

[Adobe After Effects – Keyboard Shortcuts Visualizer \(updated on Thursday, December 14, 2017\)](#)

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PRELUDE

Adobe After Effects CC 2018 includes a Keyboard Shortcuts Editor (aka KSV, short for Keyboard Shortcuts Visualizer). The mechanics of this new feature is analogous to the same feature found in Adobe PremierePro and Adobe Audition, a couple of versions ago.

The shortcut keys provided below are written for Windows. For MacOS systems, simply replace the keys ALT with OPT and CTRL with Command and all should be good. The shortcuts list below, mostly, access commands/tasks which were previously unavailable – without the KSV.

MOTIVATION

The motivation for this document is to provide users with a real-world application of the KSV. Users will be able to quickly see the possibilities available with the KSV. It is hopeful that this document not only provides a real world use-case but to have users acknowledge the benefit of thinking strategically before embarking on their respective KSV adventures. To this end, the TIPS section will provide handy tidbits for users to optimally plan out their use of the KSV.

RESERVED KEYS

A, AA, E, EE, F, FF, L, LL, M, MM, P, PP, R, RR, S, SS, T, TT, U, UU.

Reserved keys cannot be re-assigned. These keys can however be used with one or more of the modifier keys.

KNOWN ISSUES WITH ROLAND'S PRESET

The shortcut, CTRL+T, which relates to the Commands, Create Text Layer & Free Transform Mask has been removed for its Text Layer relationship. Instead of CTRL+T to create a Text Layer, use CTRL+SHIFT+ALT+T to create a Text Layer, with the insertion visual indicator immediately available for text input – this is sort of a two-in-one shortcut.

TIPS ON CREATING SHORTCUTS

Make a Note of Frequently used Commands/Tasks to Assign to a Shortcut

Do this prior to jumping into the KSV. It's a good idea to replace the default KSV shortcut (CTRL+ALT+') with a more accessible shortcut – I've set mine to ALT+F1. If you're right-handed (ie you use a mouse/stylus with your right hand), it's a good idea to

place the keyboard to the left of your body instead of placing it centered to your body. This makes it easier to access the modifier keys on the right-side of your keyboard. YES!!! There is a pair for each modifier key – on the left edge is a set of modifier keys and to the right of the main keyboard area, is another set of modifier keys.

Remove Shortcuts (SCs) for Destructive Commands

CTRL+SHIFT+X (Trim Comp to Work Area) is such a shortcut. This shortcut removes and/or trims layers outside of the current Work Area – and there is no way back once you've exhausted all your Undo's.

Remove/Replace Unused Default Commands/Shortcuts

Reapply such shortcuts to tasks/commands that are used frequently – examples of wasteful or seldom used shortcuts - SHIFT+C (Cycle Backward for Camera Tool), SHIFT+G (Cycle Backward for Pen/Feather Tool) and ALT + W (Rotobrush Tool).

Reduce the Number of Keys for Default Shortcuts Which You Use Frequently

CTRL+SHIFT+H (Toggle Show Layer Controls) is a good example. I use this command often. Hence, I've removed this shortcut and replaced it with a shorter shortcut, SHIFT+H.

Use Key Combinations that are Accessible with Fingers from ONE Hand

Spread those fingers! You should be able to perform four-key shortcuts with one hand – with four fingers, of course. Look at creating shortcuts that are comfortable for you. Change default shortcuts which force you into a contortionist pose. The default shortcut to Center Anchor Point in Layer Content, is CTRL+ALT+HOME – if you are able to manage this shortcut with three fingers from one hand, comfortably, then good for you! I've set my shortcut to this command to ALT+;. Essentially, any key combination which entails ALT+HOME is not ideal - for me.

Use Mnemonic Devices

A mnemonic device is a technique used to help with recall. For keyboard shortcuts, you should want [use identical keys for similar commands](#). An example of this is to use ALT + C (Copy Expression Only) since it closely resembles the default shortcut key CTRL+ALT+C (Copy with Property Links). Another mnemonic device is to [use first letter connections](#) - SHIFT+K (Add Keyframe) is useful since K is the first letter for “Keyframe”. A third mnemonic device is to [use the proximity and hierarchy of keys on the keyboard to group similar commands](#) in a hierarchical manner. An example of this is the grouping of Q and W to nudge the Time Indicator; A and S for shifting Layer Stems (in & out) and Z and X for shifting keyframes – you can view these examples here - [MISCELLANEOUS – Shifting/Nudging Time Indicator/Layers/Keyframes](#)

Allow 1- 4 Weeks to Acquire ‘Muscle Memory’

For the first couple of weeks, you’ll be jumping in and out of the KSV to verify your new shortcuts or to create/amend new/old ones. Hence, it is ideal to create a short, shortcut key to get into the KSV – I’ve set mine to ALT+F1.

