POWER
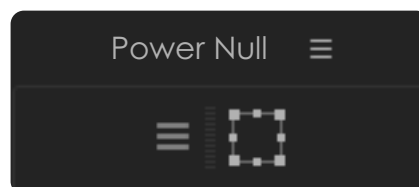# NULL

Documentation
version 1.1

with just a click, add nulls anywhere.
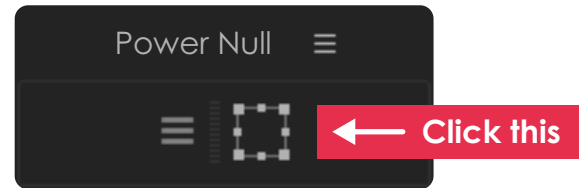
interactive UI • live snapping • instant parenting • link properties • stupid fast
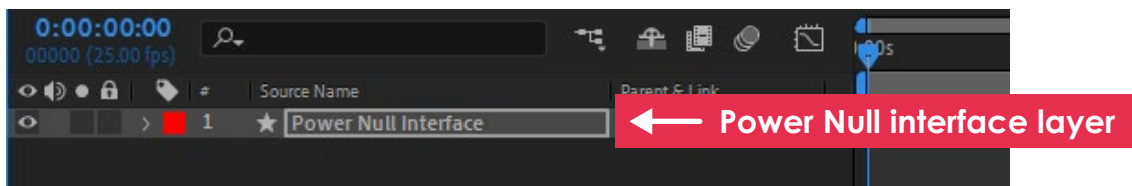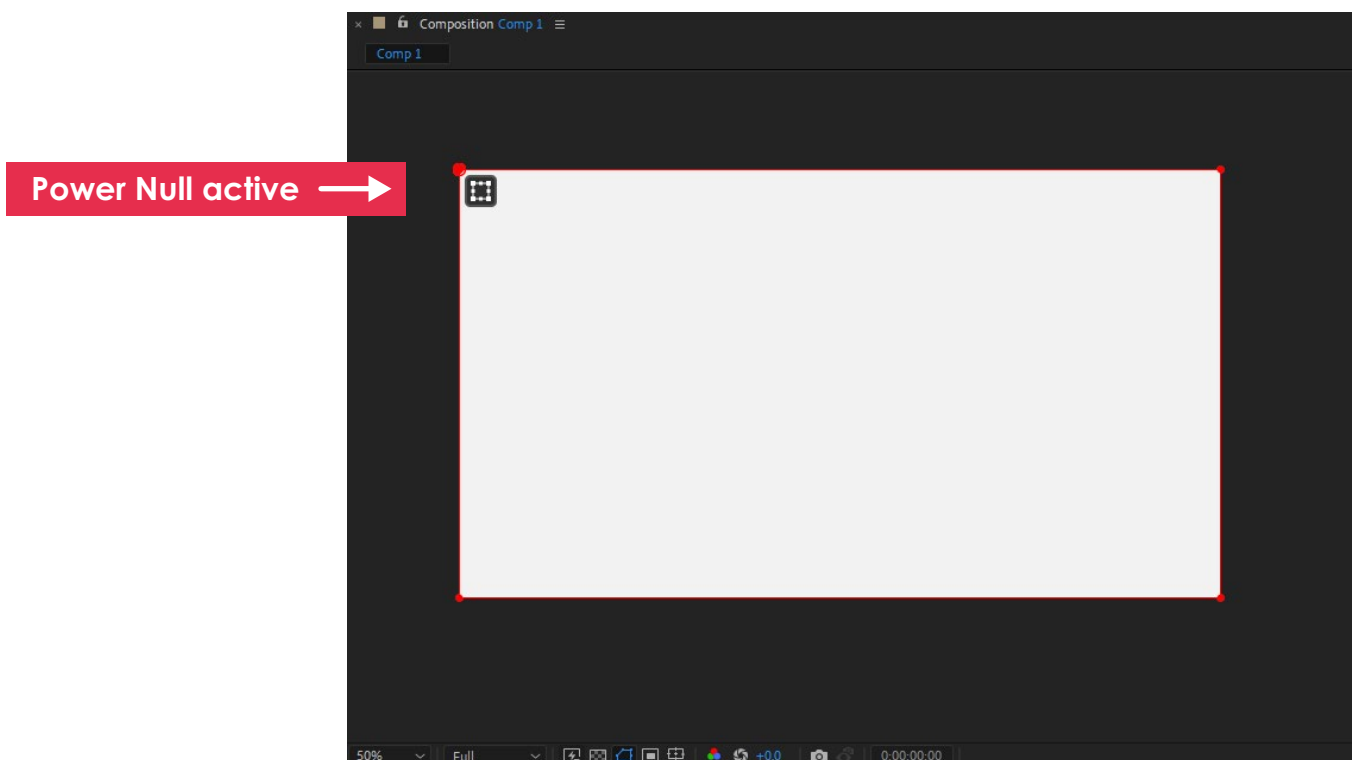
Power Null ≡

