# TilePlus Toolkit User Guide

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# "Read This First!"

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# What is this... Thing?

TilePlus Toolkit (TPT) is a unique way to work with Unity Tilemaps. There's a new combination Painting / Editing tool called Tile+Painter (T+P), a library of new types of tiles which are editable in the scene, utilities, and demo projects.

Tile+Painter has its own documentation, please reference that for more information. There's another document called "Advanced TileFab Use". Don't read that first! Read the Programmer's Guide next.

#### What Can I Do With It?

One of the issues that developers run into with Tilemap use is that there's no way to add fields (variables) to tiles and have the data saved in the scene just like the fields of scripts used for components. This is because when you create a tile, it's just a template that the Tilemap uses to display a sprite or an animation. There's only one tile asset in use, no matter how many times it's painted on to a Tilemap.

Besides that, the Selection Inspector used by the Palette Brush (this is the inspector that you see when you select a tile using the Palette) is incapable of displaying any custom fields (for a good reason).

For many (including your TPT developer) this is annoying, to say the least. Perhaps you want a configurable waypoint. Maybe you want to be able to paint a tile and set it up as a spawn zone. And you want to be able to edit fields as you usually do.

This is what TPT can do for you.

<b>Custom fields</b>	Most common fields are supported for editing.
Tile+Brush	Enhanced Selection and Brush inspectors.
Tile+Painter	Alternative tile Palette optimized for TilePlus system.
Better animated tiles	Start/Stop, multiple animation sequences.
Spawners	Set an area visually, spawn prefabs or tiles.
Loaders	Set an area visually, load a Tilemap section.
SlideShow	Display sprites sequentially.

For coders, there's a complete API that includes features such as:

Each TPT Tile has its own instance data. Any Unity-Serializable type is fine.

Position-independent access by Type, Interface, Tags, with filtering. Simple messaging and Events systems.

All the tile instance data is saved in the Scene. No external data store required. No effect to or changes to any Unity components such as Tilemap or Grid.

Simple Async-based timed callbacks can be used in TPT Tile code.

Your fields and properties can be decorated with attributes and edited in TPT inspectors with a new brush or within Tile+Painter.

A prefab pooler (with preloading) that can be used with spawners or for any other purpose.

DOTween supported for the color, size, or position of a tile's sprite.

Multiple-layered Tilemaps can be preserved in total or subject to a Grid Selection, then painted on a Tilemap and/or loaded at runtime. This can be used in the provided basic Chunking system for filling/deleting arbitrary-sized areas as the camera moves. Tilemaps can also be preserved as Prefabs.

Complete, documented source is included.

# Let's talk about the new types of tiles.

One of the big limitations of Unity Tiles is that they're basically templates and can't store any data other than what's already set up in the Tile class: generally, just Color, transform, Collider, GameObject, and so on. Not that there's anything wrong with that! But there's no possibility of instance data: data specifically related to just one tile. There's no Update method and no simple way to have timed functions like delays.

This means that actual functionality – doing something – can't be done in a tile, or at least it's more difficult than it needs to be.

TPT tiles work differently (see the Programmer's Guide) but simply, TPT tiles are promoted from Project assets to Scene objects. When you save the Scene, the TPT tiles are saved along with everything else in the Scene, along with any data in the tile.

TPT is based on new Tile asset classes and a support library. Unlike normal tiles, modifying fields after painting does not alter the original tile asset. This opens new possibilities for working with tiles and requires no changes to the standard Tilemap system. No modifying Scene files; none of that. Just code.

The sample tiles included with TPT add much more flexible animation capabilities, tiles with trigger zones for spawning prefabs (built-in pooling) or tiles, tiles with trigger zones that work with custom coding to load new sections of your tilemap, and more.

These tiles can have references to GameObjects, components, asset files, and so on.

At a higher level, TPT can bundle portions of, or entire Tilemaps into custom Assets and Prefabs. These can be painted directly on Tilemaps, dynamically loaded at runtime, and much more.

#### Caveat

As you may already know, UnityEngine.Objects in Unity Scenes can't be referred to by a Prefab. So, if you drag one or more Tilemaps into a prefab then TPT tiles will, in technical terms, get all messed up.

No worries though, there's a Tools/TilePlus menu function that lets you create compatible Prefabs of single or multiple Tilemaps at once. However, saving your Tilemaps inside Scenes is the most flexible workflow and "just works."

Even if you want to use load one or more Tilemaps as Prefabs, the flexibility of these new Tile types can be extremely useful, even with the workflow changes. But it's possible to re-think the organization of a project and not use Tilemap prefabs at all.

Check out the **Workflow** section for more information.

The FAQs section at the end of this document may have answers to some of your questions.

# Required Unity Version

Unity3D 2022.2 or later is required.

### What's in the Box?

Installing the TilePlus Toolkit UnityPackage will add a few folders to your Assets folder:

- Assets/Gizmos/TilePlus
- Assets/Plugins/TilePlus
- Assets/TilePlus Extras
  - Assets/TilePlus Extras/Demos
  - Assets/TilePlus Extras/Documentation
  - Assets/TilePlus Extras/Tests

The **Assets/Gizmos/TilePlus** folder should never be removed unless you're deleting the entire TPT package: the image files within are used to provide custom icons for tiles and scripts.

**Assets/Plugins/TilePlus** contains Editor and Runtime code, Tile+Painter, a new Palette Brush called the "Tile+Brush," and several new Tiles that you can use or add features to if you're into Unity programming. **This folder should not be moved**.

The **Assets/TilePlus Extras** folder is optional, and you can remove it with no effect. Here you'll find documentation and demo projects. Demo projects are discussed in the Programmer's Guide. Documentation includes an API reference in zipped-website format.

# Setup

Dependencies: 2D Tilemap Editor and 2D Tilemap Extras are required, the latter for Rule tile support.

**Assemblies:** There are two assemblies – TilePlus.Editor and TilePlus, neither of which should be deleted or modified.

**Palette Brush**: After installation, the Tile+Brush replaces the default Brush that comes with the 2D Tilemap Editor package.

If you want to keep the default brush available in the Palette window, you need to make a minor change to a file. Unfortunately, there's no other way to do this.

In the Project window, navigate to Plugins/TilePlus/Editor/Brush/TilePlusBrush.cs and open that file in your code editor. Right near the beginning of the file, just above the [CustomGridBrush] attribute, there are instructions on how to do this. It's easy, just comment out one line and uncomment the other.

The Tile+Brush remains available; it just won't be the default anymore.

#### **Important:**

The **Plugins/TilePlus** folder should not be relocated.

# Compiler #defines

If you'd like to use DOTween in your TPT tile code, or if you want to use the DOTweenDemo sample in TilePlus Extras, you need to (obviously) install **DOTween** from the asset store (the free version is OK) and add the **TPT\_DOTWEEN** definition to the Player settings. If you add the definition but not DOTween then there will be numerous error messages in the console window.