URLS

Roland's KSV Preset (TXT File) URL

http://www.broadcastGEMs.com/mediaStreamer/Roland_AE_KeyboardVisualizer_Shotcuts_PDF_aeks_Preset_Nov2017.zip

Adobe After Effects Keyboard Shortcuts Reference

<https://helpx.adobe.com/after-effects/using/keyboard-shortcuts-reference.html>

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Roland Kahlenberg has been a Certified Expert in Adobe After Effects since 2002. He is a Certified Instructor in Adobe After Effects and mocha, from BorisFX-Imagineer Systems. Roland conducts training in Adobe After Effects, Adobe Premiere Pro and mocha/mochaPro. Roland was one of the original Adobe After Effects Forum Leaders at CreativeCOW.net. He spent more than 12 years there; replying to thousands of posts and as one of its Contributing Editors, contributed a few in-depth tutorials on Adobe After Effects. Roland was born in Singapore and spends most of his time there; working on projects and conducting training.

Roland's other claim to fame include, probably, being the first in the world to develop templates for Adobe After Effects and Adobe Premiere Pro – back in 2002!

In short, **Roland Kahlenberg | Timeline Engineer | Pushes Pixels | Drinks Beer**

ROLAND'S FAVORITE COMMANDS		NOTES
NEW SHORTCUTS		
SHIFT + V	Toggle On/Off Video Layer	<i>Default shortcut, CTRL+ALT+SHIFT+V, is too much of a stretch for the fingers on one hand</i>
SHIFT + W	Toggle On/Off Audio Layer	
SHIFT + I	Toggle Solo Layer	
ALT + U	Reveal Animated Properties	<i>This reveals props with KFs and Expressions</i>
SHIFT + Z	Reset Transform Properties	
CTRL + ALT + Z	Toggle Separate Dimensions	
SHIFT + K	Create KF for Selected Props	
ALT + C	Copy Expression Only	
SHIFT + C	Copy with Relative Property Links	<i>This is the Default shortcut to Cycle Backward, the Camera Tool</i>
ALT + SHIFT + K	Convert Expression to KFs	<i>Expression(s) are disabled as a result of this feature</i>
ALT + M	Lock All (other) Masks	
CTRL + SHIFT + M	Unlock All Masks	

ALT + -	Select Previous Mask	
ALT + =	Select Next Mask	
ALT + V	Create Shapes from Vector Layer	
ALT + T	Create Shapes from Text Layer	
ALT + SHIFT + F	Set First Vertex	
SHIFT + B	Toggle Rotobezier	
SHIFT + G	Select Label Group	<i>This is the Default shortcut to Cycle Backward the Pen Tool</i>
ALT + z	where z is the first later for a few Layer Label Colors	
CTRL + ALT + SHIFT + T	Create New Text Layer with Insertion Indicator	<i>This is an old/default shortcut but not commonly known/used</i>
CTRL + ALT SHIFT + 1	Create/Add Text Animator Group/Property with All Transform	
CTRL + ALT SHIFT + 9	Create/Add Text Animator Group/Property with RGB Fill	
ALT + ;	Center Anchor Point in Layer Content	<i>Default shortcut, CTRL+ALT+HOME, is too much of a stretch for the fingers on one hand</i>
ALT + SHIFT + ;	Center Layer in View	
SHIFT + H	Toggle View Layer Controls	<i>Default shortcut, CTRL+SHIFT+H, is too much of a stretch for the fingers on one hand</i>