Quick Overview

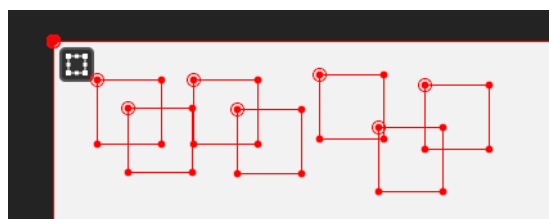When you install **Power Null**, it looks like this:

Click the null icon to run **Power Null**. An interface will be added to your composition. You will know that **Power Null** is active by the icon in the corner of your composition.

Simply click anywhere in the composition, and a null layer will be added there. Click as many times as you want, and when you are finished, simply change tools.

Feature List

Power Null lets you click and add nulls exactly how you want with just one click.
Snap to edges, parent selected layers, pickwhip selected properties, and more!

Power Null is designed to work like the tools in the toolbar.
With that, it comes with many features that make a seamless experience.

- Click directly in the composition to instantly add a null layer
- Click and drag to perfectly position the null
- Snap to edges, corners and anchor points of both 2D and 3D layers
- Double-click to add a null to the center of the comp
- Any selected layers will be parented to the new null
- Any selected properties will be linked to the new (or even existing) null
- Center the anchor points of your new null layers
- Customisable names with a simple setting
- Dockable panel AND keyboard mappable

Installation

Power Null can be added to your workspace, or be run as a keyboard shortcut.

The easiest way to install and license is by using the aescripts + aeplugins manager.
To install a trial you can select 'Add Trial' from the 'Account' menu.

Alternatively, you can install it manually:

Windows Program Files > Adobe > Adobe After Effects > Support Files > Scripts > ScriptUI Panels

Mac Applications > Adobe > Adobe After Effects > Scripts > ScriptUI Panels

To add it to your workspace, drag-and-drop the JSXBIN file to your ScriptUI folder.
Once done, restart After Effects. You will find **Power Null** in the 'Window' menu.

To run it as a keyboard shortcut, copy the JSXBIN file to your Script folder.
In After Effects, in the 'Edit' menu in the menu bar, open 'Keyboard Shortcuts'.
In the search bar, type '**Power Null**', and you will find it in the 'Scripts' section.
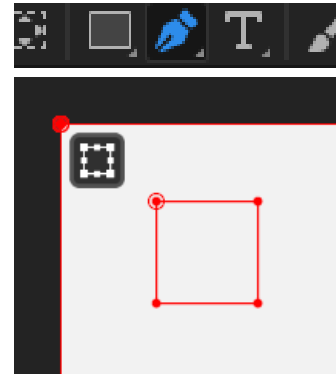Assign a keyboard shortcut to it, and you're ready to go!

Basics

From this point forward, I will explain **Power Null** in a bit more detail, so you have a full idea of how to get the most out of it.

Once you run **Power Null**, the Pen Tool will be selected.

As you click in the **Power Null** interface, After Effects detects a mouse click and immediately adds a null exactly where you clicked.

(The actual nulls are added to the timeline, but they won't render, so the interface shows you all the nulls you've made)
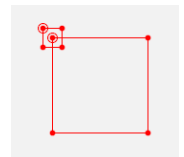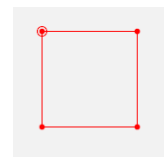
You can also click and drag to reposition the null to exactly where you need.

If you click and drag while holding Alt or Option, you enable 'snapping'. **Power Null** will snap your null to a layer's corner, edge, or anchor point, even in 3D space.

