# JustPaste!
# Installation & Quick Start Guide




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Version 2.0.0

## ■ Installation

1. The easiest way to install and license is the aescripts + aeplugins manager, or you can install with the ZXP/UXP Installer.
2. Quit After Effects if it is open.
3. Open the aescripts + aeplugins manager or the ZXP/UXP Installer.
4. Drag the **JustPaste.zxp** file onto the installer window (or click Install and select it).
5. Follow the prompts to finish.
6. Launch After Effects.

Updating from an earlier version? Install 2.0.0 the same way. It replaces the old version and keeps your settings.

## ■ Opening the JustPaste! panel

- In After Effects, choose **Window → Extensions → JustPaste!**
- The panel opens, and you can resize and dock it anywhere you like.

If you don't see it under the Extensions menu, restart After Effects and check again.

## ■ How to use JustPaste!

1. Save your After Effects project (File → Save). Pasted files are saved next to it. If the project was never saved, JustPaste! offers to save it and then finishes the paste.
2. Copy something. It can be:
   - Any image in a web browser (right-click → Copy Image). The format doesn't matter, and animated GIFs keep their animation.
   - Artwork or a selection in Illustrator or Photoshop (Edit → Copy).
   - A frame or element in Figma (Copy as SVG or Copy as PNG), or raw SVG code from anywhere.
   - A screenshot that was just copied to the clipboard.
   - A link to an image, a video, an audio file or a PSD. Copy only the link itself.
   - One or several files in Finder or Explorer: images, PSD, AI, SVG, EXR, MOV, MP4, WAV, MP3 and more, or numbered frames for an image sequence.
3. Go back to After Effects and either:
   - click the big **PASTE!** button in the JustPaste! panel, or
   - click inside the panel, then press **Ctrl + V** (Windows) or **Cmd + V** (macOS). The shortcut only works while the panel is active, so it never gets in the way of pasting elsewhere in After Effects.
4. Done! The asset is saved as a file next to your .aep project (by default in a "Pasted" folder), imported, and added to your active composition. The panel's status line tells you what happened.

## ■ What's new in 2.0

- **Paste and Replace:** swap the selected layer's source with what you copied (see below).
- **KBar and script launchers:** paste without clicking the panel, with a ready-made KBar toolbar (see below).
- **Links:** copy a link to an image, a video, an audio file or a PSD, and paste it.
- **Images copied as text:** data URIs, Base64 and SVG code paste as images.
- **Image sequences:** numbered frames copied in Finder or Explorer come in as one sequence.
- **PSD and Illustrator files as compositions:** one choice per file type (Footage, Shapes or Composition).
- **Loop GIFs:** animated GIFs can loop to the end of the comp.
- **Folders:** subfolders and date tokens for the pasted files folder, like Pasted/{yyyy}/{mm}.
- **Original JPGs:** photos copied in a browser keep their JPG instead of becoming a larger PNG.
- **New Settings:** a compact window with clickable tokens and live previews.

## ■ Paste and Replace NEW IN 2.0

Swap the source of the selected layer with whatever you copied, without touching the Project panel:

1. Select one or more footage, solid or precomp layers in your composition.
2. Copy the new image, file or link.
3. Hold **Alt** (**Option** on macOS) and click the button, which now reads **REPLACE!**, or press **Ctrl + Alt + V** / **Cmd + Option + V** while the panel is active.

Each layer keeps its keyframes, effects, masks, name and timing. Copy several files to replace several layers: they go one per layer from top to bottom, in file name order. Text and shape layers can't be replaced, because they have no source.

## ■ Paste from KBar or a script NEW IN 2.0

JustPaste! can paste without a click in its panel: from a KBar button, from File → Scripts → Run Script File, or from any other script launcher. Everything you need is in the **KBar** folder that comes with JustPaste!, next to JustPaste.zxp:

- **JustPaste!.kbar:** in KBar's settings, import this file to get a JustPaste! toolbar with a Paste and a Paste and Replace button, icons included.
- **JustPaste Paste.jsx** and **JustPaste Paste and Replace.jsx:** the two scripts, for your own KBar buttons (Run JSX/JSXBIN File) or any other launcher.
- **Icons:** a purple set (JustPaste Paste.svg and JustPaste Paste and Replace.svg) and a grey set with "(grey)" in the name, in the grey KBar uses for its own icons. KBar's Import from directory picks the purple set automatically; pick the grey set with Icon > PNG/SVG in a button's settings.

> The panel doesn't need focus and can stay hidden behind another tab. If it is closed, it opens by itself and does the paste.
>
> If you make your own buttons, first move the KBar folder somewhere permanent (for example your Documents folder), because the buttons run the scripts from where they are.

## ■ How to Personalize your Experience (Settings)

Open Settings from the panel's flyout menu: click the small menu icon in the panel's top-right corner, then choose **Settings...**

### IMPORT

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| **Paste as** | **Automatic (recommended)** picks the best format for what you copied: PNG to keep transparency, the original JPG for photos copied in a browser, SVG for vectors. Or always save as PNG, JPG or SVG. Files, and links to videos, audio and other files, always come in as they are. |
| **Add to active composition** | Adds each pasted item as a layer in the composition that's active in your Timeline. Turn it off to only import into the Project panel. |
| **Import numbered images as a sequence** | Numbered frames copied in Finder or Explorer (walk_0001.png, walk_0002.png...) come in as one image sequence, copied into their own folder. Off by default. |
| **SVG files** | **Footage**, or **Shapes**: converted into editable shape layers (Create Shapes from Vector Layer). SVG import requires After Effects 2026. |
| **Illustrator files (.ai)** | **Footage**, **Shapes**, or **Composition** with one layer per Illustrator layer. |
| **PSD files** | **Footage** (flattened), or **Composition** with one layer per Photoshop layer. Compositions keep each layer's own size and stretch to the length of your comp. |

### TIMELINE (WHEN ADD TO ACTIVE COMPOSITION IS ON)

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| **Placement** | At the top or bottom of the timeline, or above or below the selected layer. |
| **Start layer at playhead** | Starts the new layer at the current time. |
| **Match start of selected layer** | Starts the new layer where the selected layer starts (this wins over the playhead). For above and below placement. |
| **Match end of selected layer** | Ends the new layer where the selected layer ends. For above and below placement. |
| **Loop GIFs** | Loops animated GIFs (and animated WebPs) until the end of the comp, or until the selected layer ends when Match end is on. |

### FOLDER NAME TEMPLATE

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| **Put pasted files in a folder** | Saves pasted files in a folder next to your project and puts them in the same folder in the Project panel. When it's off, files go right next to the .aep. |
| **Folder name** | Use / for subfolders, like Assets/Pasted. Date tokens: {date}, {yyyy}, {yy}, {mm}, {dd}, so Pasted/{yyyy}/{mm} makes a folder for each month. The folder always stays inside your project folder. Click **{ }** to insert a token; the Preview shows the result. |

**FILE NAME TEMPLATE**

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| **Keep original file names of local files** | Files copied in Finder or Explorer keep their own names instead of being renamed by the template. On by default. Clipboard images (screenshots, browser copies) always use the template, or the name you type in the prompt, since they have no name of their own. |
| **Ask for file name before each paste** | Shows a name prompt before each paste, with the template's result as the suggestion. |
| **Template** | Tokens: {date}, {time}, {yyyy}, {yy}, {mm}, {dd}, {hh}, {min}, {sec}, {counter}. Click **{ }** to insert one; the Preview shows the result. |
| **If the name already exists** | Add a number (Pasted-1, Pasted-2...), Overwrite, or Skip. |

Reset fills in the defaults (click Save to keep them). Ctrl + Enter (Cmd + Enter) saves, Esc cancels.

## ■ Troubleshooting

Here are the most common messages and what to do about them. When something goes wrong, hover the panel's status line to see the details. Please feel free to report other problems.

- **Panel doesn't appear after install:** fully restart After Effects, then check Window → Extensions → JustPaste!
- **"This project hasn't been saved yet":** pasted files are saved next to your project. Click Save... and the paste continues after saving.
- **"No pastable media on the clipboard.":** nothing JustPaste! can use was copied. Copy again from the source app; for web images use right-click → Copy Image.
- **"Select the layer to replace first." or "Only footage, solid and precomp layers can be replaced.":** Paste and Replace needs a selected layer that has a source.
- **"The link on the clipboard is a web page, not an image.":** the link opens a page, not a file. Open the page and copy the image itself (Copy Image), or copy the file's own address.
- **"Couldn't download the image." (or video, or audio file):** the link is broken or the server refused the download. The status line's tooltip says why.
- **"Couldn't create <folder>. Check Settings.":** the folder name in Settings can't be used there, for example because a file with that name exists. Choose another name.
- **SVG didn't convert to shapes:** requires After Effects 2026, SVG files set to Shapes, and Add to active composition turned on.
- **"Saved (SVG), but AE couldn't import it":** you pasted an SVG in a version older than After Effects 2026. The .svg file is still saved next to your project; paste it as PNG instead when the source also provides pixels.
- **Can't create files, or nothing pastes:** save your project first. If it still fails, turn on "Allow Scripts to Write Files and Access Network" in Edit (After Effects on macOS) → Preferences → Scripting & Expressions.
- **A KBar button says "Open the JustPaste! panel first":** the panel couldn't open by itself. Open it once from Window → Extensions → JustPaste! and try again.

**Ideas or problems?** I'd love to hear them. Open a support ticket on the JustPaste! page at aescripts.com/justpaste.