

Motion Graphics Introduction: Lesson 2

Tips and Tricks, Notes and Hotkeys

Welcome, Motion Graphic warriors!

I know that I covered a lot of ground in this lesson. Basically, I taught you how to animate in After Effects. In case anything fell through the cracks, here's a handy PDF that goes over a few key things again.

Basic Transform Hotkeys

Every layer in After Effects (except audio layers) has these same basic five properties:

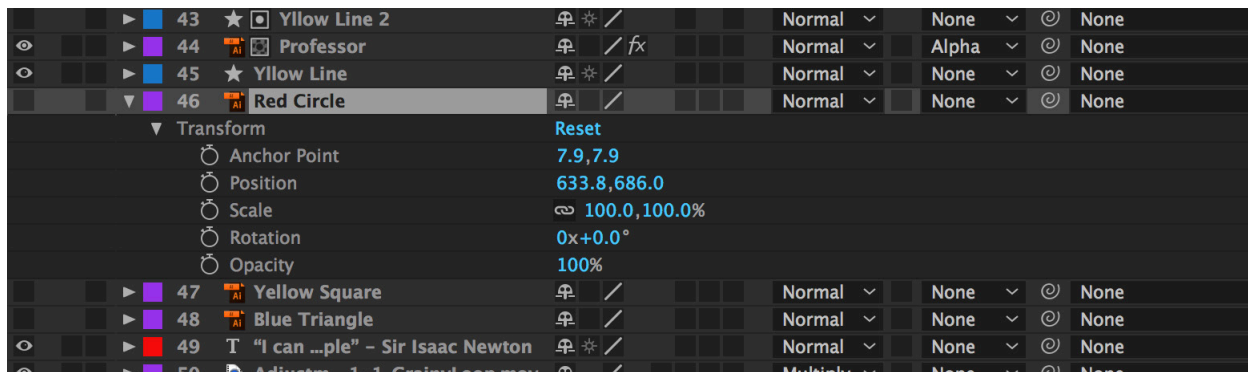
A **Anchor Point**

P **Position**

S **Scale**

R **Rotation**

T **Opacity**



Tool Hotkeys

Many of the tools in After Effects are similar to ones you might see in Photoshop or Illustrator. Other ones are pretty advanced, so don't worry about those for now.

V **Arrow Selector**

G **Pen Tool**

Q **Rectangle / Shape Tool**

Y **Pan Behind Tool - for moving the Anchor Point**

H **Hand Tool - Or, if Arrow Selector is chosen, press and hold Spacebar for Hand Tool**



In red: Arrow Selector, Hand Tool, Pan Behind Tool, Rectangle Tool, Pen Tool and Type Tool. These are the essential tools that you'll use in this class.

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Work Area Hotkeys

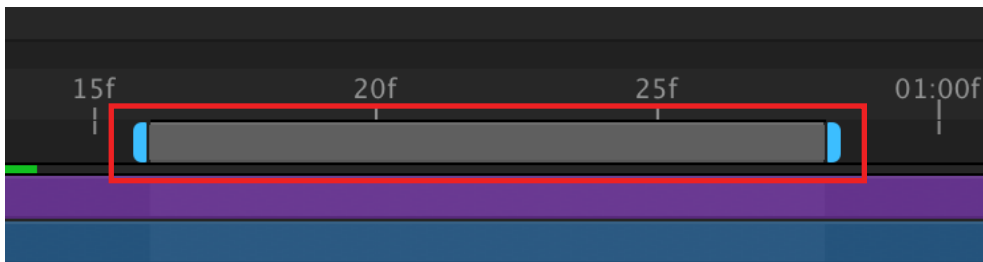
The work area is an important tool in After Effects. Set it to preview your animation, as well as for rendering your final work.

B Set the Beginning of the Work Area

N Set the End of the Work Area

Option + Command + B Snap Work Area to selected Layer's length

To preview your animation Spacebar, or Zero on the numeric keypad



Composition Hotkeys

You should use these all the darn time.

Page Up Move one frame forward in time

Page Down Move one frame back in time

Shift + PgUp/PgDown Move ten frames forward/back in time

= and - keys Zoom In/Out in your timeline

I Move to Selected Layer's first frame (In)

O Move to Selected Layer's last frame (Out)

To show Rulers (to make Guides) Command + R

Command + ; Turn Guides on and off



Don't forget to name all of your layers clearly and then color code them in your timeline!