(You'll know that snapping is enabled by this square on your cursor)

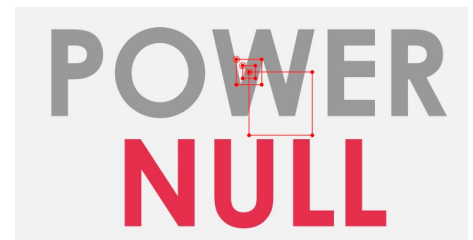Off   Enabled

Corner   Edge   Anchor point

POWER   **POWER**   **POWER**
NULL   **NULL**   **NULL**

(It also snaps to   *(It also snaps to internal edges)*
the middle of the edges)

Once you are done, you may close **Power Null**. There are many ways to do this, but the **main way is to change tools**. There are many other ways to close **Power Null**:

- Change tools to anything other than the Pen Tool
- Select another layer, or deselect the **Power Null** Interface *(such as selecting another layer)*
- Selecting the Power Null Interface layer *(this disrupts the internals of the interface)*
- Press left, right, up or down *(this also disrupts the internals of the interface)*
- Press delete

Finally, the tool you previously used will be selected again.

Parenting Layers

When you select layers and then run **Power Null**, those layers will parent to the first null you make.

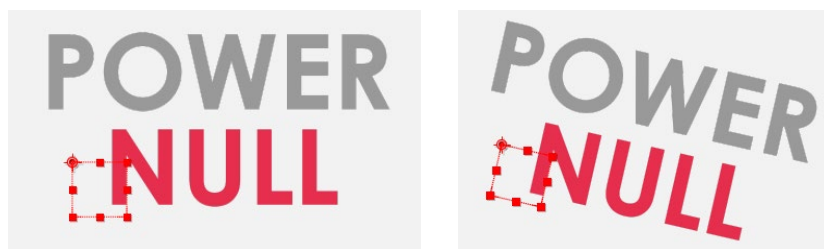First, select your layers. Then, run **Power Null**.
You will notice a box is drawn around your layers.
This is the bounding box of all that you selected, so you know exactly where each layer starts and ends.
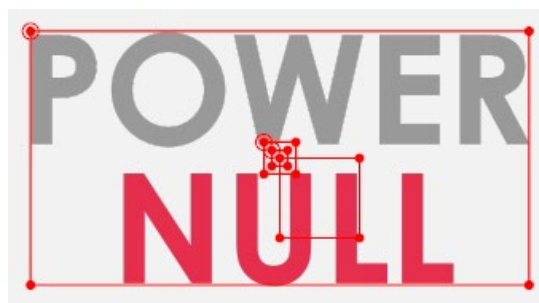

Next, click to add a null as normal.

As soon as you release the mouse, **Power Null** add a null and then close.
(Since you can only parent the layers to 1 null, there's no point adding more nulls, so Power Null closes)

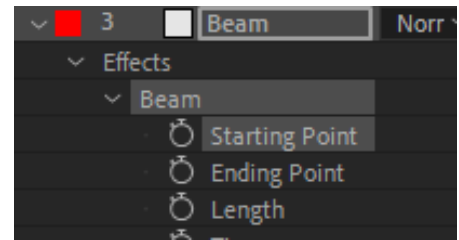And yes, you can also snap to that Bounding Box.

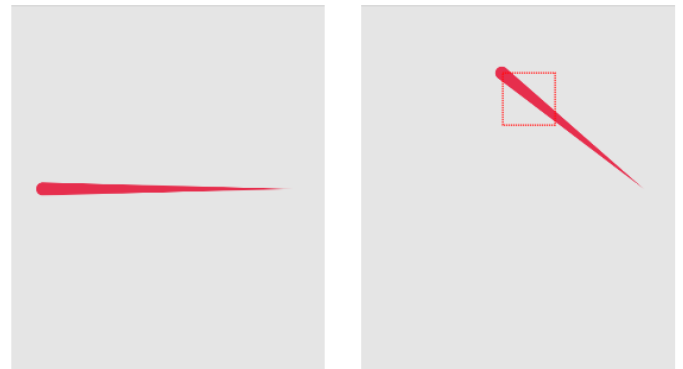*(This makes it easy to snap to the middle of multiple layers)*

Link Properties

Have you ever wanted to link a property to a null? Like a Lens Flare or Beam effect?

Simply select the properties that you want to link,
then run **Power Null**.

