

A paper review

Thanks to the examples of Milly, the new animator on board this project to create a stop-motion animated short film, we have the opportunity to review what has been already learned up to this point, but with new creative ideas and a special attention to the theme of ecology. You will discover the pleasure of searching for elements of nature and transform them into scenic elements, enriching your animation with unique details.

Paper is a material that is easy to use and just as easy to find. Thanks to paper, you can create beautiful stop-motion animations and at the same time you can give new life to a material that is often simply thrown in the wastebasket.

If you choose to use paper in your short film, here are a couple of practical tips to make the most of this element.

First of all, you need to choose the type of paper necessary, you can use any kind of paper, newspaper clippings, old photos or colored cards, then you will need scissors, colored pens and pencils, glue, tape and, as always, a good amount of imagination.

Using the paper, you can create both the characters in your story and the backgrounds in which you want your characters to move. In this case, there will be some elements, such as the backdrop, or a decorated frame - as in Milly's example - that will remain still and it will be within them that the real action takes place, represented by the movements of your paper characters.

Another aspect that you'll have to consider is that with this kind of material, the effect you'll get will be a two-dimensional animation, your characters will remain, so to speak, at-

tached to the background, although they'll be free to move around on it.

You can still create interesting depth and three-dimensional effects by using light and modeling paper. Small folds or the use of paper of different thicknesses will give the impression that your characters come to life beyond the background. It is a very interesting and creative stylistic choice that will allow you to achieve great results.

One last piece of advice we would like to give you if you decide to create an animated short film with paper is about your workstation. Since your characters will be lying in the background, your scene will have to take place on a horizontal surface, such as a table, a desk or even the floor.

Your smartphone or tablet with which you will film the action should be fixed on top with a tripod, with a homemade wooden structure or simply on top of a stack of books. The important thing is that the device is firmly fixed and is able to completely frame the scenario and what happens inside it. Paper is an excellent material, but consider it as only one suggestion, there are many other materials that can be used to achieve a very similar result, such as leaves, fabric, pieces of recycled plastic, or you could also combine different materials with different shapes and sizes to enrich and embellish your story.

Think, for example, about using lentils to create writing like the title of your short film or the end credits.

An excellent example of the use of paper in a stop-motion story came to us from the SUPSI Department of Education and Learning. [Take a look!](#)



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