THAUNS GIOOL Of ANNAHON

Vol. I Learning the Basics





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Carson

Contents

Preface	pg 03
Chapter 1 The Basic Knowledge of Animation	pg 04
Chapter 2 Real Movement - People	pg 27
Flip Animation	pg 53
Chapter 3 Effects and Natural Phenomena	pg 73
The Force Behind Tezuka Productions	pg106

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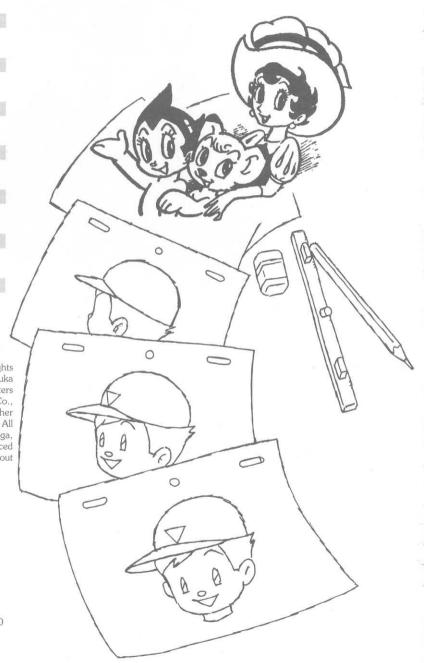
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Preface

Until now, numerous animation technique manuals have been published, written by assorted veterans of the animation world. Each one has been valuable in its own right, but they were all somewhat advanced, geared towards the intermediate animator or above. Up till now, there hasn't been an easy-to-understand, visual-based book that focuses on the needs of the true beginner, novice, or amateur.

This book, first and foremost, carefully explains the introductory aspects and principles of how objects move. You will learn step by step how to create smooth and dynamic animation, as well as the techniques to make an image "flow."

Nowadays, the animation world has seen remarkable technological advances, from the introduction of CG (computer graphics) to advancements in calculated timing and photographic technique. The basics, however, remain the same. Hand drawn frames, whether on cel or computer, are the foundation of all animation

Overall, the contents of this book only skim the surface of the animation world, but it should suffice as an easy-to-understand basic text, particularly for beginners.

In the animation world, even though you may start with one path, there are many other things to learn besides what's included in this book. But in the meantime, let's start learning the fundamentals of how to make pictures move, so you can breathe life into your own characters.



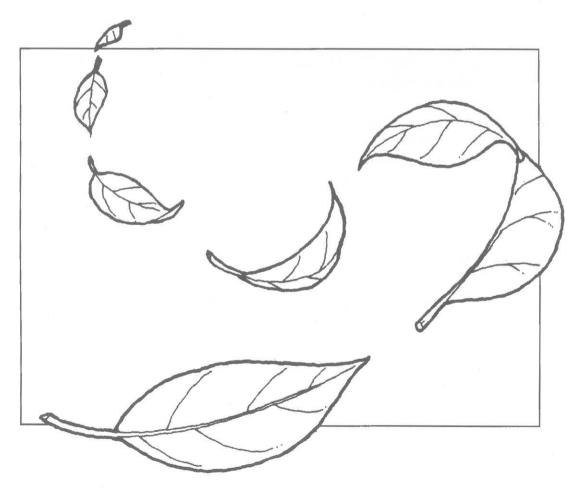
Tezuka Productions, Animation Department http://www.tezuka.co.jp/

Chapter 1

The Basic Knowledge of Animation

Before you start to draw anime, there are few important points that you need to know first:

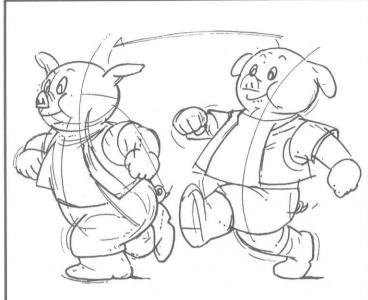
How to Create Animated Drawings
How to Draw Breakdowns and Breakdown lines
The Elements of Movement
Fundamentals of Movement



How to Create Animated Drawings

The creation of animated drawings is at present divided into two stages, as shown below.

Figure 1 (Example of key drawings)

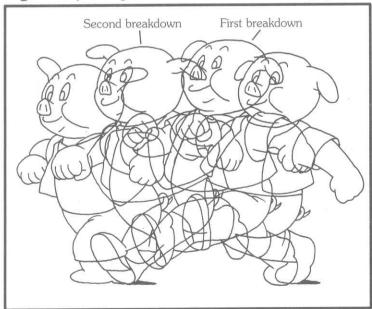


(1) Draw the key drawings

First off, draw only the poses that form the main points along the line of action. Also, pay attention to the timing of the movement.



Figure 2 (Example of breakdown drawings)



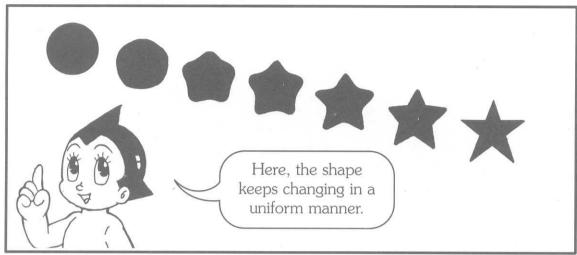
(2) Fill in the breakdown drawings

Put the finishing touches on the movement by drawing poses that fit in between the key drawings. Movement should look as natural as possible. You can think of breakdown drawings in terms of two stages: First breakdown and second breakdown.

How to Draw Breakdowns

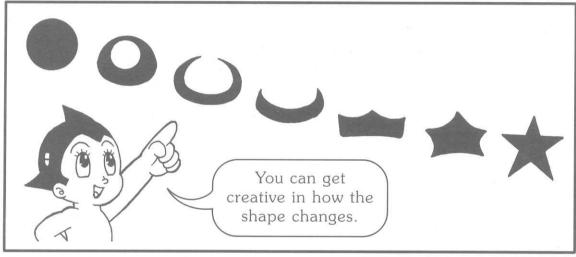
Breakdown drawings are also referred to as "in-betweens." There are two ways of looking at in-betweens, as shown below.

Figure 3 (Mechanical in-betweens)



Breakdown drawings of a changing shape fill the space between key poses precisely and mechanically.

Figure 4 (Creative in-betweens)

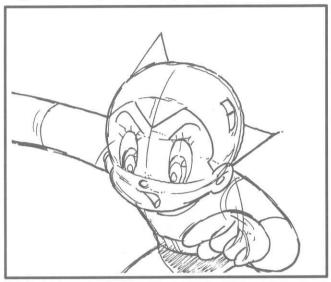


You can make creative in-between drawings that bear in mind the shape, material, and nature of the moving object. Generally, this kind of creative inbetween work is preferred in animation.

How to Draw Breakdown Lines

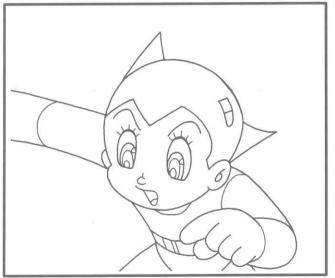
A special technique is necessary to draw the lines of breakdowns. Usually, when making a breakdown drawing, you can start by making a clean copy of the key drawing. Since the key drawing is in rough form, complete the breakdown drawing by tidying up the picture into separate, clean lines, creating a finished product.

Figure 5 Key drawing (rough sketch)



Choose the appropriate lines and make a clean copy.

Figure 6 Breakdown drawing (A clean copy of the key drawing in Figure 5.)



To do this, you've got to really understand the intention of the key drawing, in addition to having good enough technique so you don't lose the flavor of the key drawing.

What you need in your technique is the ability to show the feel and shape of the object, clearly and accurately.



Also, you need to know which lines to use and which not to use. This is a very important point in making breakdown drawings, so it's important that you really master this skill.

- Thick lines---Used for outlining and for emphasis.
- Medium lines---Used for areas adjoining the outline.
- Fine lines---Used for eyelashes, rims of the eyes, wrinkles in clothing, etc.

Distinguish when to use these three types of lines depending on your purpose.

Figure 7 (Example of not distinguishing between different types of lines)



Figure 8 (Example of distinguishing between different types of lines)



Also, be sure to make a distinction between the way a line stops (and starts).



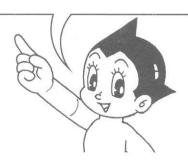


A gradual stop.

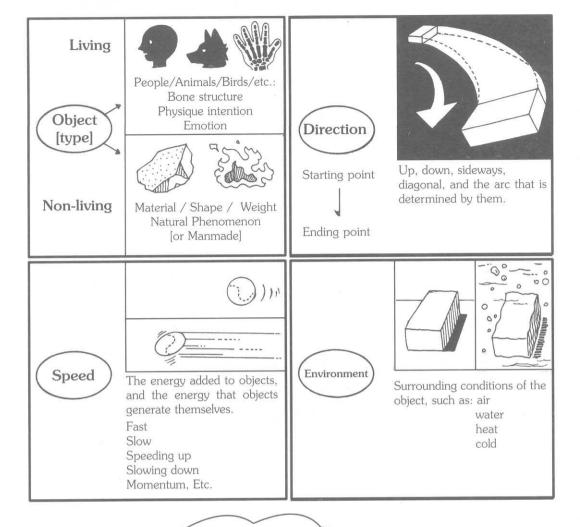
A sudden stop.

Obviously, it's no good if the lines are messy, broken, sticking out, or visibly intersecting.

You see, if you don't make a distinction between line types, a facial expression can look stiff and have an inorganic feel to it. But I'm sure you can see how dynamic it looks when you make a distinction between lines.



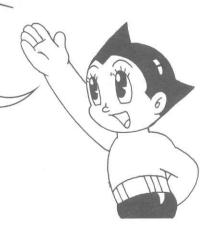
For Animation Movement You've Got to Consider:



The elements of movement can be divided into the four general categories above.

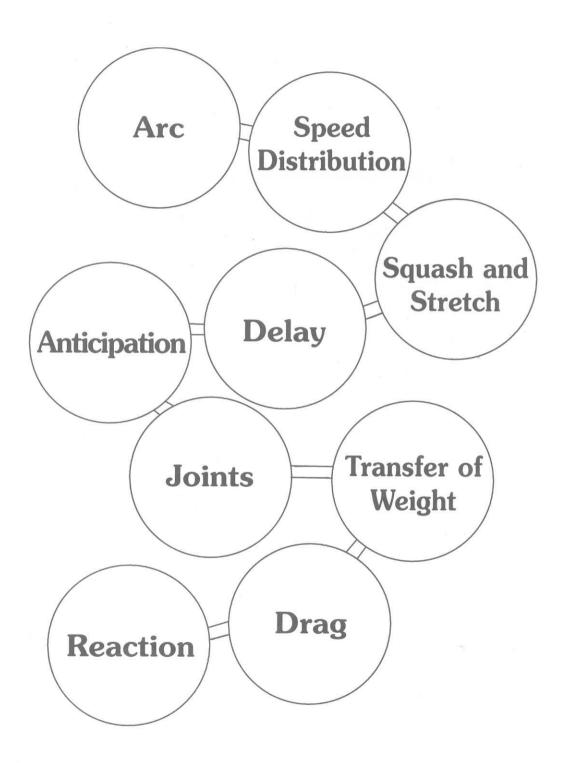
Movement is affected by these combined elements. An animator, always seeking to create better animation, should never fail to consider these factors.

Now, beginning with the next page, let's move on to specifics and learn about the "Fundamentals of Movement."



Fundamentals of Movement

Before actually learning about movement, let's take a look at the following.



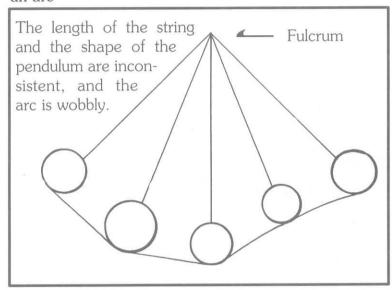
Fundamentals of Movement

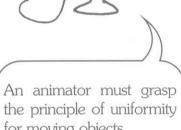
- Arc -

When objects move, the path that they follow is called an "arc."