When you add a null, **Power Null** will close
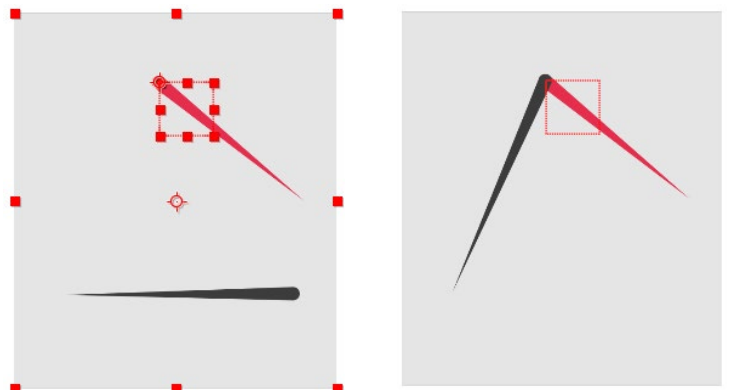and the properties will be be linked.

(wow)

The properties will be linked with an expression:

```
Is_Collapse_Transformation_Enabled = false;
var targetNull = thisComp.layerByComment("Power Null 703");
if ( Is_Collapse_Transformation_Enabled ) {
        targetNull.toComp(targetNull.anchorPoint)
} else {
        fromComp(targetNull.toComp(targetNull.anchorPoint))
}
```

*Sometimes, changing the 'Collapse Transformation' switch on a layer may result in incorrect parenting.
To fix this, change the '**Is_Collapse_Transformation_Enabled**' variable to match the layer (**true or false**)*

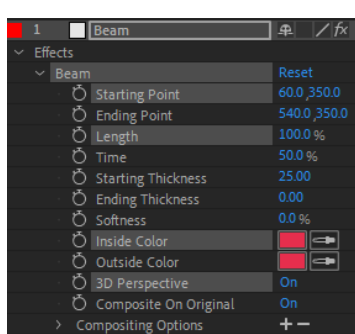If you want to link other properties to that same null, you don't need to undo.

Simply select the new properties,
select the null you want to link them to,
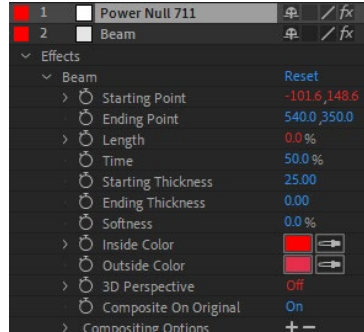then run **Power Null** twice.
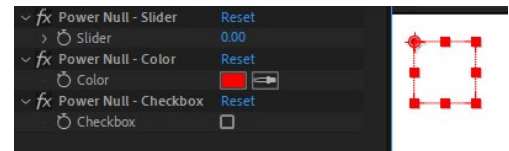
Link ANY Property

That's right, there's more.

It's not just Position properties, you can link any property.

1) Select any property

2) They link to the null

3) Some properties will link to expression controls

Shape and Mask paths will be added to Power Null as a mask.

Text will be added to Power Null as marker comments. To change or animate the text, add markers to Power Null and add a comment. *new to v1.1*
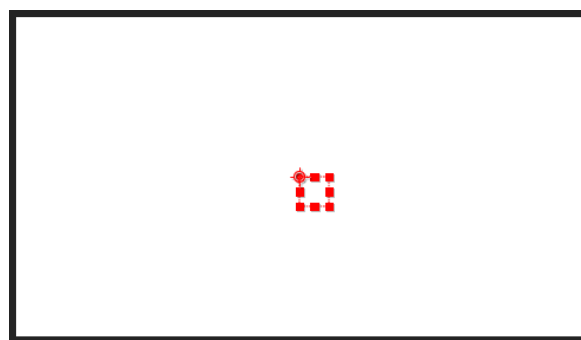
A breakdown of what's supported:

- Position, Rotation and Scale properties will be linked to the null's Position, Rotation and Scale
- One Dimensional properties will be linked to a new 'Power Null - Slider' effect
- Colour properties will be linked to a new 'Power Null - Color' effect
- Checkbox properties will be linked to a new 'Power Null - Checkbox' effect
- Shape and Mask properties will be linked to a new 'Power Null - Shape' mask *new to v1.1*
- Text properties will be linked to the Marker Comments on a new Power Null *new to v1.1*
- Anything else will *attempt* to link to the null's Position (not guaranteed to work)

Middle of the Composition

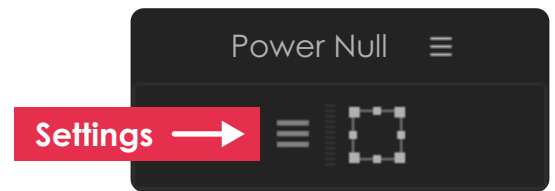In many cases, you simply want to add a null to the middle of the composition.

