



Have you ever wondered how to create lines between objects?
Well, you are at the right place!

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Introduction

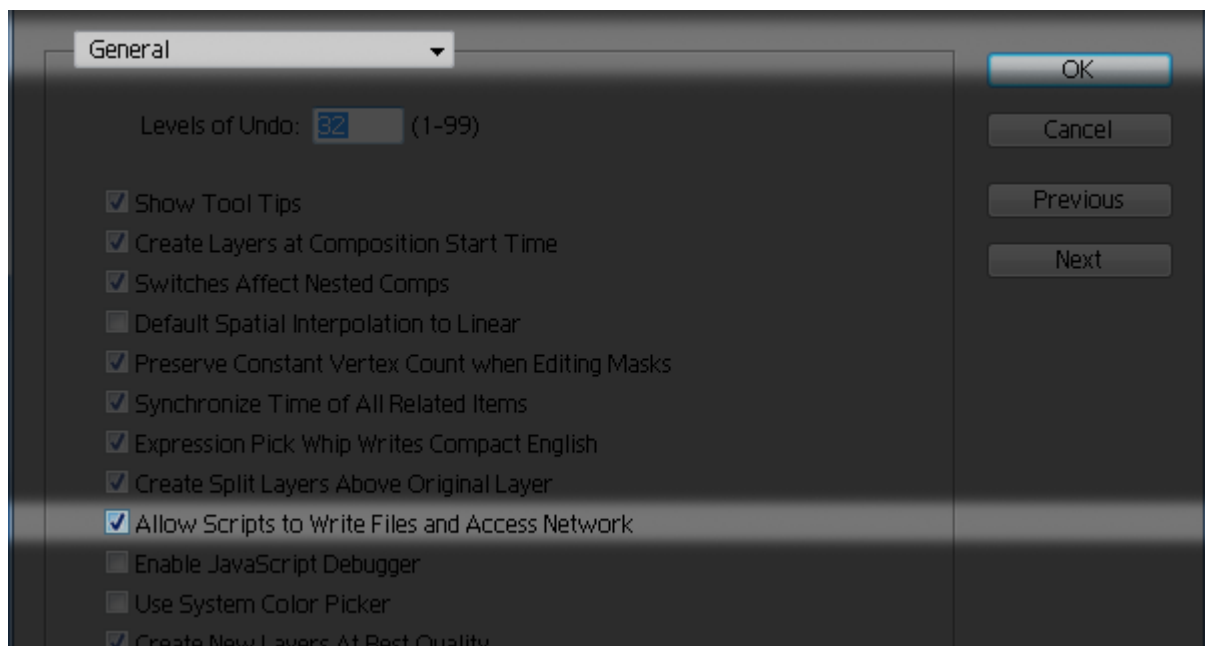
Lines Creator is a script for Adobe After Effects, connecting different kinds and unlimited numbers of objects using shape layers and vector lines. You can change those lines opacity, width, add your favorite effects, make them dashed and so on. Lines are created from the anchor point of one or many objects to the anchor point of one or many other objects. The script automatically create new lines under the bottom most layer and above any other backgrounds or layers. Lines Creator even comes with build in basic¹ anchor point alignment tool, so you can easily change selected objects anchor point location. It even works with all aspect ratios like a charm!

1) The anchor alignment tool does not support rotated objects yet, and may produce unexpected results (object itself might be repositioned)

Installation

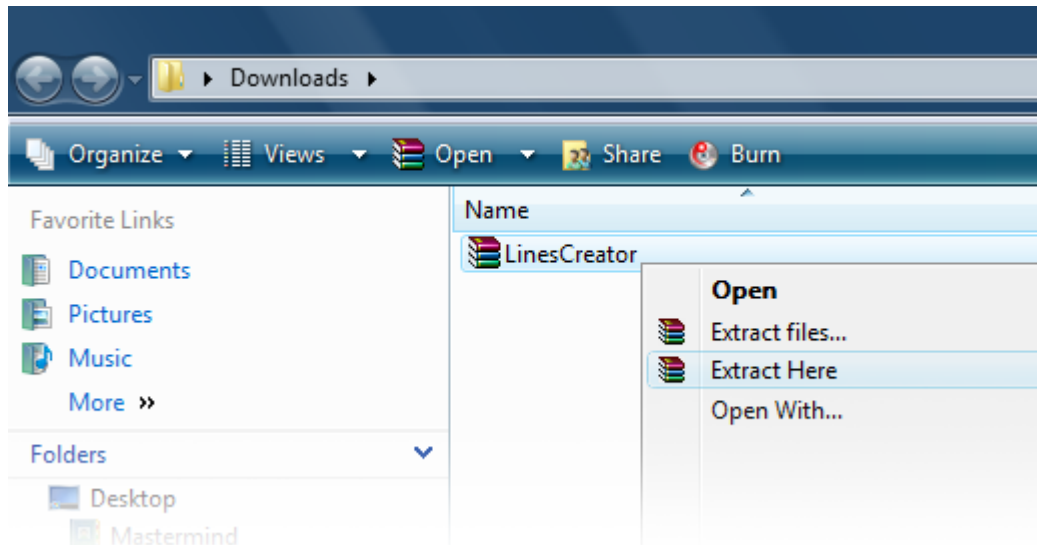
To install Lines Creator you simply need to follow these 2 easy steps:

1. Copy and paste the script files to a specific folder of After Effects right after you unpack the archive you have received. This folder is named *"ScriptUI Panels"*.
 - On Windows this folder is located in:
"(after_effects_install_path)/ Support Files/Scripts/"
 - On Macintosh this folder is located in:
"(after_effects_install_path)/ Scripts/"
2. Allow Lines Creator to access the network so your copy can be registered. This option can be found at *"General"* tab of After Effects *"Preferences"*.
 - On Windows this is located in:
"Edit > Preferences > General..."
 - On Macintosh this is located in:
"After Effects > Preferences > General..."

