

# Mesh Tracer

Dog Eat Dog Games

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## Links

Tutorial Videos on how to use this tool:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLc2O4sFLm5sQ94P6NUQdmGISNlnfa3Omt>

Support forum:

<http://www.dogeatdoggames.com/#!/support/c1x9v>

(support link may change, visit [www.dogeatdoggames.com](http://www.dogeatdoggames.com) and navigate to support)

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## What's Included

- **Tons of premade Particle Effects and Trail Renderer prefabs to get you started.**
- **5 example scenes**
- **4 unique scripts**
  - Vertex Particles
  - Vertex Tracer
  - Triangle Tracer
  - Edge Tracer

## Examples

- Beach – relax at a particle beach!
- LineTracer – create awesome effects on top of 3D models.
- NightClub – get your dance on.
- Random – an overview of many different effects.
- Tree – an artistic tree scene.

# Scripts

This section describes the parameters used in each core script.

## Vertex Particles

- Wave animation – control particle animations.
  - AnimCurve – curve of the animation
    - If type == static, this controls the grow/shrink over time.
    - If type == wave, this controls the position of the wave over time.
  - AnimTime – time it takes for one cycle of the animation to complete.
  - Min/max size – min/max size of the emitted particles.
- Particle LifeTime – the lifetime of each emitted particle.
- Particle System Prefab – use particles from this prefab.
  - **Note: In this script, we often have hundreds of verticies, so the script emits 1 particle at each vertex, instead of instantiating an entire particle system at each vertex.**
- OnStart – PlayEffect () in the Start() method
- HideMesh – hide the original mesh when you play the effect
- Type
  - Static – put 1 particle at every vertex point. Make it grow/shrink with the waveAnimation.
  - Wave\_Right (and other directions) – grow/shrink particles in a wave across the mesh in local space.
- numTracers – for the wave animations, number of waves we can simultaneously move across the mesh.
- percentVerticies – what percent of the verticies to use (setting to a low value improves performance on larger meshes).
- randStartPos – for the wave animations, start the waves at random positions on the mesh. If this is false, the waves will be evenly spaced.

## Vertex Tracer

- Trace animation – control tracer animations.
  - AnimCurve – curve of the animation
    - This controls the position of the tracer over time.
  - AnimTime – time it takes for one cycle of the animation to complete.
- Particle System Prefab – use a tracer from this prefab.
  - **Note: In this script, this must be something with a TrailRenderer attached to it. The script then creates multiple instances of the prefab and moves them across the mesh.**
- OnStart – PlayEffect () in the Start() method
- HideMesh – hide the original mesh when you play the effect
- Type
  - All of these types work by instantiating 1 or more instances of the Particle System Prefab. It then moves them across the mesh in different patterns, using TrailRenderers to draw lines.
  - Natural – move through all vertices, use whatever order they were loaded into the machine with.
  - Random – move through each vertex, ordered randomly.
  - Right,Left,Up,etc – move through each vertex, ordered in local space using the direction specified.
- numTracers – for the tracer animations, number of tracers we can simultaneously move across the mesh.
- randStartPos – for the tracer animations, start the tracer at random positions on the mesh. If this is false, the waves will be evenly spaced.

## Triangle Tracer

- **Note**
  - Attach `TrailRendererHelper.cs` to `ParticleSystemPrefab`'s used in this class if you want trails to disappear in between triangle traces.
- Line animation – control tracer animations.
  - `AnimCurve` – curve of the animation
    - This controls the position of the tracer over time.
  - `AnimTime` – time it takes for one cycle of the animation to complete.
- Tracer – use a tracer from this prefab.
  - **Note:** In this script, this must be something with a `TrailRenderer` attached to it. The script then creates multiple instances of the prefab and moves them across the mesh.
- Type
  - All of these types work by instantiating 1 or more instances of the `ParticleSystemPrefab`. It then moves them across the mesh in different patterns, using `TrailRenderers` to draw lines.
  - All – trace out every triangle. This is very expensive for high poly meshes.
  - Loop – trace out each triangle, 1 by 1, using their natural order.
  - Trace Random – trace out each triangle, in random order.
  - Trace Connected – trace out each triangle, moving across touching triangles.
  - Disco – trace out 'numTracer' number of triangles at once across the mesh. Get new triangles every animation loop.
- `numTracers` – for the tracer animations, number of tracers we can simultaneously move across the mesh.
- `OnStart` – `PlayEffect()` in the `Start()` method
- `HideMesh` – hide the original mesh when you play the effect
- `randStartPos` – for the tracer animations, start the tracer at random positions on the mesh. If this is false, the waves will be evenly spaced.
- `Debug` – display the triangles being traced in the Scene view.

## Edge Tracer

- Line Tracers – list of lines used to trace out the mesh.
  - Name – name each line in the inspector.
  - Draw Point – where the edge is drawn from (Only valid if InstantDraw is disabled and if start/end times for each LineTracer have been set).
  - Start Time – the time after calling AnimatedDraw(), that this line will start drawing.
  - End Time – the time after calling AnimatedDraw(), that this line will end drawing.
  - Curve – each edge on your mesh is replaced with this curve.
  - Amplitude – height of the curve.
  - LineMat – material used in the LineRenderers that get created.
  - Start/End Color – start/end color of each line.
  - Start/End Width – start/end width of each line.
  - Line Segments – line segments in each line, reduce when possible to increase performance.
- Use Outline – only use the outline of the mesh, instead of the whole thing. Significantly improves runtime performance when enabled.
- On Start – start tracing the edges OnStart().
- InstantDraw – draw the edges instantly, instead of using start/end time.
- HideMesh – hide the mesh when you draw lines.
- OnFinish() – add events that get called when the edge has been traced.

## Trail Renderer Helper

- This helper class handles the issue where trails persist though disable-move-enable logic.

## Sources

- SpaceShip Model - <http://www.turbosquid.com/3d-models/free-max-model-space/588767>
- Stone Pine Tree Model- <http://www.turbosquid.com/3d-models/realistic-stone-pine-obj/857432>
- Triangle Renderer Helper - <http://forum.unity3d.com/threads/trailrenderer-reset.38927/>
- Unity Standard Assets Packages
  - Camera
  - Particle Effects
- Sky5X Unity Skyboxes - <https://www.assetstore.unity3d.com/en/#!/content/6332>

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