

CleanupTool

version 16

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CleanupTool is a plug-in for Adobe Illustrator CS6 - 2021 that fine-tunes paths in several ways:

Click:

- on an endpoint or intermediate anchor point to delete it
- on a control point does nothing
- on a path segment to add an anchor point

Shift click:

- on an endpoint or intermediate anchor point to make it a corner point and collapse its handles
- on a control point to make its anchor a corner point (no change in the location of the control points)
- on a path segment to make the adjoining anchor points corner points and collapse the control handles for that segment

Option click:

- on an endpoint to extend its control handle
- on an intermediate anchor point to make it a smooth point and rotate the control handles to become tangent
- on a control point to rotate it to become tangent to the adjacent segment's control handle
- on a path segment to make its anchor points smooth, extend the control handles, and rotate the handles to become tangent to adjacent beziers

Shift-Option click:

- on an endpoint does nothing
- on an intermediate anchor point toggles it between a corner and smooth point
- on a control point toggles its anchor point between a corner and smooth point
- on a path segment does nothing

So, essentially, clicking adds/deletes points, shift clicks make things angular, option clicks make things smooth, and shift-option toggles them.

When the tool's cursor is over a selected path, its control handles will be highlighted even if Illustrator currently doesn't display them, and anchor points will be marked with a square for corner points or a circle for smooth points.

- Dragging a control handle adjusts it, constrained to its original angle.
- Dragging an anchor point will move it, *even if it's under other art objects*.
- By default, anchor point dragging will be constrained to the initial trajectory of the next bezier segment. Pressing Alt/Option will change the constraint to the exit trajectory of the previous segment (for smooth anchor points, these angles will be the same). After you've started dragging, you may press Control/Command to move the anchor point freely.
- Shift-drag a control point or anchor point to constrain its movement to each increment of 45 degrees.
- Drag a segment to find another path to assimilate. A smoothed segment will be added connecting the two paths.

Double-click the tool's icon to show its Preferences dialog, or select "Cleanup Tool..." from the Preferences menu. Here you can select whether to show help text near the cursor and whether to show enhanced path highlighting.

Cleanup Tool requires Adobe Illustrator version CS6 through 2020 on either Mac or Windows (CS6 32- or 64-bit, CC 64-bit).

To install the plugin, just drop it into Adobe Illustrator's "Plug-ins" folder. It doesn't matter if you put it in a subfolder you create (just to keep things tidy) or at the top level of the Plug-ins folder.

The correct path to the main plugins folder under **Windows (64-bit)** is:
Windows (C:)Program Files\Adobe\Adobe Illustrator[version]\Plug-ins

The **Windows 32-bit** path just adds the "(x86)" like this:

Windows (C:) \Program Files (x86) \Adobe \Adobe Illustrator [version] \Plug-ins

On a **Mac**, the path to the plugin folder is:

/Applications/Adobe Illustrator [version]/Plug-ins

For more support information, please visit <http://rj-graffix.com/support/>

Be sure to check the Graffix Web site for updates and other new products. Your comments and suggestions are always welcome!