The TPT\_DOTWEEN definition enables the use of DOTween via an optional "DOTween Adapter." See the Programmer's Guide for more information.

# Reinstalling

It's best to totally delete the TilePlus folder prior to upgrading to a new release. Please note that if you've changed any of the shortcuts (see **Menu Items**, below) then the original shortcuts may be reapplied, and you might need to manage any resulting conflicts in the Shortcuts manager.

### **Menu Items**

After installation, there's a new "Tools/TilePlus" menu.

- Tile+Painter
- Prefabs/Bundle Tilemaps
- Prefabs/Unlocked Tiles test
- Configuration Editor
- Tile+Painter Transform Editor
- Refresh TpLib
- System Info
- Quick Open Palette
- Shortcut Viewer
- Utilities/Update TileFab Asset GUIDs
- Utilities/Delete Null Tiles
- Utilities/Update Tile+ GUIDs
- Utilities/Change Tile+ tile State
- Clear Selected Tilemaps
- Template Tool

**Tile+Painter** is a multipurpose single-tile Painter and Editor. See the Tile+Painter documentation.

The next two menu items are explained more fully in the Workflow section, below.

**Prefabs/Bundle Tilemaps** makes a TileFab (Tilemap prefab) and/or a standard prefab. Also available in the GameObject menu and the Hierarchy context menu as **TilePlus Bundler**. A Grid or Tilemap must be selected to proceed.

**Prefabs/Unlocked Tiles test** can be used to check a Locked Tilemap for UnLocked TPT tiles. One cannot have unlocked TPT tiles on a Locked Tilemap. Select a single Tilemap, then use this command. Output is to the console.

**Configuration Editor** is used to customize the TilePlus system. See the Configuration Editor section, below.

**Tile+Painter Transform Editor** is a simple utility that allows you to preset custom tile transforms for use when Painting tiles. See the Tile+Painter documentation for more information.

**Refresh TpLib** will clear the data structures in TpLib and rescan all Tilemaps in all open scenes. You shouldn't have to use this.

**System Info** opens an Editor window with TilePlus system information. Please note that this window *constantly* refreshes even when the Editor is in Play mode. It's purely informational.

**Quick Open Palette** is just a shortcut for Window/2D/Palette. Call me lazy.

**Shortcut Viewer** displays a dockable window containing the Tile+Painter shortcuts.

**Update TileFab Asset GUIDs** provides a way to update the GUIDs that are part of certain assets. See the Notes section for more information.

**Delete Null Tiles**: select a single Tilemap. This handy function scans the map for null tile references with non-null sprites and deletes them.

**Clear Selected Tilemaps**: select a single Tilemap or a Grid with child Tilemaps, then use this menu item. All the tiles will be cleared and *all GameObjects parented to these Tilemaps* are deleted. Undo is used but be careful. If there's a Grid Selection (made using the Palette or Tile+Painter or the Tile+Painter GridSelection panel) then the clearing is restricted to the Grid Selection region

**Change Tile+ tile State:** Select a Tile+ tile asset in the Project folder and change its state from Asset to Locked or from Locked to Asset. This can have strange consequences so only use it if necessary: primarily useful for debugging.

**Template Tool** is used to create pattern templates. See "Advanced TileFab Use" for more information.

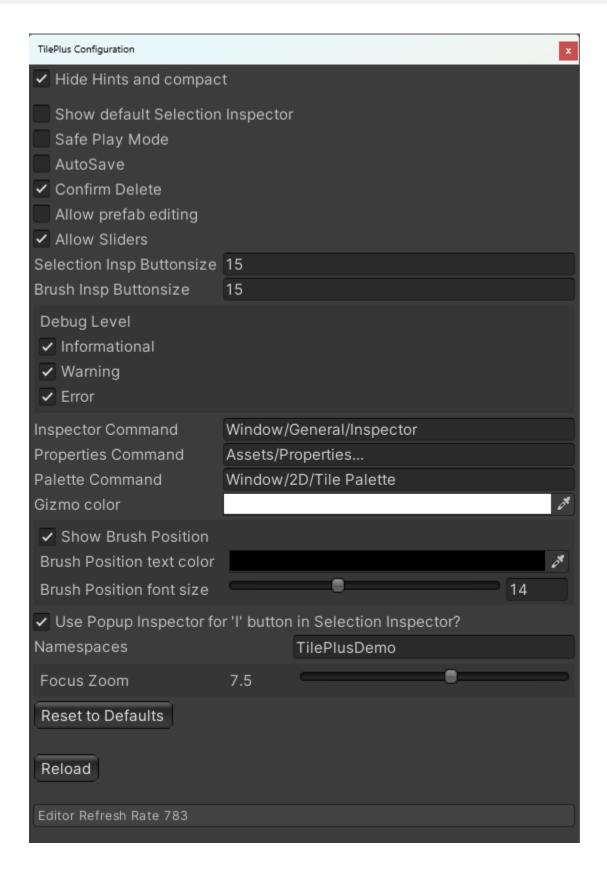
#### Shortcuts

Several shortcuts are provided for your convenience:

- Hold down the '1' key to allow painting over an existing tile. See "Brush Inspector," below.
- Alt+1 opens the Tile+Painter Window.
  - o This window has its own shortcuts as explained in the T+P documentation.
- Alt+2 opens the System Info window.
- Alt+3 opens the Tile+Painter Transform Editor.
- Alt+4 opens the Template Tool
- Hold down Alt+5 to drag a Grid Selection.

These can be modified in the Unity Shortcut manager (Edit/Shortcuts) in the TilePlus category. Tile+Painter has numerous shortcuts of its own, largely emulating those of the Unity Palette editor window but with <ALT> added.

# Configuration Editor



The **Configuration Editor** is used to customize TilePlus. These are saved on a *per-project* basis.