- An arc should be depicted so that it conforms to a constant principle of uniformity.
- An arc without uniformity results in a jerky, awkward motion, lacking in continuity.

Figure 9 Pendulum swing: bad example that ignores an arc



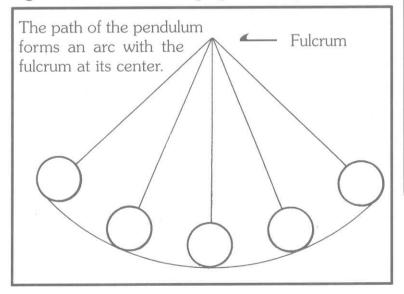


for moving objects.

You've got to place moving objects along the proper arc.

You won't be able to make a proper arc if the size or shape of moving objects is irregular.

Figure 10 Pendulum swing: good example

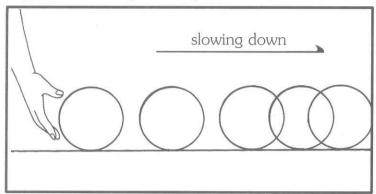


Fundamentals of Movement - Speed Distribution -

When objects move, they don't always necessarily stay at a fixed speed.

stop

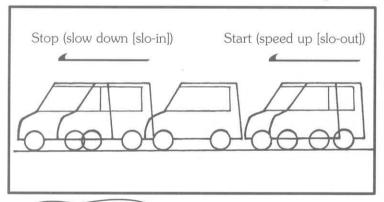
Figure 11 Rolling a ball by hand.



It is necessary to adjust acceleration and deceleration according to the circumstance.

Speed adjustments should not be made arbitrarily, but should be based on sound physical principles.

Figure 12 Start of car motion —



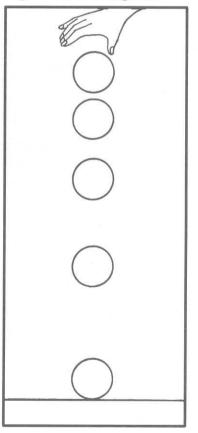
The distance that an object moves is proportionate to the time squared.



In the example of a falling ball, the ball is affected by gravity and picks up speed.

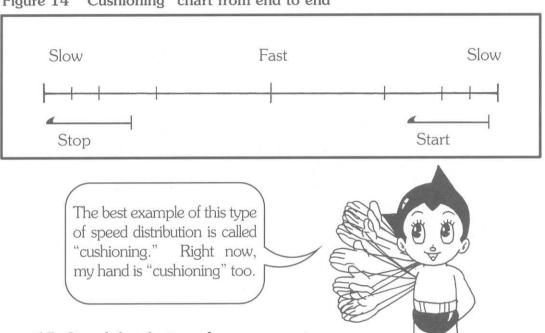
A rolling ball, however, slows down due to friction from the ground and will eventually stop, as in Figure 11.

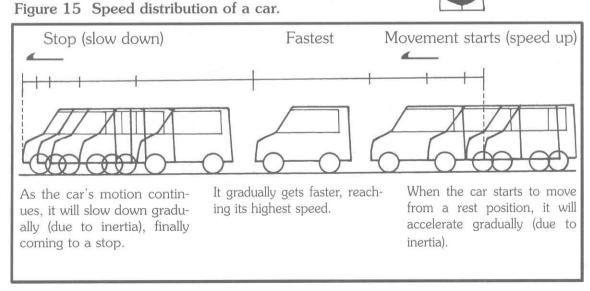
Figure 13 Falling ball



- Therefore, when you animate, make sure to adhere to the principle that when objects move, their speed is not constant.
- In Figure 12, the car starts to move slowly, and is fastest at the midpoint, with the movement slowing down again at the end.
- This is particularly the case when a moving object has its own driving force such as a car. That's because the Law of Inertia is at work.

Figure 14 "Cushioning" chart from end to end

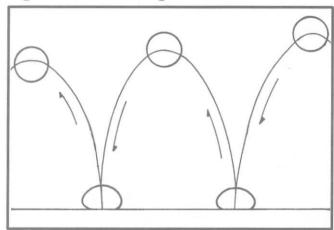




Fundamentals of Movement - Squash and Stretch -

During movement, the energy affecting an object can often cause it to change its appearance. The change in appearance can be classified into two categories: squash and stretch. These are phenomena that actually occur in nature, but in animation, you can increase their effectiveness by distorting the shape even more exaggeratedly.

Figure 16 A bouncing ball



- Bounce can be thought of as divided into three stages:falling contact rising
- •The arc of the bouncing ball depicts a "parabola."

 When bouncing, the ball speeds up when it falls and slows down when it rises.

- Because the speeding ball hits the ground forcefully, its shape changes, becoming squashed. This phenomenon is known as "squash."
- Squash and stretch are used to depict objects that have elasticity.

The direction in which the energy is going.

Figure 17 The moment "squash" occurs.



Figure 18 The moment when "stretch" occurs.

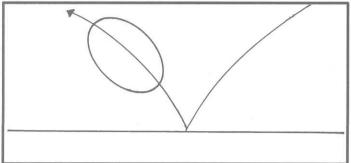


Figure 19 During stretch, make sure the volume of the ball is constant and the ball's orientation remains consistent.

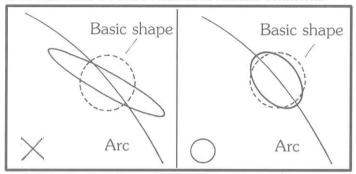
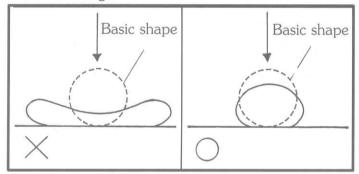


Figure 20 Similarly, during squash, the volume of the ball should not change.



- After impact, the ball bounces up, and in that instant it changes shape, extending out vertically. This is called "stretch."
- It is more effective to use squash and stretch momentarily during movement.
- If you use them more than necessary, objects will appear to have an overly sticky or fluid consistency.
- You can get interesting results when applying squash and stretch to human or other movement.

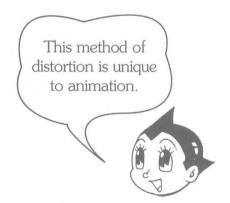
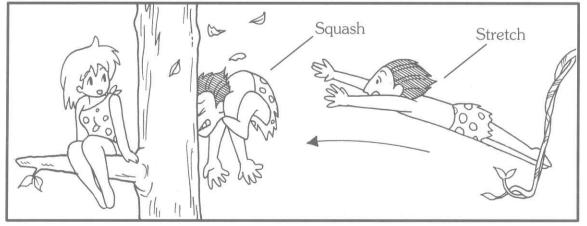


Figure 21 Example of applying squash and stretch to humans



Fundamentals of Movement

- Delay -

Depending on the material of a moving object, all parts will not necessarily move at the same time.

This is referred to as "delay."

 When a soft object moves, such as the elephant's trunk in figure 22, the object will appear stiff if everything moves at once.

- Let's consider the concept of "energy transmission."
- The energy that moves the elephant's trunk originates in the muscular power at the base of the trunk and is gradually transmitted to the middle of the trunk and finally reaches the outermost tip.
- Therefore, when the base of the elephant's trunk starts to move, the tip of the trunk should not be moving yet.
- As a result, the elephant's trunk takes on a smooth, wavy appearance.
- This lagging movement of the tip is a concrete example of "delay."

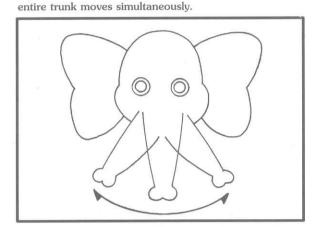
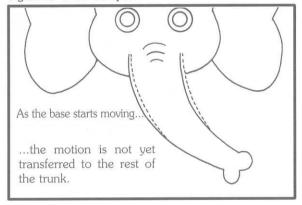
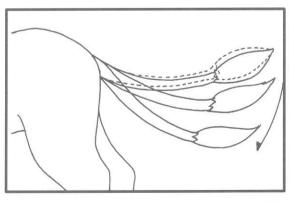


Figure 22 Bad example of an elephant's trunk where the

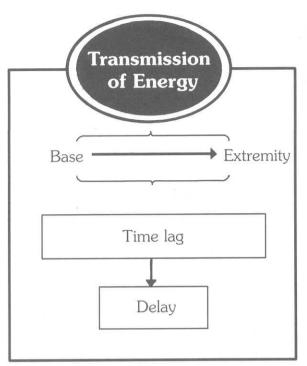
Figure 23 Good example.





"Delay" is a phenomenon that can also be seen in the movement of animals' tails, like in the illustration to the left. In contrast to the base of the tail, the tip of the tail moves later. This also occurs for a fish's tail fin and for inanimate, cloth-like objects, such as flags or capes.

Why the Principle of "Delay" Occurs



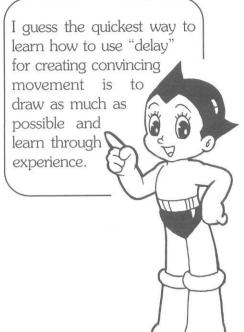


Figure 24 Specific examples of "Delay" (1)

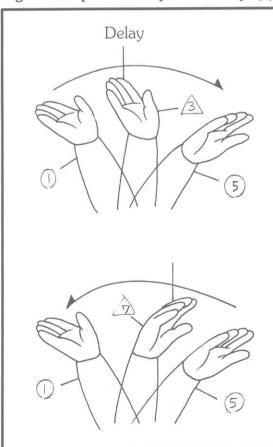
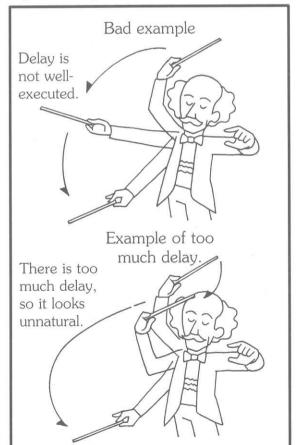


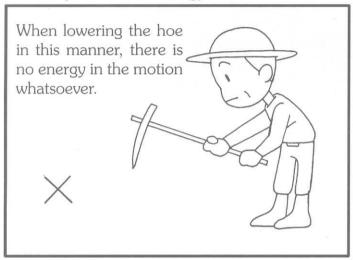
Figure 25 Specific examples of "Delay" (2)



Fundamentals of Movement - Anticipation -

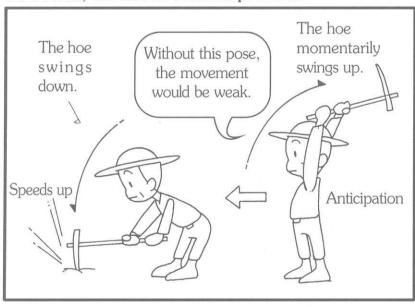
Human movement, depending on the context, can be divided into a "preparatory action" and a "main action." The "preparatory action" is also known as "anticipation."

Figure 26 Lowering a hoe A weak pose with no energy.



- A person tilling a field will not be able to till well if he lowers the hoe in this manner. That's because it is a weak movement lacking energy.
- •In the actual movement, there's always an initial motion in which the hoe is momentarily swung upwards. If not, the movement will lack power. That's where the "anticipation" comes in.

Figure 27 The hoe is swung up. As a result, the motion becomes powerful.



There are lots of ways to apply this, but it can get tricky.



Fundamentals of Movement

- Joints -

Human movement is generated by the interconnected motion of various joints. It's important to gain an understanding of the workings of individual joints first and then apply it effectively to each motion.