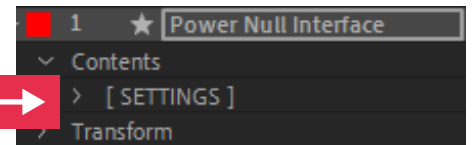To do this, simply run **Power Null** twice.

Settings

There are 2 ways to access the settings.

You could click the 'Settings' button in the panel.

Power Null ≡

Settings ➜

Or you could twirl open the **Power Null** Interface layer,

and click on the [SETTINGS] property.

Also settings ➜

1 ★ Power Null Interface
Contents
> [SETTINGS]
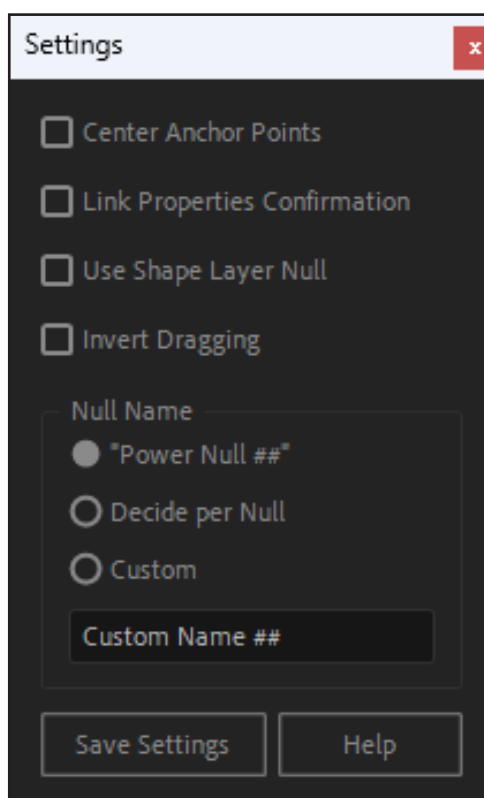Transform

*(This lets you access the settings
if you activated Power Null with a keyboard shortcut)*

Center Anchor Points

Nulls will have the anchor points centered.

Settings

☐ Center Anchor Points

☐ Link Properties Confirmation

☐ Use Shape Layer Null

☐ Invert Dragging

Null Name
● "Power Null ##"
○ Decide per Null
○ Custom

Custom Name ##

Save Settings   Help

Link Properties Confirmation

When linking properties, a pop-up lists the properties
you're about to link, and asks if you'd like to continue.
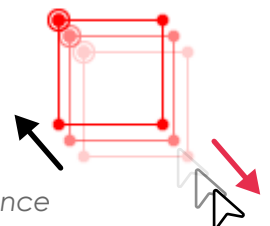
Use Shape Layer Null *new to v1.1*

Create a Shape Layer null instead of an actual Null.

Invert Dragging

Clicking and Dragging on Mac results in
the null moving in the opposite direction.
This setting corrects it.

*This setting is automatically set, but on the off chance
you need to toggle it, you can.*

Null Name

"Power Null ##" names each null with a unique layer ID.

"Decide per Null" asks you when you add nulls.

"Custom" lets you create your own format.

*## is replaced with a unique 'Layer ID', and # is replaced with
however many Power Nulls are currently in the comp.*

When done, press 'Save Settings' to lock it in.

If you need additional help, click 'Help'. There will be quick-access information,

links to the Power Null product page and tutorial, and a section to add your license.

Changelog

A list of changes from previous versions.

If this is your first time using Power Null, feel free to skip this page.

Version 1.1

Null Layers can now be Shape Layers
(Option added to settings. See page 8)

Shape and Text properties can now be linked
(Shapes linked as masks, and Text linked as marker comments. See page 7)

Fixed 'Snap to Bounding Box' issue
(Snapping was ignored on the left side of the bounding box)

Improved 'Link Properties to Existing Nulls'

Version 1.0

Initial release