

Invisible Pen – Using a signature – class notes

- Draw a signature in Illustrator using the Pencil Tool
- Copy the path and paste it onto a solid in After Effects.
 - a. (Start a new composition and go under Layer>New>solid)
- Select the layer (click on it)
- Go under Effect > Generate > Stroke
- Look at the Effects Control Window, if you do not see it press F3
- You will see the Stroke effect in here. Press the ‘Home’ key and click on the Stopwatch icon for the End property.
- Change the value to zero
- Move the CTI (red edit line) a couple of seconds to the right and change the value of end to 100
- Change the color of the stroke; this will be the color of the ‘ink’
- Change the width of the stroke (brush Size) this will be how thick the ‘pen’ is
- Open a ‘pencil’ or ‘pen’ image with an Alpha
- Place it in the composition above the signature layer
- Move the anchor point so that it agrees with the part of the pen that will be use to write (the tip)
- Select the signature layer
- Press the letter ‘m’ on your keyboard
- Click on the words ‘mask shape’ and copy
- Select the pencil layer
- Press the ‘home’ key
- Press the letter p (for ‘position’)
- Click on the word position
- Paste the mask shape in here
- Play your animation (press ‘0’ on your numeric keyboard)
- Your pencil and your signature will not agree, and this is because masks do not have time, so you need to select both layers and press the letter ‘u’, wait 2 seconds and then press the letter ‘u’ again. This will show you all of the keyframes related to both layers
- Click on the last keyframe of either layer and drag it. After you start dragging it left or right, press and hold the SHIFT key. This will make the keyframes snap to one another.
- Make sure that the first and last keyframes of both layers start and end in the same place (time).
- Play your animation and enjoy!!!

Luisa Winters is an Adobe Certified Instructor in After Effects 7.0, Photoshop CS2, Premiere Pro 2.0 and Encore DVD 2.0. She is a Johns Hopkins University Graduate fluent in both English and Spanish who has been in the professional videography industry for 19 years. A multiple year, multiple award winning videographer / editor, Luisa believes videographers should attend her classes / workshops because they will add editing techniques to their repertoire that they likely have never even thought of before. She will give tips to make editing and compositing much more productive, faster, and far more inventive. Luisa received the Walter Bennet Service to Industry Award in 2004 and was inducted into the WEVA Hall of Fame in 2004.

Luisa's contact information:

www.videotrainers.com

luisa@videotrainers.com

(410) 703-1611