Figure 28 Raising the arms

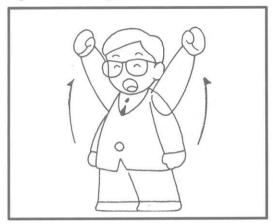


Figure 29 An inbetween that doesn't consider joint movement.

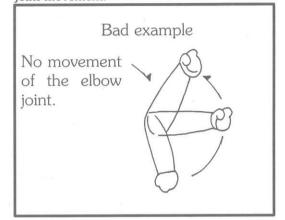


Figure 30 Example of an inside arc

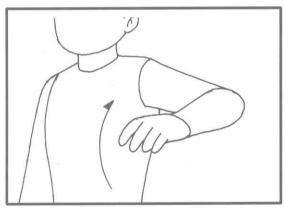


Figure 31 Example of a middle arc

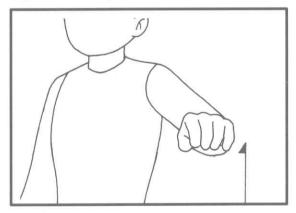
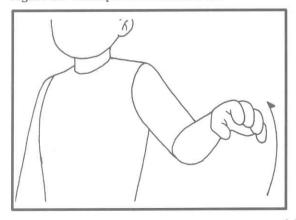


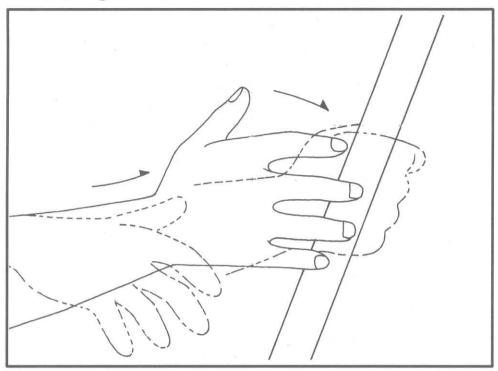
Figure 32 Example of an outside arc



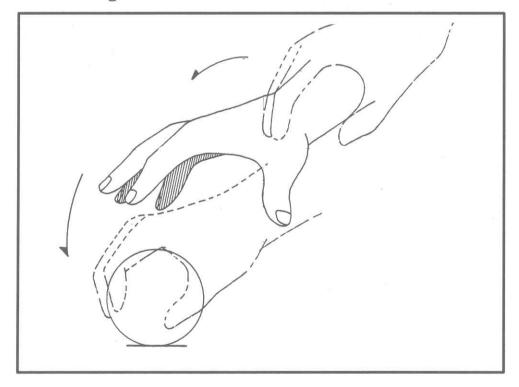
- The movement of joints is not uniform; many variations possible.
- For example, even for a motion like raising the arms in Figure 28, it can vary depending on whether you decide to use an outside, middle, or inside arc for the middle pose.

Figure 33 An example of movement that incorporates accurate joint-use (when grabbing an object).

A. Grabbing a stick



B. Grabbing a ball



Fundamentals of Movement - Transfer of Weight -

Figure 34 Standing up from a chair

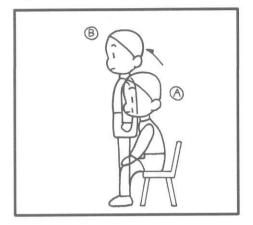


Figure 35 Example of an inbetween that ignores the center of gravity.

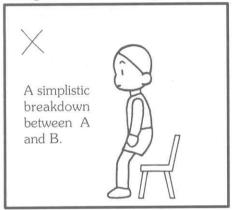
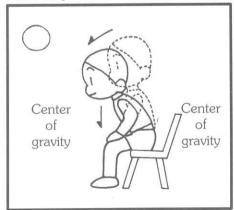


Figure 36 Example of an inbetween that incorporates the center of gravity.



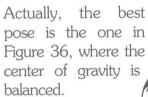
Standing up from a chair can't be done unless the upper half of the body leans forward briefly, like in this picture.

When depicting human movement, you have to figure out where to place the center of gravity.

Drawings without a center of gravity appear unnatural and lack vitality.

Make sure you draw the body so it won't fall, with the center of gravity always stable.

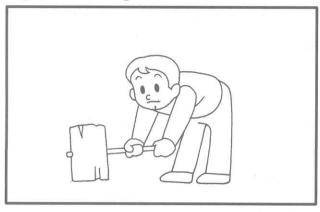
For example, it looks unnatural if you draw the motion of standing up from a chair with a breakdown pose like the one in Figure 35. You can't possibly stand up from this posture.



Be aware that the center of gravity is constantly shifting during wavement.

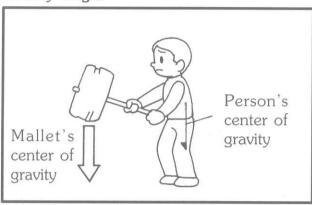


Figure 37 Lifting a mallet



- Getting the center of gravity right means that you are sufficiently conveying the heaviness of an object.
- For example, when the mallet is lifted in Figure 38, the weight of the mallet is not sufficiently conveyed.

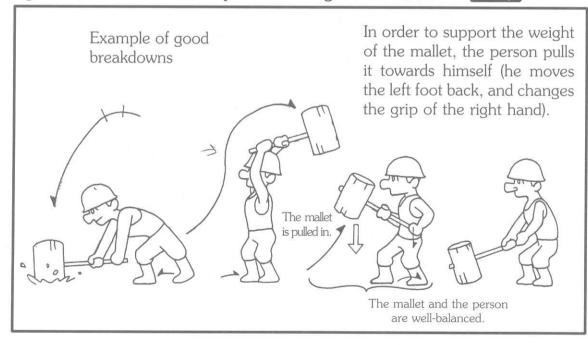
Figure 38 An unnatural pose that doesn't convey weight



If you want to convey the weight of a mallet, look at the movement in Figure 39.



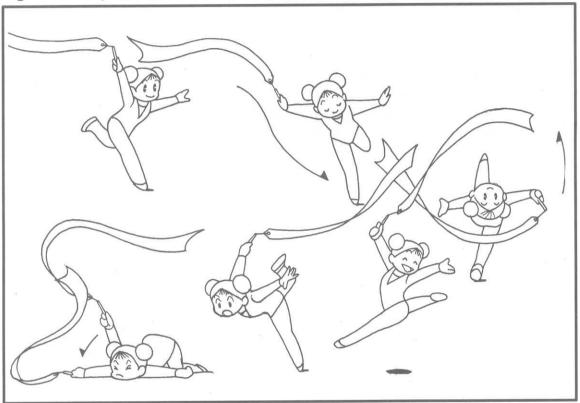
Figure 39 Movement that incorporates the weight of the mallet



Fundamentals of Movement - Drag -

During movement, there are times when you have to consider both a "main object" and a "subordinate object." Scarves, capes, or a woman's long hair would apply to the latter.

Figure 40 Objects that drag



Make sure that the movement of the ribbon is always dragging behind the girl. This "timing gap" creates an all the more cartoon-like movement.

- If the scarf or cape moves at the same time as the character, it doesn't feel right. There should always be a gap in the timing.
- The movement of the object itself comes first, and then the scarf should or cape move in a subordinate fashion. They should always follow one beat later than the movement of the main object.

Figure 41 Examples of objects that drag (holding a handkerchief)

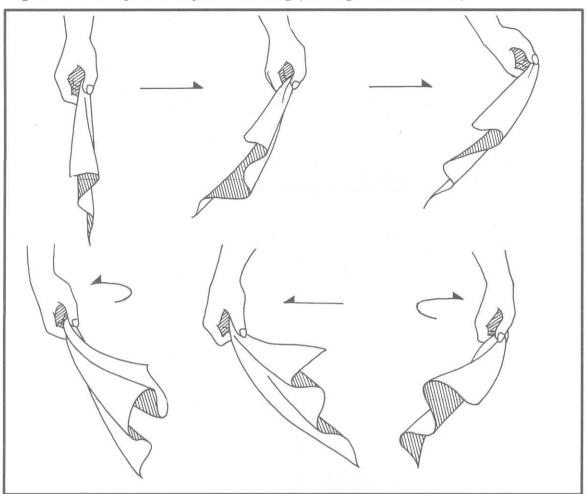
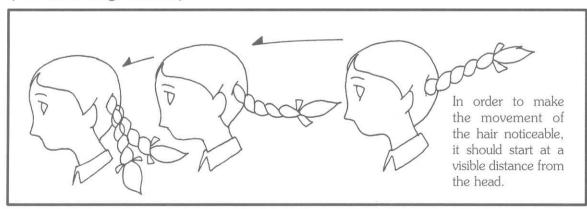


Figure 42 The head of a girl who is running and then stops. (Her braid drags behind.)





Fundamentals of Movement

- Reaction -

When a fast movement suddenly stops, the object goes a little past the original stopping position, due to inertia, and then returns. This is called reaction.

Figure 43 Finger-pointing motion (example showing extremes of motion)

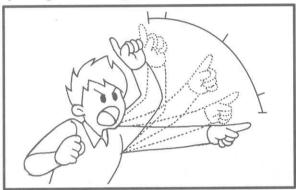
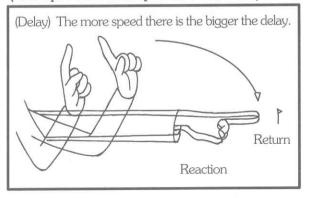


Figure 44 Finger-pointing motion (sped-up example)



Figure 45 Finger-pointing motion (example that incorporates reaction)



• For example, in a finger-pointing motion with fast timing, like in Figure 43, the speed is distributed evenly between the two extremes and it doesn't look at all realistic.

- But if you speed up the motion, it's much more effective.
- What's more, you can get an even better look if you incorporate a reaction, like in Figure 45.
- Reaction should not necessarily be assigned to all actions.

It's best to pick and choose when to use a reaction based on the purpose and outcome of a movement. The extent to which it is used should also be based on the style and the characters. Reaction is important for both realistic and cartoonish characters. However, the degree of exaggeration is something that should vary according to style.

Chapter 2

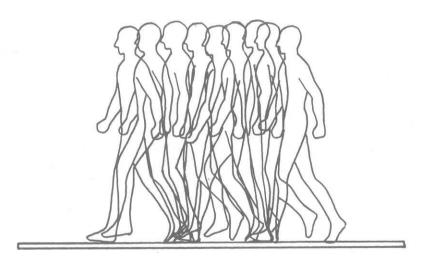
Real Movement - People -

· Human action seen from a variety of perspectives

Among the various types of animation, there's mechanics, special effects, animals, and recently CG has also been added.

However, since most works center on human drama, human movement is of primary concern more than anything else.

Now let's take a look at some basic human movements, such as walking, running, and turning back.



Things to keep in mind:

Relation between path of action and joints Length of skeleton Overall rough sketch Real Movement

- Walking -

Walking is one of the most basic human activities and appears in animation frequently. It's a very important movement, so let's learn the proper mechanics of walking so that it will appear natural.

Figure 46 Key drawings for a walk

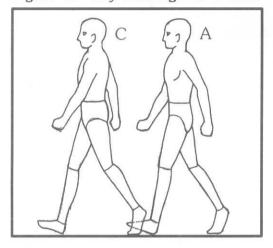
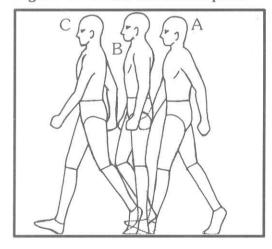


Figure 47 Initial inbetween pose



This is ____ a cartoonish walk.

Figure 46 shows the key poses of a walk that are generally used in Japanese animation.

Start with the two key poses, switching the positions of the left and right hands and feet. Then proceed to draw the breakdown pose.

Usually, the sequence for filling in the inbetweens is to draw the B pose in the middle position first.

Then, after filling in two or three drawings between A and B, and between B and C, the walk will be completed.

When you draw the inbetweens, make sure that all the elements are uniform in size and length, including the rise and fall of the body, the distance traveled, and the movement and arc (path of action) of each joint. This may seem easy, but since there are so many points you need to handle with precision, it's actually quite challenging.

Naturally, the manner of walking will differ depending on whether it's a man, woman, child, elderly person, or even depending on the character's condition at the time.

Figure 48 Five inbetweens (shot in 2 or 3 frames)

The side-view walk is the foundation of all other walks.

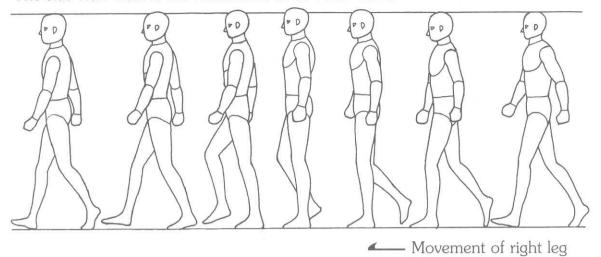
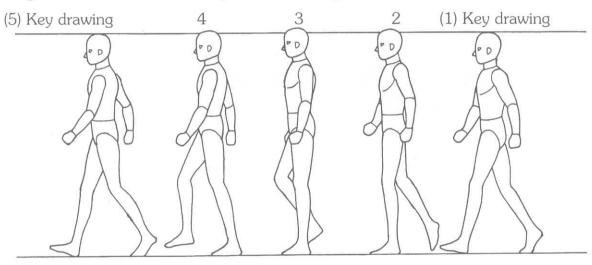


Figure 49 Three inbetweens (shot in 3 frames)



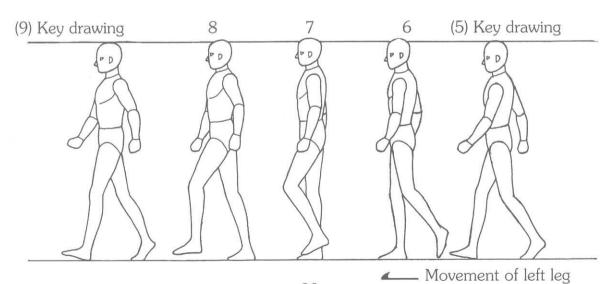
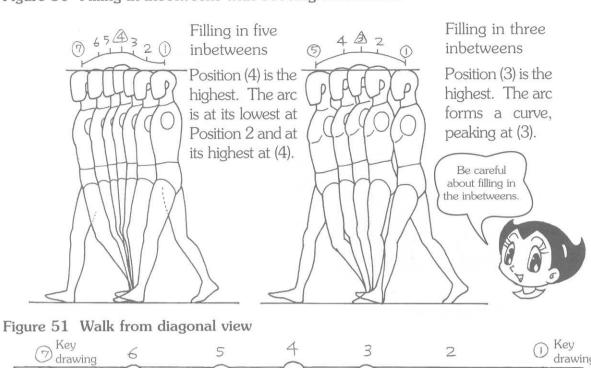


Figure 50 Filling in inbetweens with bobbing movements



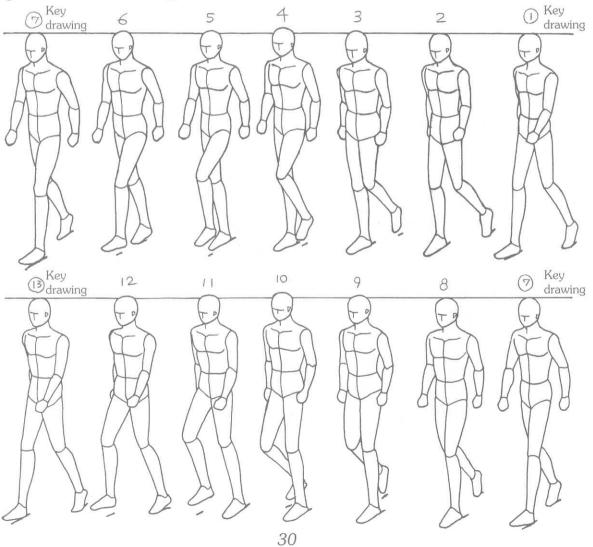
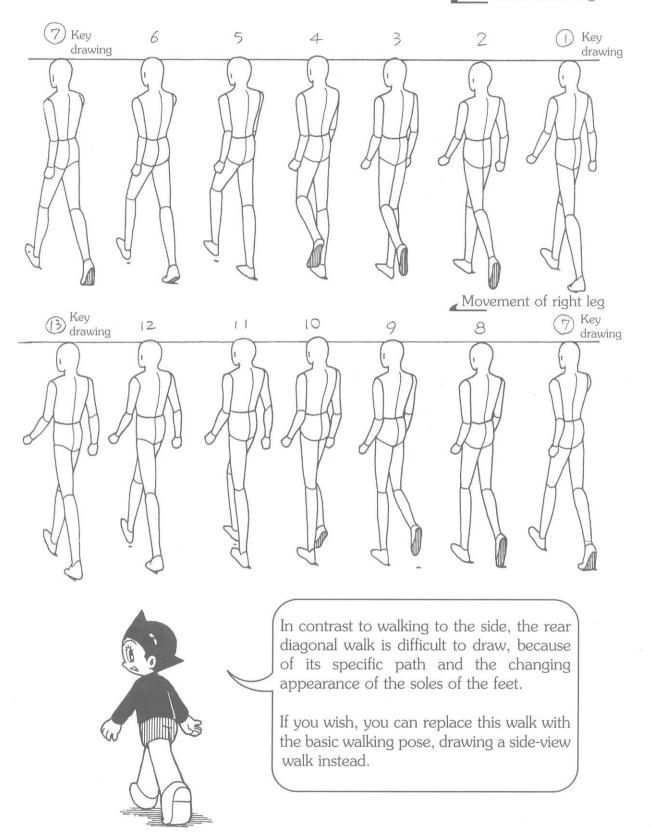
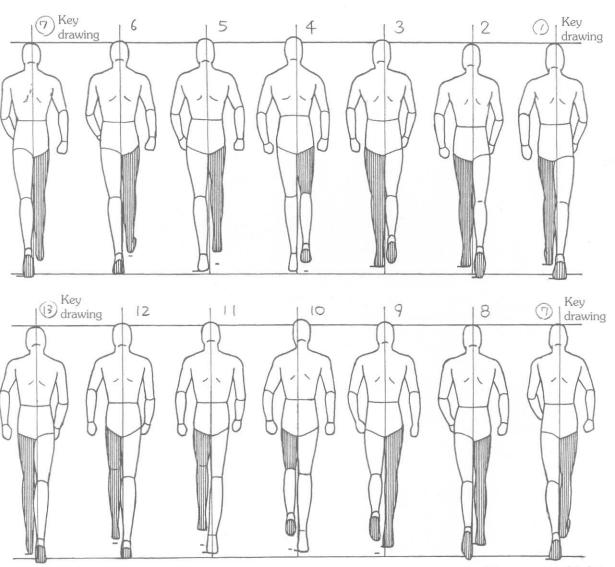


Figure 52 Walk from rear diagonal view

Movement of left leg



Movement of right leg



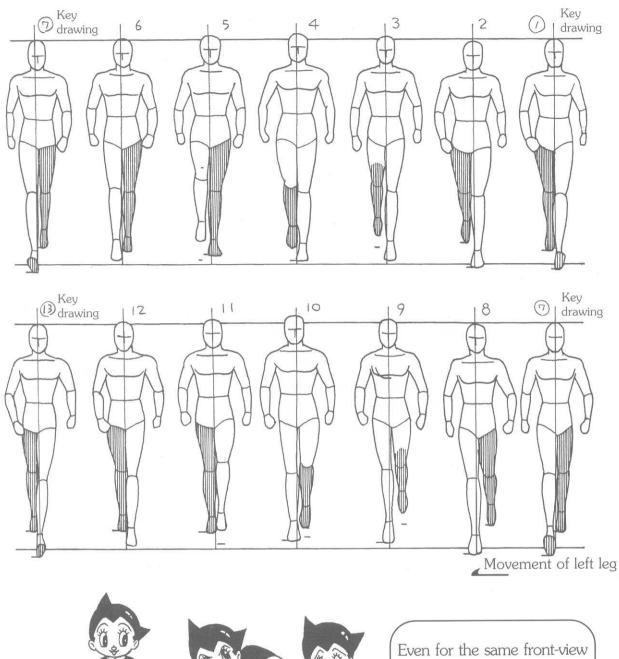
Movement of left leg

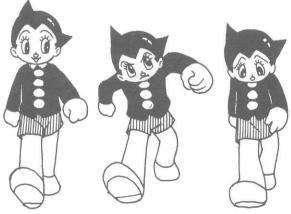
The impression given is quite different for the rear-view walk than for the side-view or diagonal-view walk. Pay attention to the slight shifting from left to right of the shoulders and back. In a dramatic context, the rear-view walk is quite common.



Figure 54 Front-view walk

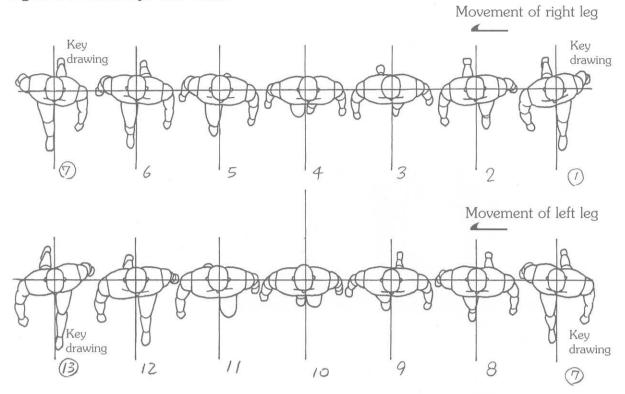
Movement of right leg



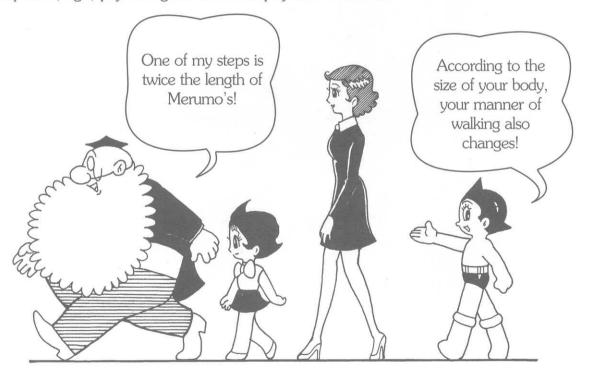


Even for the same tront-view walk, there may be variations, like the ones to the left, based on the emotional state of the character. Naturally, the number of inbetweens and the timing may also change.

Figure 55 Bird's eye view walk



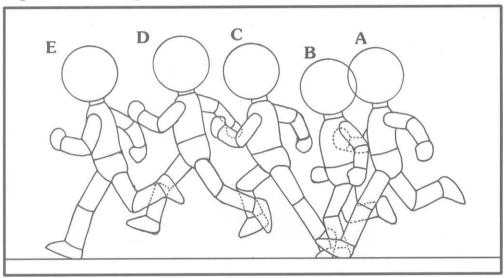
Up till now, we have shown you various walking patterns, but they're only the basics. Actual walking has various characteristics based on factors such as gender, body type, occupation, age, psychological state and physical condition.



Real Movement - Running -

Running is also a movement we see on a daily basis. Like walking, let's first learn the proper mechanics of running so we can create a natural movement.

Figure 56 Running breakdown Most basic run



- The crucial difference between running and walking is that with running there is a moment of floating when both feet are completely separated from the ground (figure 56).
- Why does this moment occur? It's because in running, much more so than walking, there is a strong driving force.
- In order to kick off the ground powerfully, a pose like C in Figure 56 is necessary to gather energy before the kick.
- The airborne body lands on the ground with the front foot. That's pose A and E in Figure 56. Running is based on these repeating principles.
- The driving force of the run is a result of powerfully kicking off of the ground. (Pose C, Figure. 56), This pose is extremely important for running.
- There are many different kinds of runs, such as sprinting and jogging, but all of them are based on the basic pattern in Figure 56.