- **Hide Hints and compact** When checked, hides all the hint sections so that the display is less cluttered.
- **Show default Selection Inspector** When checked, shows the default selection inspector in a foldout at the top of the Tile+Brush Selection Inspector. Please click Reload after changing this.
- Allow BackSpace/Delete, available when Show default Selection Inspector is checked, can be used to control the behavior of the Tile+Brush Selection Inspector regarding the use of Backspace and Delete keys. The default Selection Inspector's behavior for the Delete or Backspace keys (deleting the tile) makes it impossible to properly edit fields in the remaining part of the Inspector. For this reason, the Tile+Brush intercepts those two keys when the default inspector foldout is open. This doesn't affect Selection Inspectors associated with other brushes. If Allow BackSpace/Delete is checked, be careful editing custom data fields such as text fields or Vector-type fields: if you use the Backspace or Delete key to edit, the tile that you are inspecting will be deleted. Best to leave this unchecked, and use a different brush if you want to delete tiles with BKSP or DEL.
- Safe Play Mode disables the Selection Inspector and Tile+Painter display of tile fields and properties during Play mode. This eliminates most of the overhead of examining and evaluating TPT tiles which might happen to be visible in an Inspector during Play.
  - Normally, editable fields will display in a read-only mode while the Editor is in Play mode but there's still some overhead. See the Programmer's Guide to learn how to add granularity to this feature.
- AutoSave If checked, open Scenes are saved after editing a TPT in the Selection Inspector or Tile+Painter.
- **Confirm Delete** If checked, deleting tiles via the Tile+Painter or the Tile+Brush's Selection Inspector pop up a confirmation dialog box.
- **Allow Prefab Editing** If checked, you can open prefabs created by *Tools/TilePlus/Prefabs/Bundle Tilemaps*. Note that modifications to such prefabs may result in prefab corruption. This is discussed in the Programmer's Guide.
- **Allow Sliders** If this is checked, TPT fields set up for using slider controls are permitted. See Programmer's Guide for more information.
- **Selection Inspector and Brush Inspector** fields can be used to adjust the size of buttons in the respective inspectors.
- Informational, Warning, and Error Messages control which types of messages appear in the console.
  - o Note that in a built application, these settings are irrelevant, and only error messages are logged.
  - o Please click the Reload button after changing any of these.
  - o If **Informational** is on there will be many console messages that you don't normally need to see.
- **Inspector and Palette commands:** Several functions depend on these embedded strings which provide the menu paths to these functions. If those change you can change these strings.
- **Gizmo Color:** Change the color used for Gizmos.
- **Show Brush Position**: When checked, the Tilemap grid position is displayed next to the painting cursor, using the text color and font size specified below the checkbox. If the grid selection is greater than one unit then the size of the selection is also displayed. The text color and text size fields can be used to adjust the appearance.
- Use Pop-up Inspector: When opening an inspector from the Selection Inspector the same Inspector window is used unless this toggle is checked; in which case a pop-up inspector will be used instead.
- Namespaces: This expanding text field controls which C# namespaces the GUI formatter recognizes. See the Programmer's Guide for more information.

- **Focus Zoom:** Sets the zoom factor used by the Selection Inspector toolbar Focus button. Smaller numbers zoom closer to the tile.
- Reset to Defaults resets all the configuration settings to their defaults.
- Reload forces a scripting reload. Click this if you change the setting of certain fields in the
  Configuration editor. Note that the tooltips for a number of these settings mention that you need to click
  Reload for the change to take effect: Show default Selection Inspector, Namespaces, Allow Sliders,
  Safe Play, Inspector Button Size values, Allow Prefab Editing, and Informational, Warning, and Error
  messages.

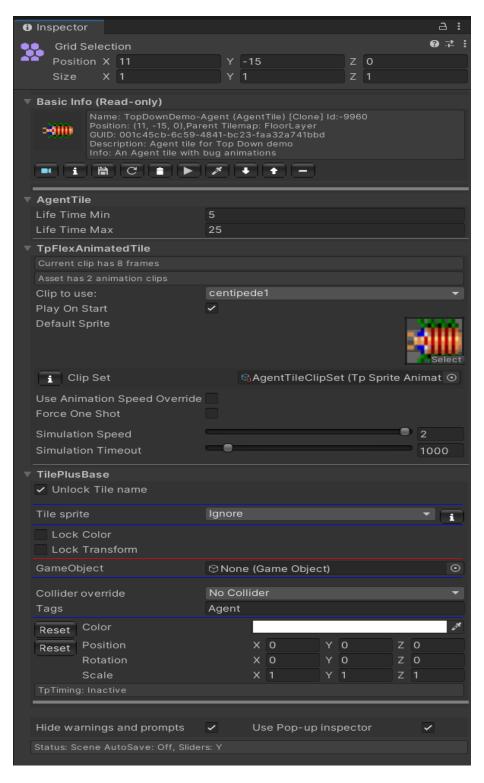
These same controls are also available in the lower section of the Tile+Painter Settings pane.

# The Tile+Brush

The Tile+Brush has enhanced Brush and Selection Inspectors. The default brush is replaced with the Tile+Brush, but you can restore the default brush as explained in *Setup*, above.

# Selection Inspector

Here's an example of a Selection Inspector. This is used in Tile+Painter and as the Selection Inspector for the Tile+Brush.



The Default Inspector, which is the Inspector from the Default brush, is hidden in this image, but can be made available in a foldout via a configuration option.

The **Basic Info** section displays read-only information from the tile. This area changes depending on what type of tile is being inspected. The last two items on the first line are the state of the tile and the Instance ID. For this inspector, the state will be [Clone] or [Locked]. Normally you can ignore this; there's a full explanation of what the state means in the Programmer's Guide.

The **Toolbar is** followed by fields and properties from the inspected tile, ordered by the tile's class hierarchy. Each section is in a foldout. See the Toolbar section below for more information about changing the display.

The TilePlusBase foldout is always the bottom element and has some special functionality.

- Unlock Tile name. When unchecked, the tile's name can be edited.
- **Tile Sprite** is used to control visibility of the Tile's sprite. This is handy if you just want to use the GameObject of the Tile and don't want the sprite to appear on the Tilemap, but you want to see it in the Palette or Painter.
  - o If this is set to ClearOnStart or ClearInSceneViewAndOnStart then the Tile's sprite will be invisible when painted. You can still find it using Painter and change the setting directly.
- The **Lock Color and Lock Transform** flags can be used to change the **flags** setting on the Tilemap and the tile instance's flags value.
  - If you add a GameObject to the tile, the GameObject Runtime-only and Retain flags become visible.
- Collider override can be set to No Override, which means that the setting from the tile asset in the project folder is used. The other settings can be used to set the collider type on a per-tile basis. This action occurs during the execution of the tile's GetTileData method.
- **Tags** is a field where you can place one or more comma-delimited tags. TpLib methods can be used to look for tagged tiles.
- Color is a field that be used to change the **sprite color** on the Tilemap and tile instance's color value.
- The **Position**, **Rotation**, and **Scale** fields can be used to affect the **transform** of the sprite on the Tilemap and the tile instance's transform value.

Certain tiles use a built-in capability to inhibit the visibility of the Name, Collider, Tags, Color, and/or Transform sections of the foldout. For example, tiles such as TpAnimZoneLoader and TpAnimZoneSpawner modify the sprite transform as you adjust the zone size. These tiles hide the transform fields since the transform shouldn't be modified by humans.

To be clear, modifying flags, transform, or color in the Selection Inspector or Tile+Painter changes the corresponding value in the tile instance *and* on the parent Tilemap of the tile. When you save the scene, the changes in the tile are preserved. The original tile asset in the project folder is not affected.

In Tile+Painter, modifications of this sort can be performed on picked locations which have Unity Tiles (i.e., not TilePlus tiles). In that case, the only thing affected is the Tilemap. The asset in the project folder is not affected.

