



Animated Greeting Cards: Create a Handmade Animation

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Animated greeting card: choose an appropriate phrase, then begin to design.

I would suggest picking a word that is 3 or fewer words like "I love you," "Happy Birthday," "Congratulations Thinking of You" or just "HEY! :)". Think about whether you're making an animation-based greeting card for an individual or it's general messages that you could apply to multiple situations. For instance, "Thank you" is an excellent, flexible message that you can incorporate into text messages, emails, and even your site.

Steps:

- Select your own phrase (around three words, or less)
- Pick your color scheme. I have found that restricting my color palette helps.
- Choose an object or a concept that will add a spark to your sketch. What are you drawn to most? Spirals? Lines? Cross-hatches? Dots?
- Select your preferred medium. When I created my first "I missed you" video I used watercolor and a pen. To create my second "I miss You" animation, I reached into my child-like side and used pastels that resembled crayons. Making use of a messy medium made me less of an idealist. ;-)
- Select the paper you like. Papers with many textures can be enjoyable because the paper's texture can be animated and provide interest with no effort.

Advice:

- If you're just beginning to become an animator, I suggest using the art materials you're already familiar with to allow you to concentrate on learning how to create animation rather than adjusting to new art materials. If you're adept, learning a new medium could help you expand your imagination. If you think that trying those new brushes will bring enjoyment to this endeavor and you're interested, then you should definitely try it! :)
- Make it easy like one object that's simple for you to create and to move. OR instead of drawing an icon or object simply draw squiggles, you can move around! :)
- Let's say you choose an animal. Find an easy move that has only 2 poses, such as blinking, or three poses, such as a beak closed/open/mid/close or wings out/in/mid/out.
- Have you got yourself confused? Take a look at what your card's recipient would like to see. Are they a lover of birds? Hearts? Stars? Flowers? What is their preferred color, activity, or season?
- Keep in mind that animated games become more fun as you work at them.

Software and Equipment:

- You require something to **record** every frame of your video. The most suitable methods for capture are photography or scanning. Suitable devices: phone, tablet, camera, DSLR camera, scanner, Xerox machine:)
- **If you're using a phone or tablet to take pictures** motion pictures, there are applications such as **Stop Motion Pro** that act as a single-stop shop for taking photos as well as compositing and exporting your final video. It's not necessary to think over Dragonframe as well as Adobe Creative Suite. Adobe Creative Suite.
- **If you're using the DSLR camera** **Dragonframe Stop Motion** is a great application that can connect to the live feed of your camera. It's specifically designed for professional stop-motion animators. I'm a long-time admirer. :) You can export your animation straight from Dragonframe and you can opt to import your images in Adobe After Effects, Photoshop, or Premiere to make a composite.

It is my intention to develop Skillshare classes that go into the depths of the programs and techniques however for this course I've decided to present a simple introduction to compositing frames of animation using Adobe After Effects. If you're new to animation, then I would suggest installing Stop Motion Pro or another mobile application, in order to be able to make the leap



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