

MAY 9 PRO 3

USER GUIDE

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What is May9 Pro

May9 Pro is plug-in aim to offer an alternative user experience for *Autodesk Maya* designed to improve the daily workflow and maximize learning.

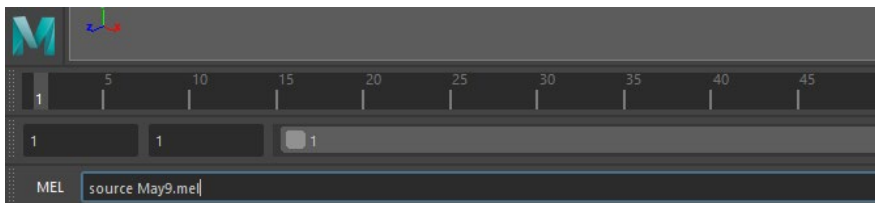
The concept of *May9 Pro* is streamline useful commands into a single keyboard button (**Z**), by predicting them from the context. For example, if you have in selection a mesh and a joint by pressing **Z + Left Mouse Button** (MMB from now) it's appear the follow *Marking Menu* (MM from now):



In addition to the contextual workflow describe above, *May9 Pro* offer [custom preferences](#), [layouts](#), [contextual hotkeys](#) and [standard hotkeys](#).

Installation

- 1) If is open close *Autodesk Maya*
- 2) Copy the content of *modules* folder present in this archive in:
 - a. Windows: `\Users\<username>\Documents\maya\2018`
 - b. Mac OS: `/Users/<username>/Library/Preferences/Autodesk/maya/2018`
 - c. Linux: `~<username>/maya/2018`
- 3) Run *source May9.mel* as MEL command



Update from May9 Pro 3.1

If a previous version of *May9 Pro 3.1* is already installed on your system, close *Autodesk Maya* and:

1. Copy the content of folder *modules* of this archive in your *Autodesk Maya 2018* preferences folder
2. Remove any file that start with *da_* from your actual *2018/presets* folder
3. Remove *May9_Pro.json* from your actual *2018/prefs/workspaces* folder
4. Run *source May9.mel* as MEL command

Important note: after the update any customization made to *May9 Pro* by the user will be removed.

Update from May9 Pro 3.0

If a previous version of *May9 Pro 3.0* is already installed on your system, close *Autodesk Maya* and:

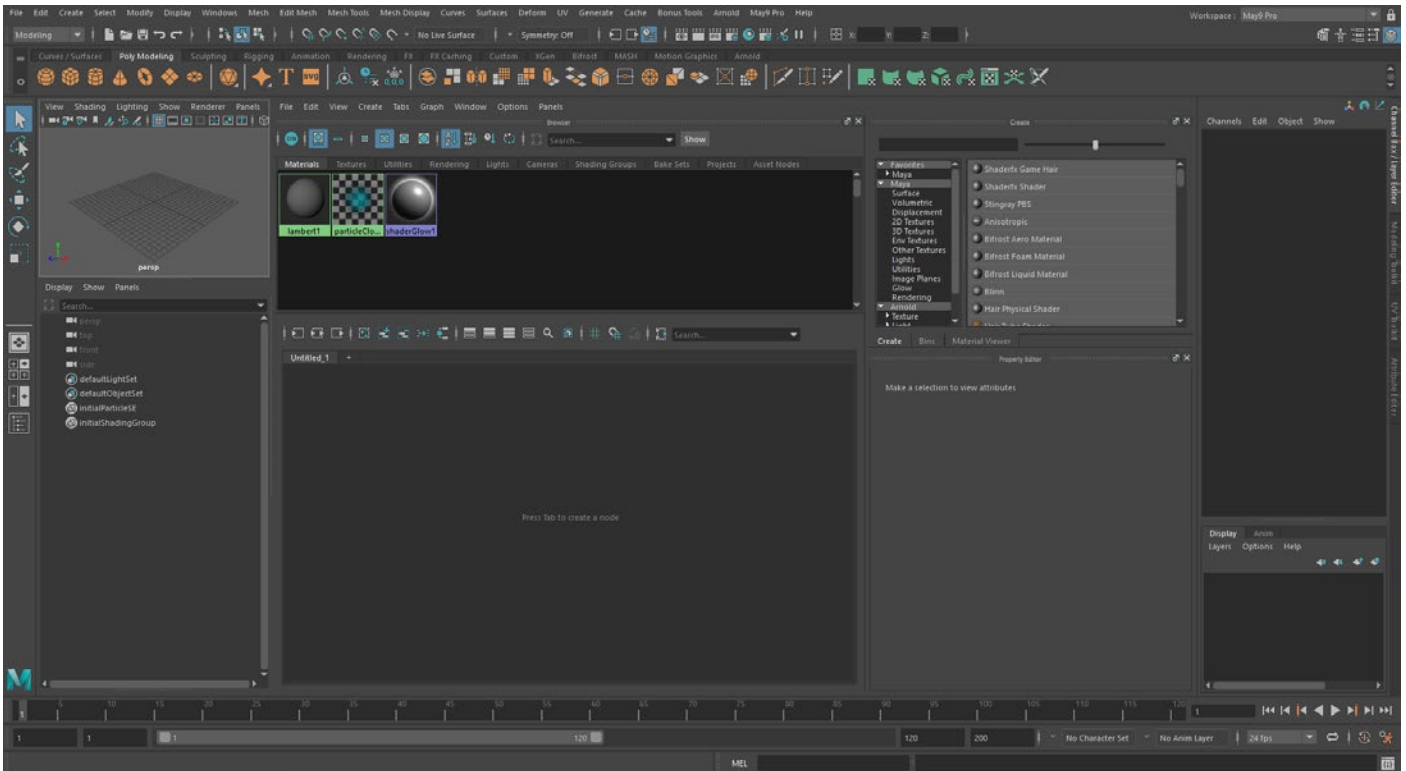
1. Copy the content of folder *modules* of this archive in your *Autodesk Maya 2018* preferences folder
2. Remove *userPrefs.mel* from your actual *2018/prefs* folder
3. Remove any file that end with *_MM* from your actual *2018/prefs/marketingMenus* folder
4. Remove any file that start with *da_* from your actual *2018/presets* folder
5. Remove any file that start with *da_* from your actual *2018/presets* folder
6. Remove *May9_Pro.json* from your actual *2018/prefs/workspaces* folder
7. Run *source May9.mel* as MEL command

Important note: after the update any customization made to *May9 Pro* and *Autodesk Maya preferences* by the user will be removed.

Basic usage

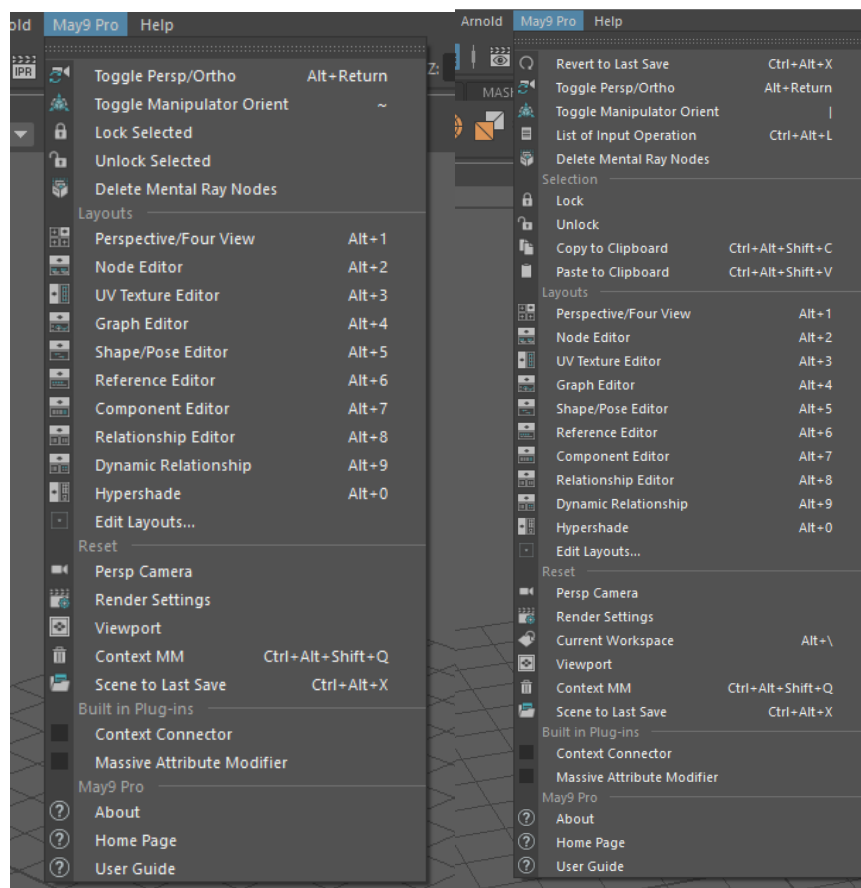
May9 Pro Layouts

The *May9 Pro* Layouts are designed to be integrated in the *May9 Pro* Workspace, for open one of the ten Layout available just use a Hotkey from **ALT + 1** to **ALT + 0**, or in *May9 Pro* drop-down menu:



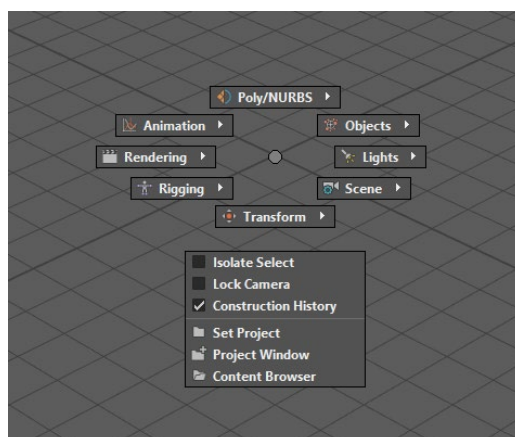
May9 Pro drop-down menu

A conventional drop-down is provided to provide a quick access to layouts and *May9 Pro* configuration commands:



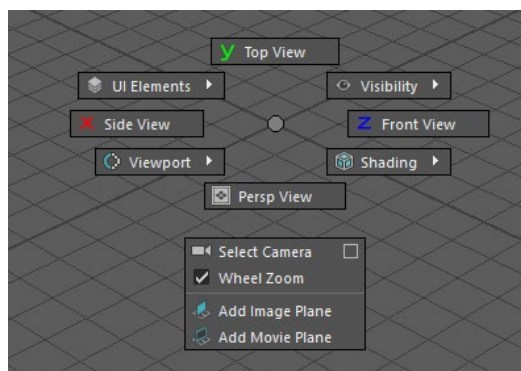
All MM

All MM (*menu_All_MM.mel*) is the foundation of *May9 Pro*, is available by pressing **Z + Middle Mouse Button** (from now **MMB**) and use **bold** font style:



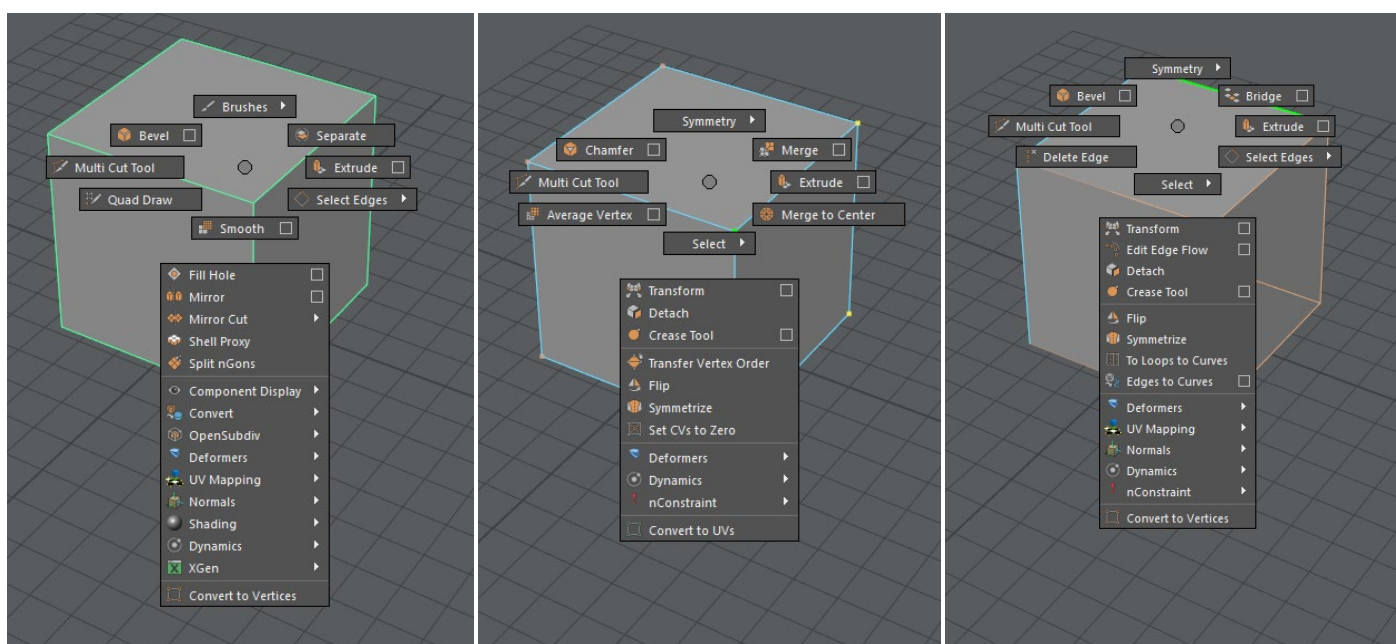
Maya Window MM

Maya Window MM (*menu_MayaWindow_MM.mel*) is available over the Viewport and there isn't selection, is available by pressing **Z + LMB**:



Contextual single selection MM

When a single object or component type is selected is possible enable the relative contextual MM by pressing **Z + LMB**:



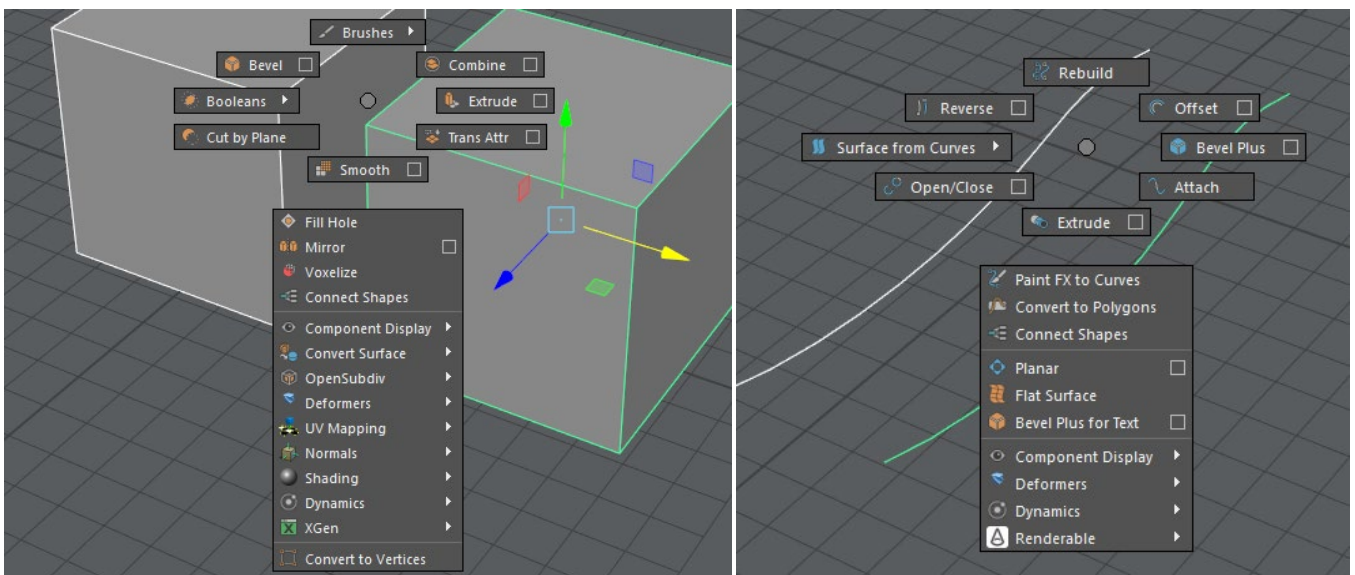
Contextual multi selection MM

When a multiple object type or component type is selected is possible enable the relative contextual MM by pressing **Z + LMB**:



Contextual multi selection of the same object type MM

When a multiple object of the same type is selected is possible enable the relative contextual MM by pressing **Z + LMB**:



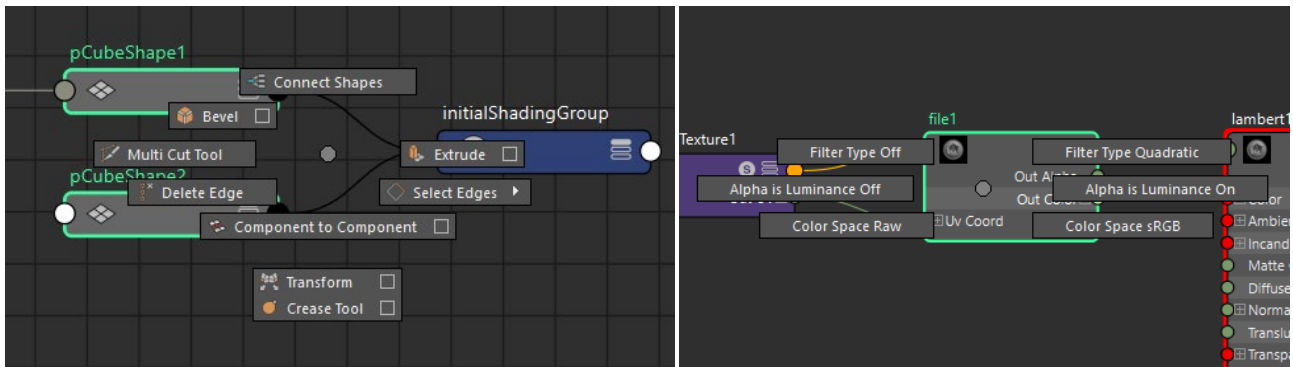
Contextual panel MM

When the mouse is over a panel is possible enable the relative contextual MM by pressing **Z + LMB**:



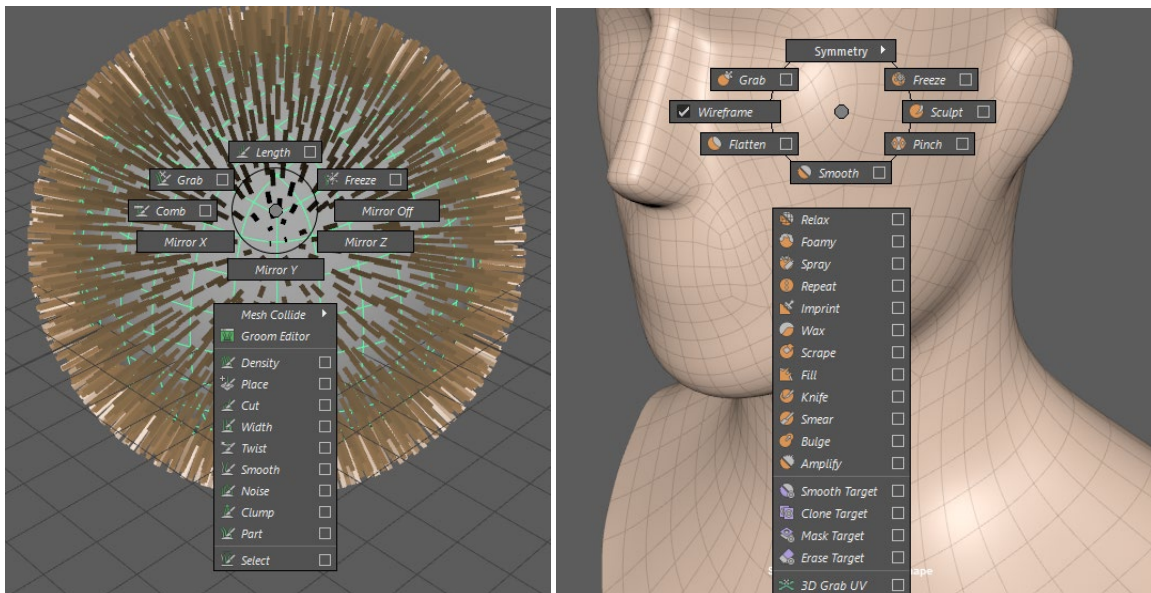
Contextual node selection in editor panels

When a single node, a combination of the same type nodes or a combination of different type nodes are selected in some editor panel is possible enable the relative contextual MM by pressing **Z + LMB**:



Contextual Tool MM

When a supported Tool is selected, is possible enable the relative contextual MM by pressing **Z + MMB**, this kind of MMs use *italic* font style:



These are the tool supported by Contextual Tool MM: *3D Paint tool, Paint Attribute, Paint Skin Tool, Legacy Artisan Sculpt tool, Create Particle tool, Paint FX tool, Grease Pencil tool, Multi Cut tool, Quad Draw tool, Poly Crease tool, Sculpt tools, XGen Groom Paint tools, Create Particle tool and UV Brushes.*

Contextual single selection Hotkey

If a single object or component type is selected is possible enable the relative contextual Hotkey by pressing and release **Z**. For example: almost every object types toggle to component mode by using *contextual hotkey*.

Contextual multi selection of the same object type Hotkey

If a multiple object of the same type is selected is possible enable the relative contextual Hotkey by pressing and release **Z**.

Contextual multi selection of different object type Hotkey

If a multiple object type or component type is selected is enable the relative contextual Hotkey by pressing and release **Z**.

Contextual panel Hotkey

If the mouse is over a panel is possible enable the relative contextual Hotkey by pressing and release **Z**.

Custom Hotkeys

The custom *May9 Pro* Hotkey will be added to current Hotkey Set by create a new one.

These are the added Hotkeys:

Z = Enable *May9 Pro* contextual Hotkeys

SHIFT + ALT + Z = Zero Transformations (move objects to world center)

SHIFT + ALT + Space = Playback toggle

CTRL + ALT + R = Start IPR or Arnold Render View

CTRL + ALT + 8 = Paint Effects Panel

CTRL + ALT + X = Reverse to save

CTRL + ALT + M = Toggle Shelf Tabs

CTRL + ALT + T = Toggle Title Bar

CTRL + ALT + L = List of Input Operation

CTRL + ALT + . = move a keyframe to the next frame

CTRL + ALT + , = move a keyframe to the previous frame

CTRL + ALT + Space = Interactive playback

CTRL + SHIFT + ALT + C = Copy selection to clipboard

CTRL + SHIFT + ALT + V = Paste selection to clipboard

CTRL + SHIFT + ALT + S = Save selection in to a Set

CTRL + SHIFT + ALT + M = Toggle Shelf

CTRL + SHIFT + ALT + R = Toggle Resolution Gate

CTRL + SHIFT + ALT + Z = MMtoKey Manager

CTRL + SHIFT + ALT + Q = Reset Context MM

CTRL + SHIFT + ALT + Return = Match Pivot

CTRL + SHIFT + Return = Reset Pivot

CTRL + Return = Delete Non-Deformer History and Freeze Transform

CTRL + F = Ignore the child and frame only the selected object

CTRL + P = Parent and position

CTRL + J = Context Connector or Connection Editor

CTRL + K = Massive Attribute Editor

ALT + 1 = Set Layout Single Perspective/Four View

ALT + 2 = Set Layout Node Editor

ALT + 3 = Set Layout UV Texture Editor

ALT + 4 = Set Layout Graph Editor

ALT + 5 = Set Layout Shape/Pose Editor

ALT + 6 = Set Layout Reference Editor

ALT + 7 = Set Layout Component Editor

ALT + 8 = Set Layout Relationship Editor

ALT + 9 = Set Layout Dynamic Relationship Editor

ALT + 0 = Set Layout Hypershade

ALT + C = Open Channel Box or toggle it if docked

ALT + A = Open Attribute Editor or toggle it if docked

ALT + M = Open Modelling Toolkit or toggle it if docked

ALT + U = Open UV Toolkit or toggle it if docked (*CMD + U* on OS X)

