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## Toon Boom Studio

Toon Boom Studio is a two-dimensional animation application that allows aspiring artists to create professional cell-based animation. The package includes a powerful scene planner and a clever lip-sync tool, but it's slightly tarnished by a cluttered interface.

Toon Boom Studio is a vector-based application that treats brush strokes as a series of curving lines rather than a series of pixels. To get you started, you can import artwork from vector-based applications such as Illustrator or Freehand. Pixel images can also be imported for use as backgrounds and other static objects. Completed movies are exported as either Macromedia Flash or QuickTime documents. You'll still need to use Flash 5.0 if you want to add interactive features to your animations, however.

Toon Boom Studio encourages the use of a drawing tablet so that the creative process is immediately familiar to traditional animators. Onionskin layering allows the artist to see multiple frames at once so that the animation can be perfected. The package's powerful scene planner allows you to plot motion paths for objects over time, helping you create animations of basic actions -- such as the setting of the sun -- with minimal effort. The objects can even be rotated, resized and distorted as time progresses. The package also lets you organize your two-dimensional objects on a three-dimensional plain. You can then move the camera over time to give the animation a real sense of depth. One of Toon Boom's most ingenious features is its lip-sync tool, which can analyze a voice track for phonetic patterns and suggest lip positions. You can then refer to its suggested mouth shapes to draw similar positions on your characters.

The only real trouble with Toon Boom Studio is its spate of unnamed tool palettes. The authors ought to merge several palettes together to minimize clutter in a future release.

Despite minor interface issues, Toon Boom Studio is an excellent creative tool for both amateur and professional animators.

rating 

### Toon Boom Studio

Toon Boom Technologies  
[www.toonboomstudio.com](http://www.toonboomstudio.com)



Smart animation features, handy lip-sync generator



Cluttered interface

Chris McVeigh, October 2001



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