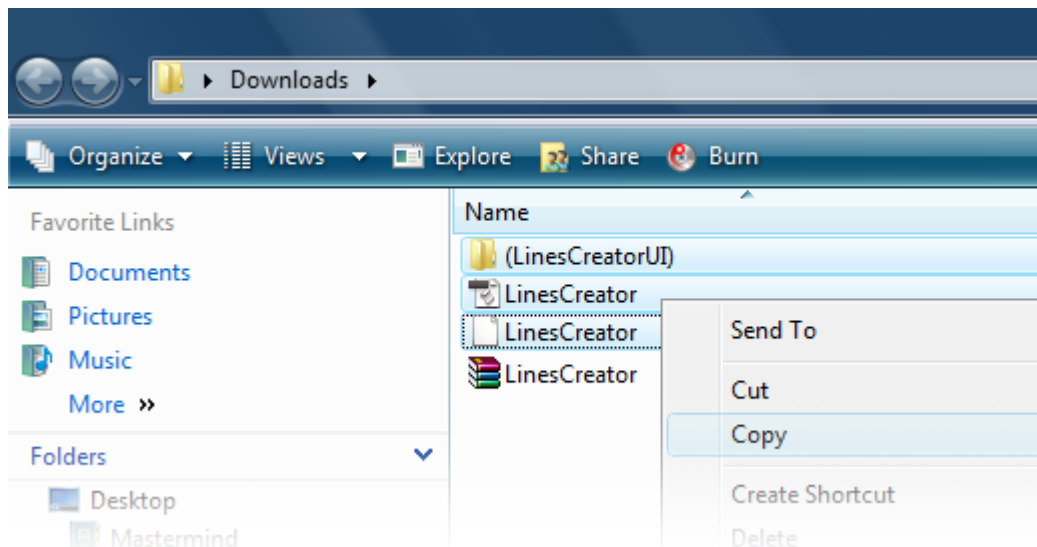


How to install Lines Creator on Windows

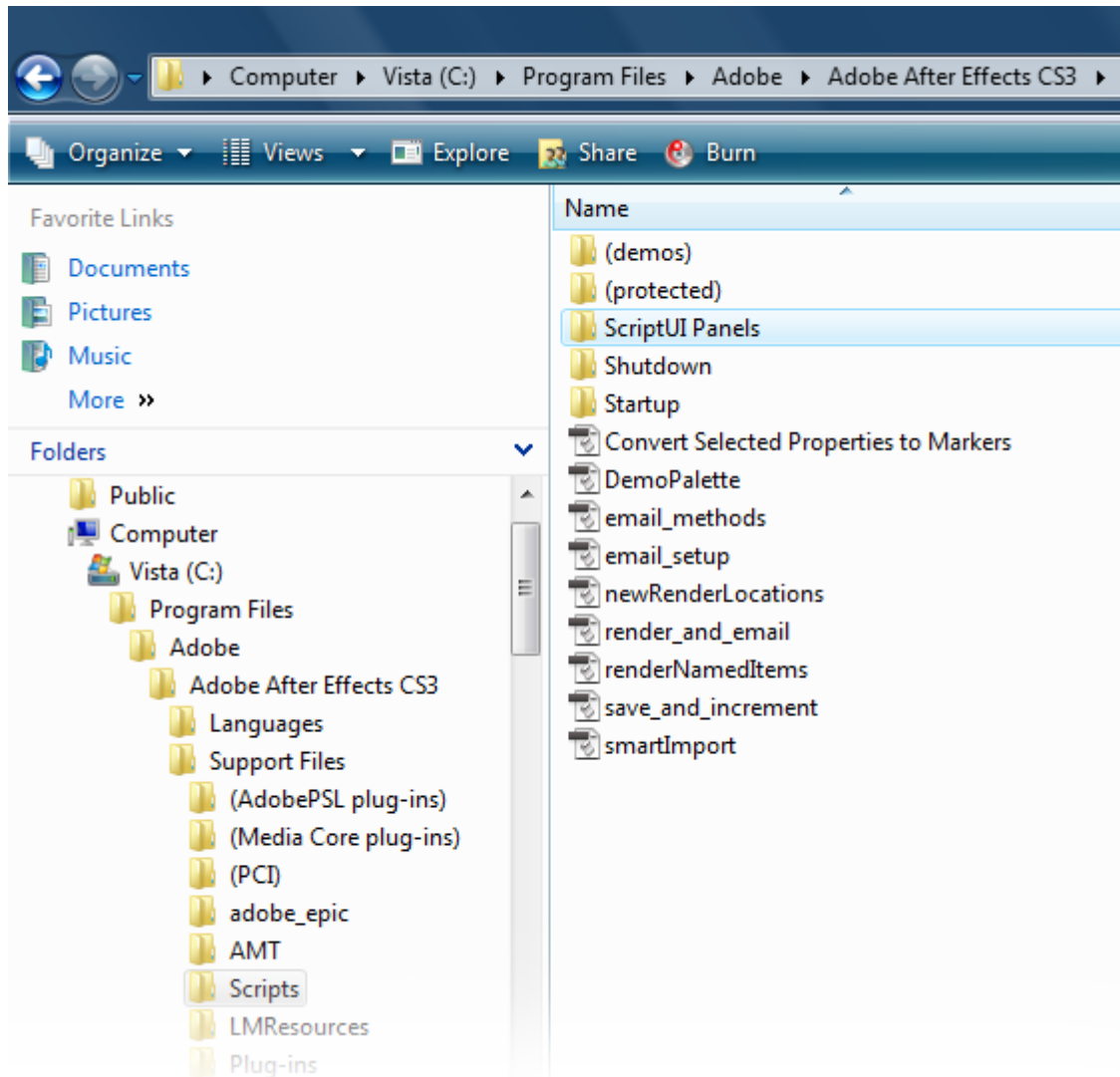
1. Extract downloaded archive to temp folder.



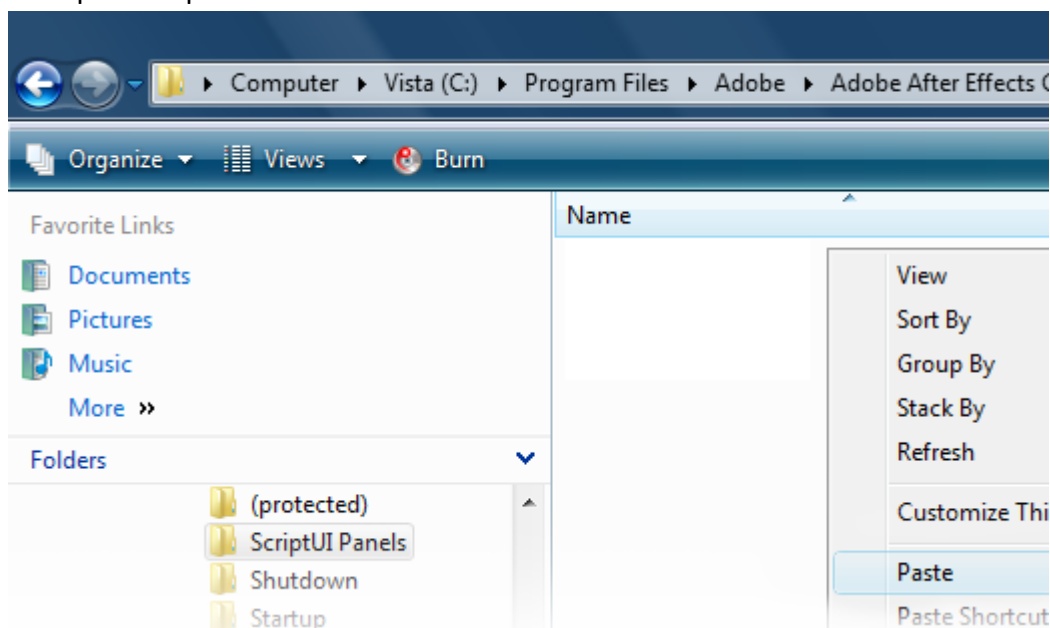
2. Copy the extracted files and folder



3. Navigate to “*after_effects_installation_folder/Support Files/Scripts/*”

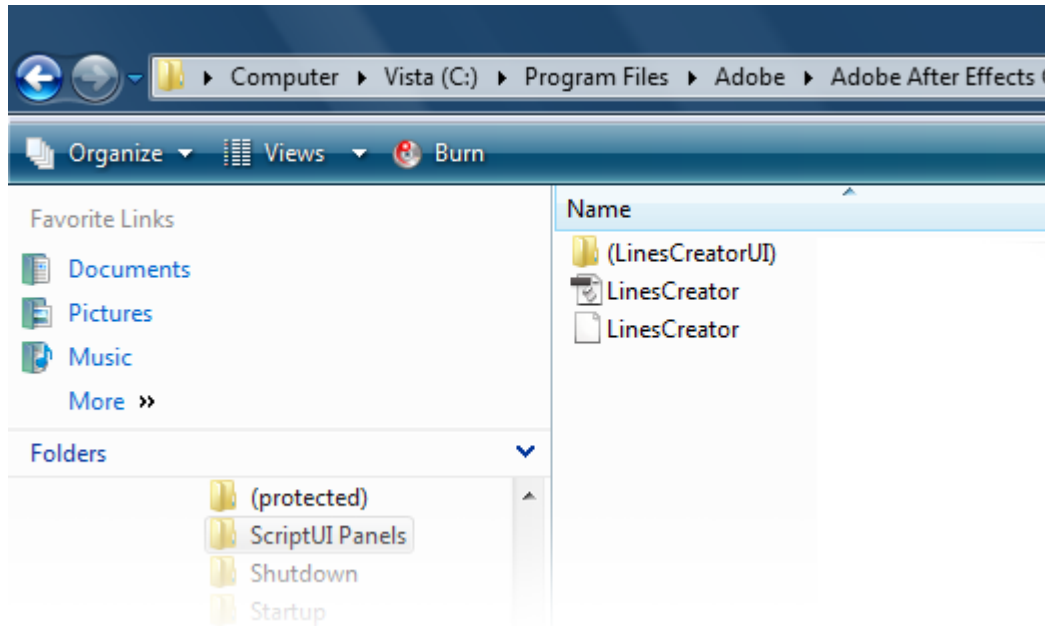


4. If folder “*ScriptUI Panels*” does not exist, create new folder and name it “*ScriptUI Panels*”. Then paste copied files in it.



