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CrazyTalk Animator Pro

info

COMPANY

Reallusion

WEB

www.reallusion.com

PRICE

£40.46/\$59.44US
(Standard version)

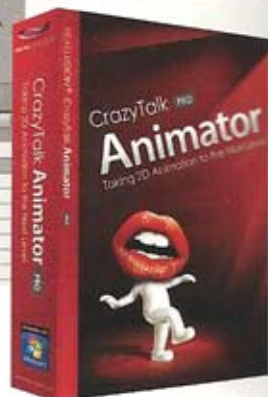
£141.61/\$214.14
(Pro version)

SPECS

Windows 7, Vista
and XP



Power Tools Reallusion's Power Tools bundle of animation content is an optional extra to expand the available presets. Power Tools is available through the company's online store for £82.11/\$118.94US.



lthough Photoshop is mostly about painting and photo editing, there is the option to create basic animations.

As this isn't its defining feature, however, you may well be left wanting more. That's where Reallusion's CrazyTalk Animator comes in as a simple and fun way to create entertaining 2D animations. With the ability to load artwork from Photoshop into the program, this could be a dream come true for the aspiring animator.

If you use Reallusion's 3D animation tool iClone 4, or even CrazyTalk: Facial Animation Creator software, you'll already be comfortable and familiar with the style of the program. The conversion to the company's 2D application will be a breeze, but even if it's your first step into animation you won't be feeling out of your depth.

A key feature that really sets it apart from other animation software is the option to take a photo of a person and apply Auto Body Fitting (available in the Pro version). Using these tools on a full-body image, you apply a frame around joints and limbs that can be assigned a movement and repositioned into your animation. To complement this there's the Auto Face Fitting mode too, which fits a frame to

a person's facial features and takes you step-by-step through setting up, masking faces and replacing eyes and mouths with animations. These can also all then be edited with brightness, hue and saturation.

The interface is broken into sections to make things easy to follow. The first stage, Project, lets you choose a three-dimensional scene where you can move in and out, zoom and work with props and animated characters. Once your project is underway, you can move into other sections to edit your characters in a scene and animate them using preset expressions and voice-overs. There are also options for incorporating animated special effects into your project, from blowing smoke to simple 2D explosions. You're not limited to just the templates and 2D objects in the library, however. If, in the process of building a scene, you come across an image that you really like (on the web, for instance), you can drag and drop it straight into your digital project to use as a real-world object.

There are even more advantages to this software if you are able to upgrade to the Pro version, customising facial and body movements of people being one, but it may be worth trying out the Standard package before you make the decision to go Pro.

TAKE A CLOSER LOOK



Prop Composer The Prop Composer can take objects into Photoshop so you can apply adjustments or remove any unwanted parts of the scene.



Drag and drop Content can be placed straight into Animator's interface by dragging and dropping, including images and video files.



Import people CrazyTalk Animator enables you to import an image of a person taken on a webcam and transform them with animated poses.



Using templates As this has been made for artists who are new to 2D animation, there are templates that can be accessed online and in via program.

PROS

- Interface is clear and concise
- Objects can be edited in PS
- Fun and light-hearted approach
- Extra content through the Marketplace

CONS

- Costly jump to Pro version

VERDICT

9.0

A great program for beginners to get the animation bug before going pro