Figure 57 The basic principle of running

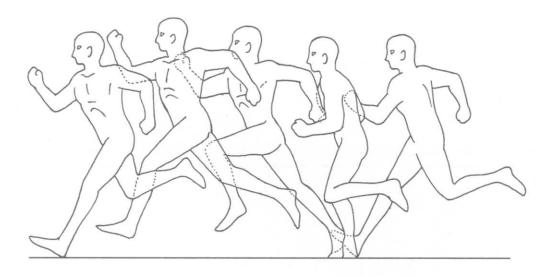


Figure 58 Diagonal-view run

Movement of left leg

S Key
drawing

Movement of right leg

Movement of right leg

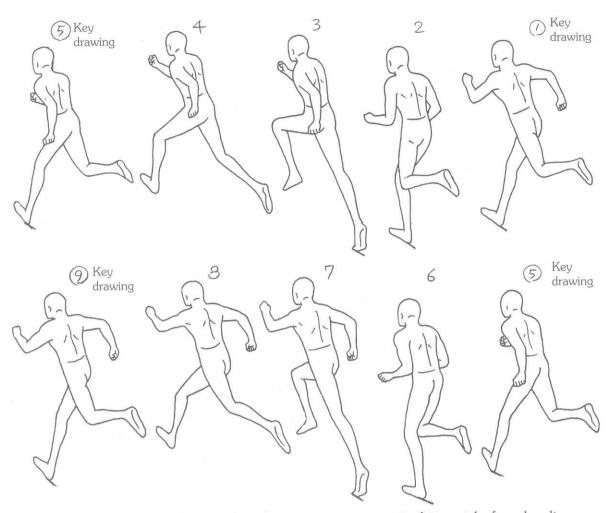
Movement of right leg

T S Key
drawing

Movement of right leg

Refer to pg.54 to view a sample of this running technique by way of "page-by-page" flip animation.

Figure 59 Diagonal rear-view run



Please note that in poses four and eight, arm swing is at its biggest before landing on the ground.

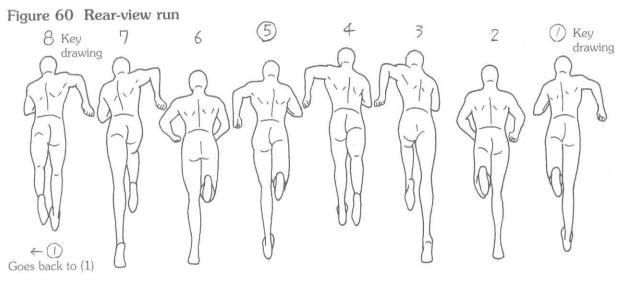


Figure 61 Front-view run

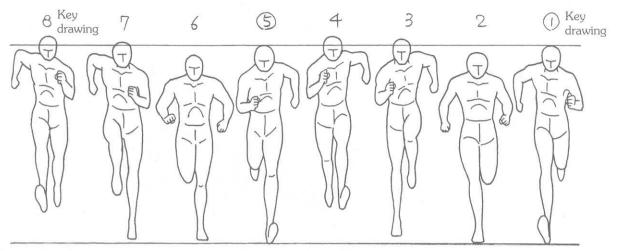


Figure 61 shows a running cycle of five drawings (if you shoot each drawing twice, it makes ten frames).

For faster running, four drawings would be one cycle. In that case, position four in the air would be left out.

Figure 62 Run
The camera follows the running character at the same speed.

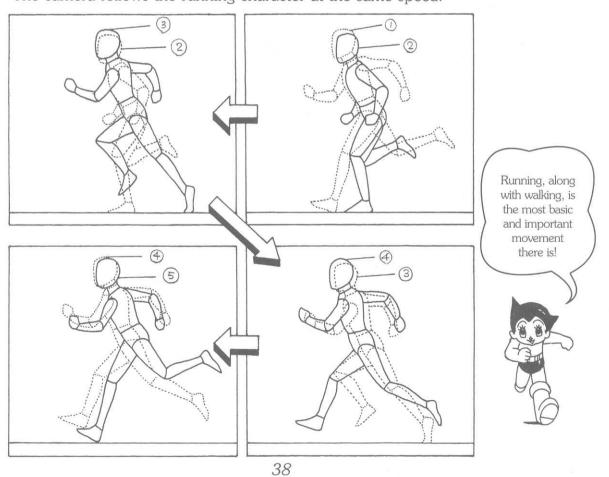
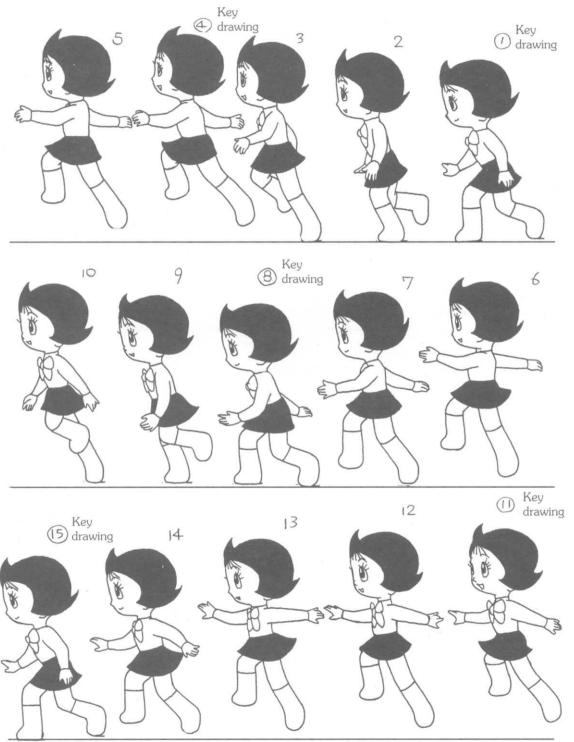


Figure 63 Skips

Skipping is a unique motion that combines elements of both running and walking. In animation, it is a slightly complicated process so you don't see it very often. However, it's a rhythmical movement appropriate for the character of a little girl. Skipping is a repeating motion that probably would need four key drawings.



Refer to pg.53 for a sample of this skipping technique by way of a "page-by-page" flip animation.

Real Movement - Head-Turns -

When depicting people turning their heads, it's necessary to be able to make an accurate sketch of the head. You need to understand the head in terms of its three-dimensionality, and be able to draw it from any perspective.

Figure 64 Head angles

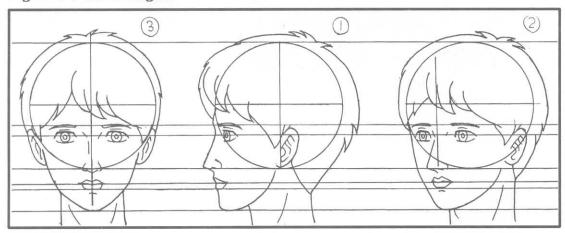
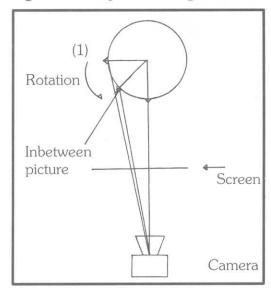


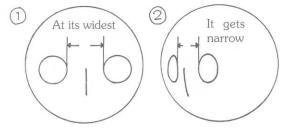
Figure 65 Perspective during head rotation



When drawing a head-turn, don't forget about the changing perspective.

As in Figure 65, make sure that the head, rotating at a seemingly uniform speed, appears closer to (1) in its intermediate (inbetween) position, due to the perspective.

Figure 66 The head-turn and the distance between the eyes



When moving from the frontal view of (1) to the diagonal view at (2), the distance between the eyes becomes markedly narrow. Of course, you may at times see animation where this doesn't happen.

Figure 67 Example of a head-turn

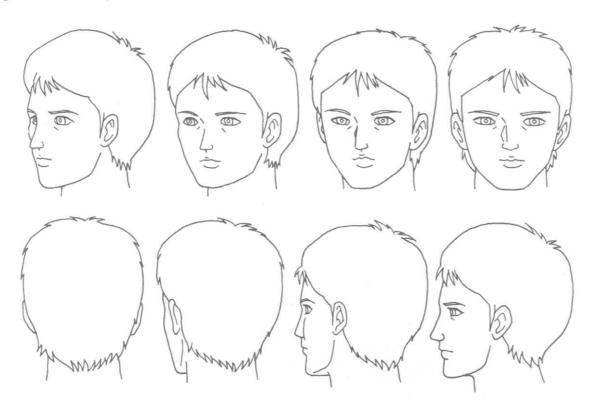
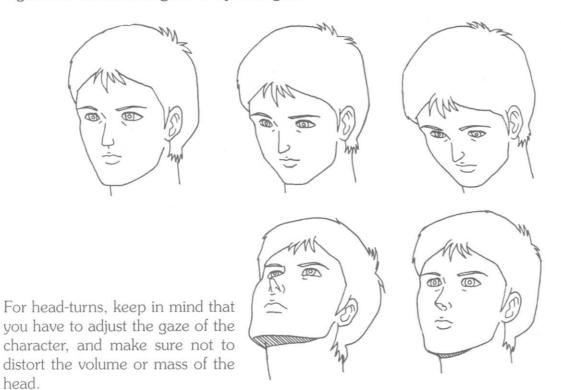


Figure 68 Downward gaze to upward gaze

head.

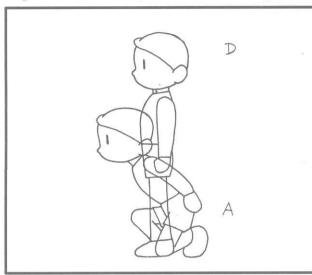


Real Movement - Standing Up -

There are also many different kinds of standing-up motions. To avoid unnatural movement, pay close attention to the center of gravity and to the use of the joints.

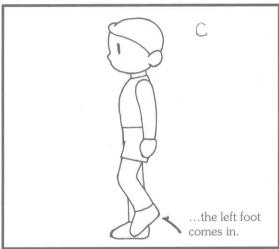


Figure 69 Stand-up from a crouching pose



- It would be a mistake to draw an inbetween pose like B1 in Figure 71 for the breakdown of position A (on one knee) and position D (standing up). B1 is a mechanical inbetween and is merely a combination of poses A and D.
- Actually it should be more like Figure 70, with both B and C as necessary stages. Let's take a look at which joints move as a result of the shifting center of gravity.

Figure 70 Good in-between



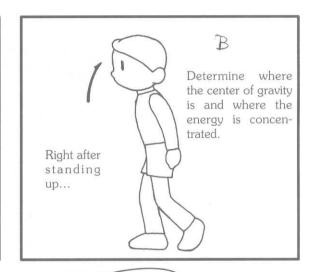
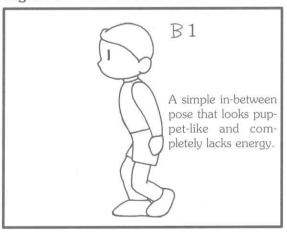
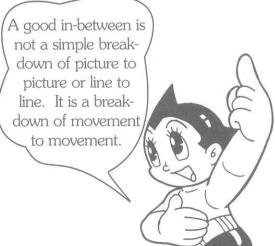


Figure 71 Bad in-between





Real Movement - Jumps -

You can't jump without an "anticipation." Before jumping, there's always a crouching pose (an anticipation) that's included.