5. **Make sure all users have access to read from and write to “LinesCreator.nfo” file** to avoid unnecessary problems.

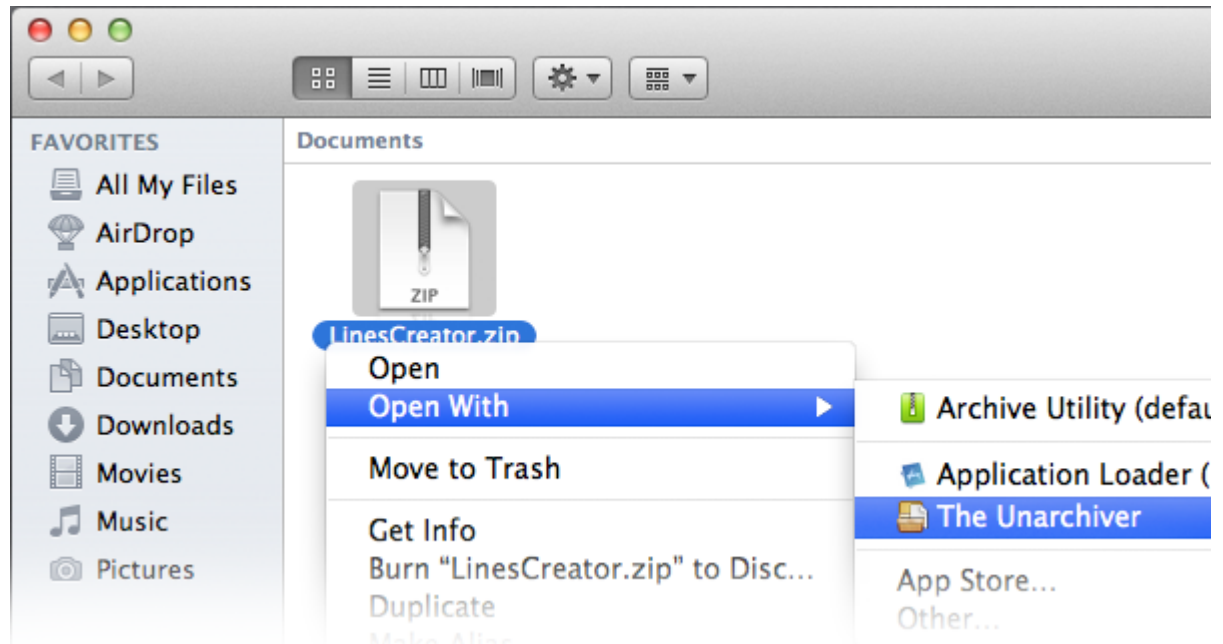
You can check this from “*LinesCreator.nfo > Properties > Security tab*”.



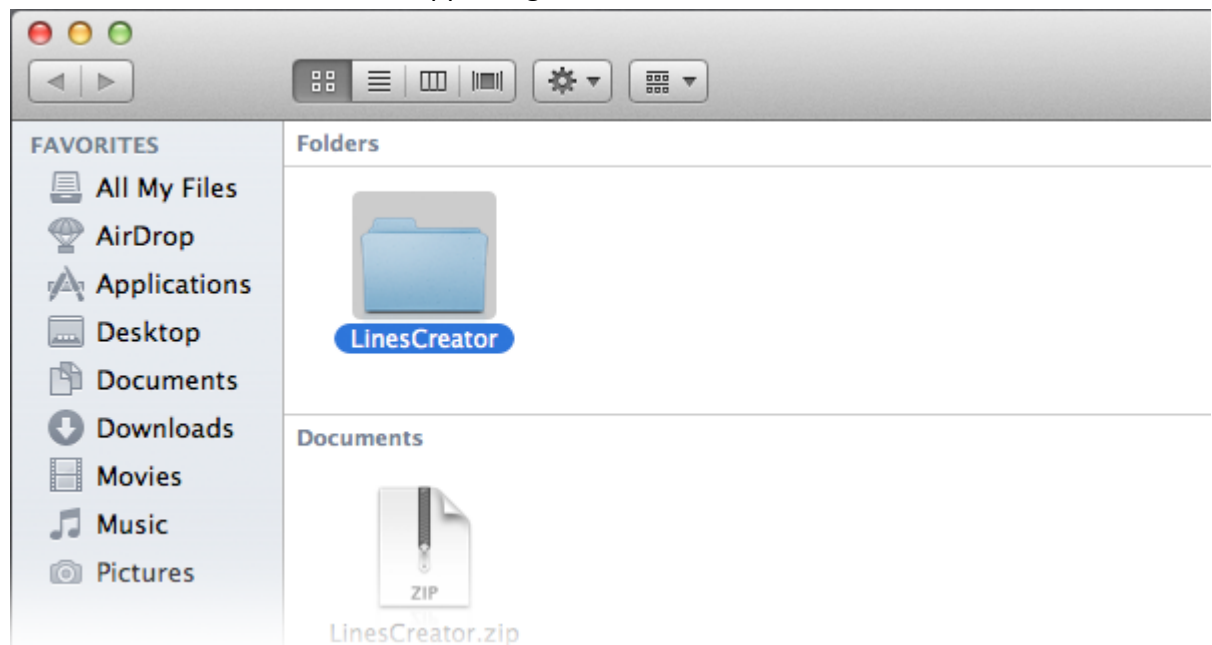
6. After you are done, do not forget to **restart After Effects** for the changes to take effect!
7. You are now ready to use Line Creator!

How to install Lines Creator on Macintosh

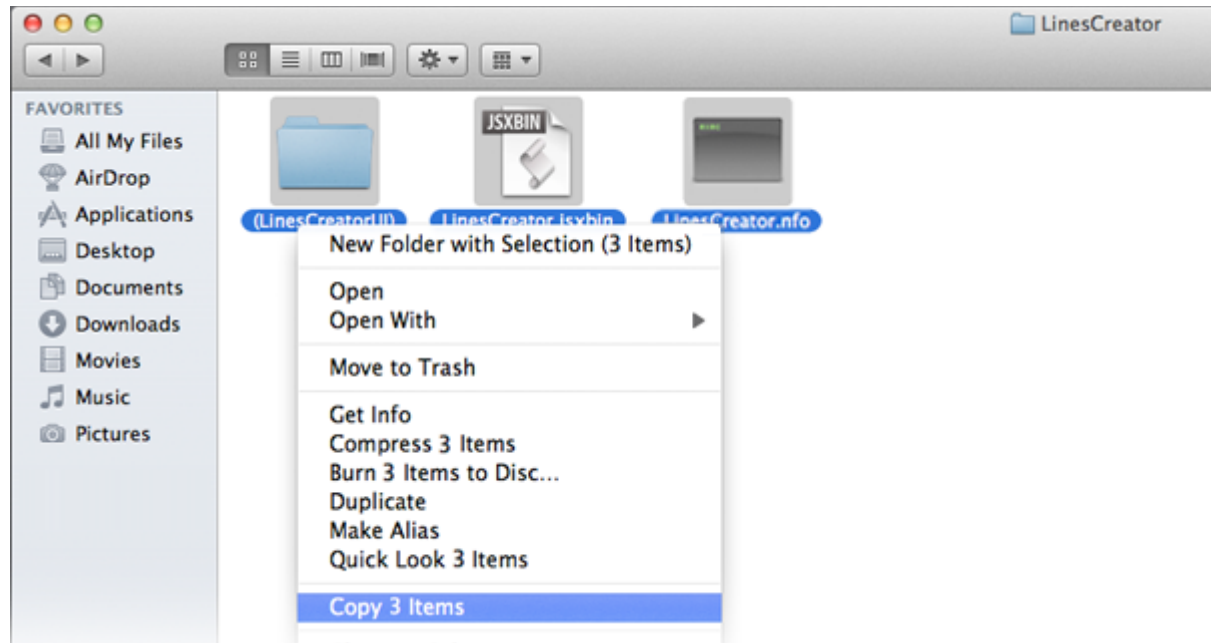
1. Extract downloaded archive.