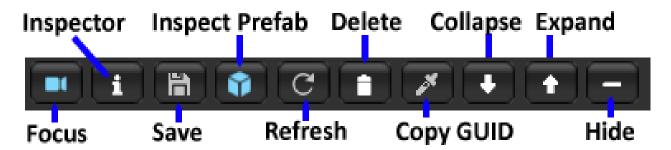
Some tiles will display ► buttons in the inspected tile's fields area. These invoke methods in the tile and are useful for testing your tiles, especially for TilePlus' animated tiles.

When the Editor is in Play mode the display will change somewhat, as most of the information becomes readonly, and some additional data appears showing the state of the animation flags (introduced in 2022.2).

When looking at a TilePlus Tile asset in the Editor, you can change the Description and Info fields. These appear in the Basic Info section as shown above, and in the Brush Inspector. You may find these fields useful: one use would be prompts to remind you what the tile does before you paint it.

# Inspector Toolbar

The Selection Inspector shows this toolbar:



Focus Focus scene view on selected tile.
Inspector Open an inspector for the tile.
Save Save the tile as a new asset.

• **Inspect Prefab** If the tile has a GameObject then this button appears: open an inspector for the prefab.

Refresh Refresh the tile.Delete Delete the tile.

• **Copy GUID** Copy the GUID of a tile to the clipboard.

Collapse Collapse all the tile sections.
 Expand Expand all the tile sections.
 Hide Hide all details of the sections.

The example Selection Inspector as seen in the previous section has an additional Toolbar button only seen with certain tiles: this is the Simulate ► button. Simulate is an editor-only function that, well, *simulates* what the tile will do at runtime. For example, with TpAnimatedTile or TpFlexAnimatedTile the simulate function will cycle through the animation sequence so that you can preview it. For TpSlideShow, simulate displays the slide show tiles. It's a convenient way to preview what your tile will do at runtime and is especially handy when you're editing tiles in the scene and want to see if the changes make sense. It's a simulation and won't be exact. There's more information about this in the Programmer's Guide.

# About the Focus button

This button zooms the scene view to center the selected TilePlus tile. Use Tools/TilePlus/Configuration Editor to set the zoom. Larger numbers will show more of the scene view.

# About the Inspect Prefab button

This button appears **only** if the Tile has a GameObject. What is inspected when you click this button depends on a Tile flags setting:

- Instantiate-Runtime-Only is ON: Prefab asset in the Project folder.
- Instantiate-Runtime-Only is OFF: GameObject instance of the Prefab in the Scene.

This can occasionally be confusing: if you did not have Instantiate-Runtime-Only ON when the Tile is painted then the Tile creates the scene GameObject immediately. If you later turn this flag OFF, the scene GameObject will not be removed! In this edge case the GameObject in the Scene is what will be inspected.

The instanced GameObject in the scene isn't editable. Hence, the only way to remove the GameObject from the scene is to delete the Tile. This is a Unity effect, not a TilePlus effect.

# Why Save a painted tile as a new asset?

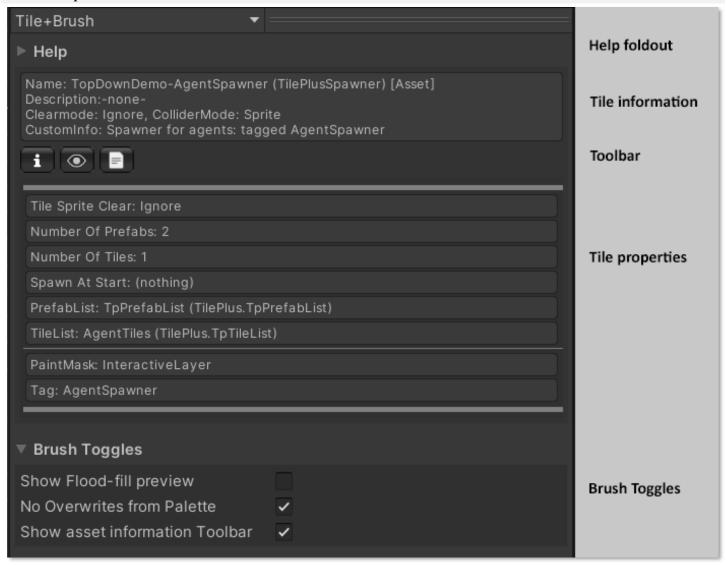
You can save any painted TPT tile as a new asset file. This is an important feature, as you can create a TPT tile as a prototype, customize it in-editor and then save it as a new asset which can be dragged into a Palette.

# Why copy the GUID?

For an example, see the Animation demo program (TpTileProxyAnimOnOff.cs)in the TilePlus Extras folder. There you'll see UI buttons which can trigger Animation on/off in the animated tiles. The UI buttons send the GUID to a script that looks up the tile reference via TpLib.GetTilePlusBaseFromGuidString and calls the ActivateAnimation method in the tile. The toolbar button lets you copy the GUID rather than trying to type it in.

GUIDs are used a lot in the TilePlus system as an alternative (i.e., not the primary) way to locate and/or communicate with TPT tiles.

# Brush Inspector



The Help foldout at the top has some hints about how to use this inspector, followed by information about the tile. Note that the last item on the first line indicates the state of the tile. For this inspector, the state will be [Asset] or in rare situations, [Locked].

The Toolbar allows you to open an inspector for the tile asset, focus the Project window on the asset, or open the asset script in your programming IDE.

The center area has information about the tile asset being inspected. If there's a GameObject associated with the tile (via the GameObject field in the asset) then a preview of the prefab is shown, if possible. Like the Selection Inspector, the tile information is divided according to the class hierarchy, but there are no foldouts, just some thin lines to point out the division. None of the information is editable, but you can click the leftmost toolbar button to open an inspector.

The Brush Toggles foldout has a few options: Flood Fill preview, overwrite protection, and a toggle to hide the Toolbar.

Overwrite protection, available only when the Tile+Brush is the active brush, prevents painting over existing tiles.

You can override the Overwrite protection or the PaintMask by holding down a key defined in Unity's shortcuts editor (Edit/Shortcuts). The default is '1'. This makes it easy to paint over a tile (overwrite) without toggling the control in the Brush Toggles section, or to paint a tile on a tilemap that's not in the PaintMask list without changing the Paintmask field in the tile asset. A strike-through line inside the painting marquee is shown while the shortcut key is held down.

# **Preconfigured Tile Types**

TPT comes with several tiles for you to use or extend. Some are described here; other more complex tiles are discussed in the Programmer's Guide.

