

GET STARTED IN 3D

Ultimate Toolkit for Beginners



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Purpose

The intent of this guide is to provide any person who has the desire to jump into the 3D realm of digital creations with a list of freely available tools to get them started. We are not endorsing any particular application as the most recommended, but simply listing those which are available at no cost and can provide the basis for starting a career in 3D.

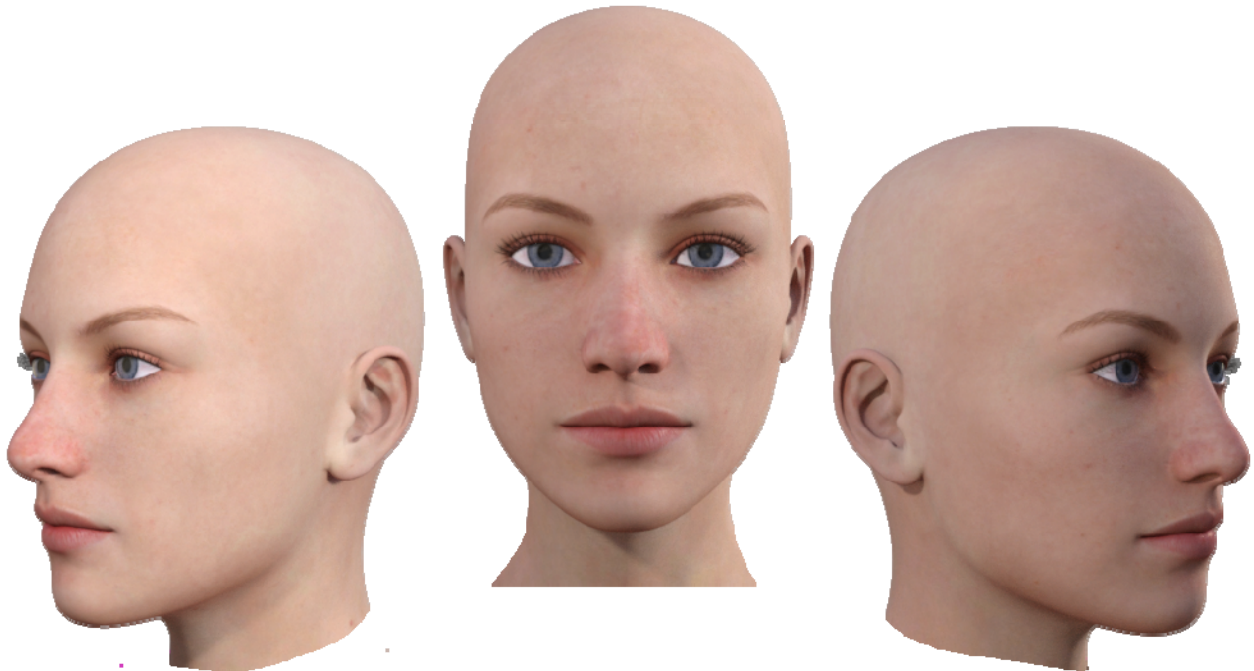
The internet is a wonderful thing so use your favorite search engines like Google, Bing or Yahoo to find what is popular and available for free.



What is 3D?

The bottom line is that no matter what you use to create your own artwork or animations, the end result will be displayed using some form of 2D media (albeit a computer monitor or television) at least for now.

The benefit of 3D is that you can create your digital project in the virtual world of three dimensions (3D) and change the view and lighting quickly to redo or recreate your image. You will often hear this referred to as “rendering” your “scene” (single image) or “animation” (multiple images called frames). In 2D, if you decide to change the perspective of your artwork, you usually have to start over from the beginning.



3D Careers

There are a wide variety of “jobs” in the world of 3D. For the beginner, the most basic categories are Software Engineer, Content Creator, Graphics/Digital Artist, and Training Instructor.

The **Software Engineer** (programmer) is a person who writes the programming code to create 3D applications or perhaps application specific plug-ins or scripts to enhance the 3D application.

The **Content Creator** is a person who creates digital products (content) to be used with 3D applications such as models or textures.

The **Digital Artist** is a person who uses a 3D application and available content to create digital artwork in the form of stills or animations

The **Training Instructor** is a person who uses their skill set and experience to develop tutorials and guides in various formats like PDF, HTML or Videos to teach 3D techniques to new or inexperienced users.

The vast majority of people involved in 3D are Digital Artists who create works of art for the world to enjoy. Many are employed by large companies to aid in creating digital artwork (ie advertising) or animations (ie movies).

Get Started

Regardless of which 3D career path you decide on (with the exception of software development), if you procure these five applications, you will have what you need to jump right into using 3D for yourself.

Daz Studio v4.9.2

Download: <http://www.daz3d.com/freebies>

Home: <http://www.daz3d.com>

Blender v2.77a

Download: <https://www.blender.org/download>

Home: <https://www.blender.org>

The GIMP v2.8.16

Download: <https://www.gimp.org/downloads>

Home: <https://www.gimp.org>

Inkscape v0.91

Download: <https://inkscape.org/en/download>

Home: <https://inkscape.org>

UV Mapper Classic v0.30a

Download: <http://www.uvmapper.com/downloads.html>

Home: <http://www.uvmapper.com/>

3D Projects

Regardless of your end goal, there is a wide range of processes that go into the creation and use of 3D applications. For the most part, you will not be developing the software itself, so we can skip ahead.

Creating Content

Use these recommended apps to create your own content to sell/share:

Blender	Models (figures, props and accessories)
Daz Studio	Very basic models and morphs (characters)
GIMP	2D textures and imagery
Inkscape	2D textures and imagery
UV Mapper	Create UV maps for applied textures

Creating Artwork

Use these recommended apps to create 3D scenes and animations:

Blender and Daz Studio

To create your digital artwork, you will follow these basic steps:

1. Set the desired environment (background, surroundings and lighting).
2. Load the desired character models and accessories into the scene.
3. Apply desired styles (textures, materials and shading).
4. Render the scene to create your digital artwork.
5. If necessary, makes adjustments and render again until acceptable.

Conclusion

We hope this short guide has inspired you to take the leap into 3D and begin either a career or hobby that we are sure you will enjoy! We offer many tutorials and products that you may find beneficial on our website. Here are a few of the products we offer that you might find useful:

