

There are two main types of After Effects scripts: Dockable and Non-Dockable. Non-Dockable scripts tend to be more rare, these scripts can be placed anywhere on your computer and are run by clicking: File > Scripts > Run Script File.

Most After Effects scripts are Dockable though which means the panels can be added to the interface of After Effects, these scripts need to be placed in a specific folder for After Effects to recognise them.

Most After Effects scripts are formatted using the jsxbin After Effects format, however, some scripts may come as .jsx files. Each type of script is installed in the same way, the only difference between the two is that if you open a .jsx file in a code editor you can see how the script works, if you open a .jsxbin file in a code editor you'll see a whole bunch of characters.

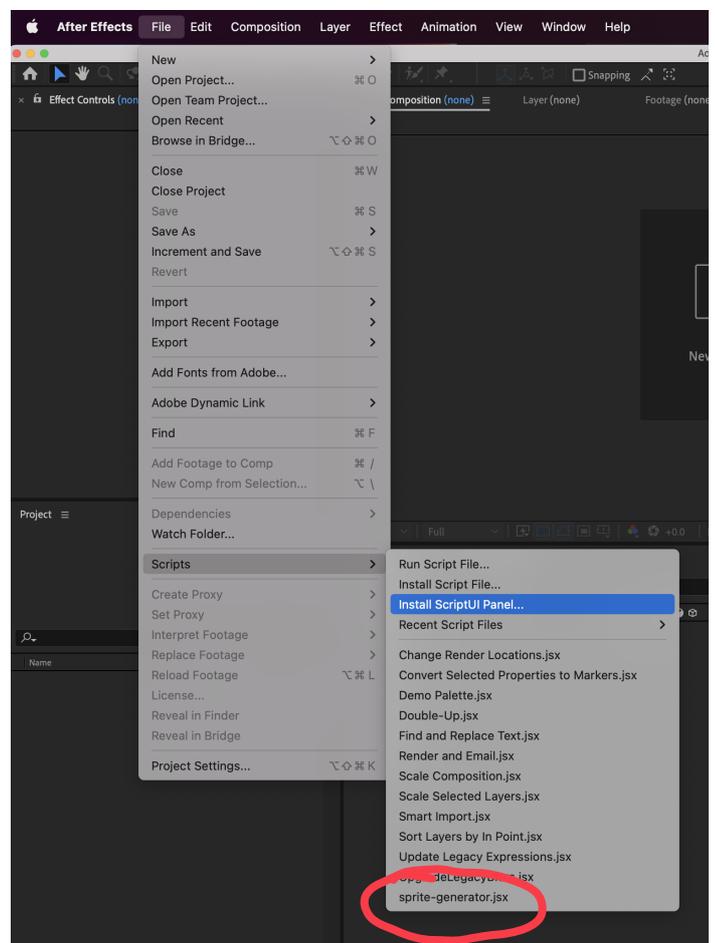
There are multiple ways to install jsxbin After Effects scripts depending on which version of After Effects you're using.

Probably you're using After Effects CC 2019 or above anyway, so let's focus on that solution only:

In After Effects go to **File > Scripts > Install ScriptUI Panel**, locate the script file you downloaded, and click the Select button.

If successful, you'll receive a notification to say that the script has been copied to your preferences folder. At this point, you need to Restart After Effects.

Once you've restarted After Effects your script will show up at the bottom of the "Window" menu, just click it and the panel will show up.



Common problems when installing after effects scripts

Script not showing in After Effects, even though it's in the folder.

If the script still isn't showing in After Effects, after you've installed it, first of all, double check your script, is in the correct version folder. If you're using After Effects CC 2019 for example, then your script needs to be placed in the After Effects CC 2019 scriptUI folder.

Also make sure your script is directly within the ScriptUI Panels folder, and not in a subfolder.

Another issue could be that the script you're trying to install isn't what's known as a scriptUI panel. Try running the script in a different way by going into File > Scripts > Run Script File - find the script on your computer, and click open.

I get a permissions error when trying to install my After Effects script

The After Effects script folders often need administrator access to make any changes, if you're getting access denied errors or similar then you'll need to contact your systems administrator, they'll be able to either give you permission or place the script file in the folder for you.

Script not working in After Effects?

This is a tricky one because it really depends on the script in question, and who developed it. There are also a hundred other things that affect scripts in After Effects, things as different operating system versions, different versions of After Effects, and even what language After Effects is set to.

Sometimes After Effects scripts may make use of specific features that have been added to later versions of After Effects, which aren't available when using older versions - as a result, a script trying to reference something that doesn't exist will cause some pretty big errors. The best thing to do is contact whoever created the script, they'll be able to advise on possible solutions.