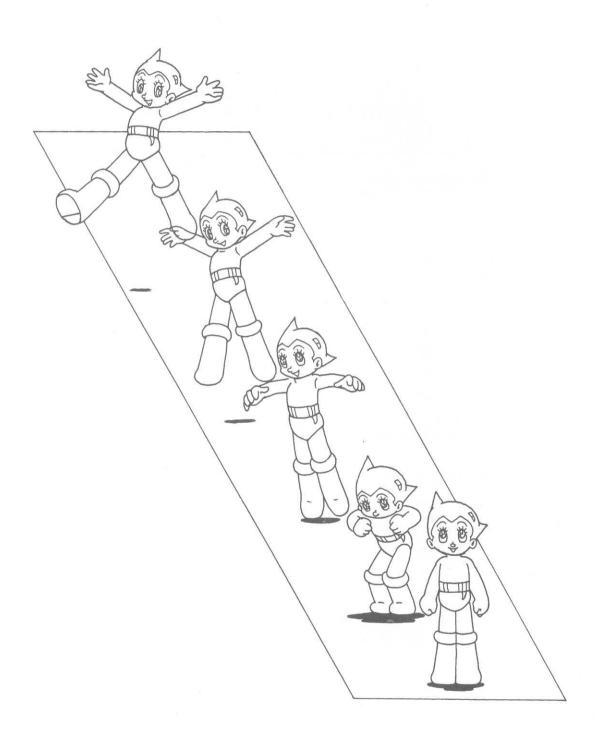
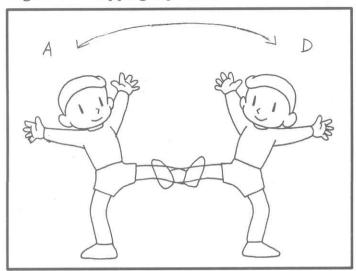
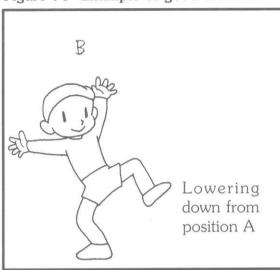


Figure 72 Hopping repetition



- You often see the repetition of movements A and D, as in Figure 72, but it is a mistake to draw the inbetween for them like B1, in Figure 74.
- Actually, the inbetween should be like B and C in Figure 73. If not, the jumping movement will not look right.

Figure 73 Example of good inbetween



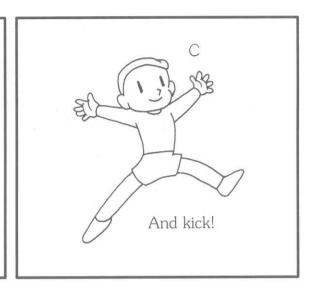
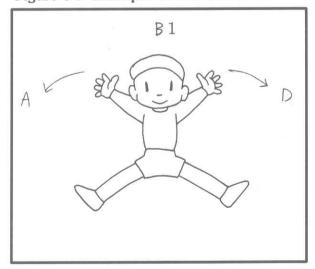


Figure 74 Example of bad inbetween



• Figure 73 shows the inbetween movements when moving from A to D.

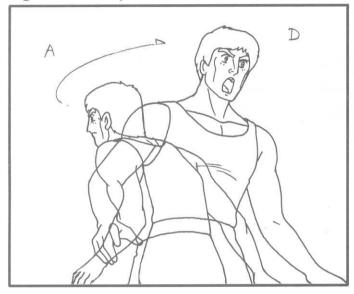
When returning to A from D, there will be a lowering once again at D, followed by another kicking pose. Fill in E (lower) and F (kick), which are not pictured here, to complete the repeating cycle.

Real Movement

- Body-Twists -

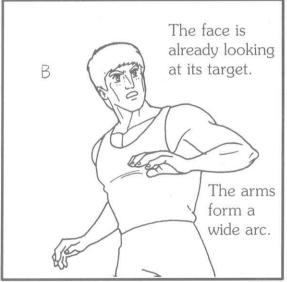
"Twisting" is a movement often used in dramatic works. Make sure to gain an understanding of the human body from a threedimensional perspective, and learn to sketch it properly.

Figure 75 A body-twist



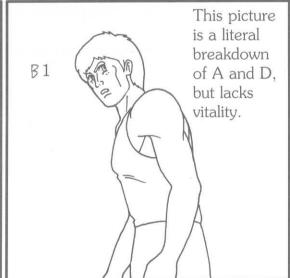
- When filling in the in-between of A and D, in Figure 75, in which the body twists in a broad movement, a mechanical inbetween like B1, in Figure 77, does not look good.
- Actually, it should be more like B, in Figure 76. Please pay attention to the direction of the face and the position of the arms.

Figure 76 Example of good in-between



impression.

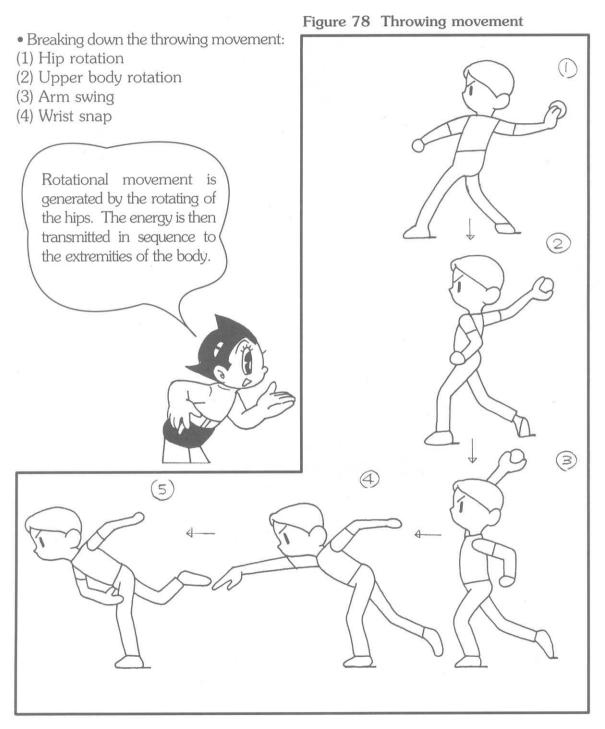
Figure 77 Example of bad in-between



A wide arc creates a kinetic, powerful This picture gives no impression whatsoever of agility. Instead, there's a sense of sluggishness and an overall lack of energy.

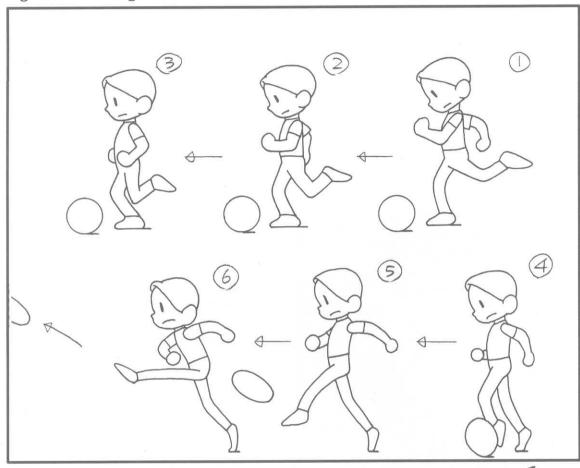
Real Movement - Throwing -

Think of the motion of throwing an object as a full-body action. The motion of each joint works in unison to form a single integrated action.



Real Movement - Kicking -

Figure 79 Kicking



The kicking motion is also a full-body action. In order to focus the energy to the very tip of the foot, each part of the body works together efficiently as a unified whole. Make sure that the upper body and lower body are rotating in opposite directions.



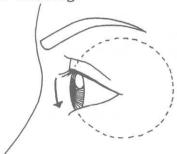
Breaking down the kicking movement

- (1) Hip Rotation
- (2)~(3) Popping of the greater trochanter (outer hip bone)
- (4) Extension of knee joint
- (5) Snapping of ankle

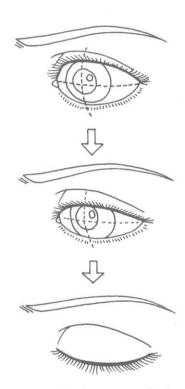
The pivot leg supports the body's weight and generates power, while at the same time, the upper body twists in the opposite direction of the lower body in order to maintain balance.

Real Movement - Blinking -

Figure 80 Blinking



In order to draw blinking you must have a proper knowledge of anatomy.



You can't draw blinking without a proper understanding of the human eye and its structure. This is true even for a distorted cartoonish character, whose blinking motion must also be based on a three-dimensional sketch.



The opening and shutting of the eyelid conform to the roundness of the eyeball.



For a cartoonish eye like Astro Boy's, the eyeball lowers a bit like in the middle picture.

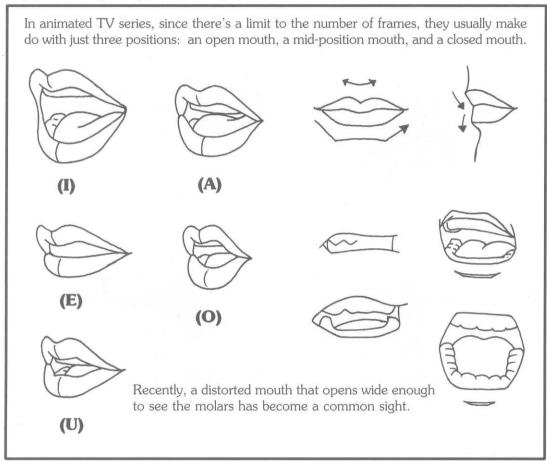
The actual time it takes to blink is about 0.2 seconds, but for animation, it's probably better to have it at 0.3~0.5 seconds. Even for cartoonish characters, make sure that the blinking movement does not come across as two-dimensional.

Real Movement

Opening and Closing the Mouth -

The movement of the mouth when speaking is, in Japanese animation, mostly shown in an abbreviated fashioned. (Especially in TV animation.) When depicting the mouth in more detail, mouth shapes that correspond to the different vowel sounds are necessary.

Figure 81 Opening and closing the mouth

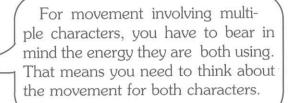


- You can't accurately draw the opening and closing of the mouth without first knowing how to sketch the human mouth in an anatomically correct fashion.
- This even applies to drawing distorted, cartoonish characters.
- The anatomy of the lips is even more complicated than you might think, as it is full of undulations. Draw the lips with precision, making sure that they are three-dimensional.
- There are exceptions for certain types of animation, such as commercials that may use extremely two-dimensional characters.



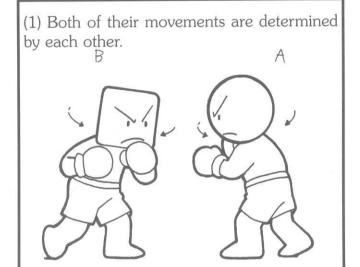
also see comedic mouths like this.

Real MovementMultiple Characters -



- In cases like Figure 82, the two characters show independent movements.
- However, in order to avoid being hit, there will probably be elements of evasive action in their movement.

Figure 82 Movement involving multiple characters



- (2) shows A hitting B. In this case, you shouldn't just put in a simplified breakdown of (1) and (2) as the inbetween for B's movement.
- If you end up making a normal inbetween, it will seem as if B has stuck out his face for the sole purpose of being hit by A.

So, what should the picture look like in order to evoke a boxing-like motion?

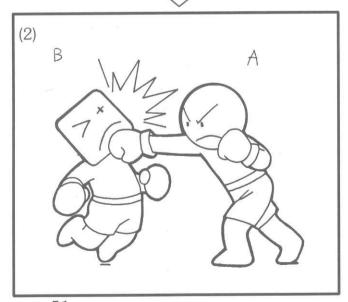


Figure 83 Obvious Inbetween

In this case, it looks like B is walking into the punch.

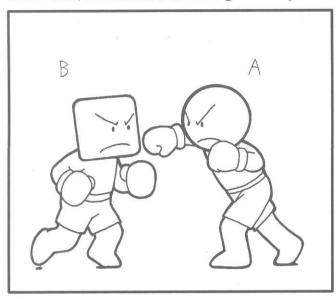
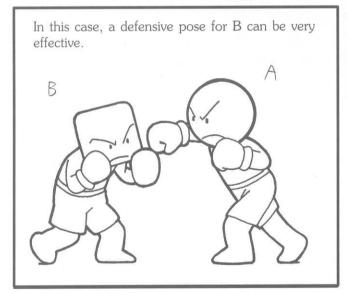


Figure 84

(1) \longrightarrow (2) An inbetween where B is trying to evade the blow, but will ultimately get hit.



