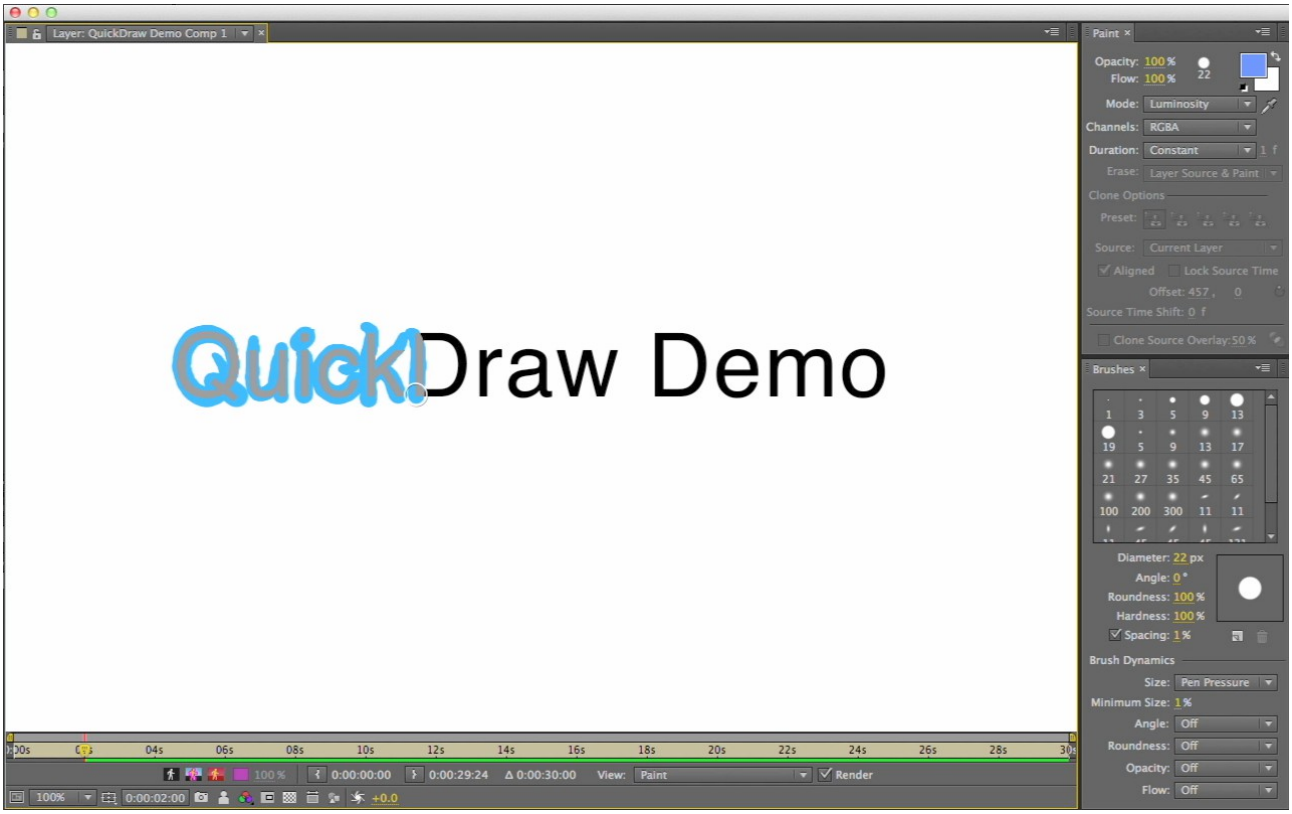
Quick Draw

quick start guide

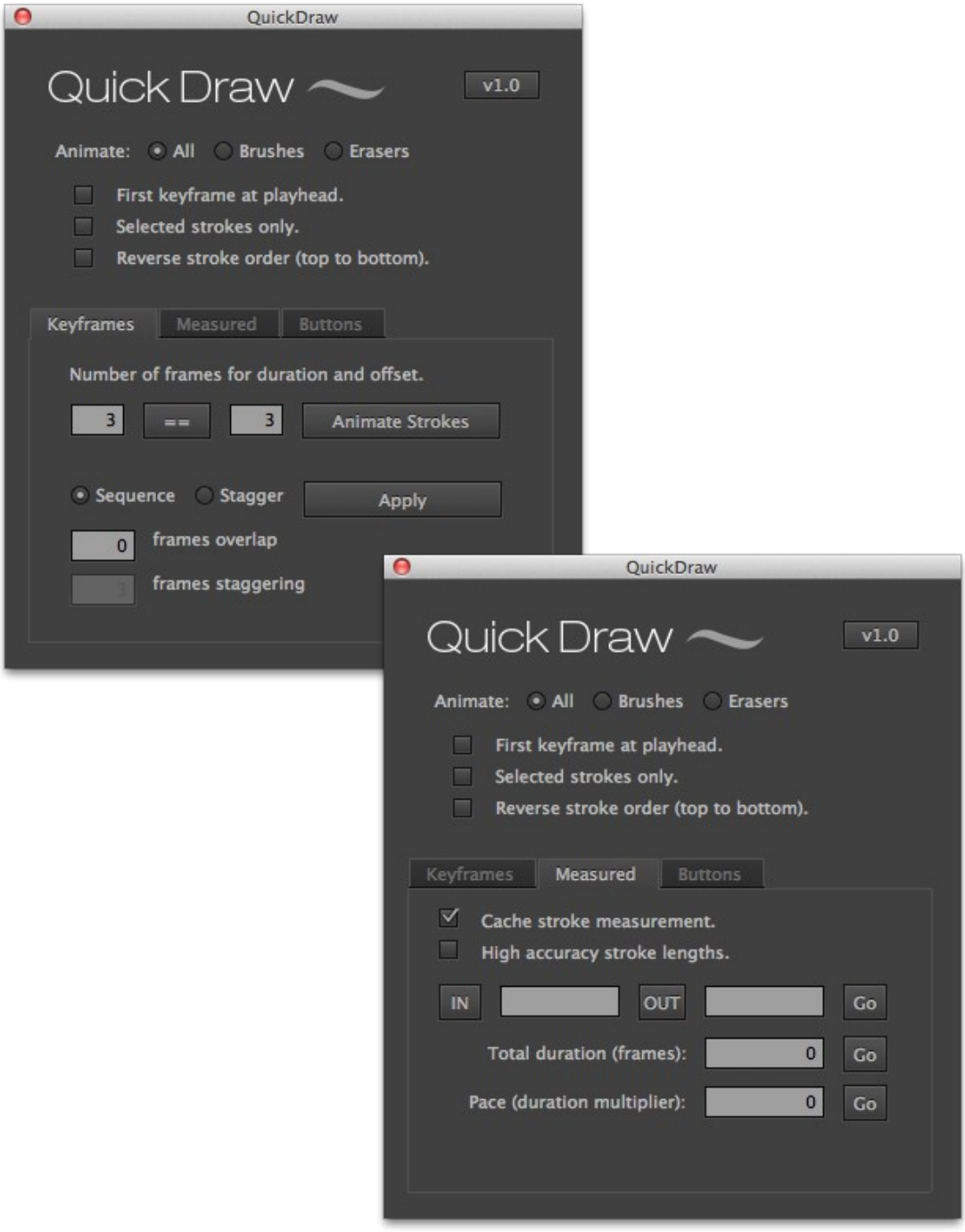
- Use the Paint tool to trace your illustration or text layer.
  - You will need to precomp text layers and any vector artwork layers which have the constant rasterize asterisk ticked (Shape layers too). After Effects just won't open these types of layers in the Layer viewport.
  - I like to change the Paint mode to Luminosity with a mid-tone blue or red brush for best visibility whilst drawing/tracing. The blend mode won't matter when you create a Track Matte.
  - Change the Duration setting to Constant – it will drive you nuts trying to draw with the built-in Write On feature … try it :-)
  - I change my Brush settings to 100% brush hardness and 1% spacing so that I don't get furry edges on my matte. If you are using a graphics tablet or Cintiq, the Pen Pressure can be useful for tracing intersecting lines with less visible intersections during the reveal.
  - Draw the lines in the order you would like them animated. You can change this around later, but keep in mind any overlapping strokes and how this might affect the reveal matte if you intend to reorder things.



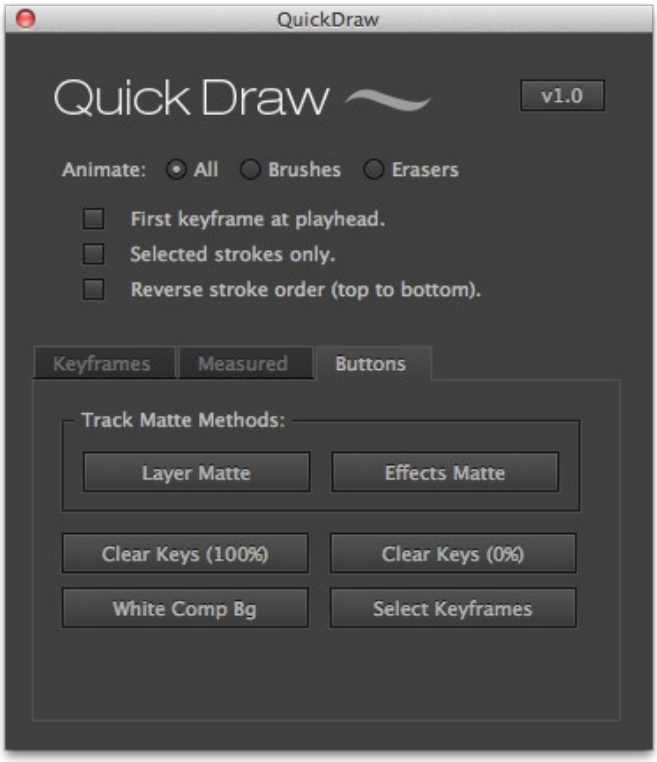
- The QuickDraw panel
  - The two fastest ways to get your brush strokes animated:

    - In the Keyframes tab, set the number of frames you want each stroke to take to draw on and click Animate Strokes. Mess with the numbers for timing, and you can unlink the duration and offset to see how this works.

    - In the Measured tab, use the IN and OUT buttons to drop in the current time from the Timeline playhead setting a range over which to animate the strokes. When you hit Go, each stroke will be measured and animated between IN and OUT, with the duration proportionate to stroke length.



- Create a Matte so that your paint strokes are used to reveal the original layer.
  - Layer Matte duplicates the layer and uses it as a Track Matte. The Paint effect is removed from the original layer and the duplicate is parented to the original as well.
  - Effects Matte uses the Compound Arithmetic and CC Composite Effects to create the same effect but all within one layer. There will be times where one method works better for your project than the other.



- Try all the buttons! More tips:
  - 'PP' reveals the brush strokes in the Timeline.
  - You can select individual strokes from the Layer Viewer. If you have applied a Matte effect or other effects, you may need to choose “Paint” from the View drop-down list at the bottom of the Layer Viewer.
  - Most buttons and text-fields have Help Tips to guide you through.
  - Try writing on text using one stroke per letter – without lifting the pen to dot the “i”s and stroke the “t”s. Then use the basic keyframer to set equal durations to each stroke. I find this gives a steady write-on effect for longer text reveal mattes.
- Bugs? - let us know at http://www.aescripts.com/contact