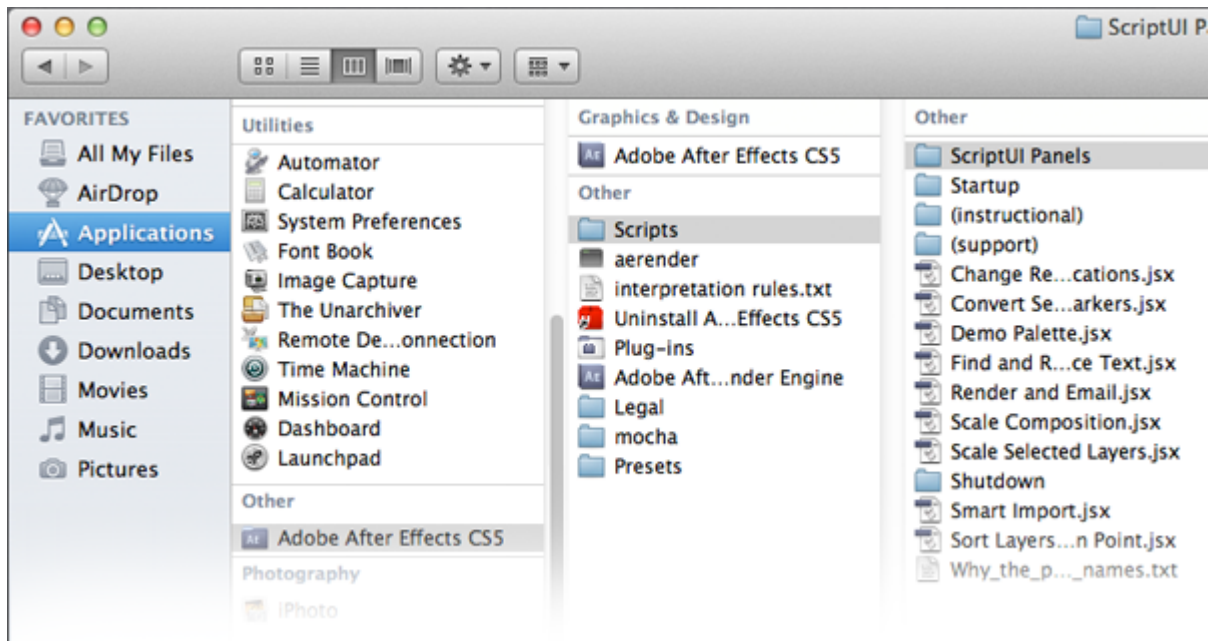
2. If folder with the archive name appears go inside that folder.



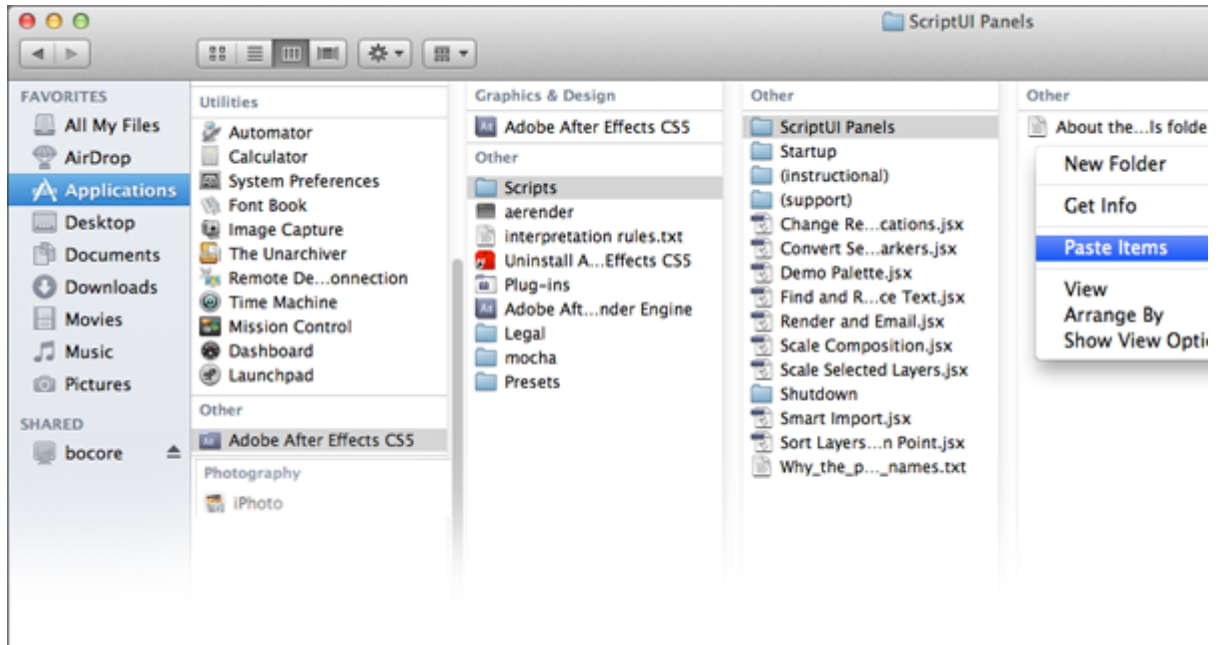
3. Copy the files and the folder.



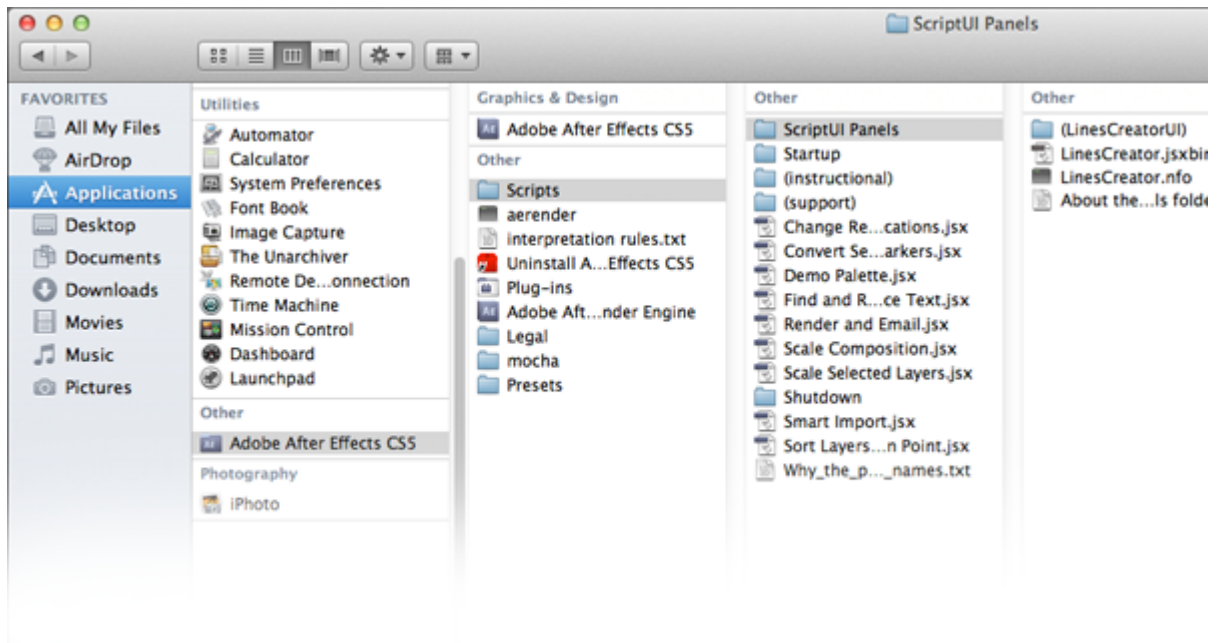
4. Navigate to *"after_effects_installation_folder/Scripts/"*.



