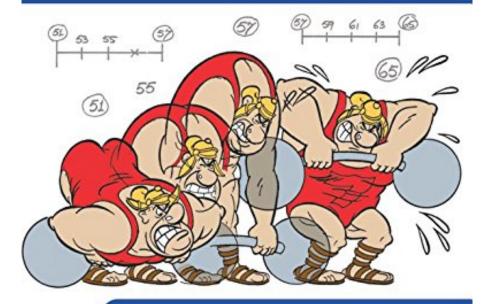


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# Timing for Animation

Harold Whitaker John Halas Updated by Tom Sito

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A classic of animation education since it first published in 1981. For more than 25 years, copies of Timing for Animation have been sitting dog-eared and spine-split on desks and workstations around the world wherever animation is produced. All you need to breathe life into your animation is at your fingertips.

All the vital techniques employed by animators worldwide are explained using dozens of clear illustrations and simple, straightforward directions. Learn how animations should be arranged in relation to each other, how much space should be used and how long each drawing should be shown for maximum dramatic effect. Fully revised and updated, the second edition includes timing for digital production, digital storyboarding in 2D, digital storyboarding in 3D, the use of After Effects and much, much more!

- Timing shows weight, mood, and power and can make or break an animation get it right the first time with these tried and tested techniques
- Get straight to the good stuff with simple, no-nonsense instruction on the key techniques like stretch and squash, animated cycles, overlapping, and anticipation
- Sales Rank: #148618 in Books
- Published on: 2009-09-04
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.50" h x .40" w x 7.40" l, 1.10 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 174 pages

Most helpful customer reviews

24 of 27 people found the following review helpful.

1st edition is superior

By Lars Kingbeard

For this second edition, Focal press had Tom Sito write a new preface, a conclusion, and a few bare-bones entries on various types of computer/digital animation which are so basic as to be virtually worthless. The book also got a facelift, consisting of a color-coded header bar on every page which gives you the chapter and lesson titles, presumably to prevent any possibility of a reader getting lost in this slim little volume. It's possible I guess. Unfortunately, this header means that now all of the images have been shrunk by 10% in size and seem to have lost some clarity in printing as well, with more noticeable areas of fade out in the line work. I also find the text smaller and harder to read, as they have switched to a sans serif font.

For a similarly inscrutable reason, the design team attempted to position all of the text on the right hand page and all of the images on the left hand page if at all possible, contrary to the original design, and the result is several awkward layouts where the images and text no longer flow smoothly. The paper stock is now glossy and twice as heavy, but as I have noted, the image quality is worse, so I prefer my lighter, slimmer 2002 edition. Unless you really want to see pictures of steve buscemi getting mo-capped and president obama riding a unicorn, I suggest sticking with the first edition of this seminal animation book.

13 of 15 people found the following review helpful."A Prerequisite For All Animated Projects." Timing For Animation: A Critical Review By Andre LawrenceUpdate: July 2, 2011

I received a comment from J Fella with regards to a comment that I made in reference to another book but one that has no correlation to the subject of this book. I can't for the life of me remember why I had mentioned it. Maybe it was because I was reviewing 6 film books that month and the one mentioned really, really impressed me.

This book, TIMING FOR ANIMATION, is more of a theoretical than applicable book. And, as such, it should be viewed in that context. Having this book for almost 2 years now, and picking it up on random occasions, I've had a change of heart about it's worth. But, since this book has been the foundation text for animators for almost 30 years, I felt (and still do feel) that we should have seen more examples of animated films whose success was, at least, in part attributed to this work. That omission makes it a 4-star and not a 5-star book.

TIMING FOR ANIMATION is a newly revised version of one of the film industries revered books on animation since it was first published in 1981. This second edition is essentially an addendum to the first edition and not an adjustment to the material.

\*Introduction-- What is this book about and how it should be used? \*\*Sub-topics \*\*\*Pro's and Con's \*\*\*\*Conclusion

\*Timing For Animation is not exactly a thematic book on animation. It is a sub-topic. Timing For Animation is essentially a philosophical discussion about the execution of movement for any and all scenes within a project. You will not find within this book (nor should you expect) broad-based lessons on how to create animation or technical aspects of filmmaking.

Timing For Animation is used to determine the fluidity or as the authors stated, "what gives meaning to the movement." Directors, animators (and, by necessity, the auditing dept.) plan out scenes television program, commercial and feature film with these theories in mind. This sub-topic provides answers to questions like how fast or how slow will the execution of certain gestures affect the overall vision of the storyteller(s). When to move and when not to move? Where and when to insert gestures? How does the environment (natural elements) react to given situation?

\*\*Also, there are slightly different rules for executing a scene ("mise-en-scene") for television work, commercial advertisement and feature-film projects. These differences are discussed within.

Some of the sub-topics are as follows:

What is good timing? How is timing supposed to affect a moment in the film? Timing and the use of storyboards Timing for television and Timing for film Timing for actor-based programs, "motion capture." Movement and caricature Cause and Effect Objects thrown through the air The effects of friction, air resistance and water Timing to suggest weight Synchronization for speech

#### \*\*\*Pro's and Con's

#### Pro's

+ Introduction by John Lassater, head of Pixar, about the importance of "timing" in animation is very important.

+ Until recently, it was the only book that dealt specifically with the subtext of animation. The other is, now, Elemental Magic (5-stars).

+ Revised version details how timing is used on the internet, motion graphics and digital animation.

+ Essential topic-discussion for directorial, artistic and budgeting considerations in the pre- planning stages.

+ Hundreds of beautiful animations, makes this an aesthetically attractive book on its own

#### Con's

- Relatively thin book with sparse examples and barely half a page of explanatory notes per subject

- No cd-rom with supplementary material (this should be par for the course with such texts)

- Some chapters could have been condensed; others could have been expounded more thoroughly.

\*\*\*\* Timing For Animation is an important book that addresses the critical issue of the importance of fluidity in a scene. Thirty (30) years ago it was considered the only authority on the subject in print, however, this newly revised version has little to offer that than the previous version.

I'm recommending this book as an addendum to one's animation book collection. It should go hand-in-hand with any pre-visualization and pre-budgetary decisions for a given project.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

What's the most important thing--Timing!--in animation?

By S. Horwatt

This is an update of a classic 30-year-old book giving instruction on all aspects of timing for creating animated films. When I say "all aspects," I mean it talks about tools for developing the timeline of a piece, the various constraints of timing on various animated media (tv, film, etc.), drawing techniques to properly illustrate the timing of an animated character's actions, the interplay of the timing of dialogue and illustrated actions, etc. The preface indicates that a driving force for the new edition is the revolution of digital animation. I have not read the original edition, but the quantity of material included on digital animation seems relatively light, so I'm not sure how much was really added for this edition. However, keeping this book in print seems like a boon to animators, because it really does contain a wealth of information on this critical topic.

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