ALT + D	Purge All Memory & Disk Cache	
ALT + SHIFT + D	Purge All Memory	
SHIFT + X	Reveal layer in Explorer (Timeline Panel)	
CTRL + SHIFT + X	Reveal Footage in Explorer (Project Panel)	<i>This is the Default shortcut to Trim Comp to Work Area</i>
CTRL + SHIFT + B	Reveal Footage in Bridge (Project Panel)	
CTRL + ALT + R	Time Reverse KFs	<i>I stole this shortcut from Reverse Layer</i>
CTRL + ALT + SHIFT + R	Reverse Layer	
ALT + F1	Open KSV Editor/Window	<i>A quicker/easier way to jump into the KSV</i>
CTRL + Q	Toggle Lumetri Scopes	
MASK/SHAPE LAYER	COMMANDS	NOTES
ALT + M	Lock (ALL) Other Masks	<i>This is the default shortcut key to Add Comp to Render Queue. However, there is another default shortcut key to Add Comp to Render Queue – CTRL+SHIFT+I</i>

CTRL + M	Lock Selected Mask	<i>This is the default shortcut for the Command, Send Comp to Render Queue. However, the same Command has another default shortcut – CTRL+SHIFT+/. Works only when a single mask is selected.</i>
CTRL + SHIFT + M	Unlock ALL Mask	
CTRL + ALT + SHIFT + M	Hide Locked Mask (from Comp Panel)	
ALT + -	Select Previous Mask	
ALT + =	Select Next Mask	
SHIFT + B	Toggle Rotobezier Mask	
ALT + SHIFT + F	Set First Vertex (Point) for Mask	
ALT + SHIFT + C	Toggle Close/Open Mask/Shape Path	
ALT + V	Create Shape Layer from Vector Footage/Layer	
ALT + T	Create Shape Layer from Text Layer	
SHIFT + TAB	Toggle Snap to Guide	<i>This is an alternate shortcut for the default CTRL+ SHIFT+;</i>
SHIFT + F1	Lock Guides	<i>This is an alternate shortcut for the default CTRL+ALT+SHIFT+;</i>

TIMELINE SWITCHES		NOTES
CTRL + SHIFT + 4	Toggle Motion Blur Switch	
CTRL + SHIFT + 3	Toggle 3D Layer Switch	
CTRL + SHIFT + 2	Toggle Effects Switch	
CTRL + SHIFT + 1	Collapse Transformations/Continuously Rasterize Vector	
SHIFT + V	Toggle On/Off Selected Video Layers	
SHIFT + W	Toggle On/Off Selected Audio Layers	
COLOR LABELS		NOTES
SHIFT + G	Select Label Group	<i>This is the Default shortcut to Cycle Backward the Pen Tool</i>
ALT + N	No Label (No Color)	
ALT + B	Blue Label	<i>This is the Default shortcut to Set Layer Sampling Quality to Bilinear</i>
ALT + O	Orange Label	
ALT + R	Red Label	
ALT + P	Purple Label	
ALT + E	Peach Label	
ALT + Y	Yellow Label	
ALT + K	Pink Label	

ALT + G	Dark Green Label	
ALT + L	Lavender	
ALT + F	Fuchsia	
BLENDING MODES		NOTES
SHIFT + N	Set Layer Blending Mode to None	
SHIFT + D	Set Layer Blending Mode to Add	
SHIFT + O	Set Layer Blending Mode to Overlay	
VIDEO & AUDIO		NOTES
SHIFT + V	Toggle On/Off Video Layers	
SHIFT + W	Toggle On/Off Audio Layers	
SHIFT + I	Toggle Solo Switch for Selected Layers	
ALT + Click on Solo Icon	Turn off all other Solo Switches	
CTRL + SHIFT + L	Unlock All Locked Layers	
SHIFT + Y	Toggle Shy Layer Switch	
ALT + SHIFT + V	Show ALL Video	
CTRL + ALT + SHIFT + V	Hide Other (unselected) Video Layers	

CTRL + SHIFT + 1	Toggle Collapse Transformations/Continuously Rasterize Vectors	
CTRL + SHIFT + 2	Toggle On/Off Effects	
CTRL + SHIFT + 4	Toggle Motion Blur for Selected Layer(s)	
CTRL + SHIFT + 3	Toggle 3D Layers	
CTRL + ,	Freeze Current Frame	
CTRL + .	Freeze Last Frame	
KEYFRAMES, EXPRESSIONS & ANIMATION PRESETS		NOTES
ALT + SHIFT + E	Run Script File ...	
SHIFT + K	Add Keyframe to Selected Property	
SHIFT + Z	Reset All Transforms for Selected Layer	<i>Resets all Transform Properties</i>
ALT + U	Reveal Properties with Animation	<i>Reveals properties with KFs and Expressions</i>
CTRL + ALT + R	Time-reverse Keyframes	<i>CTRL+ ALT + R is the default for Reverse Layer</i>
CTRL + ALT + SHIFT + R	Reverse Layer	<i>Default shortcut was CTRL+ ALT + R</i>
ALT + C	Copy Expression Only	
SHIFT + C	Copy with Relative Property Links	<i>This is the Default shortcut to Cycle the Camera Backward</i>
ALT + SHIFT + K	Convert Expression to Keyframes	<i>Expression is disabled as part of this procedure</i>
ALT + Z	Shift Selected Keyframes One Frame Earlier (Forward)	

