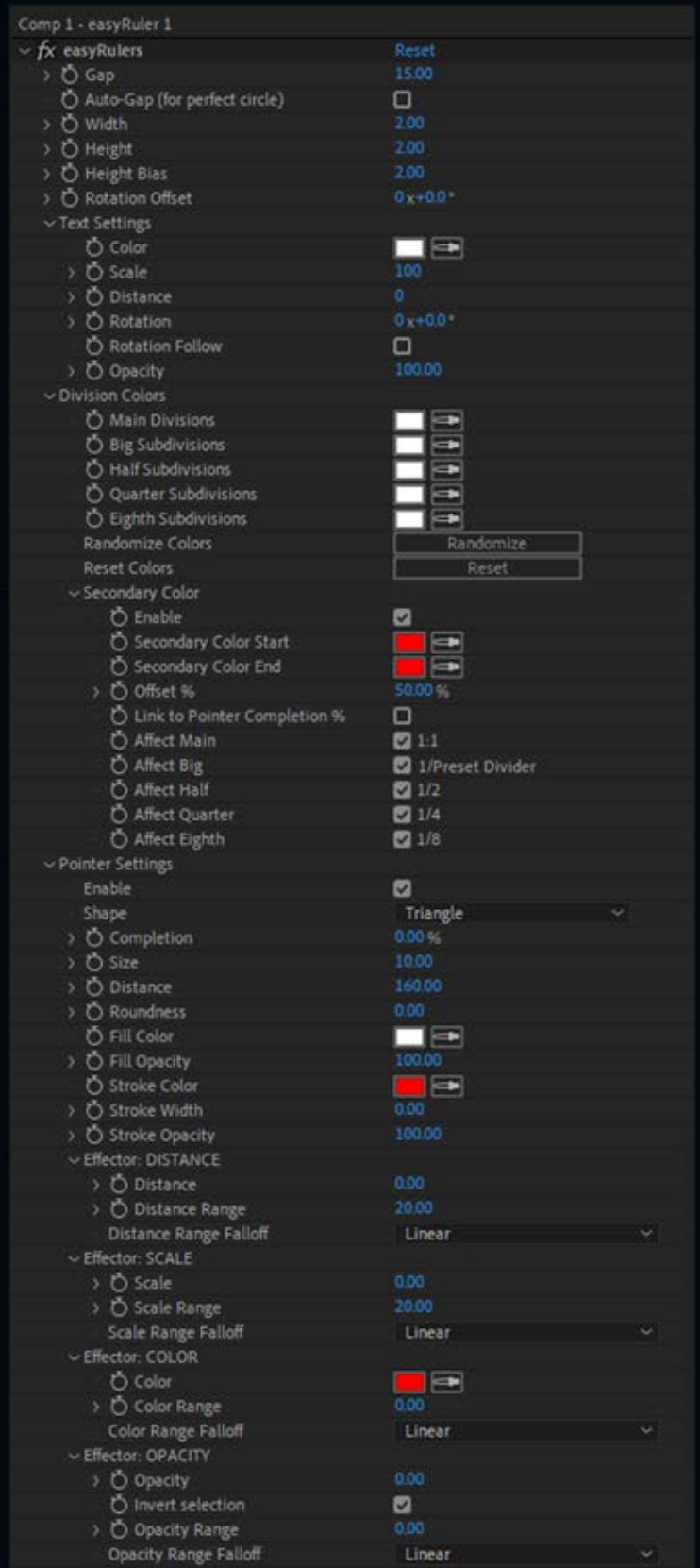
Adjusts the **Secondary Color** for all ruler subdivisions. With the **Start & End** controls you can have a gradient secondary color between the start and end of the ruler. The **Offset %** adjusts the static position of the secondary color. The **Link to Pointer Completion %**, links the position of the secondary color to the position of the pointer (following the pointer).

## pointer settings

Adjusts between four types of pointer shapes. (triangle, dot, line, squared triangle). The **Completion %** adjusts the position of the pointer in relation to the ruler length. Adjusts the size, distance, roundness, fill & stroke color and opacity, and stroke width of the pointer.

The **Distance, Scale, Color and Opacity** Effectors affect the text numbers near the pointer.

You can choose between 6 types of falloffs and also adjust the range of each effector.





## compatibility

easyRulers 2 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 2020

on both Windows and macOS ( + catalina) platforms.

## trial limitations

You can test easyRulers 2 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

v2.02 - July 15th, 2020

**optimised:** limit the "Font Size" number input to the maximum allowed by After Effects

**fixed:** a licensing issue on some Korean Windows systems

v2.01 - May 10th, 2020

**fixed:** small bug for non-english After Effects installations

v2.00 - May 1st, 2020

**initial release**

# version history

## v2.20 - August 25th, 2022

**optimised:** support for Apple Silicon & AE2022

**optimised:** multithreaded-flag added for AE2022

**optimised:** better handling of mistyped digits/characters on input fields

**optimised:** improved support and better error messaging for online activation

**fixed:** the grouping of text layers for better scaling

**fixed:** a handful of bugs + strong optimization of the whole code overall

**added:** checkbox for "Locking the pointer in place"

**added:** Date function to create dates with the following formats: 31/12/2022, 31-12-2022, 31.12.2022, 12/31/2022, 12-31-2022, 12.31.2022, 12/2022, 12-2022, 12.2022

**added:** You can also loop through weekdays [Monday...Sunday] & [Mon...Sun], months [January...December] & [Jan...Dec]

**added:** Pointer blink function

**added:** Completion % Wiggle options with Speed, From, To, and Seed controls

**added:** separate size, position offset and tracking for the prefix + suffix of the text layers.  
You can now individually adjust the size, position and tracking of the suffix or prefix.

## v2.02 - July 15th, 2020

**optimised:** limit the "Font Size" number input to the maximum allowed by After Effects

**fixed:** a licensing issue on some Korean Windows systems

## v2.01 - May 10th, 2020

**fixed:** small bug for non-english After Effects installations

## v2.00 - May 1st, 2020

initial release of v2.xx

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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.