Some fields common to all TPT tile assets:

- Name: change the name of this tile. Not shown if *Lock/Unlock Tile Name* is checked.
- Lock/Unlock Tile name: Controls visibility of Name field.
- **Collider Override**: Override the collider setting in the asset. Choose from No override, Sprite, Grid, or None.
- **Tags**: A string to use for one or more comma-delimited tags. Functions in TpLib let you search for tiles with tags. *Note: the tag ----- (six hyphens) is reserved and should not be used. If used, an error is printed to the console and the tag will be ignored.*
- **PaintMask**: Editor only, a List of Tilemap names that the tile can be painted on or excluded from.
  - o You can change this field by inspecting the source asset in the Project window.
  - o If the List is empty, then the tile can be painted on any Tilemap.
  - Changing the PaintMask has no effect on already placed tiles and only works with the Tile+Brush.
  - o A tilemap is *included* if the first character of a PaintMask isn't the '!' character.
  - o A tilemap is excluded if the first character of a PaintMask is the '!' character.
  - o See note below about the TpNoPaint MonoBehaviour component.
- **Custom Tile Info**: Editor only, lets you display a customized message about your tile in the Tile+Brush Inspector.
- Flags: Override the Lock Color and Lock Transform tile flags set in the asset.
  - If you add a GameObject to the tile, the GameObject Runtime-only and Retain flags become visible.
- Color/Transform fields: Change Color and Transform settings as the Flags setting and tile type allow.

After being painted, you can edit the **Name**, **Tag** and the **Collider** mode in the Selection Inspector or Tile+Painter via the foldout section for TilePlusBase parameters. Additionally, the tile **Flags** can be edited. If they allow changing color, a color picker becomes available. If the flags allow changes to the tile's transform, then fields are available which allow changing positions, scale, and rotation. Certain tile types won't allow Name, Color, Tags, Collider, or Transform modifications as they modify them internally within the tile code.

Modifying flags, collider, transform, or color in the Selection Inspector or Tile+Painter changes the corresponding value in the tile instance *and* on the parent Tilemap of the tile. When you save the scene, the changes in the tile are preserved. The original tile asset in the project folder is not affected.

In Tile+Painter, modifications of this sort can be performed on picked locations which have Unity Tiles (i.e., not TilePlus tiles). In that case, the only thing affected is the Tilemap. The asset in the project folder is not affected.

Note that the Tilemap Renderer sometimes will cull sprites which you've enlarged via the transform size setting. See the FAQ at the end of this guide for more information.

Some tiles have a Simulation Speed and Simulation Timeout. There's more information about this in the Programmer's Guide.

To force the Tile+Brush or the Tile+Painter to **NEVER** paint on a Tilemap, attach the TpNoPaint MonoBehaviour component to that Tilemap's GameObject. This has the same effect as the PaintMask but

applies to any tile painting via the Tile+Brush or Tile+Painter. Note that the hotkey override also applies if you want to paint on the tilemap anyway.

# TpAnimatedTile

**TpAnimatedTile** is a simple animated tile and if you want to learn about the code, it's the simplest TPT Tile.

#### Public fields:

- PlayOnStart: Begin animation when the game starts.
- AnimationSpeed: Set animation speed relative to that set in the Tilemap.
- OneShot: Play the animation once, then stop.
- Rewind After One Shot: if checked, after a one-shot animation, the animation rewinds to the first sprite.
  - o To return to the Tile's sprite, use the ActivateAnimation method to turn off animation.
- Update Physics: see the description of this Tile Animation Flag in the Unity documentation.
- AnimatedSprites: A list of sprites to animate.

Note that for TpAnimatedTile the static tile is the tile sprite. For TpFlexAnimatedTile the sprite specified by a clip's DefaultTileIndex value is displayed. If that doesn't work (it's incorrect or the sprite is null) then the static tile is the tile sprite.

If painting this tile via script, see the FAQ entry "Animated tile not animating."

# TpFlexAnimatedTile

**TpFlexAnimatedTile** is an upgraded TpAnimatedTile that adds the ability to have multiple animation sequences contained in an asset file. Once placed, you can select on a per-tile basis which animation sequence is used initially, and several other settings, including whether to play automatically when the Scene is loaded, and which sequence is in use. When using many animated tiles, the use of an asset is more memory efficient than TpAnimatedTile.

The asset file for this tile is **TpSpriteAnimationClipSet**, and its fields are mostly the same as those for TpAnimatedTile. You can create it from the Assets/Create menu.

#### Public fields:

- PlayOnStart: Begin animation when the game starts, using the preset animation sequence.
- DefaultSprite: Sprite to display when nothing else is available, for example, a missing ClipSet asset.
- ClipSet: The TpSpriteAnimationClipSet asset from your Project folder.
- UseAnimationSpeedOverride: Don't use the animation speed from the Clipset.
- AnimationSpeedOverride: Use this animation speed if UseAnimationSpeedOverride is checked.
- ForceOneShot: Ignore the OneShot setting in the ClipSet asset and always play one-shot animations.
- Rewind After One Shot: after a one-shot animation is completed the animation rewinds to the first image. Overrides the RewindAfterOneShot setting in the animation clip IF ForceOneShot is checked.
  - o To return to the Tile's sprite, use the ActivateAnimation method to turn off animation.
- Update Physics: see the description of this Tile Animation Flag in the Unity documentation.

When inspecting one of these tiles using the Selection Inspector, you'll see a dropdown *Clip to use* where you can select the animation sequence from the ClipSet to be used when your game starts. This can also be changed via code.

If painting this tile via script, see the FAQ entry "Animated tile not animating."

# TpSlideShow

**TpSlideShow** lets you display one Sprite at a time from a list of Sprites contained in an asset file. The initial Sprite to display can be changed, and you move from one Sprite to the next programmatically, with automatic wrapping or limiting, or set the displayed sprite directly. Wrapping means that incrementing from the last slide returns to the first slide (or when decrementing, from the last slide to the first slide) and limiting means that incrementing from the last slide or decrementing from the first slide has no effect. This tile is used for the background in the BasicTiles demo.

The asset file for this tile is **TpSlideShowSpriteSet**, and its fields discussed in the Programmer's Guide. You can create it from the Assets/Create menu.

#### Public fields:

- SlidesClipSet: The TpSlideShowSpriteSet asset from your Project folder.
- SlideShowAtStart: The name of the slide show to show when your game starts.
- WrappingOverride: Override the 'wrap' setting from the TpSlideShowSpriteSet asset.
- SlideIndexAtStart: is useful to set which slide is used when the app starts, and you can set this in the UI.
- CopyToSlideIndex: if checked, the ChangeSlide buttons copy the current slide index to SlideIndexAtStart. Convenience function useful when using only one slide show from a slide show sprite set.

When inspecting one of these tiles using the Selection Inspector, you'll see a dropdown where you can select which slideshow set from the TpSlideShowSpriteSet to be used at start. This can also be changed via code.

### Others

TpAnimZoneBase, TpAnimZoneLoader, and TpAnimZoneSpawner are discussed in the Programmer's Guide.

# Workflow

You probably work with Tilemaps in one of two ways:

- Saved with or in a Scene
- Saved in a Prefab

### Saved with a Scene

When you paint a TPT tile it's saved with the scene and will be present in a build.

- The TPT tile in the scene is not affected by changes to the asset in the Project folder.
- The asset in the Project folder is not affected by changes to the tile in the scene.

