

FEATURED**BACK**

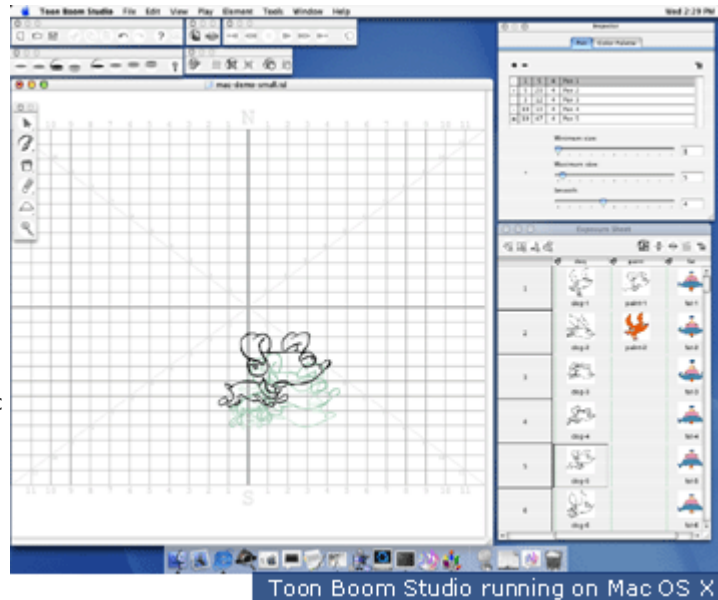
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Toon Boom Studio: review + Halloween specialby [FG] Rajeev // + [radimus](#)**price:**

\$349 downloaded/ \$374 boxed

company:

Toon Boom technologies U.S.A inc

website:www.toonboom.com**verdict:**

Toon Boom Studio running on Mac OS X

Toon Boom Studio is the smaller, web oriented version of the industry standard 2D digital animation package US ANIMATION favoured by such studios as Klasky Csupo (Rugrats) and Dreamworks SKG. The application is designed with the traditional animator in mind featuring a 'light table' where the design and colouring of character and background assets is done, and an X-sheet and timeline where the manipulation and staging of these assets occurs for final output.

The traditional 2D animator will be used to such terms as 'light table' and 'X-sheet' or 'Dope sheet', whereas these may be confusing to someone who has entered this field via alternative routes like Flash or 3D animation. Nothing that a little research into traditional 2D animation techniques will not fix.

Toon Boom's light table is a practical improvement on usual vector based draw/paint applications. Its addition of a 'rotate disc' feature allows the artist to rotate the drawing area to facilitate character rendition just like an actual animation disc.

This makes the use of graphics tablets in digital animation more practical and shows the scope of Toon Boom Studio as a digital animation package with firm roots in traditional techniques.

Toon Boom's most attractive feature has to be the 3D scene planning window and the wide range of 'depth motion' or multi-plane possibilities that an animator has with such a tool. The 3D window gives you either an overhead view or a side view of the stage with the position of your assets on it. It is possible to click and drag these assets to any position along x,y and z coordinates in this window. With the ability to tween these movements in real time it is possible to achieve some stunning depth effects which will not eat up file sizes or slow your machine down.

The main drawbacks to a package like Toon Boom is that it is somewhat specialised. Someone with little or no previous traditional animation experience may find Toon Boom a little daunting at first, but it does become straightforward once the principles are understood.

In conclusion, Toon Boom Studio is an application dedicated to the production of vector based animation using traditional 2D animation techniques. Flash users who are used to combining motion graphics with scripting may be a little disappointed with Toon Boom's lack of features for interactivity, but it IS animation software for making cartoons for the web - and it does it's job well.

review courtesy [radimus](#).

Halloween special news!

For those of you who have already got your hands on Toon Boom, Toon Boom have thrown together a number of tutorials and templates based around the theme of Halloween for both PC and Mac users. The files are up for grabs at their site www.toonboom.com.

related links:

- >> [USAnimation](#)
 - >> [Toon Boom studio](#)
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