

Sockets Ink Animation Kit – Mac* Primer

In order to do stop motion animation on MacIntosh* computers, you will need a Mac compatible camera and animation software. You might also want to get video editing software, such as iMovie. Once you get your animation tools together, you don't have to spend any more to make as many animations as you want! You can make animations for sharing on the internet or make DVD's.

Camera:

The High Performance webcam included in our Animation Kit will work with Macs, although it was designed for use with PC's and does not include drivers for Macs. **There is a freeware Mac driver, macam**, available from <http://webcam-osx.sourceforge.net/> that will make the camera a **QuickTime** compatible video source. You can download this driver utility for free. We have had good luck on Macs with this driver. Our thanks to the developers for making this available to the Mac community!

Animation Software:

Our *Animation Guide* that comes with the Animation Kit lists several animation software packages for Macs that you can download. All of them allow for a trial period before you buy - and start at about \$30.00 to purchase. When we started animating, we would spend that much on film and processing in no time!

We use **FrameThief*** animation software, which allows for a 30 day trial period and costs about \$40.00 if you decide to buy. It has many nice features, including onionskin and rotoscoping. The frames are saved as individual images to allow for special effects before you make them into a movie. You can export your animation frames as QuickTime movies or streaming DV.

FrameThief is compatible with QuickTime* compatible video sources. If you already have a camera you would like to use – check to see if it is a QuickTime compatible video source. If so, you don't need to purchase a camera to get started!

Notes on Using Our Animation Kit Camera with Macs:

Install FrameThief and macam. Then, run macam and do two things-

First, drag the **macam.component** into the /Library/QuickTime/ directory. The software documentation explains this simple step further.

Second, run the **macam application**. We did this and at first, the picture quality was TERRIBLE. Once we made adjustments to the camera settings in **macam** – especially by lowering the brightness, we were able to get good image quality. The macam driver allows for shooting in low light situations with this webcam, which is great for educational and home applications where studio lighting is problematic. Once you get your camera settings where you want them, be sure to save the settings. Then exit **macam**. You cannot run animation software if the camera is in use by **macam** at the same time.

Now, run **FrameThief** and make your animations. The camera settings you made in **macam** are automatically set for **FrameThief**. When you are ready to save your movie, set the output settings to 640 x 480 to match the resolution of the camera.

Happy Animating!

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