If you paint over the TPT tile, it's deleted from the scene and will no longer be saved. Essentially, the TPT tile becomes like any other Object in the scene.

Once you edit the painted TPT tile in-scene you can save it as a new tile asset, drag that into the palette, and paint that. This is especially useful when prototyping or for creating backups.

This is the easiest way to make the most of this new type of tile. Remaining in the scene, you can have references to Scene Objects like GameObjects, Components, etc. in your tile scripts. Once a tile is painted, you can select it with the Palette, edit it in the Tile+Brush Selection Inspector or Tile+Painter, and drag references such as GameObjects into the painted TPT tile fields. Think of it as a Tile promoted to a GameObject, just without a Transform component. That's close enough for rock and roll.

### Scene References

When a TPT tile is in the Scene, it can have references to other Objects in the Scene. For example, you can have a reference to a GameObject and access its components for scripting, right within the TPT tile's code if you like.

# Saved in a Prefab or TileFab

When you create a prefab by dragging a Grid with child Tilemaps to the Project folder, all references to Objects in the Scene are lost just like any other Prefab that you might create. This includes all TPT tiles. If you were to open the Prefab, the locations where TPT tiles had been placed would be replaced with pink or other oddly colored tiles. There's an alternative workflow, but first:

# The functionality described here isn't guaranteed to work in all situations.

If you mouse-drag a Tilemap or any GameObject that has Tilemaps as child GameObjects into a project folder to create a prefab, and there are any TPT tiles, the system will warn you in the console, and will unlink the items you dragged from when you created this prefab so that the scene Tilemaps won't be corrupted. You may as well delete the prefab that you created as it isn't useful.

To make a compatible prefab:

- Select a Grid with child Tilemaps or a single Tilemap,
- Make a Grid Selection using the Tile Palette or Tile+Painter.

Then use the Hierarchy window's **TilePlus Bundler** command or the main menu's **Tools/TilePlus/Prefabs/Bundle Tilemaps** command.

If a Grid or a single Tilemap is selected, then all the tiles on and child Prefabs of the Tilemaps are bundled. If a Grid Selection is made, you'll be prompted to confirm that you want to use the Grid Selection to limit which tiles and Prefabs are bundled. If so, ALL tiles and Prefabs in any Tilemap within the selection are archived.

This command archives Tilemap contents into one or more *TpTileBundle* assets (Bundles, from now on) and optionally creates a special type of prefab. But at this point its use is restricted to simple situations:

- Archive a single selected Tilemap into a Bundle asset along with a TileFab asset.
- Archive a single selected Grid and its child Tilemaps into multiple Bundle assets along with a TileFab asset, with optional prefab creation.

**To be clear:** Compatible prefabs can only comprise a Grid with child Tilemaps and any GameObjects parented to the Tilemaps. If you try to use a multiple selection, or any Grid or Tilemap are in or part of a prefab, then the process will complain and quit.

The **bundler** generally follows this process:

- Is the Grid or Tilemap in a prefab or are you editing in a preview scene? Start again.
- If the selection was not a grid, you're asked if you want to continue. No: Start again
  - o If the selection isn't a grid, then you can't make a prefab, just archives.
- For each tilemap:
  - o Is the Tilemap part of a Prefab? Start again.
- Select destination folder. Advice: use a different folder each time!
  - o Is the folder the Assets folder? Start again.
- If the selection was a grid, you're asked if you want to make a Prefab of the Grid and all child Tilemaps (a Tilemap prefab).
  - o If making a Prefab, you're asked if you want to bundle any Prefabs which are children of the Tilemap GameObjects.
- If the selection was a single Tilemap, you're asked if you want to add any Prefabs which are children of the Tilemap GameObject, and if those should be saved as new Prefabs or Variant Prefabs.

It's simpler than that sounds! The choices are presented to you via several dialog boxes and file pickers.

With this information, the bundler creates the TpTileBundle assets: one for each Tilemap, then adds all the TPT tiles to the asset. For Unity tiles, it preserves the information in the Tilemap for each tile (color, transform matrix, and flags) as well as a reference to the original Unity tile asset.

If you're not making a Tilemap prefab, any prefabs which are children of Tilemaps are copied and preserved as new assets in the selected folder. Note that this will not save anything other than prefabs. This is not necessary when you are making a Tilemap prefab since any child GameObjects, prefab or not, will be preserved in the Tilemap prefab.

Note that GameObjects that are instantiated because the Tiles' GameObject field caused the Tile to instance a GameObject into the scene **are not archived**. When the TpTileBundle asset is painted (programmatically or via the Tile+Painter) the Tiles re-create the prefab in the scene for you.

A TileFab asset is also created in the same folder. This asset has references to all the new TpTileBundle assets and is used with the TpAnimZoneLoader tile or for loading using methods in the TileFabLib library.

If you're making a Tilemap prefab, it's placed in the folder that you selected earlier. Don't delete the TileFabs and Bundles created during the bundling process: the Prefab requires them.

The created prefab can be used just like any other prefab with one exception: it's "Locked," and the TilePlus tile instances are also "Locked."

This locked status is a hint to Tile+Painter and the Tile+Brush to use particular care when it encounters TilePlus tiles in a Prefab. Essentially, you can't edit this sort of prefab in a Prefab editing context or "Stage" to avoid any chance of corruption, and you can't edit the TPT tiles or the prefab itself. Regardless of which brush you use, painting, erasing, or any other operation will either revert or just not occur. You'll also find that you can't open one of these prefabs in a prefab editing context. There's a discussion about why this is necessary in the Programmer's Guide. Tilemaps with locked tiles display a closed-lock symbol in the hierarchy window.

However, you still have the original Grid and/or Tilemaps; unlike normal Prefab creation via Drag and Drop, the source isn't linked to the created prefab. If you ever need to recreate the original for editing just drag the Prefab into a scene and use the Unity menu command "**Prefab/Unpack Completely.**"

A small component called TpPrefabMarker is added to the Prefab, specifically, to the same GameObject as the Grid. Please don't remove it <u>UNLESS</u> you unpack the Prefab. *If you do unpack*, <u>REMOVE</u> the component. If you don't then it will overwrite all the tiles with tiles from the TileFab whenever your game starts running. At best, a time waster but at worst, you'll get profoundly confused. Here's why:

When a Prefab is dragged into a scene or instantiated at runtime, PrefabMarker loads the tiles from the TileFab on to the appropriate Tilemaps. This component can be seen at the top-level of the Prefab in the Project folder. You'll see a reference to the TileFab. While you can change this to a different TileFab, be aware that the unpopulated Tilemaps themselves are in the Prefab and would need to be compatible with whatever TileFab you change to. The BundleLoadFlags field should usually be set to Normal. Use of other settings should be experimental only.

