KEYFRAMR by b3n: how to install

KEYFRAMR is a panel for Adobe After Effects. It has a searchable Library of your presets and effects, and a Toolkit with one-press shortcuts, auto tools (Auto Tracker, Beat Finder, Background Remover) and project tools (Render & Re-encode, Organiser, FXToggle, Clear AE Cache). It also adds KEYConsole: press one key anywhere in After Effects, type the name of an effect or preset, and press Enter.

This guide is also online, always the newest version: https://b3nedits.com/keyframr/install

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What you need

- After Effects 2020 or newer, on a Mac or a Windows PC.
- Auto Tracker and Background Remover need After Effects 2022 or newer. Scene Cut needs After Effects 2022 (version 22.3) or newer.
- On a Mac, KEYConsole needs macOS 10.14 or newer (Intel) or macOS 11 or newer (Apple Silicon). On Windows, the Install FFmpeg button needs Windows 10 or newer.
- The download is 216 MB. Most of that is the Auto Tracker and Background Remover models. They run on your own computer.
- Internet, for a moment when you switch KEYFRAMR on and once for the Install FFmpeg button (about 30 MB on a Mac, 110 MB on Windows). After that, KEYFRAMR works offline, but it needs to reach the internet at least once every 30 days to check your licence. When it is online, it checks about once a day that your purchase is still active. If it has been offline for more than 30 days, it asks you to connect once and press Check Now; nothing is lost.
- One purchase is for one computer.

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1. Install the .zxp file

Your download is two files: the KEYFRAMR `.zxp` file, which is what you install, and this guide as a PDF. There is nothing to unzip. If your browser says the .zxp is not commonly downloaded, choose Keep: it is an After Effects extension file, which most browsers rarely see.

A .zxp file does not open with a double-click. There are two ways to install it.

A. With the free installer (easiest). Get the free ZXP/UXP Installer from aescripts (Mac and Windows): https://aescripts.com/learn/zxp-installer/ . Quit After Effects, open the installer, give it the KEYFRAMR .zxp file, and wait until it says it is done. Then open After Effects.

If the installer shows "No application compatible with KEYFRAMR by b3n was found on your computer", press **Install** anyway. KEYFRAMR works with After Effects 2020 and every version after it; that message only means the installer's own list of versions is older than your After Effects, and the panel still installs and loads. If you would rather not, use way B below, which skips the installer. After installing, open After Effects and look in **Window > Extensions > KEYFRAMR** (section 2).

B. By hand.

1. Quit After Effects.
2. A .zxp file is a zip file. Change the end of its name from `.zxp` to `.zip` and unzip it. Open the folder you get: you should see `CSXS` and `index.html` straight away, not another folder in between. Name that folder `KEYFRAMR`, and do not change anything inside it.

3. Move the `KEYFRAMR` folder into the extensions folder. Make the `extensions` folder if it is not there.
   - Mac: `~/Library/Application Support/Adobe/CEP/extensions/` (in Finder choose Go > Go to Folder and paste that)
   - Windows: `%APPDATA%\Adobe\CEP\extensions\` (paste that into the address bar of File Explorer)
4. Open After Effects.

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2. Open the panel

In After Effects choose **Window > Extensions > KEYFRAMR**.

If KEYFRAMR is not in that menu: quit After Effects and open it once more (a newly installed panel shows after a restart). Still not there on Windows? The installer may not have written it: use way B above (by hand). On a Mac, make sure you are on After Effects 2020 or newer.

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3. Tick one After Effects setting

This setting is in After Effects itself, not in KEYFRAMR. Open **Scripting & Expressions** in After Effects' settings and tick **Allow Scripts to Write Files and Access Network**.

- Mac: the After Effects menu > Settings (called Preferences in older versions) > Scripting & Expressions.
- Windows: Edit > Preferences > Scripting & Expressions.

A fresh After Effects has this box switched off. Find Beats, Remove Background, Render & Convert to MP4 and KEYConsole's saved choices save files, and this box is what lets them.

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4. Switch KEYFRAMR on

The panel opens on **Switch on KEYFRAMR**. Paste the licence key from your purchase email into the box and press **Switch on**.

- You do this once on your computer. Updates switch themselves on.
- If After Effects is blocked from the internet on your computer (by a firewall, for example), press **No Internet in After Effects? Use Your Browser** under the button and follow the two steps it shows.
- One purchase is for one computer. Moving to a new computer? Message b3n on the Discord (section 8).

After you switch on, a short tutorial opens. The tutorial button at the top of the panel shows it again any time.