ALT + X	Shift Selected Keyframes One Frame Later (Back)	
ALT + SHIFT + Z	Shift Selected Keyframes Ten Frame Earlier (Forward)	
ALT + SHIFT + X	Shift Selected Keyframes Ten Frame Later (Back)	
CTRL + ALT + Z	Toggle Separate Dimensions	
CTRL + ALT + X	Apply Animation Preset	
CTRL + ALT + SHIFT + X	Apply Last Animation Preset	<i>Default shortcut is CTRL+ALT+SHIFT+F</i>
CTRL + ,	Freeze (Current) Frame	
CTRL + .	Freeze on Last Frame	
TEXT		NOTES
CTRL + SHIFT + T	Create New Text Layer	<i>The Default shortcut for this Command was CTRL+ALT+SHIFT+T.</i>
CTRL + ALT + SHIFT + 1	Apply All Transform Animator Properties	
CTRL + ALT + SHIFT + 2	Add Opacity Animator Property	
CTRL + ALT + SHIFT + 3	Toggle per Character 3D	
CTRL + ALT + SHIFT + 4	Add Position Animator Property	
CTRL + ALT + SHIFT + 5	Add Scale Animator Property	
CTRL + ALT + SHIFT + 6	Add Rotation Animator Property	
CTRL + ALT + SHIFT + 7	Add Tracking Animator Property	

CTRL + ALT + SHIFT + 8	Add Line Anchor Animator Property	
CTRL + ALT + SHIFT + 9	Add RGB Fill Animator Property	
CTRL + ALT + SHIFT + 0	Remove All Text Animator Groups	
CTRL + SHIFT + H	Reset Horizontal Scale of Selected Text	<i>CTRL + SHIFT + H is the Default shortcut for Toggle Show Layer Controls</i>
CTRL + SHIFT + V	Reset Vertical Scale of Selected Text	<i>CTRL + SHIFT + V is the Default shortcut for Hide Other Layers' Video</i>
CTRL + SHIFT + T	Reset Tracking of Selected Text	<i>CTRL + SHIFT + T is the Default shortcut for Toggle Show Effect Controls Panel - F3 is the default, alternate SC.</i>
ALT + T	Create Shapes from Text Layer	
CAMERA		NOTES
F10	Switch Camera View - Active Camera	<i>Use View Menu to set these shortcuts</i>
F11	Switch Camera View - Left View	<i>Use View Menu to set these shortcuts</i>
F12	Switch Camera View - Top View	<i>Use View Menu to set these shortcuts</i>
CTRL + F1	Switch Camera View - Custom View 1	
CTRL + F2	Switch Camera View - Custom View 2	
CTRL + F3	Switch to Back Camera View	
CTRL + F4	Switch to Right Camera View	

CTRL + F5	Switch to Bottom Camera View	
MISCELLANEOUS – Application & Project Panel		
		NOTES
CTRL + SHIFT + 5	Save as Photoshop Layers	
CTRL + SHIFT + 6	Open Preferences>Grids & Guides	
CTRL + SHIFT + 7	Toggle Align Panel	
ALT + SHIFT + G	Open in Essential Graphics	
CTRL + ALT + P	Set Proxy for Selected Footage	
ALT + F1	Open Keyboard Shortcuts Editor (KSV)	<i>Default shortcut is CTRL+ ALT + ‘</i>
CTRL + SHIFT + B	Reveal in Bridge (Project Panel – Selected Footage)	<i>Works with selected footage item in the Project Panel</i>
CTRL + SHIFT + X	Reveal in Explorer (Project Panel – Selected Footage)	<i>Works with selected footage item in the Project Panel</i>
SHIFT + [Select Previous Panel in Frame	<i>Affects all Panels in ANY Frame</i>
SHIFT +]	Select Next Panel in Frame	<i>Affects all Panels in ANY Frame</i>
MISCELLANEOUS – Timeline & Comp Panels		
		NOTES
SHIFT + H	Toggle Show Layer Controls	<i>Default shortcut is CTRL+ SHIFT + H</i>
CTRL + ALT + SHIFT + W	Fit Layer to Comp Width	<i>Default shortcut is CTRL+ALT+SHIFT+ H</i>