ALT + O = Open Outliner or toggle it if docked

ALT + T = Open Tools Preference Settings or toggle it if docked

*ALT + * = Reset Current Workspace

ALT + L = Open Color Picker

ALT + Enter = Toggle perspective to orthographic camera

SHIFT + UP = Side View

SHIFT + RIGHT = Front View

SHIFT + DOWN = Top View

SHIFT + LEFT = Persp View

SHIFT + T = Assign shader if an object is selected or open create node window if not

A + LMB = SOuP Smart Connect (need SOuP installed)

~ = Orient Manipulators Toggle

Home = Reset Transformations

End = Select Hierarchy

K + Drag = Smooth playback mode

CMD + Space = Toggle Full Screen (Mac OS only)

These are the changed Hotkeys:

CTRL + ALT + 3 = Toggle Displacement

CTRL + ALT + ~ = Smoothing Display Show Both

CTRL + ALT + Return = Toggle Pan Zoom

ALT + - = Toggle Color Feedback

ALT + I = Toggle Wireframe in Artisan

SHIFT + N = Full Hotbox Display

Changed Preferences

The following is the *Autodesk Maya* preferences changed in *May9 Pro*:

- Membrane Deformer exposed
- Legacy Mirror Cut tool exposed
- Double variable warning is disable
- Custom Hypershade layout
- In Status Line are exposed Input Field and History icons
- Hidden attribute connections exposed
- Hotbox have no transparency
- Exposed legacy curves based text

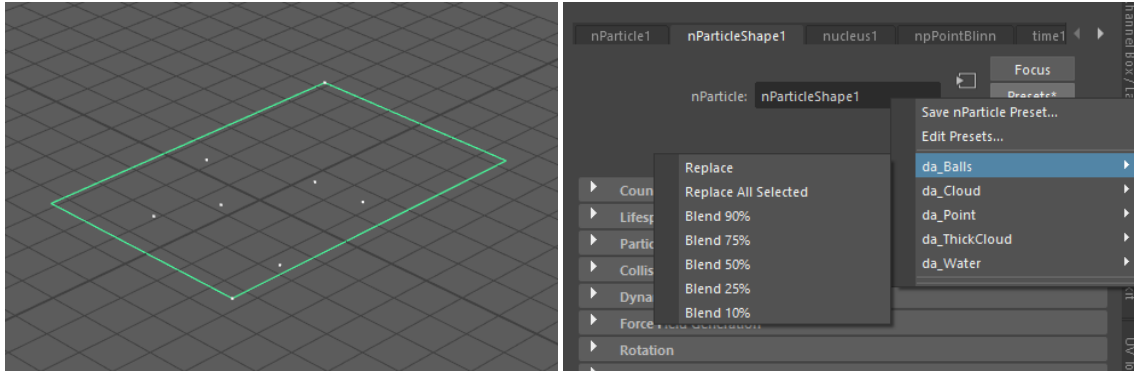
Custom Scripts and Presets

Under the hood of *May9 Pro* there are hundreds of MEL scripts that support the contextual workflow, but there's also some ones that add new features to *Autodesk Maya*.

nParticle Style Converter

These Presets adds the ability to convert particle to a specific style after their creation:

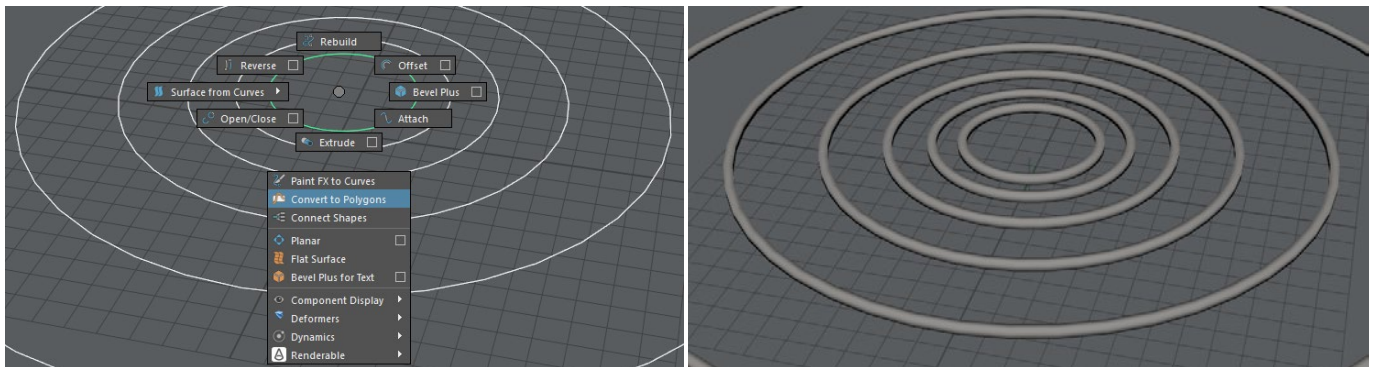
- 1) Select some particle
- 2) If is not, open the *Attribute Editor* (**ALT + A**) and select one of the particle style Presets



da_curveToPoly (video)

This script makes possible the conversion of curves in polygons:

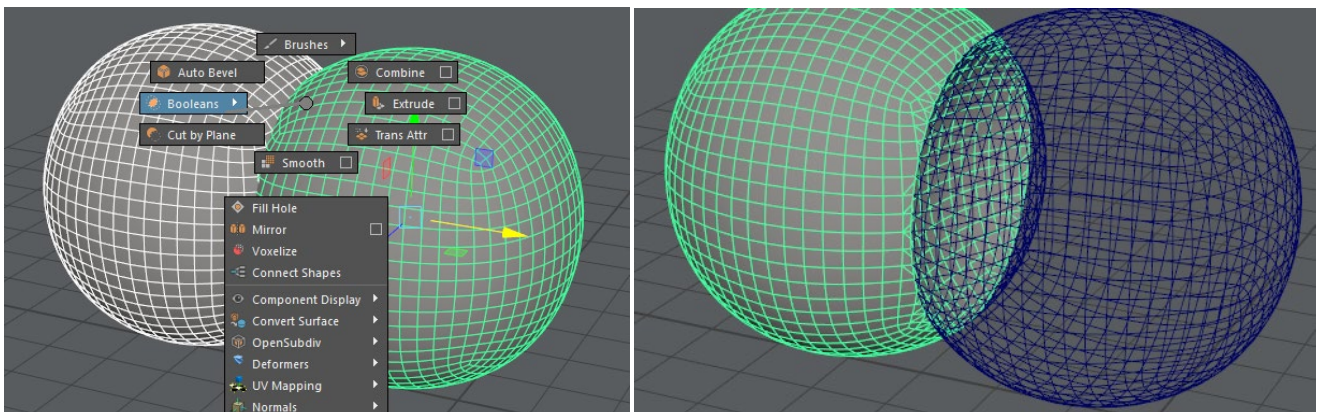
- 1) Select a curve or multiple curves
- 2) **Z + LMB** > *Convert to Polygons*



da_interactiveBooleans (video)

This script makes the Polygonal Boolean process more interactive:

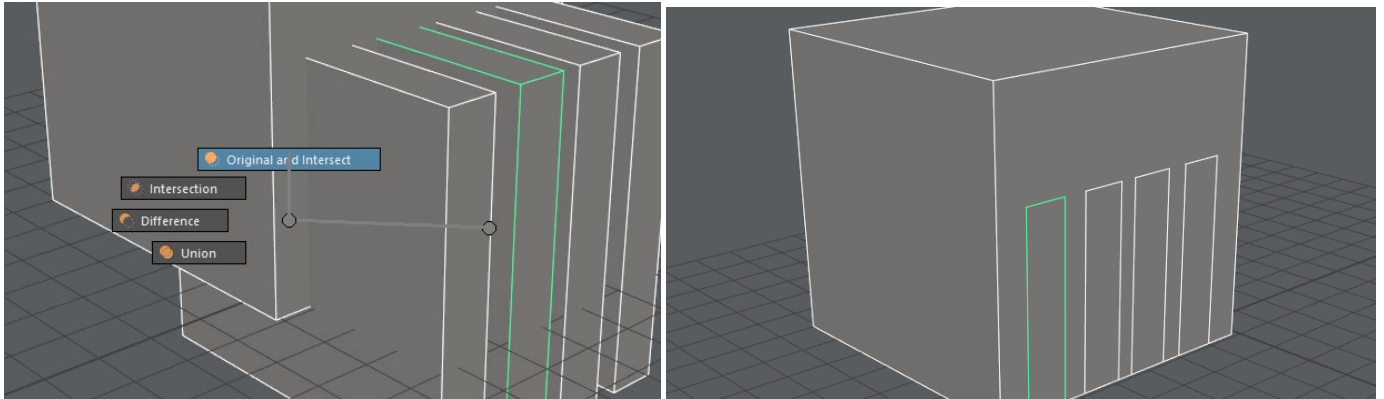
- 1) Select two or more polygons objects
- 2) **Z + LMB** > *Booleans*



da_BooleanFullIntersect (video)