5. If folder “*ScriptUI Panels*” does not exist, create new folder and name it “*ScriptUI Panels*”. Then paste copied items in it.



6. Make sure all users have access to read from and write to “*LinesCreator.nfo*” file to avoid unnecessary problems. You can check this from “*LinesCreator.nfo* > Get info > Sharing & Permissions”.



7. After you are done, do not forget to **restart After Effects** for the changes to take effect!
8. You are now ready to use Line Creator!

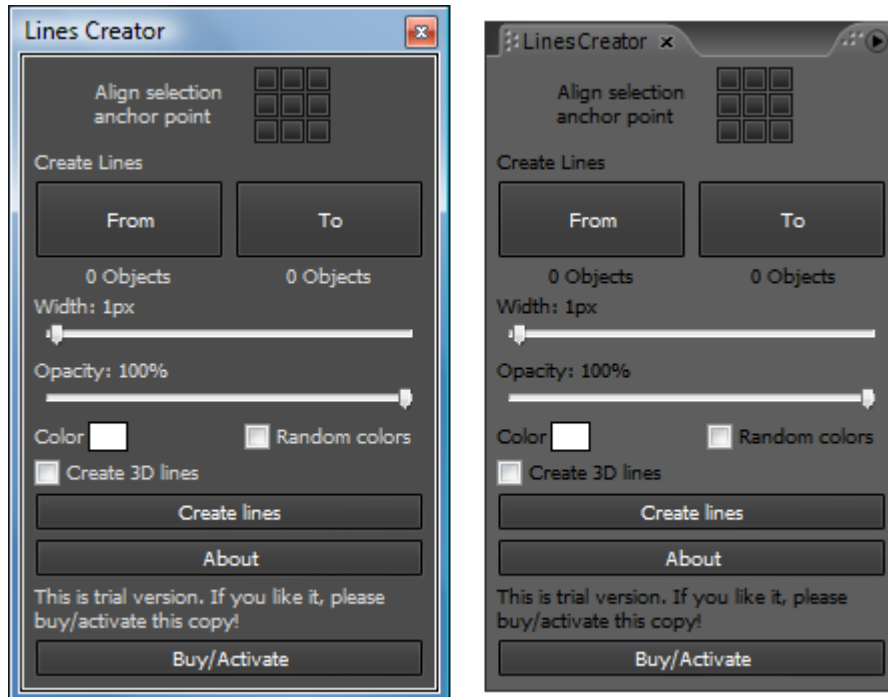
Product activation

After you have successfully installed Lines Creator, you have a 7-day trial period. When the free trial period expires Lines Creator will get locked and will require activation.

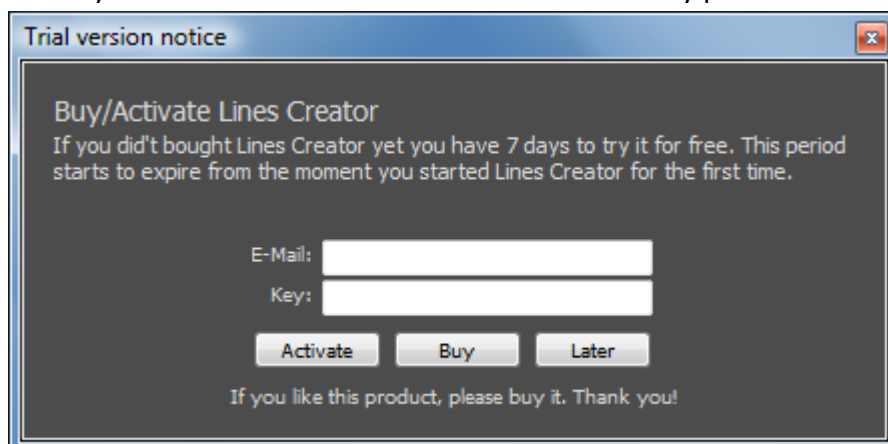
An activation key, which unlocks this product for further use, can be purchased any time.

How to activate Lines Creator

1. Run After Effects.
2. If script window or dockable panel are not visible run
`"Window > LinesCreator vX.XX.jsxbin"` (vX.XX is the current version of Lines Creator).
3. Click on `"Buy/Activate"` button located at the bottom of the window/panel.



4. Enter your **activation e-mail** and 17-digit **activation key number (including hyphens)** from e-mail you received after Lines Creator activation key purchase.



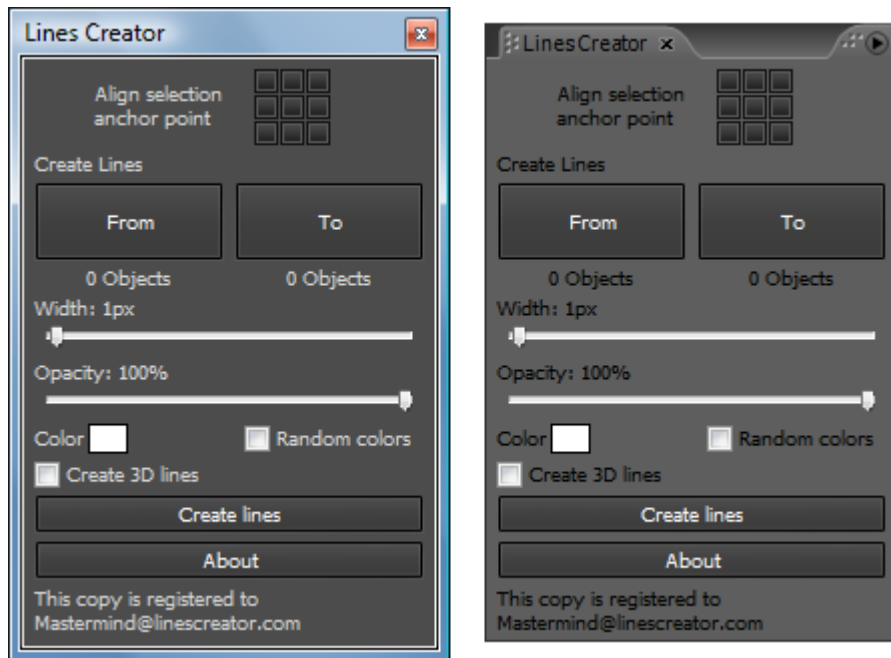
5. Press `"Activate"` button.

Lines Creator should confirm that your activation is completed if everything is OK.

User Interface Panel

Lines Creator UI Panel can be used as dockable panel or floating window in AE. This means that you can position in freely wherever you want.

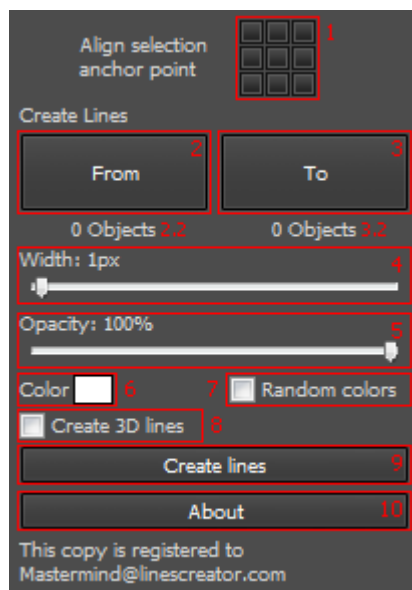
This is Lines Creator UI Panel



Dockable pane on the right, floating window on the left.