CTRL + ALT + SHIFT + H	Fit Layer to Comp Height	<i>Default shortcut is CTRL+ ALT + SHIFT + G</i>
CTRL + ALT + SHIFT + F	Fit Layer to Comp (<i>width & height</i>)	<i>Default shortcut is CTRL+ALT+ F</i>
CTRL + SHIFT + N	Split New (<i>Comp</i>) Viewer & Toggle Lock	<i>Default shortcut is CTRL+ALT+SHIFT+ N</i>
ALT + ;	Center Anchor Point in Layer Content	<i>Default/Alternate shortcut is CTRL+HOME</i>
ALT + SHIFT + ;	Center Layer in View	<i>Default/Alternate shortcut is CTRL+ALT+HOME</i>
CTRL + SHIFT + Q	Move Current Time Indicator to Start of Work Area	<i>Default/Alternative shortcut is SHIFT+HOME</i>
CTRL + ALT + Q	Move Current Time Indicator to Start of Timeline	<i>Default/Alternative shortcut is HOME</i>
MISCELLANEOUS – Shifting/Nudging Time Indicator/Layers/Keyframes		NOTES
ALT + Q	Shift Current Time Indicator One Frame Back	
ALT + W	Shift Current Time Indicator One Frame Forward	
ALT + SHIFT + Q	Shift Current Time Indicator Ten Frames Back	
ALT + SHIFT + W	Shift Current Time Indicator Ten Frames Forward	
ALT + A	Shift Layer One Frame Later (Back)	
ALT + S	Shift Layer One Frame Earlier (Forward)	
ALT + Z	Shift Selected Keyframes One Frame Earlier (Forward)	
ALT + X	Shift Selected Keyframes One Frame Later (Back)	<i>ALT + X is the Default shortcut for Toggle Refine Edge X-Ray</i>
ALT + SHIFT + Z	Shift Selected Keyframes Ten Frame Earlier (Forward)	

ALT + SHIFT + X	Shift Selected Keyframes Ten Frame Later (Back)	
SHIFT + J	Go to Time	
MISCELLANEOUS - Transforms		NOTES
ALT + H	Nudge Opacity Down by 1%	
ALT + J	Nudge Opacity Up by 1%	
ALT + 7	Rotate Layer 1 Degree Counter Clockwise	
ALT + 8	Rotate Layer 1 Degree Clockwise	
ALT + 9	Scale Layer 1% Smaller	
ALT + 0	Scale Layer 1% Larger	
ALT + ;	Center Anchor Point in Layer Content	<i>Default/Alternate shortcut is CTRL+ALT+HOME</i>
ALT + SHIFT + ;	Center Layer in View	<i>Default/Alternate SC shortcut CTRL+ HOME</i>
CTRL + ALT + Z	Toggle Separate Dimensions	
MISCELLANEOUS – Purge Memory/Cache		NOTES
ALT + D	Purge All Memory & Disk Cache	<i>Default/Alternate shortcut is CTRL+ALT+Numpad </i>
CTRL + ALT + D	Purge All Memory	

MISCELLANEOUS – Freeze Frame		NOTES
CTRL + ,	Freeze (Current) Frame	
CTRL + .	Freeze on Last Frame	
MISCELLANEOUS - Others		NOTES
CTRL + ALT + SHIFT + B	Roto Brush / Refine Edge	<i>Default shortcut is ALT+W</i>
SHIFT + X	Reveal in Explorer (Timeline Panel – Selected Layer)	
CTRL + SHIFT + X	Reveal in Explorer (Project Panel – Selected Footage)	
CTRL + SHIFT + B	Reveal in Bridge (Project Panel – Selected Footage)	
CTRL + ALT + SHIFT + Z	Reset Current Workspace to Saved Layout	
CTRL + ALT + SHIFT + T	Sync Settings Now	
CTRL + Q	Toggle Lumetri Scopes	
ALT + I	Add Layer Marker	<i>This is an alternate shortcut to the default Numpad *</i>