It's important to remember that the Locked Tilemap shouldn't be edited, moved, picked, flood-filled, etc. The system will actively try to thwart you from doing so, but you can finagle your way around it if you try hard enough. If you do manage to edit a Locked Tilemap somehow and save the prefab overrides, then the prefab can become corrupted and unusable, even if no TPT tiles were modified.

# TileFabs and Bundle assets are not Prefabs!

Please note that the TileFab and Bundle assets are NOT prefabs: you can't drag either of these into a scene.

However, a TileFab archives the original source Tilemap names and/or tags and the TilePlus library functions for placing them in a scene expects to find these same names and/or tags to place the multiple archived Tilemaps correctly. That is, which Bundle assets referenced by a TileFab should be 'painted' on to which Tilemap. It can't guess.

# Other Uses for Bundled Tilemaps

When using Tile+Painter, Bundle assets and TileFabs appear in the Painting Source (center) column and behave as if they were a single tile: you can paint them onto Tilemaps. This means that you can create chunks of tiles and paint them as if they were a single tile. This is discussed in the Tile+Painter Guide and the Advanced TileFab Use document.

If a TileFab is created from a Grid Selection then you can almost think of it as a rectangular piece of layer cake, with the Tilemaps being the layers. As just mentioned, you can then paint multiple pre-filled layers with one mouse click. Or you can use the supplied basic chunking system to move chunks of tiles in and out of a set of Tilemaps as they move in and out of the Camera view. Chunking is only supported on Orthographic cameras and only tested on the default Tilemap layout, that is, a top-down view.

For simpler uses, you can add the TpBundleLoader component to any Tilemap's GameObject. This component loads a single Bundle. Place the component on any compatible Tilemap (same layout, etc.) and drag in the Bundle asset reference. Switch to Play mode and loading will happen automatically if the component's LoadOnRun toggle is checked. Or you can click the Load button to make a quick test.

The Load button is hidden if the Tilemap is part of a Prefab.

Similarly, you can add the TpFabLoader component to any Grid's GameObject. It works in the same fashion as TpBundleLoader. However, it can't work correctly if the Grid's child Tilemaps do not match the names and/or tags of the Tilemaps embedded in the TileFab asset. That's up to you.

Bundles and TileFab assets can be used in a running game to dynamically load tiles into Tilemaps using the TpBundleLoader or TpFabLoader components, a TpAnimZoneLoader tile, the TpZoneManager, or at the lowest level, the TileFabLib and TpZoneManager libraries.

#### Possible uses:

- Multiple seasons in your game.
- Dynamically loading new sections of Tilemaps as your character moves around.

Yes, that's possible: see the Programmer's Guide for more information about TpAnimZoneLoader tiles, and an example of this can be found in the TopDownDemo.

One other note: When you make a prefab or archive, all Scene references are lost as usual. TPT tiles can have Scene references but if your tile doesn't have any then this doesn't matter. To be clear, any Scene reference within the same Prefab should work properly.

# **Examples**

The TpAnimatedTile tile has several fields that can be modified in the Tile+Brush's Selection Inspector so let's take a quick tour of the new Inspector.

If you haven't deleted the TilePlus Extras' Demos folder, look in the BasicTiles/Scene subfolder and load BasicTileScene. You should also have a Palette called BasicTiles where you'll see a tile that looks like an eyeball. Check to see that the active Brush is the Tile+Brush and click on one of eyeball tiles in the Palette with the Select tool [shortcut key is 'B'].

You'll notice that the Inspector at the bottom displays a lot of information. There's a Help foldout which you can close. Below that there's some info specific to that tile. You might notice that the first line shows "[Asset]" which is one of the three states for a TilePlus tile. The other two states are [Clone] and [Locked] but those don't appear in this inspector.

Underneath that section is a Toolbar with buttons to let you inspect the tile asset, focus the Project window on it, or open the tile script in your IDE. You don't need to do anything with this right now.

Next, custom fields in the tile are displayed. When writing tile scripts, you can add attributes to choose what to display here.

Now select the Tilemap in the Hierarchy window, and switch to the Select tool [S]. Click on one of the eyeball tiles that's already placed. You'll see the Selection Inspector, which is quite different from that seen when using the standard brush. The default Selection Inspector (that's the inspector that you'd see if you were using the standard Brush) is hidden but can be enabled from the Configuration Editor (Tools/TilePlus/Configuration Editor). However, that inspector can only manage the fields of a normal Tile.

The Selection Inspector shows information about the TPT tile *as it exists in the Scene*. Underneath that is the Toolbar, which was explained earlier in this manual. Below that is the Custom Data area.

This area shows fields and properties of the TPT tile as it exists in the Scene. That's important: what you change here only affects the copy of the tile that's in the Scene. The asset in your Project is NEVER affected.

Coders can choose what to display in the Selection Inspector and/or Brush Inspector by placing attributes in the Tile script file. This is discussed at length in the Programmer's Guide. You may notice that there are two foldout sections: TpAnimatedTile and TilePlusBase. That's because the Tile+Brush Selection Inspector displays the data for a tile in class-hierarchical order. Here, TpAnimatedTile inherits from TilePlusBase.

If you select other eyeball tiles, you'll notice that the Animation Speed settings are different. You can change them if you like. The float number you put into that field multiplies the speed set in the Tilemap component, just like any other tile. It's important to note that regardless of how many eyeball tiles there are in the Scene, there's only ONE original asset in the Project.

If you were to click the toolbar button that looks like an 'I' then a normal Inspector will open. This allows you to change other things about this tile, for example, you could change the sprites used in the animation sequence for just this one position on the Tilemap. The asset in the Project won't be affected. However, when using a normal Inspector, the tile won't be refreshed after modification; so, if you were to change the Sprite the Tilemap might not update. The Selection Inspector has a toolbar button to refresh the inspected tile, and this comes in handy from time to time.

For coders, you could turn off *Play On Start* on one or more eyeball tiles and activate them programmatically.

If you set up a TpAnimatedTile tile in a way you really like then you can save it as a new Asset in your Project, copy it to a Palette, and after painting it you can tweak it some more. You can even simulate the animation sequence in the Editor, without entering Play mode. It's great for prototyping!

See the *Demo Projects* chapter of the Programmer's Guide for a walkthrough of the demo projects.

### **Notes**

The Brush Inspector has a *Brush Toggles* foldout. In that foldout, the *No Overwrites from Palette* toggle solves what turns out to be an invisible problem with the Palette: there doesn't seem to be any mouse debouncing. If you at all move the mouse while placing a tile it'll paint it repeatedly. The Tile+Brush won't let tiles be overwritten when the toggle is set ON. Another reason that this feature is important is that you don't want to accidentally overwrite a tile instance that you've customized. It's a good idea to save a copy of the tile as an asset. Think of it as something akin to a prefab: you place the prefab and customize it and if the variant is what you want, you can drag it to a folder to save it as a new prefab. Here, you can edit the tile while it's in the Tilemap and then save it as a new tile asset.

