

PathOffset Pro

INSTALL GUIDE

This guide covers the installation procedure for PathOffset Pro (CEP extension). The tool is distributed as a ZXP file and integrated into After Effects using a dedicated installer.

01 / REQUIREMENTS

What You Need

Before installing, please prepare the following:

OS	Windows 10 / 11 / macOS
After Effects	2022 (v22) or later
ZXP Installer	Free installer provided by aescrpts
Distribution File	PathOffsetPro_v2.2.59.zxp
Element 3D	(Optional) Video Copilot Element 3D V2 or later recommended

→ Before You Start

Version 2 introduces **Chisel 3D**, which generates a "roof-like beveled" 3D mesh from text or mask outlines and exports it as an OBJ for Element 3D, Houdini, Cinema 4D, and more. All existing features (Offset, Outline, Multi-Stroke, Fillet, Mirror, etc.) remain available. See the separate User Manual for how to use them.

→ About macOS

macOS is supported as of v2.2 (both Windows and macOS).

Notes for installing on macOS:

- On first launch you may be asked to activate your license again. If so, re-enter your issued license (key).
- If it says the license is already in use, simply wait 1-2 minutes on that screen and it will update automatically.

02 / DOWNLOAD

Get ZXP Installer

To install After Effects extensions (.zxp) properly, we recommend using the official ZXP Installer provided by aescripts. Adobe's Extension Manager has been discontinued since 2017 and no longer supports current versions of After Effects.

STEP 01 Visit the official site

Go to <https://aescripts.com/learn/post/zxp-installer/> and click the "Download ZXP Installer" button for your OS (Windows / macOS).

STEP 02 Run the installer

Execute the downloaded .exe and follow the on-screen instructions to complete the installation.

STEP 03 Launch ZXP Installer

You're ready to go once you can launch ZXP Installer from the Start menu.

03 / INSTALL

Install PathOffset Pro

STEP 01 Quit After Effects

If After Effects is running, please quit it first. Installing while AE is open may prevent the extension from being recognized.

STEP 02 Drag & drop the ZXP file

Launch ZXP Installer and drag the PathOffsetPro_v2.2.59.zxp file into the window.

STEP 03 Run the installation

Click the "Install" button when it appears. Success is indicated by a completion message.

STEP 04 Launch After Effects

Open After Effects and select "Window > Extensions > PathOffset Pro" from the menu to display the panel.

04 / LICENSE

License Activation

PathOffset Pro starts in trial mode after installation. To unlock all features, purchase a license from the product page and activate it.

STEP 01 Get your license key

In the "Pricing / Plans" section of the product page (<https://takecinema.com/products/pathoffsetpro/#pricing>), choose your preferred plan (Full, Lite, etc.) and complete the purchase. The license key will be sent to your registered email address.

STEP 02 Open PathOffset Pro panel

In After Effects, open the PathOffset Pro panel and click the "?" button in the upper right to display the license management screen.

STEP 03 Enter your license key

Paste the received license key into the input field and click "Activate".

STEP 04 Activation complete

All features are unlocked once activation is successful.

→ Trial Limitations

The trial has the following limitations:

- Outer/Inner Offset: max 3px, up to 15 runs (values above 3px trigger a warning and are clamped to 3px)
- Outer/Inner Outline, Union, and Mirror (H/V): locked
- Chisel 3D: locked (requires an activated license + unlock)
- Text > Mask / Shape > Mask / Mask > Shape conversions: unlimited

05 / EDITIONS

Editions & Unlocking Chisel 3D

v2 includes the flagship **Chisel 3D** feature, and its availability depends on your edition.

Full (\$79)	All features including Chisel 3D. Existing users get Chisel 3D at no extra cost (keep using the same license key).
Lite (\$29)	Base features. Chisel 3D is locked. Add the separately-sold "Chisel 3D Unlock" to enable it.
Chisel 3D Unlock (\$50)	Adds Chisel 3D to Lite. Lite (\$29) + Unlock (\$50) = \$79 = the same price as Full.

Purchase any plan from the "Pricing / Plans" section of the product page:

Pricing / Plans / Buy	https://takecinema.com/products/pathoffsetpro/#pricing
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To unlock Chisel 3D on the Lite edition:

STEP 01 Activate the base license

First activate your Lite license following the "04 / LICENSE" steps (Chisel 3D requires both the base license AND the unlock).

STEP 02 Purchase the Chisel 3D Unlock

Buy the "Chisel 3D Unlock (\$50)" from the "Pricing / Plans" section of the product page (<https://takecinema.com/products/pathoffsetpro/#pricing>). The unlock key is sent to your email.

STEP 03 Enter the unlock key

Open the "?" button in the upper right of the panel, choose "Enter unlock key", and paste your key. The Chisel 3D card unlocks.

→ Full edition & existing users

If you have a Full license (or are an existing user), **no extra step is needed** - just activate the base license and Chisel 3D is ready.

→ First launch of Chisel 3D

The first time you open Chisel 3D (Chisel 3D Studio), **you may be asked to enter your license again**. If so, simply enter your license code (key) once more.

06 / TROUBLESHOOTING

Troubleshooting

→ Panel doesn't appear after installation

Try quitting After Effects completely and restarting. If it still doesn't appear, try reinstalling with ZXP Installer.

→ "Extension cannot be loaded" appears

Check that AE Preferences > Scripting & Expressions > "Allow Scripts to Write Files and Access Network" is enabled.

→ License activation fails

Check your internet connection. Access to Polar.sh is required. Firewall or VPN settings may be the cause.

→ License key shows as "invalid"

Make sure there are no extra spaces at the beginning or end of the key. Copying directly from the email is most reliable.

→ "This license key is currently in use on another PC"

The standalone edition can be used on **one PC at a time** (there is no limit on how many PCs you install it on). Closing the panel on the other PC frees it automatically, but you can also press the **■■■■■■■■■■ (Use on this PC)** button to switch immediately - the other PC will then be blocked.

→ The Chisel 3D card is locked

Chisel 3D is included in the Full edition. On Lite, follow "05 / EDITIONS" to buy the "Chisel 3D Unlock" and enter the key. If you are on Full / an existing user and it stays locked, make sure the base license is properly activated (including internet access).

→ Chisel 3D Studio is blank / won't open

Close the Studio window and reopen it via "Open Chisel 3D Studio" in the main panel. You may be asked to re-enter the license key the first time (Studio is a separate window). If it persists, restart After Effects.

07 / SUPPORT

Support & Contact

For questions or support, please reach out via the following channels:

Support	takecinema.support@gmail.com
Product page / Buy	https://takecinema.com/products/pathoffsetpro/
Video tutorial	https://youtu.be/rPrSrtEujBc
X (Twitter)	https://x.com/Takecinema
License portal	https://polar.sh/takecinema/portal

Thank you for your purchase. May PathOffset Pro accelerate your work.