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5. First steps

1. **Your presets.** KEYFRAMR shows After Effects' own presets and the presets in your User Presets folder (Documents > Adobe > After Effects and your version > User Presets). If yours are somewhere else, press the gear at the top of the panel to open Settings, find **Custom preset folder** and press **Browse**.
2. **FFmpeg, for MP4 files.** Go to **TOOLKIT > Project > Render & Re-encode**. If the card says "Needs ffmpeg (free) to make the MP4.", press **Install FFmpeg** once. It downloads FFmpeg, checks it, and keeps it in KEYFRAMR's own folder. Nothing else is installed. If you already have FFmpeg, KEYFRAMR uses yours and the button does not show. If After Effects is blocked from the internet (by a firewall), the button cannot download it: allow After Effects through the firewall, or install FFmpeg yourself in Terminal (on a

Mac with Homebrew, `brew install ffmpeg`; on Windows, `winget install ffmpeg`). KEYFRAMR finds it the next time you press Render & Convert to MP4.

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6. KEYConsole

On a Mac:

1. In KEYFRAMR's Settings (the gear), find the **KEYConsole** card and switch on **KEYConsole on this Mac**. It adds a small After Effects plugin. No password is asked for.
2. Quit and reopen After Effects, once.
3. Press **Control+Space** anywhere in After Effects. **Open It Now** on the same card opens it too.

If Control+Space does nothing: macOS uses Control+Space to switch keyboard language when more than one language is set up. Switch that shortcut off in **System Settings > Keyboard > Keyboard Shortcuts > Input Sources** ("Select the previous input source"). On a Mac the KEYConsole key cannot be changed.

On Windows:

1. In KEYFRAMR's Settings (the gear), find the **KEYConsole** card and switch on **KEYConsole on this PC**. It adds a small After Effects plugin to After Effects' plug-in folder, so Windows asks for your OK once: choose **Yes**.
2. Quit and reopen After Effects, once.
3. Press **Control+Space** anywhere in After Effects. **Open It Now** on the same card opens it too. After the restart, **Window > KEYConsole (borderless)** is in After Effects' menu.

If KEYConsole does not open on Windows, the file `kf-keyconsole.log` in your Temp folder (press Windows+R, type `%TEMP%` and press Enter) says why. Send it to b3n on the Discord (section 8).

The keys (KEYConsole lists them too: its gear, then List & keys). On Windows, read Ctrl for Cmd and Alt for Option.

Key	What it does
Control+Space	Opens and closes KEYConsole
Enter	Applies the highlighted row. Shift+Enter applies and keeps the window open. Esc closes
1 to 9 and 0	Applies that shortcut while nothing is typed (also its button under the search bar). Add Shift to keep the window open. In KEYConsole's gear, Shortcuts > Shortcut key can make it Cmd, Shift or Option and the number instead
Shift+Option+1 to 0	Saves the highlighted row as that shortcut
Cmd+Option+Enter	Applies on a new adjustment layer
Right-click a row	Favourite, short name, hide, effect preset
Tab, Shift+Tab	Move along All, Presets, Effects, Assets
Cmd+R	Shows presets and files added just now

7. Updates

Updates are free, with the same licence key. Download the new version from your purchase email, install it the same way as the first time, and it switches itself on.

8. Help

Join the B3 Community Discord: https://discord.gg/QuFmvbaUjZ . It is also in KEYFRAMR's Settings (the gear), on the **B3 Community** card.

9. How to remove KEYFRAMR

1. **First**, switch KEYConsole off: KEYFRAMR's Settings (the gear) > KEYConsole > **KEYConsole on this Mac** (on Windows, **KEYConsole on this PC**, and choose Yes when Windows asks), off. The panel says "KEYConsole removed. It goes away when After Effects restarts."
2. Quit After Effects.
3. Remove KEYFRAMR with the installer you used, or delete its folder from the extensions folder (section 1B).

If KEYFRAMR was removed on a Mac without switching KEYConsole off first, a dead "KEYConsole (borderless)" line stays in After Effects' Window menu. To clear it, quit After Effects and delete `KEYConsole.plugin` from this folder (in Finder choose Go > Go to Folder and paste it):

`~/Library/Application Support/Adobe/Common/Plug-ins/7.0/MediaCore/`

On Windows, quit After Effects and delete the `KEYConsole` folder from `C:\Program Files\Adobe\Common\Plug-ins\7.0\MediaCore\` (Windows asks for your OK).

KEYFRAMR keeps FFmpeg and its saved settings in `~/Library/Application Support/Haste` on a Mac (`%APPDATA%\Haste` on Windows). Your switch-on is kept in `~/Library/Application Support/KEYFRAMES` (`%APPDATA%\KEYFRAMES` on Windows). You can delete both folders once KEYFRAMR is removed.

The notices for the parts of KEYFRAMR that other people made are in `THIRD-PARTY-NOTICES.txt` in the KEYFRAMR folder.