Note that the Palette's "Move" function works in a way that makes it impossible to ensure that TPT tiles won't be overwritten, especially when a block of tiles is moved.

Since the Palette's tile view is a Tilemap, you should also be aware that if you 'pick' a tile on the palette the default brush's Selection Inspector will show that tile from the palette. If you click Delete or type the Delete or Backspace keys when the Selection Inspector is in the focused window, then that spot on the palette will be erased. Again, this behavior has nothing to do with TPT, but for safety, the Tile+Brush won't display the Selection Inspector for a Palette. But the default brush will.

The menu command **Update TileFab Asset GUIDs** is used to change the GUIDs of TpTileBundle and TileFab assets.

- Select one or more of these assets in the Project folder. You can have both types in a selection.
- Use the menu item and follow any prompts that may appear.

Please note that if you accept the final confirmation prompt: UNDO can't undo the change. However, all that's changed is the internal GUID value, which doesn't affect any normal operation of the TilePlus system.

If you're curious about what the asset GUIDs are used for, see the explanation in the *TpTileBundle and Prefabs* section of the Programmer's Guide.

# **FAQs**

I Can't Create Prefabs! Please read the Workflow/Saved In a Prefab section of this document.

What's the asset version number? TpLib and TpLibEditor print version numbers to the console. This information can also be found in by using the TilePlus/System Info menu item.

What does this error mean? Animation speed for \_\_\_\_ at (a position) has animation frame rate=0

• Please see the note after the description of SpriteAnimationClipSet in the Programmer's Guide.

Animated Tile isn't animating even though PlayOnStart is set! This can occur if you place an TpAnimatedTile or a TpFlexAnimatedTile (or subclass) via scripting, i.e., not with a brush but rather at runtime. It's because the script's OnEnable doesn't execute when the tile is cloned at runtime. You must manually start animation via ActivateAnimation.

I tried to paint a tile, but nothing happened. Certain things can't be painted: Locked tiles. Certain positions can't be painted. Either the console or the legends around the cursor in the screen view should explain what happened.

I used attributes in my TilePlus class, but nothing appeared in the Selection or Brush Inspectors! Use *Tools/TilePlus/Configuration Editor* and add your namespace to the *Namespaces* field. Then click the *Reload* button. Namespaces are required for derived TilePlus classes if you want to use the TilePlus inspectors.

My Tiles Are All In One Spot! This occurs if you somehow create a tilemap without a grid and get it into the scene. Without a grid, there's no positioning so all the tiles appear in one spot. This has nothing to do with TilePlus tiles.

**Zone-based tiles or the Tile+Painter do not draw boxes around Zones or around tiles.** You probably have Gizmos turned off.

What are the Lock symbols in my Hierarchy Window? Tilemaps in prefabs which have been created by *Tools/TilePlus/Prefabs/Bundle Tilemaps* display a closed-lock symbol. Normal Tilemaps that have TilePlus tiles on them display an open-lock symbol. If a Tilemap doesn't have any TilePlus tiles, then neither symbol is shown.

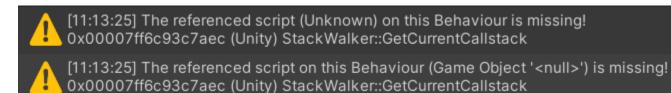
Tile+Painter doesn't highlight TPT tiles when a prefab is being edited. This is normal. Gizmos only appear in the Scene view.

**Boxes Drawn Around tiles are in the wrong place**. When drawing boxes around zones or tiles from the Selection Inspector or Tile+Painter the placement can be incorrect if the tilemap and/or grid origin is not zero.

**Simulation speed unpredictable.** Simulation uses the Editor for timing and the update speed can vary widely, depending on the setting: *Preferences/General/Interaction Mode*. On your author's system, the rate with the *Default* setting is approximately 500-1000 per second. For predictable simulation, set the interaction mode to *Monitor Refresh Rate* which is about 60 per second. You can see the refresh rate at the bottom of the Configuration Editor.

**Animation Jerky when Playing in editor.** This can happen when the tilemap is selected while the editor is in Play mode. Seems to be the Unity inspector doing this (perhaps when the info foldout is open).

Missing Script/Null Reference. Seeing messages like this when running your app in the Editor?

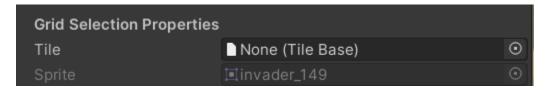


You often see this error when one or more of a GameObject's components has a missing script. For tiles, this happens when the tile class for a painted tile is deleted: it appears as if the error comes from the internal Tilemap startup code.

Unlike with GameObjects, there's no simple way to uncover which tile is the culprit: tiles like this are returned from a Tilemap as null tiles, so they look like empty positions. If the issue is a tile, one or more Tilemaps will have an entry in the Info foldout that looks like this:



If the tile does have a sprite, you may be able to find it by poking around in the tilemap with the Palette select tool and trying to find the matching tile. When you do, the Selection Inspector will show something like this:



Note that there's a sprite, but no script: the position is empty but there's a sprite. Huh?

You can also ignore the warning message: it doesn't (seem to) portend anything ominous. Note that this message has nothing to do with TilePlus tiles: in the example shown here, it was an ordinary Tile class that was the issue.

Tip: Try using the TilePlus/Delete Null Tiles menu command. It looks for this situation (null tiles with Sprite) and deletes them all.

**Tiles Disappear When Camera Moves.** If you use one of the Zone tiles and change the zone size from 1 or use any TPT tile and change the sprite size via the DOTween plug-in or via the transform controls in the TilePlusBase section of the Selection Inspector (which is what the zone size changes do internally), then you may find that moving the camera may make the sprite disappear.

This is due to the Tilemap Renderer miscalculating the Chunk Culling Bounds when tile sprites are larger than the size of a single tilemap unit; and to be clear, this has nothing to do with TilePlus tiles specifically.

In such a case you need to set the Tilemap Renderer's *detectChunkCullingBounds* to Manual and enlarge the bounds manually. You can see this in action in the TopDownDemo.

On the GameController's TdDemoGameController component, uncheck the *Fix Effects Map Bounds* toggle. Enter Play mode and move the Player towards the animated blue object near the right border. As you pass beyond a certain x-coordinate you'll notice that the lava area and the semi-transparent zone below it will disappear. They still show up in the Scene view but are culled in the Game view.

The fix in TdDemoGameController is quite crude, it just adds size to the chunk culling bounds, and is not a general solution to the problem.

**The DOTween demo doesn't work!** You have not installed DOTween, or you need to add the **TPT\_DOTWEEN** definition to the Player settings. Or both...

The TilePlus System Information Window always shows zero for Cloning Queue Depth. Why? This should always appear to be zero since the Queue is emptied more frequently than the window refreshes. It might be nonzero for a brief time when many TilePlus tiles are being cloned. Remaining nonzero for more time than that would be worth checking out.