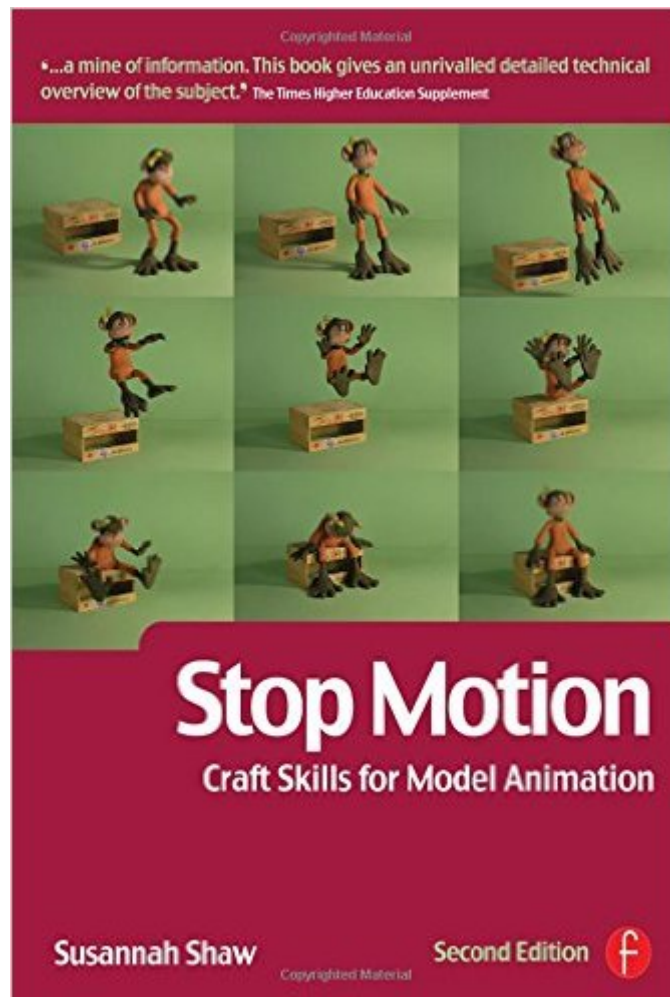


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# Stop Motion: Craft Skills For Model Animation (Focal Press Visual Effects And Animation)



## Synopsis

To make great animation, you need to know how to control a whole world: how to make a character, how to make that character live and be happy or sad. You need to create four walls around them, a landscape, the sun and moon - a whole life for them. You have to get inside that puppet and first make it live, then make it perform. Susannah Shaw provides the first truly practical introduction to the craft skills of model animation. This is a vital book in the development of model animation which, following the success of Aardman's first full-length film, *Chicken Run*, is now at the forefront of modern animation. Illustrated in full colour throughout you are shown step by step how to create successful model animation. Starting with some basic exercises, you will learn about developing a story, making models, creating set and props, the mechanics of movement, filming, postproduction and how to set about finding that elusive first job in a modern studio. Susannah Shaw is Programme Development Manager for the Animated Exeter festival. She was head of the Bristol Animation Course from 1996 to 2000 at the University of the West of England and former camera assistant at Aardman (working on 'A Close Shave' among other films).

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I knew nothing about stop motion before I read this book so I did learn a lot but there is no way I could make a stop motion film yet. The book leaves too many holes. For example, while the book mentions dope sheets and story boards (and show small, difficult-to-read examples), it doesn't tell how to do them. The book also wastes a lot of time and space with extended quotes from people in

the industry. For the most part, they are "funny day at the office" stories and not terribly helpful to a beginner. Overall, I think this book is trying to be everything to everybody so although many, many topics are touched upon, nothing is covered in enough detail. Also note that most everything is British, from prices of equipment to supplier and studio resources. So, if you're curious about the world of stop motion but don't care about doing it, this would be a good book. If you want to actually do stop motion, you'll need something better than this.

Stop motion animation, by its very nature is a multi skill endeavor. You need to know about timing, how bodies move, the effects of gravity, how to shoot video, how to take pictures, how to tell a story, and how to make movie sets and miniature figures! Wow, that seems like a lot and I hope I didn't scare you off. My point is that stop motion entails a lot of different kinds of things --- And this book touches on all of these things. And it does it very nicely. You get a little bit of the history of stop motion and learn about some of the seminal works in the genre. And you get good information about how to make things move in a way that looks natural. And you get some good information about lighting, building sets and building figures. This is simply an excellent introduction to actually doing stop motion animation. I used this book to make a short animation. You can't go wrong and if you don't know much about how to do animation but want to learn this is a great place to start. Highly recommended. It covers a lot of technical stuff in an easy to understand and not so technical way which is just terrific. Whether you are an amateur or aspiring professional you will benefit from this book.

Best book I've found as far as physically teaching the art, and not just history lessons. The book offers crucial lessons on subjects such as easing in and out, rig removal, and various other subjects. I would highly recommend this book to anyone looking to expand their knowledge in the field. Great for beginners and advanced animators alike.

I've been searching out as many resources as possible on stop motion animation, and this book is a gem! There is so much information, and it's easy to read and walks you step by step through the creative process. It also gives helpful ideas on not only animating, but also puppet making. It's a great resource and one I'll be going back to again and again.

Very informative. My daughter even took it to college with her and has made a few Stop Motions Animations with some of her friends. Namely her dad and me. Lots of good know-how.

This book was very informative, easy to use and had tactics that were helpful. This is definitely a book that should be a part of your on-hand arsenal resources for doing stop motion and having an impact through your creativity on all your future audiences.

This is very thorough and professional. My own hobby efforts got an order of magnitude better from ideas in this book.

This book is quite insightful for beginners and veterans alike. Over all the best book out there for information on stop motion animation. I would highly recommend this book to everyone!!! Loved it!!

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