

Digital Anarchy Releases Geomancy, New Filters For After Effects

SAN FRANCISCO, October 8th, 2001 — Digital Anarchy released their second plug-in package for Adobe After Effects, called Geomancy. Geomancy is a filter set that's designed to create geometric shapes and lines. These are elements that are quite often found in the design of motion graphics, and while they are easy to create, they can be quite tedious to animate.

By using a particle system coupled to a grid system, the Geomancy plug-ins make it easy to create and animate the shapes and lines. The particle system generates the shapes and the grid system is used to control how they look and behave. This gives the designer a great deal of flexibility and power, without the complexity that usually comes with particle systems.

A Common System

All three plug-ins are based on the same type of system, once the basic concept is mastered, it's easy to set up any of the filters. This makes it easier re-familiarize yourself with the filters if you haven't used one in awhile, but use one of the others frequently.

The particle system should be familiar to most AE users, with similar controls to that of existing systems, the difference is the way the particles are controlled. A grid system is used to determine where the particles are created and how they behave or move afterwards. Usually particles will be constrained to the grid in one way or another, however, there are many ways to break them away from the grid and create a more organic, yet controlled, animation.

The Filters

GridSquares: A particle system designed to create squares and other geometric shapes. Among the shapes you can create are circles, stars, triangles, and martini glasses. The particles are attached to the underlying grid system at birth, and then the grid can be used to control how they behave, or the particles can ignore it, depending on how you set the filter up. The grid can be used to constrain the particles to a specific space in the grid or a specific area. It can also control the motion of the particles. Among the many attributes that can be set, is a four color gradient bar that controls the color of the shapes. You can also set the shapes to have outlines that differ in color.

GridLines: Uses the particle system to create random lines. The lines can have many attributes set that determine their behavior and look. By default, the lines follow along the grid, turning randomly at the intersections. You can limited how often they turn or, if you want straight lines, you can eliminate the turning. You can set things like turn radius to create sweeping, curved lines, or set a high turn rate, to create short rapidly turning worm-like lines.

HairLines: Designed to create lines that flow like hair or water. In this case, the particles are the ripples that are used to distort the lines. This uses the grid to set the lines up, and then the ripples run over them and distort them. There are many attributes that can be set for both the lines, the ripples, and the way the ripples affect the lines. The lines can take up the entire screen, or they can have ends and look like hanging vines as the ripples run over through them. When the lines have ends, they can also grow, creating an effect of water running down a window or a crack in a sidewalk.

Pricing and Availability

The filter set will be available for \$79 until October 31st, 2001, at which time it will go to it's regular list price of \$99. Demo filters, manuals, sample movies, and tutorials can be found at www.digitalanarchy.com. Also available until Oct. 31st is a bundle package with Digital Anarchy's first AE filter set, Elements of Anarchy: Text. This is priced at \$149.

About Digital Anarchy

Digital Anarchy® is a privately owned company operating out of San Francisco, CA. Digital Anarchy® is devoted to creating high end and high quality software products for broadcast designers in television and film. These products solve a wide range of problems that face designers, from creating text effects and background elements to the addition of lighting effects in 2D compositing applications. The products work in conjunction with a wide range of products from companies like Adobe®, Discreet™, and Apple®.

For further information on Digital Anarchy and other products, please see the company's Web site at www.digitalanarchy.com or call 415-586-8434.

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