- B will continue to move to the last, trying to evade getting hit.
- However, ultimately, there must be the sense that B has been fully hit by A's punch.
- In this way, the movement of one character becomes forceably altered due to the movement of the other character.
- Be sure to remember that this is something that occurs frequently in scenes where multiple characters are moving.
- In addition, when one character hands something over to another character, or when two characters hug each other, you will unexpectedly run into problems if you don't consider the individual timing and movement of either character, so be careful.

For example, it's not shown here, but when there are two characters in the foreground and a referee in the background, there are three variations of movement to consider. In this way, animation can be very complex, but in the end all of it depends upon your own imagination.

Chapter 3

Effects & Natural Phenomena

Drawing with:
Fluidity & Flow
Form
Texture
Timing

Hope you enjoyed the flip animation section. Let's move on and learn the fundamentals of another important element in animation:

Effects and Natural Phenomena.

An overall concept generally used for effects is the idea of "flow."

Most effects you can think of, such as fire, smoke, water, wind and rain, would not be possible without "flow."

So, how do water, flame and smoke actually move?



73

Effects

- Flow -

Figure 85 Smoke emerging from a chimney

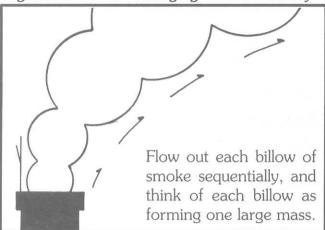
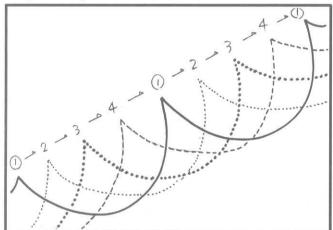


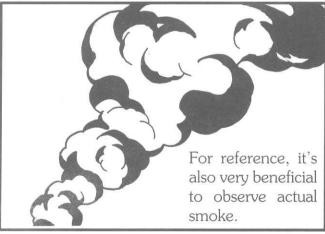
Figure 86 Flowing out a column of smoke sequentially



Basic flow

- Let's use the example to the left of smoke coming out of a chimney to explain this principle.
- This kind of movement is depicted by using a fixed pattern, which is then repeated.
- Think of one billow of smoke as a single pattern, with three intermediate positions per billow. Flow it out as in the above pattern.
- $(1) \longrightarrow 2 \longrightarrow 3 \longrightarrow (4) \longrightarrow (1)$ Break down the three positions at equally-spaced intervals.

Figure 87 Realistic portrayal



- In this way, by flowing out the repeating patterns, one by one, you can create smoke movement.
- If you make the repeating pattern and its design more complex, you can depict smoke that is even more realistic.

Effects

- Flame

Fire occurs when an object reaches its ignition temperature, causing molecular decomposition, which produces a gas that burns. The flame moves constantly upwards, rising on hot air currents.

The speed of the flame's ascent slows as it goes higher, with the tips of the flame constantly splitting, breaking off, and then continuing to rise. There sure are many complex movements involved.



Figure 88 The pattern of a moving flame

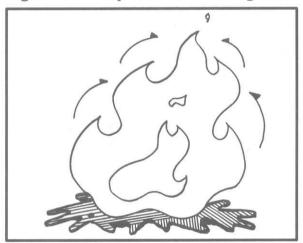
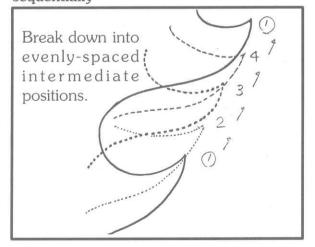


Figure 89 Flowing out a pillar of flame, sequentially

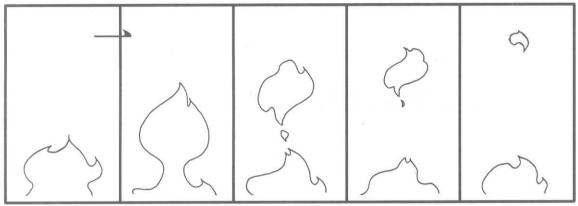


- In most animation, a pillar of flame is generally created through the repetition of a fixed pattern.
- In this case, the concept of "flow" is also applied.
- Like the flame in Figure 89, flow out the pillar of flame sequentially from the bottom, one 'wave' at a time, as you would with smoke.
- If you create this kind of repetition cycle, you'll be able to make a patterned flame movement.
- These are the fundamentals of flame movement, so make sure to learn them well.

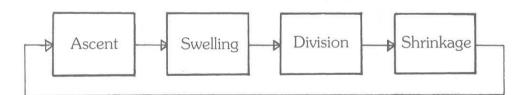


• Let's try to draw a slightly more realistic flame. Due to interference from the surrounding air, which has a lower temperature, the tongues of the flame split, break off, ascend, and finally extinguish themselves (as if vanishing into thin air). Let's take a look at the flame's series of movements as it splits off.

Figure 90 Movement of flame as it splits



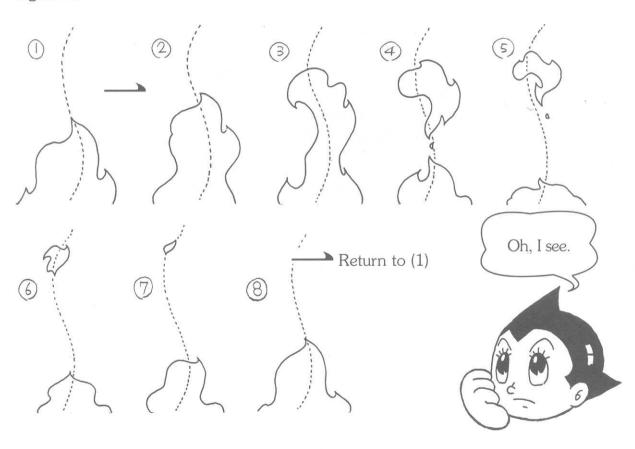
- When drawing a flame splitting off, try making an ellipse with a gentle S-shaped curve.
- Flame-splitting is made up of the following cycle:



• So, when you animate fire, you basically flow out the flame from the bottom, moving upwards. But in reality, that's not the only way flame moves. There are portions that may not burn completely or materials that are reluctant to burn; or there may be times when the flame falls to the side, or suddenly burns out.

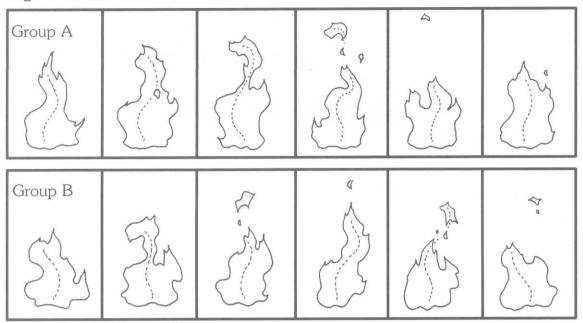
- Animating flame is basically the same in most cases, but differs according to the nature and size of the object that is burning. Animating a candle flame, a kindling flame, or a blaze requires different approaches.
- The larger a fire becomes, the more complex its movement and form become. It may be necessary for the length of the repetition to continue for tens of drawings.
- For kindling flame and torch flame, a repetition cycle of six to eight drawings is common.
- Make sure that the final product looks, as little as possible, like a repetition is being used in the movement.
- To do so, the picture should give the impression that all eight drawings are uniform (so that the style is consistent). If there's one drawing that stands out, you'd be able to tell that it's a repetition.

Figure 91



We have explained the repetition of flame in general, but what about drawing a slightly more elaborate simulation of flame?

Figure 92 Intricate flame



• In order to create the repetition of a more intricate blaze, please refer to the two types of cycles above. By combining A-A-B-A-B-B on the exposure sheet, it will become a more complex movement. Be sure to make a smooth transition when moving from (A) to (B). If you think of (A) as the basic cycle, then (B) is the "custom" cycle. If you make additional custom cycles, like a (C) and a (D), you'll really be able to create flame that doesn't look like it's merely repeating.

Figure 93 Flame design







Even though the basic form is the same, by adding a core to the fire or by putting in other stylistic touches, you can come up with all different kinds of flames.



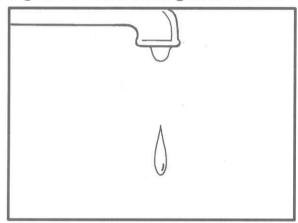
Effects

- Water -

In animation, when drawing water, it's necessary to be familiar with the qualities of liquid and water. You have to accurately convey its smooth cohesiveness and fluidity. You also need to naturally evoke the sense of an irregular form that is always changing. You may think that anyone can draw water, but conveying its water-like essence realistically is not easy.



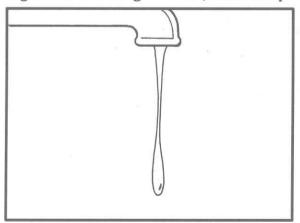
Figure 94 Water leaking from a faucet



Water that builds up in a faucet, will split off at a certain point (when the surface tension has reached its limit), due to its own weight, to gravity, and to the air pressure, becoming a droplet (also due to surface tension) and then falling down.

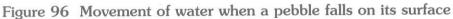
If you actually observe when the droplet falls, you'll see how fast it moves.

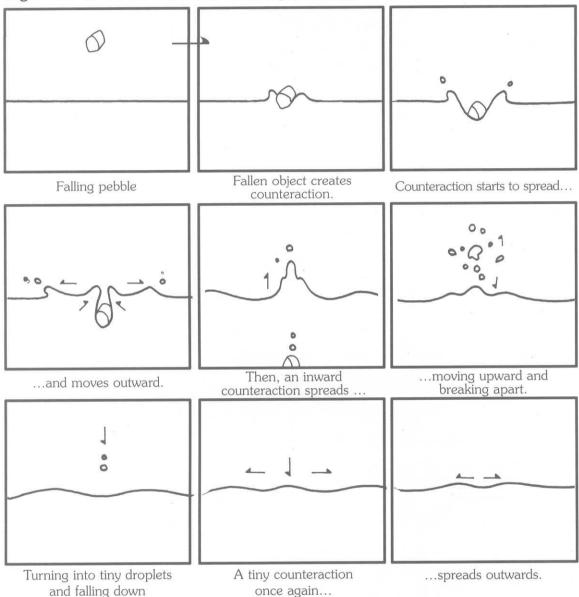
Figure 95 Drawing of water, bad example



The drawing in Figure 95 does not look like water. This drawing looks more like another material, such as oil, or something with stronger viscosity. Make sure that it really looks like water when you draw it.

When you drop a pebble on the surface of water, the water splashes, and creates a water column. The water column finally becomes a ripple and then disappears. Let's study the mechanics of this movement cycle in order to gain a further understanding of the attributes of water.

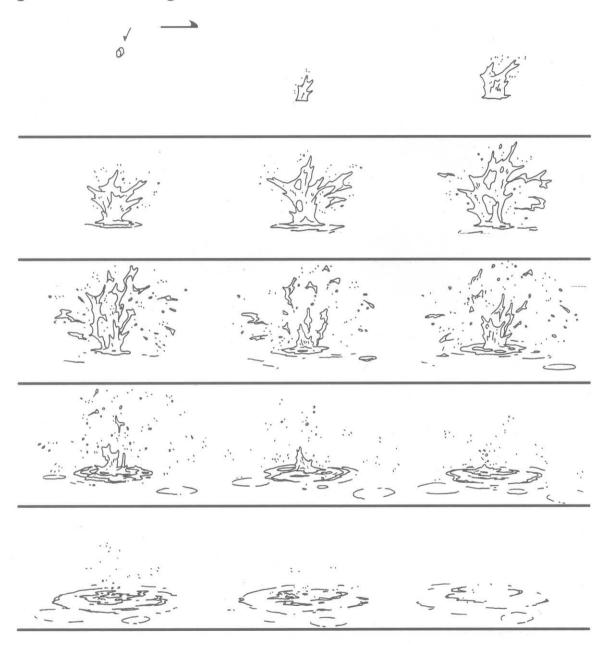




When drawing water, it's necessary to understand water's liquid nature. Even when a large object drops into water, the resulting movement should be based on the figure above.