This script makes a full intersect, so this execute a mesh subtraction but maintain subtracted part as separate object:

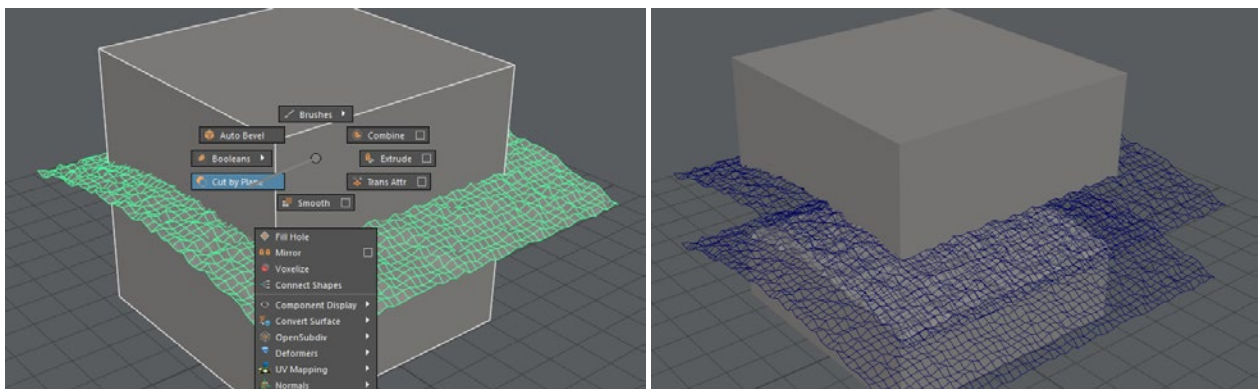
- 1) Select first the main object and after the cutters ones
- 2) **Z + LMB > Booleans > Original and Intersect**



da_PlaneCutter (video)

This script cut a mesh by using a flat mesh, this can be useful for simulate surface cracks:

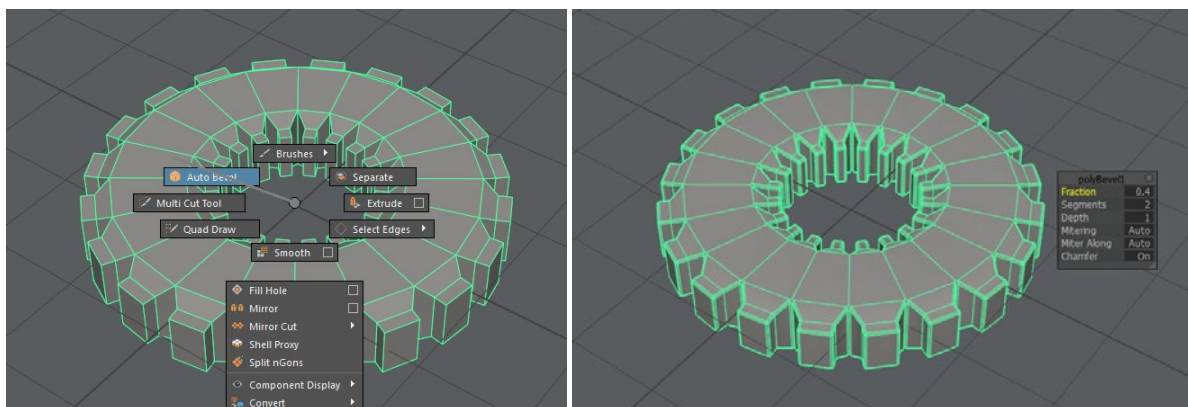
- 1) Select first the main object and after the cutter ones
- 2) **Z + LMB > Cut by Plane**
- 3) Select the single or double operator
- 4) Move the cutter or the cutters plane



da_AutoBevel (video)

This script analyses the angle between faces and try to add a Bevel node only on needed edges:

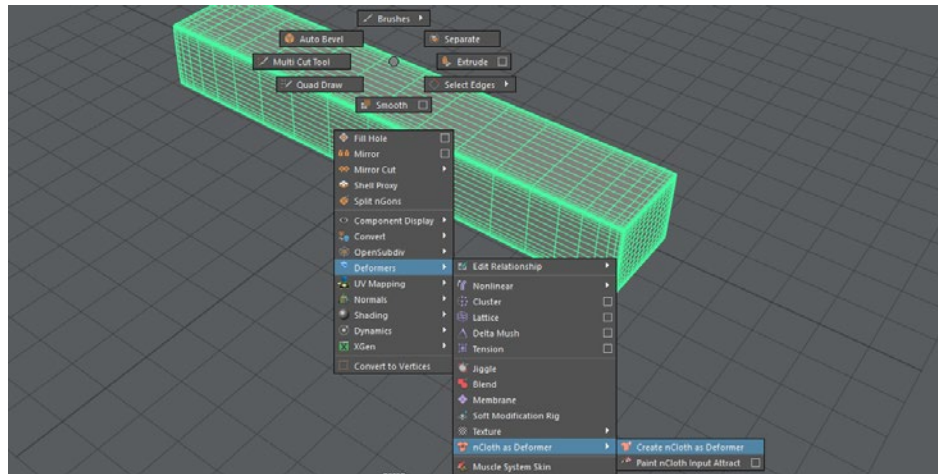
- 1) Select a Polygon
- 2) **Z + LMB > Auto Bevel**



da_ClothAsDeformer [\(video\)](#)

This script set up the current mesh to be deformed by nCloth solver, this can be useful for simulate character self-collision skin or muscle dynamics:

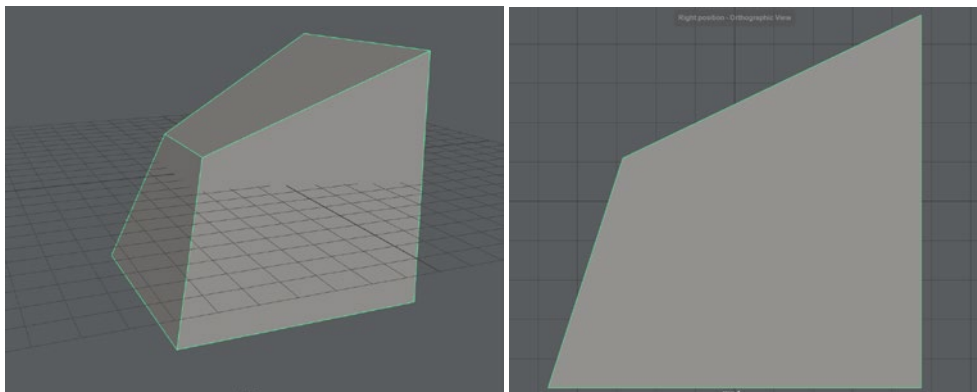
- 1) Select the polygons to deform, it can be the character skin
- 2) **Z + LMB** > *Deformers* > *nCloth as Deformer* > *Create nCloth as Deformer*



da_perspToggle [\(video\)](#)

This script converts the current persp view to the closest ortho, and vice versa:

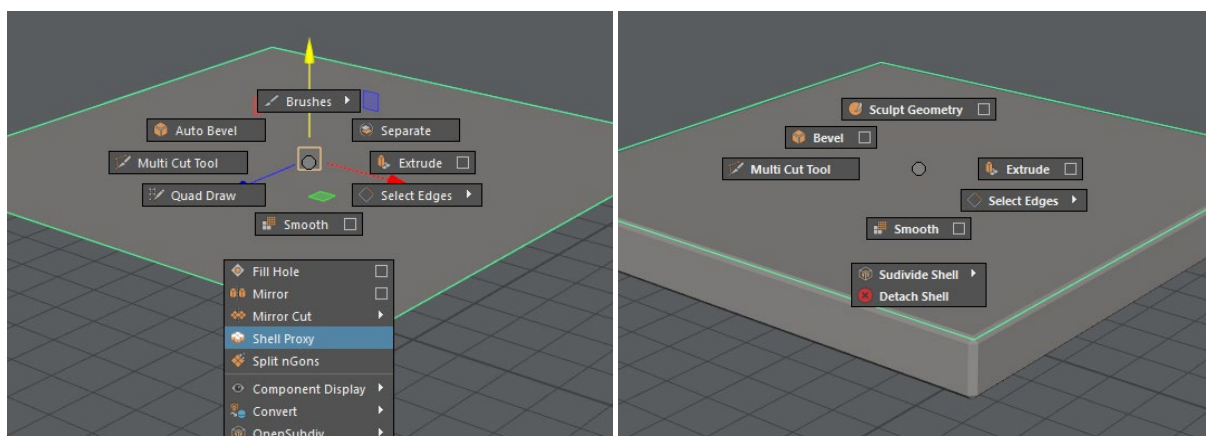
- 1) Move camera
- 2) **Press ALT + Enter**



da_shell [\(video\)](#)

This script emulates Shell deformer of Autodesk 3D Studio Max, by adding a thickness to flat polygons:

- 1) Select a flat polygon
- 2) **Z + LMB** > *Shell Proxy*
- 3) Continue to model or open tool option by using **Z + LMB**



da_MetaBalls (video)

This script converts particles to polygonal Metaballs:

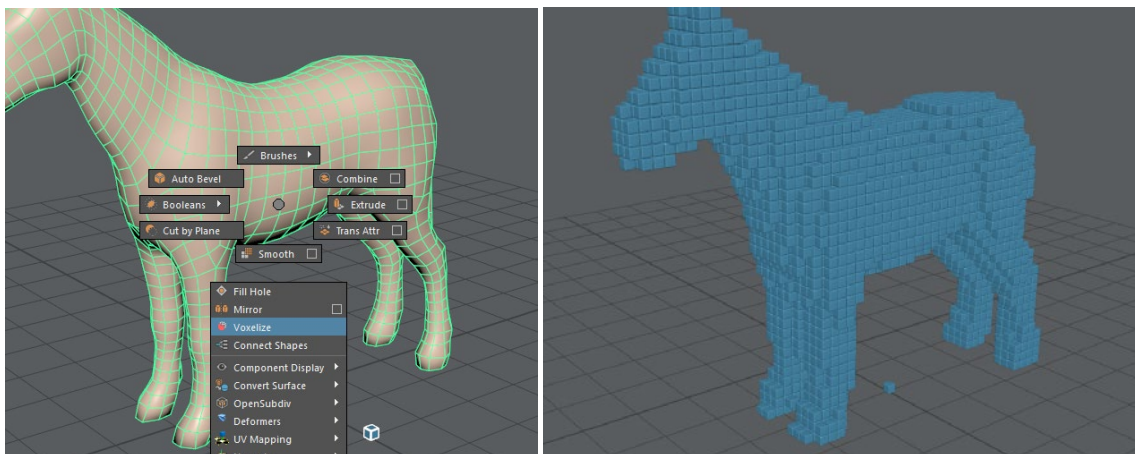
- 1) Select some particles
- 2) **Z + LMB > Convert to Metaballs**
- 3) Move single metaballs by selecting relative cluster



da_MashVoxelizer (video)

This script use MASH to voxelize an arbitrary mesh in the volume of another mesh:

- 1) Select first the filler mesh then the volume mesh
- 2) **Z + LMB > Voxelize in a Volume**



da_RivetMash (video)

This script constraint the pivot of a polygon to a component of another polygon:

- 1) Select single or multiple components then a polygon
- 2) **Z + LMB > Rivet**



da_CurveDistributionMash [\(video\)](#)

This script scatter and constrain a polygonal object along a curve:

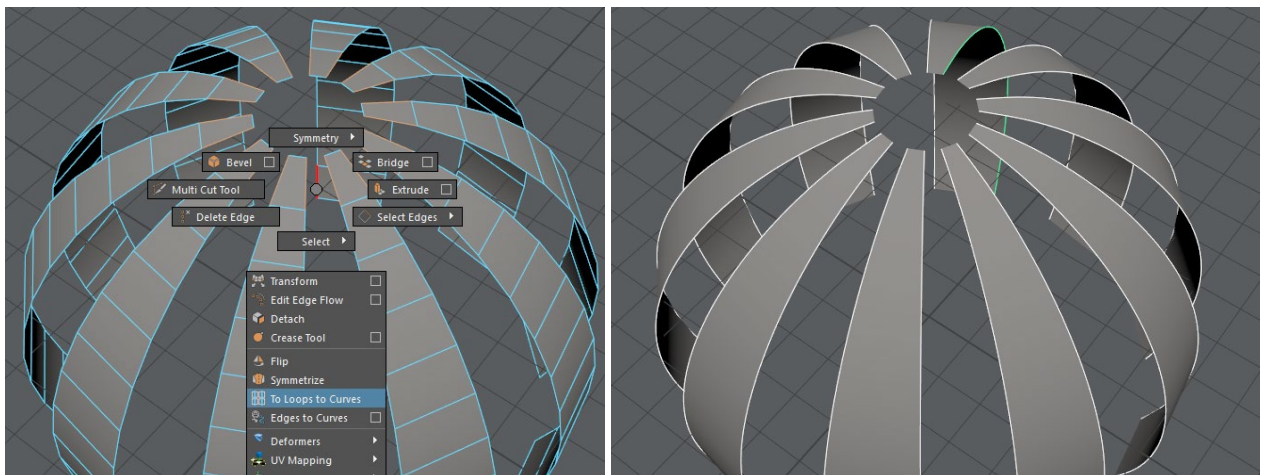
- 1) Select a polygon and then a curve
- 2) **Z + LMB > Instance Along Curve**



da_EdgesToLoopToCurve [\(video\)](#)

This script converts edge selection to loop and then make a batch conversion to curves, this is useful for converting polygonal hair to curve hair:

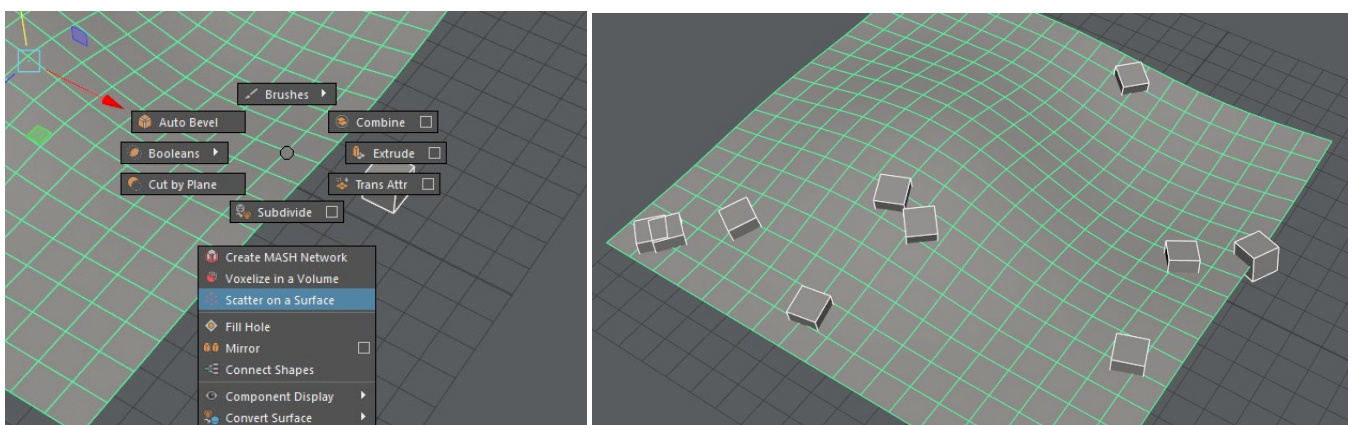
- 1) Select an edge for loop, sometimes this is easier to do in UV texture editor
- 2) **Z + LMB > To Loops to Curves**



da_SurfaceScatterMash

This script scatter and constrain a polygonal object on a mesh:

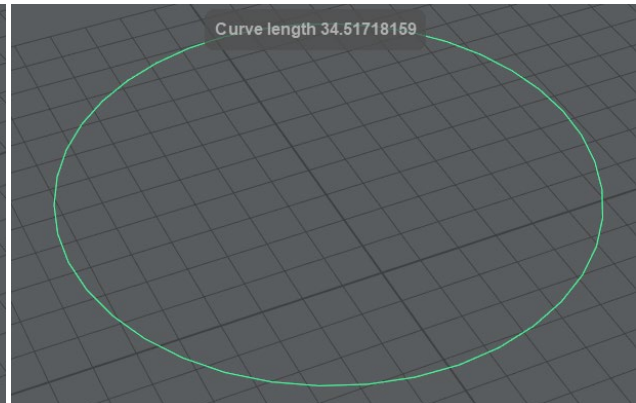
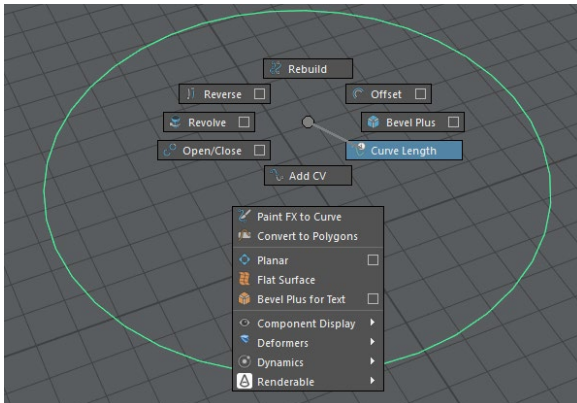
- 1) Select a mesh object then a mesh surface
- 2) **Z + LMB > Scatter on a Surface**



da_CurveLength

This script returns the length of a curve in Maya unit:

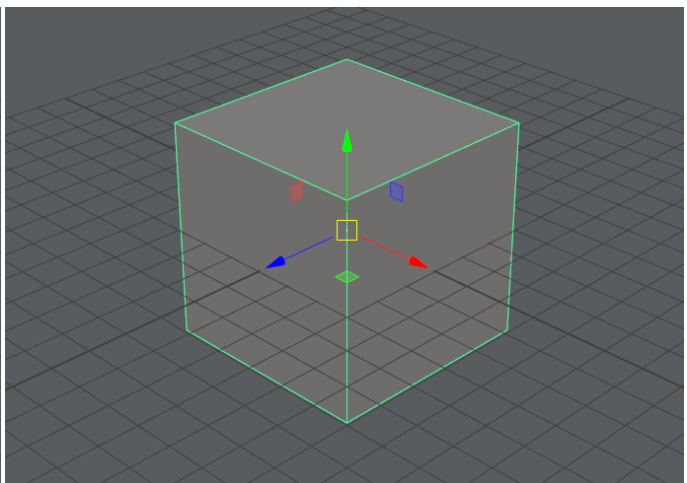
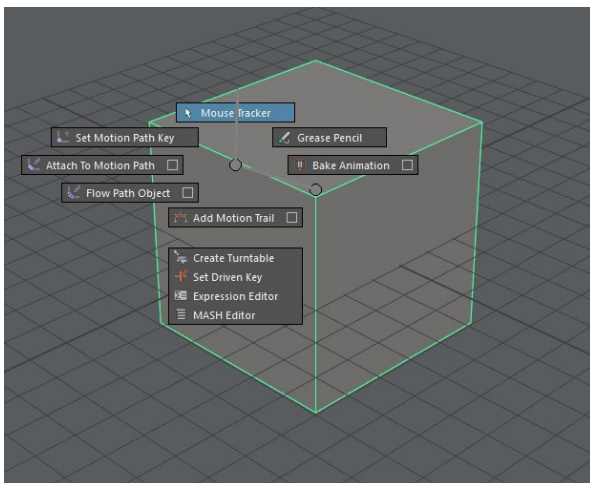
- 1) Select the curve you want to measure
- 2) **Z + LMB > Curve Length**



da_MouseTrack

This script tracks the mouse movement and create an animation:

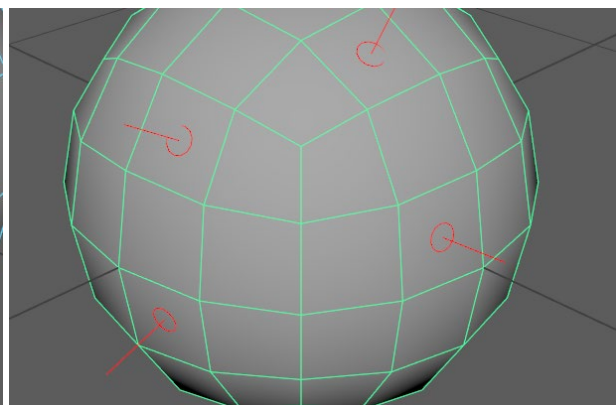
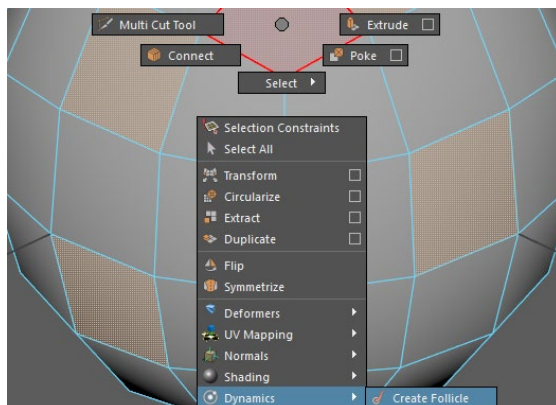
- 1) Select an object
- 2) **Z + MMB > Animation > Mouse Tracker**
- 3) Manipulate the object by using manipulators
- 4) Press **Esc** for stop the tracking



da_FacesFollicles

This script creates a follicle in the centre of selected faces:

- 1) Select one or more faces
- 2) **Z + LMB > Dynamics > Create Follicle**



da_Compass

This script converts Euler angle into a XYZ vector, for drive Nucleus, Air Filed and nCloth:

- 1) Select Nucleus icon, Air Filed icon or nCloth icon
- 2) **Z + LMB > Compass to Wind or Local Wind or Local Force**



Alternatively, is possible generate a standalone compass by using **Z + MMB > Compass**

da_CombineCurves

This script combines two or more curves in one transform node:

- 1) Select two or more curves
- 2) **Z + LMB > Combine**



Note: do not combine already combine curves, always first separate the combined curves then combining the curves again.

da_SepareCurves

This script separate combined curves:

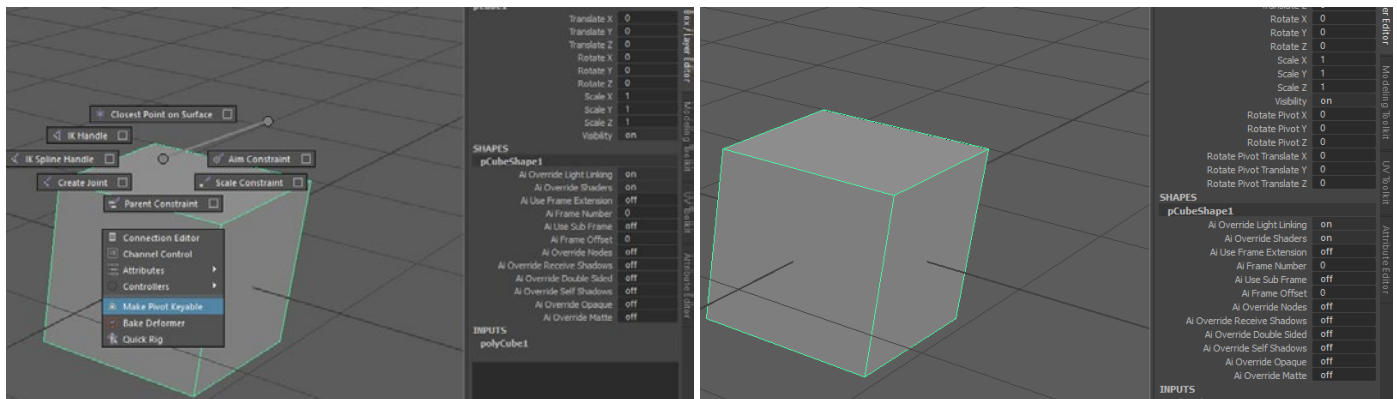
- 1) Select combined curves
- 2) **Z + LMB > Separate**



da_pivotKeyable

This script expose pivot position value to make possible animate it by using **S** hotkey:

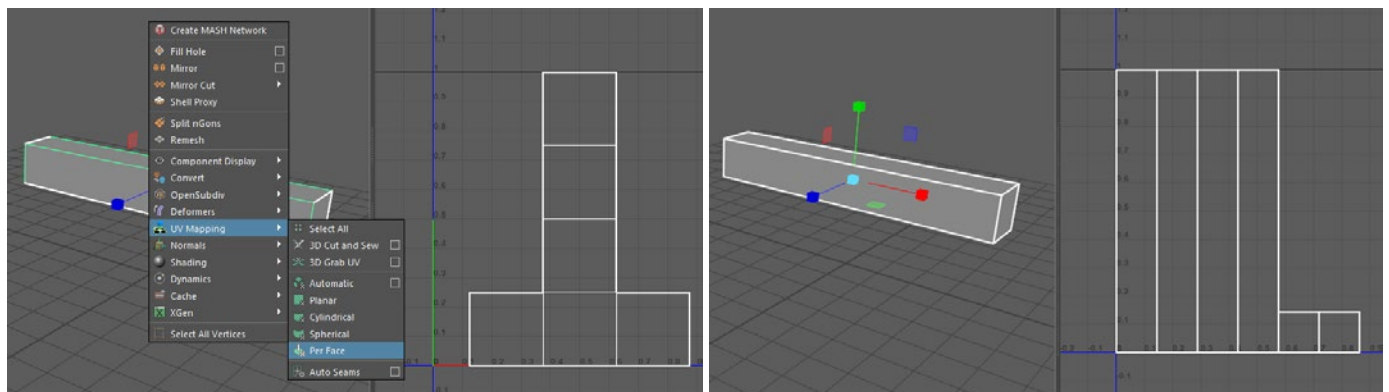
- 1) Select an object
- 2) **Z + MMB > Rigging > Make Pivot Keyable**
- 3) Animate the object as usual



da_MapFacesUV

This script maps any single faces of a mesh as separate planar UV shell:

- 1) Select one or multiple meshes, or one or multiple faces
- 2) **Z + LMB > UV Mapping > Per Face**



Third-party plug-ins

May9 Pro support some of the best third-party plug-ins available, some are included other need separate install due to license.

Context Connector [\(Video\)](#)

Context Connection is an advance tool for automate and manage single and multiple node connection, enable it under *May9 Pro > Context Connector*

For open Context Connection UI use *CTRL + J* shortcut or *Z + MMB > Rigging > Context Connector*



Massive Attribute Modifier

Massive Attribute Modifier is an advance tool simply wrap all the common attributes between the selected objects and display them in a list, enable it under *May9 Pro > Massive Attribute Modifier*

For open *Massive Attribute Modifier* UI use *CTRL + K* shortcut or *Z + MMB > Rigging > Massive Attribute Modifier*



Bool [\(Video\)](#)

Bool is a live boolean plug-in that's interactively adjust multiple boolean operations, is available to buy [here](#).

For use *Bool*, select two or more meshes and *Z + LMB > Booleans > Bool Tool*



ProSets (Video)

ProSets power up modelling workflow by using procedural components sets, is available to buy [here](#).

For use *ProSets*, select a mesh and **Z + LMB > Create ProSets**



ngSkinTools (Video)

ngSkinTools allows flexible and artistic workflow, while providing all the necessary tools for precision, is available to download or buy [here](#).

For use *ngSkinTools*, select a skinned mesh and **Z + LMB > ngSkin Tools > Initialize Skinning Layers**



SOuP

SOuP is a vast framework that brings a tonne of new functionality to Maya, is available to download or buy [here](#).

da_ViewportUV

This script makes a UV projection mesh in the Viewport:

- 1) Select a mesh
- 2) **Z + LMB > UV Mapping > Viewport UV**



da_ShatterMesh

This script shatters a mesh:

- 1) Select a mesh
- 2) **Z + LMB > Shatter Mesh**



da_TensionBlendShape

This script creates a blend shape deformer based on stretch and compression:

- 1) Select: a base mesh, a stretch one and a compress one
- 2) **Z + LMB > Deformers > Tension Blend Shape**



da_CollideOutward and da_CollideInward

These scripts create a collision deformer between meshes:

- 1) Select: a collide mesh and collision mesh
- 2) **Z + LMB** > *Deformers* > *Collide* > *Outward* or *Inward*



Edit Component List [\(Video\)](#)

This tool makes modeling tools procedural:

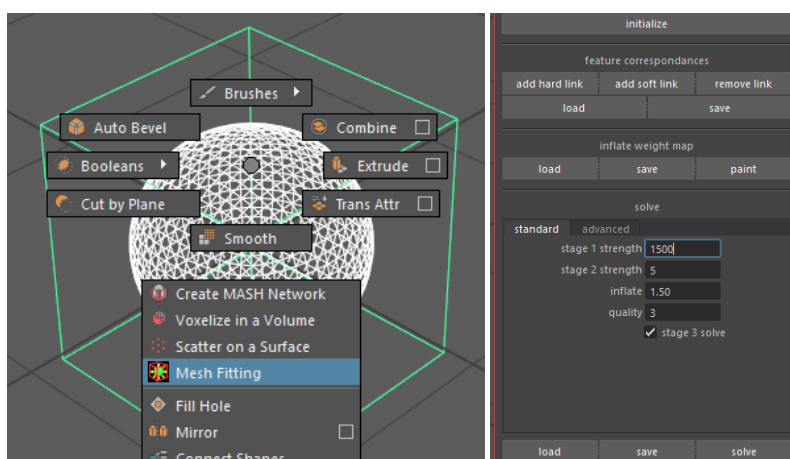
- 1) Select a mesh
- 2) **Z + LMB** > *Edit Component List*
- 3) Select one of the existing modeling operator and add or remove desired components



Mesh Fitting [\(Video\)](#)

This tool fit a different topology mesh to another one:

- 1) Select two meshes, a source one and target one
- 2) **Z + LMB** > *Mesh Fitting*



Smart Connect

This tool gives the ability to contextually connect objects attributes:

- 1) Select two objects or more objects, a source and target ones
- 2) Press **A + LMB**



Uninstallation

For uninstall *May9 Pro* run *source May9_uninstall.mel* as MEL command and restart *Autodesk Maya*.

Important note: during the uninstallation process the *Hotkey Set* previous to *May9 Pro* installation is restored and *May9 Pro Hotkey Set* deleted.

Release notes

May9 Pro 3.2 work in any *Workspace*, anyway the use of *Maya Classic* is high suggested.

May9 Pro 3.2 hotkeys add or substitute the actual *Hotkey Set* when installed.

May9 Pro 3.2 is tested and develop on *Autodesk Maya 2018.3*.

Useful links

Facebook page: fb.com/May9Prefs

YouTube channel: youtube.com/c/May9

Credits and license

May9 Pro design, scripts and preferences are made by *Davide Alidosi* and licensed under MIT license.

MMtoKey is made by *Andrey Menshikov* and licensed under a custom non-commercial license.

Context Connector is made by *Pavel Korolyov* and licensed under MIT license.

Massive Attribute Modifier is made by *Mehdi Louala* and licensed under Creative Commons Attribution 4.0.

Bool is made by *Mainframe North* and licensed under custom EULA.

ProSets is made by *Mainframe North* and licensed under custom EULA.

ngSkinTools is made by *Viktoras Makauskas* and licensed under custom license.

SOuP is made by *Peter Shipkov* and licensed under custom license.