I will describe basic functionalities of all buttons in the panel. To see some examples go to “How it works” section of this manual.

UI Panel buttons and sliders



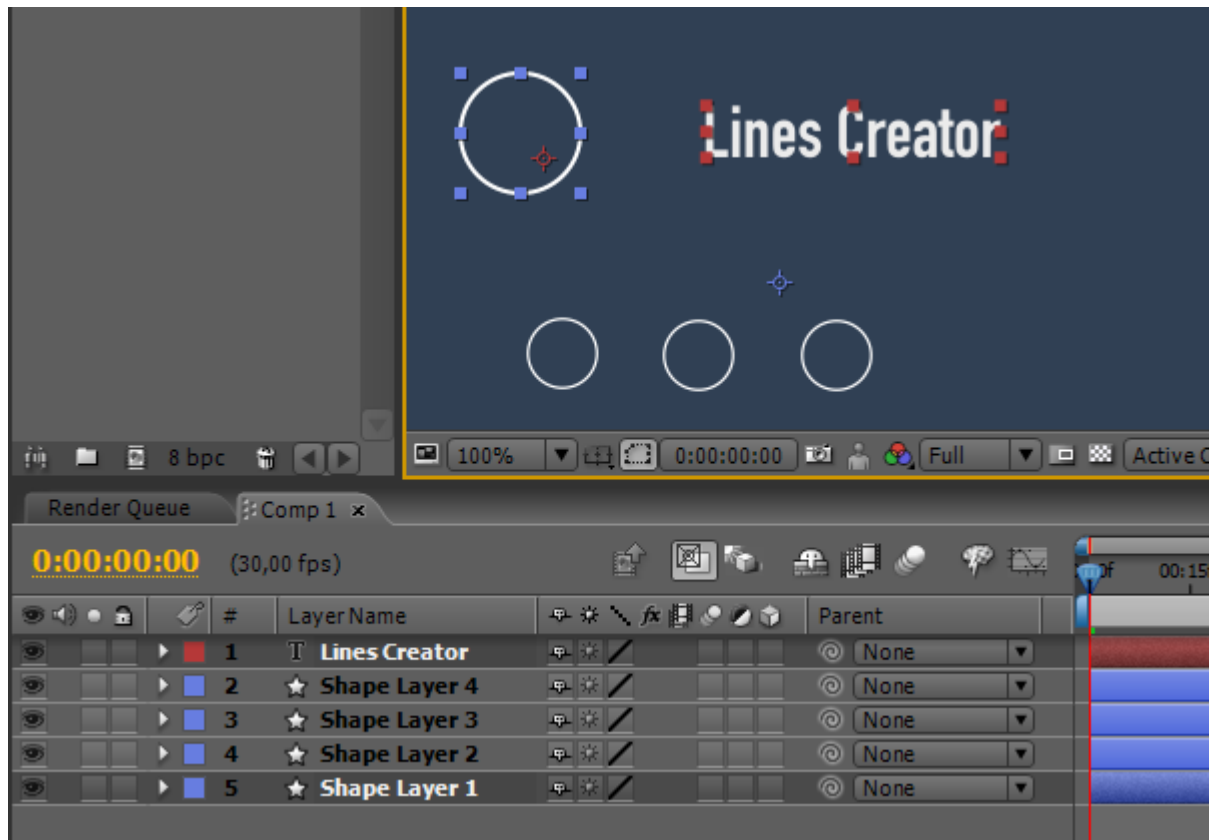
1. Basic anchor point align of the selected object(s)
2. Add selected object(s) as starting objects
- 2.2. How many starting objects are selected
3. Add selected object(s) as ending objects
- 3.2. How many ending objects are selected
4. Modify new lines width
5. Modify new lines opacity
6. Choose one color value for all new lines
7. Choose random color value for each new line
8. Set lines to be created as 3D objects
9. Create lines using all settings above.
10. Short about

How it works

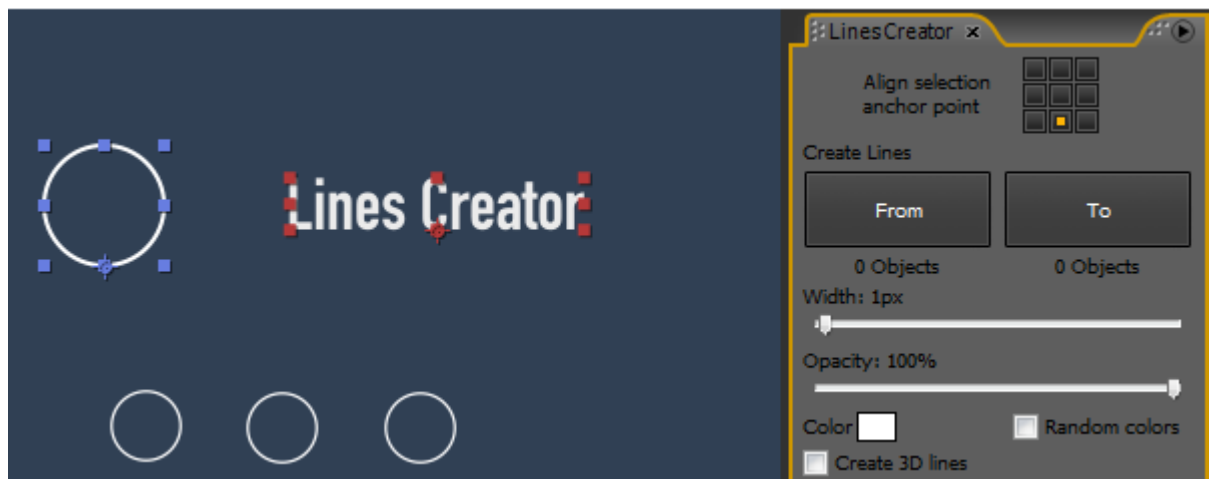
In this section you will see how simple is to create 2D and 3D lines using Lines Creator! Process is almost the same. The only difference is that 2D lines connect 2D objects and 3D lines connect 3D objects.

To create 2D lines using Lines Creator

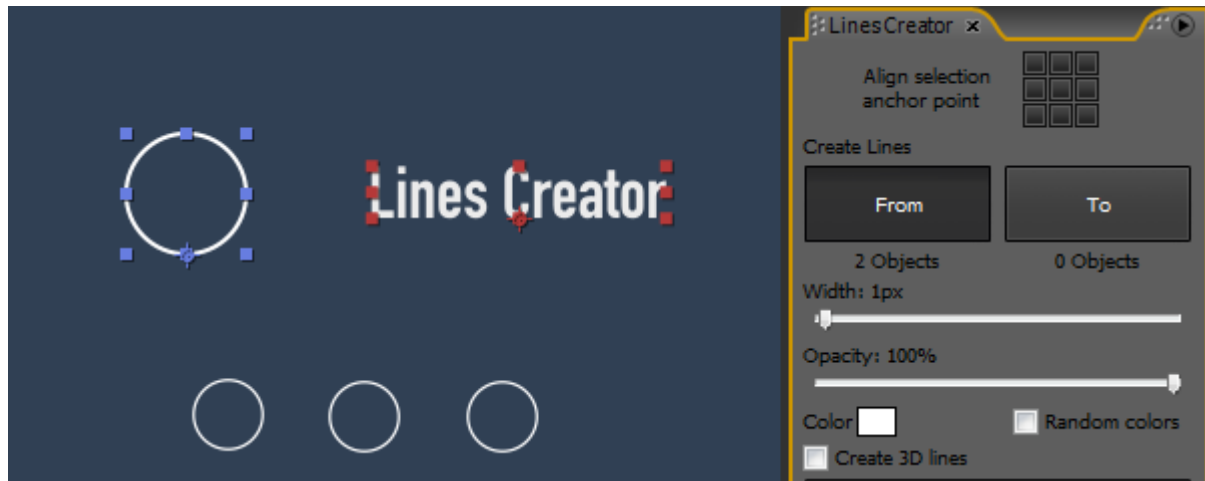
1. Create new composition and add few objects to it (Solids, Shape layers, Text layers etc.)
2. Select one or many objects that will be your starting points for the lines that will be created.



3. Reposition Anchor Points of the selected objects using “Align selection anchor point” by clicking on the desired direction or using AE tools (lines are created from one object’s anchor point to another object’s anchor point)

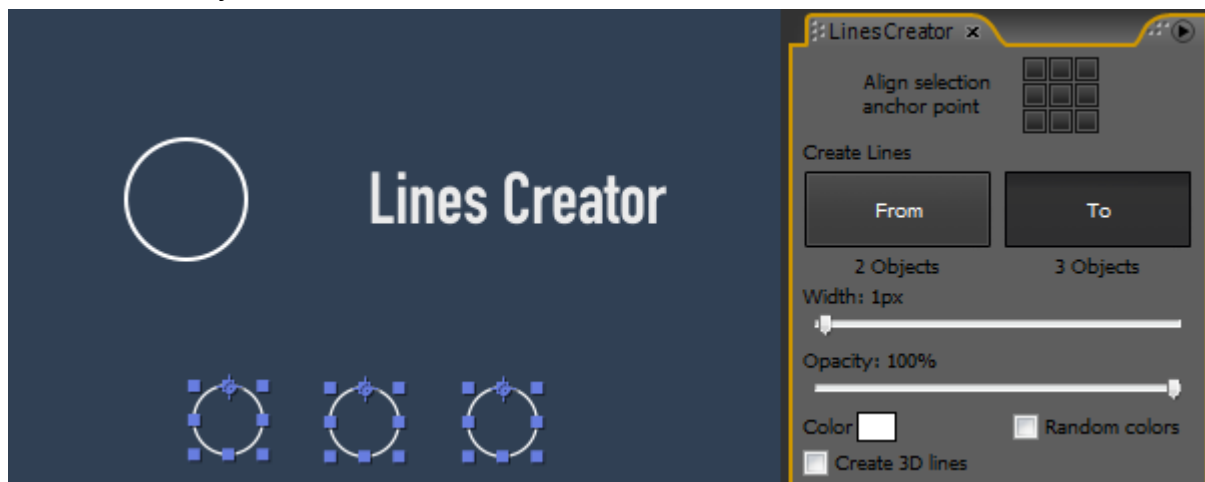


4. While objects still selected press “From” button to set “From objects” selection



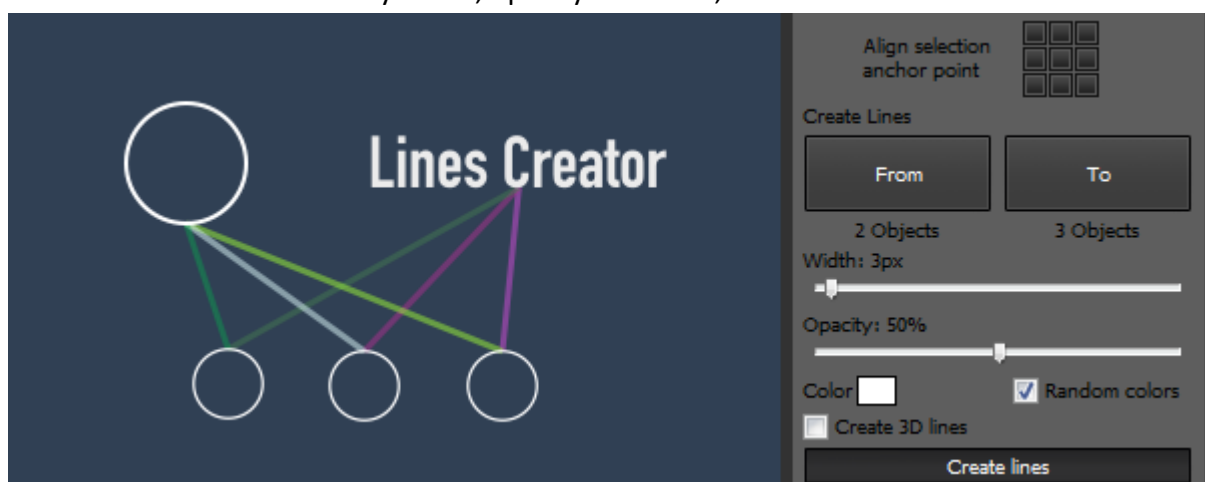
From objects are now 2 – “From 2 Objects”

5. Repeat step 2,3 and 4 but this time after repositioning anchor points press “To” button to set “To objects” selection



To objects are now 3 – “To 3 Objects”

6. Almost done! Now modify width, opacity and color, then click “Create lines”

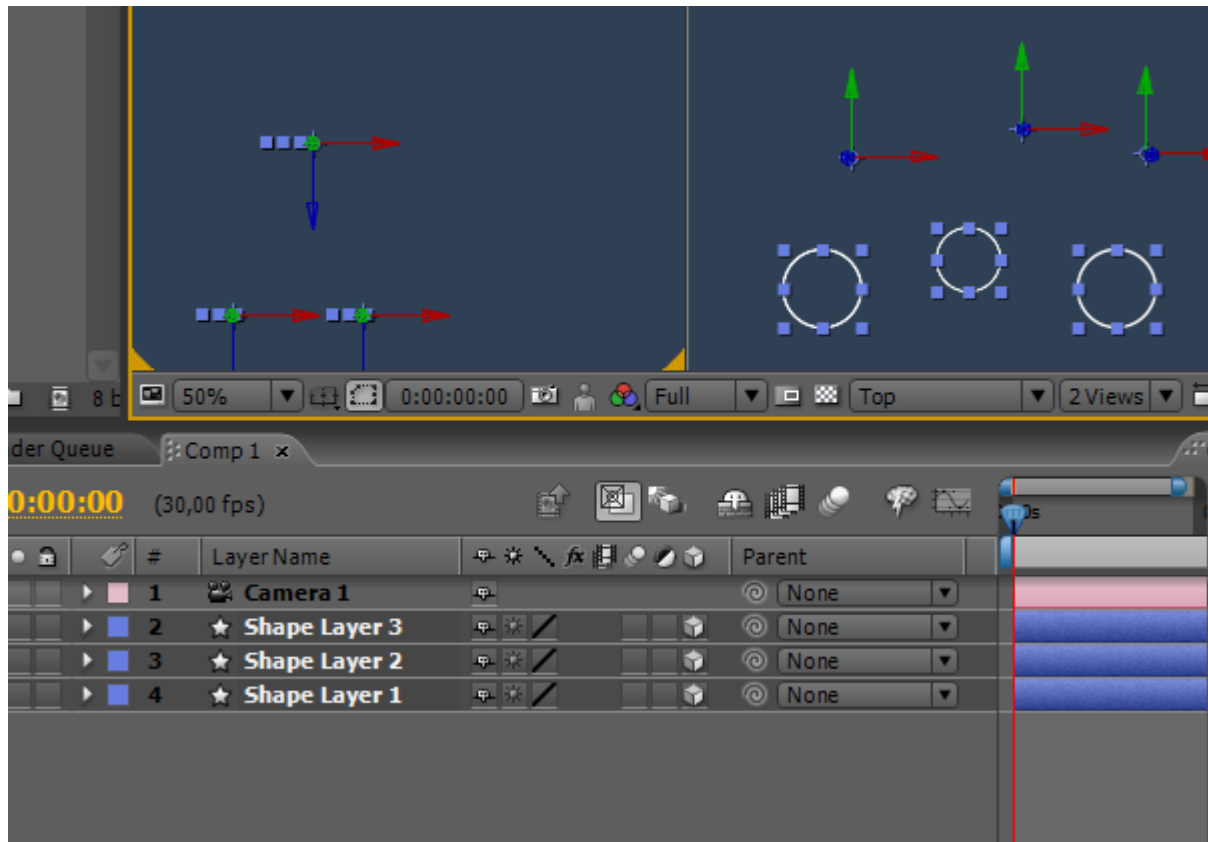


Six new lines are now created and will automatically follow their objects

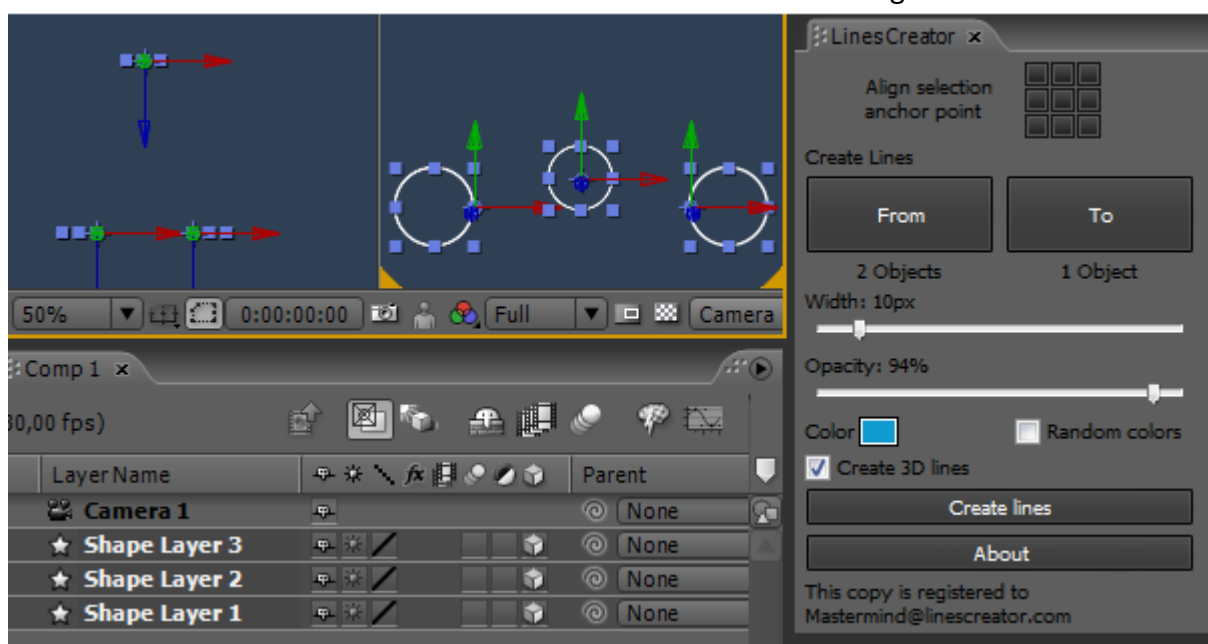
7. Magic is done! Have fun creating lines :D

To create 3D lines using Lines Creator

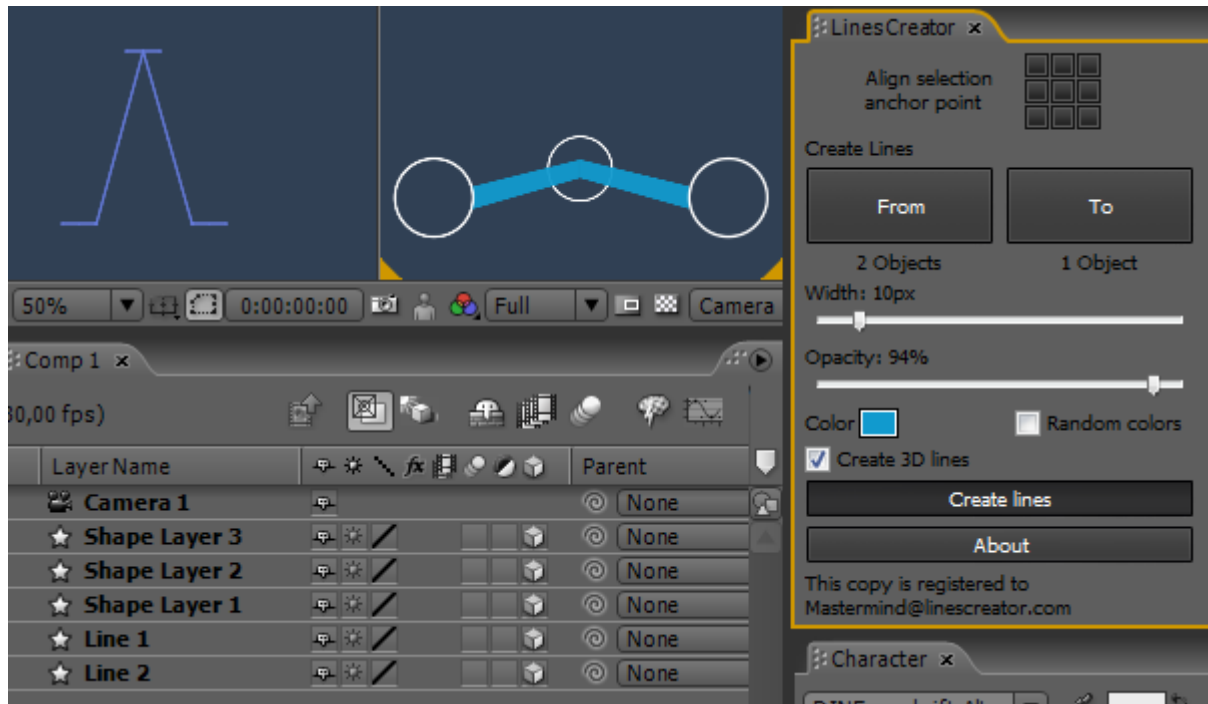
1. Create new composition and add few objects to it (Solids, Shape layers, Text layers etc.)
2. Set objects as 3D and align them in 3D space



3. Select left and right objects, align their anchor points and set them as “From” group as in previous section (creating 2D lines)
4. Select middle object, align its anchor point and set it as “To” group.
5. Set lines width, opacity and color.
6. **Check the “Create 3D lines” checkbox.** You should see something like this:



7. Press “Create lines” button



Two new 3D lines are now created and will automatically follow their objects

8. Voila! Have fun!

Change log

This is Lines Creator versions log with short descriptions

v1.35 > Parenting support. Happy parenting to each and every human being on earth!?!

v1.34 > First Release Version (another round of fireworks and applauses!? O.o)

v1.33 > Fixed label color for Mac bug (CS5 and above)

v1.32 > Minor bug fixes.

v1.31 > UI Changes.

v1.30 > Composition Pixel Aspect Ratio support added

v1.26 > Position new lines under last "From"- "To" layer selection

v1.25 > UI Mac bug fixes

v1.24 > UI Bug fixes

v1.23 > Dark skin added

v1.22 > Color picker added

v1.21 > Custom draw for image and text buttons

v1.20 > Advanced vector line creation using shape layers, first user friendly interface

v1.12 > Automatic rename for duplicate layer names

v1.11 > Bug fixes

v1.10 > Added Basic Align Anchor Point feature for selected objects

v1.02 > Basic color correction, line width and opacity settings

v1.01 > Basic line creation using solids

v1.00 > Lines Creator was born (fireworks and applauses! :D)

Warranties and liability

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