On this page, we illustrate a specific example of water movement, as shown in Figure 97.

Figure 97 Pebble falling into water



At first, a splash occurs when the pebble falls, and a water column results as a counteraction. Depending on the angle of the falling object, the splash and water column may occur at roughly the same time.

Figure 98 Animating reflections (from the shore)

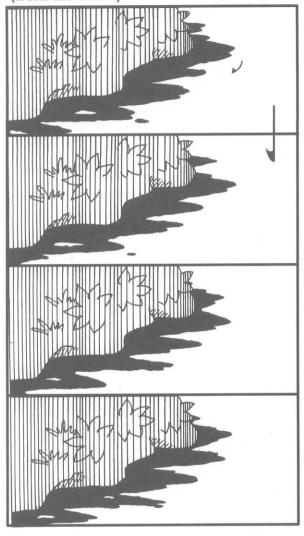
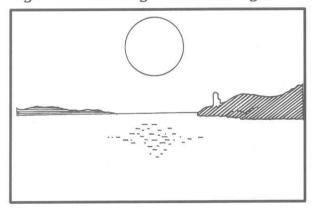
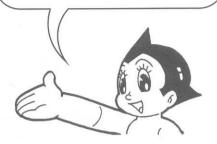


Figure 99 Showing reflected sunlight



There are various ways to convey the movement of the surface of the water. Here are a number of specific techniques.



(1) Animating reflections (from the shore)

To convey water at the shoreline, Figure 98 shows moving shadows that are reflections from land.

The reflected shapes move gradually downward, depicting a gentle current of water.

Or, when there is no current, as in ponds or lakes, you can flicker the reflections in place without flowing them out.

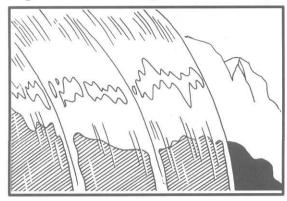
Either of these patterns can be repeated.

(2) Animating reflected sunlight.

Figure 99 depicts the water surface using the reflected sunlight.

Stylistically, it is common to use transparent light, drawing it in so that it glitters randomly.

Figure 100 Showing reflected sunlight



• Draw white foam on the surface of the water to depict water realistically. Conveying the flowing quality of water through foam alone is an exercise that requires much skill.

Foam occurs when the water contains air and becomes frothy, appearing white.

Figure 100 shows how to convey the transparent quality of water. Flicker the part where the reflected light hits the strongest.

The water itself should be a solid color shot in double exposure, leaving the scenery within the water still visible.

Figure 101 Animating white foam

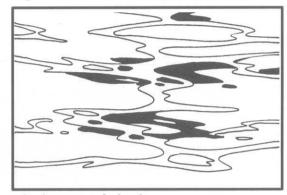
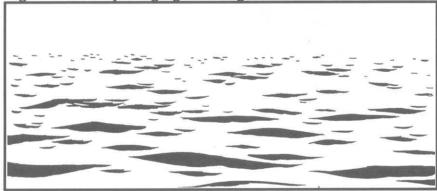


Figure 102 Depicting light through the use of shadow



In all things, where there is light there is shadow. Another way to convey a sense of movement of the water surface is through the use of shadow. Drawing shadows can also be thought of as drawing in light, since it is the dark water surface that is reflecting light, and not the other way around.

The general technique is to flow out large masses of shadow as they change in appearance.

To put it plainly, there is an endless variety of ways to draw water. The manner of drawing water may vary according to the characters and the style of a work.

Let's take a look at the fundamentals common to all methods of drawing water.

Figure 103 Variations in pattern

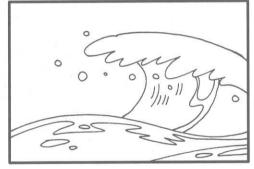
Figure 104 Remains the same

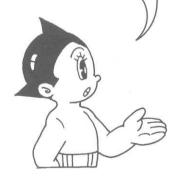
Figures 103 and 104 depict the same body of water. Figure 103 shows fluctuations in the foam and in the overall appearance, and the shadows also vary. In comparison, Figure 104 has an unchanging and mechanical appearance, and the foam has a thread-like look. You may see the style in Figure 104 in certain works, but it's pretty obvious at a glance which is the more realistic of the two.

For example, you should probably draw effects such as waves differently depending on whether your work contains cartoonish characters with 2:1 proportions or more realistic and dramatic characters with 8:1 proportions.

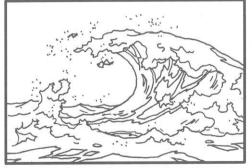


Figure 105



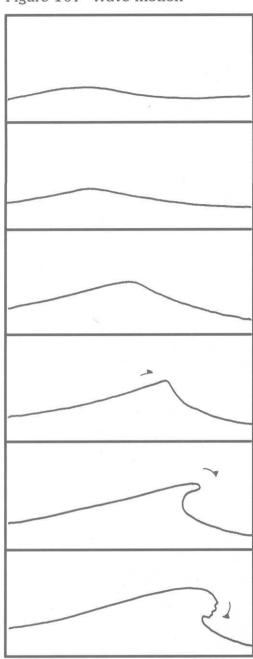






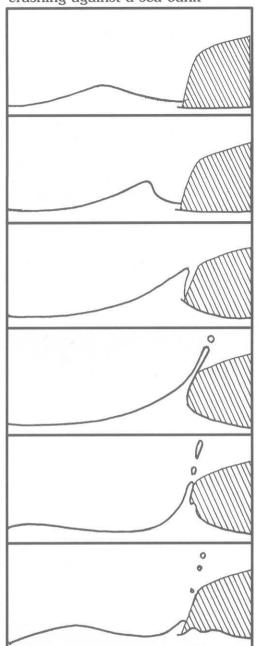
You can make it look more realistic depending on the style you use.

Figure 107 Wave motion



As the swell gets bigger, it generates whitecaps, then goes on to finally engulf its own whitecaps.

Figure 108 Swells hitting and crashing against a sea bank

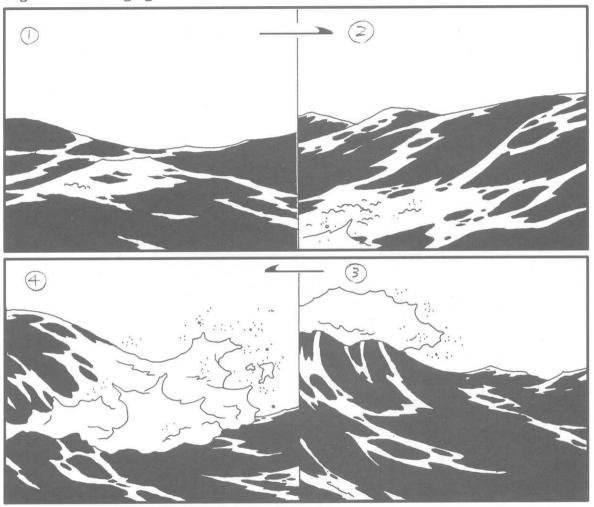


Waves hitting a sea bank (or barrier) try to continue moving but ultimately collapse. And a new wave comes along soon after.

You won't be able to depict a certain degree of realism unless you are well-acquainted with the movement and properties of water. It requires much effort and the timing can be difficult to grasp, so this is a good way to test your chops.

As an example, illustrated below are the main aspects of the movement of a raging sea.

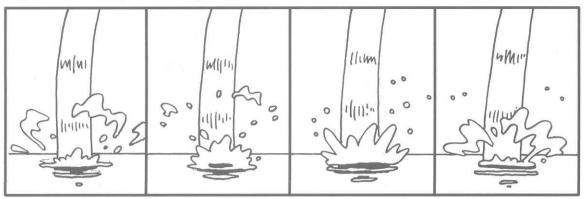
Figure 109 A raging sea



In Figure 109, drawings (1) to (4) are all key positions. Between each one, about five to seven positions would have to be added.

When you draw the middle positions you have to calculate what goes where, and how it connects to the whole, being aware of how the body of water continues to change.

Figure 110 Simplified image of a waterfall basin



The movement of water in a waterfall basin (1) splashes (2) diffuses (creating foam and mixing with air) (3) and disperses (at the surface tension limit), turning into spray and falling down.

This cycle repeats without interruption. Figure 110 illustrates this principle in a very simple manner.

Figure 111 A more realistic waterfall basin



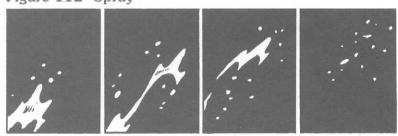
Figure 111 depicts a style with a repetition cycle of about eight to ten drawings.

As a rule:

- The amount of splashing water should always be the same.
- Make sure as much as possible that it doesn't look like it's repeating.

This is what it looks like when spray droplets are dispersed. Even after becoming separate droplets, try to think of them as a single clump.

Figure 112 Spray



What are the specific techniques for making inbetween drawings for water?



Water is a liquid that moves according to a fixed principle. Its form is not constant and it continues to alter. How do you depict something like water, with these kinds of properties?

Figure 113 Flowing out water while altering it

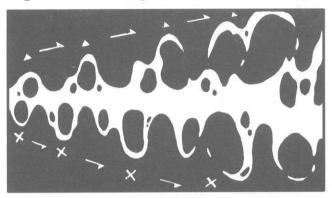
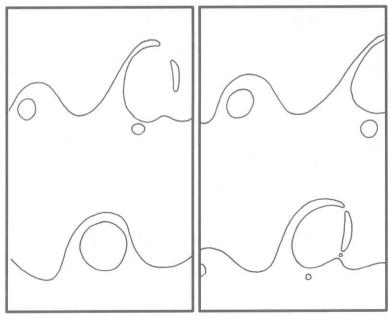
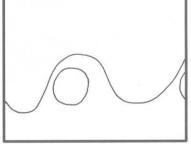


Figure 113 shows foam in the trail of a boat that has passed along the surface of the water.

The shape continues to change as the boat trail extends, losing its form and finally disappearing completely.

Figure 114 Flowing out and changing shape simultaneously (1)

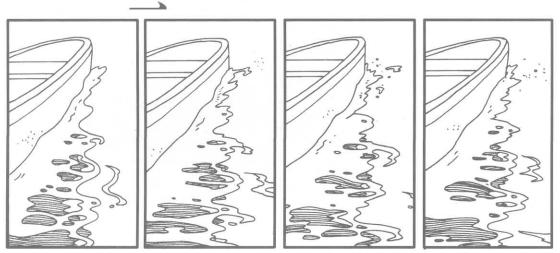




By flowing out and changing the shape at the same time, you can convey a water-like quality.

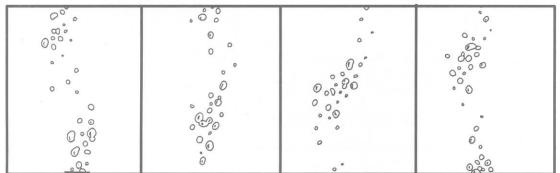
Figure 114 is a concrete example of this.

Figure 115 Flowing out and changing shape simultaneously (2)



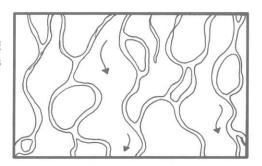
Here's a slightly exaggerated illustration of a boat generating wake. While the shadows from the boat itself flicker, they are flowed out and continue to change shape as they move behind.

Figure 116 Flowing out and changing shape simultaneously (3)



A scene of bubbles rising is also depicted through repetition, and the techniques of flow and shape-changing should also be employed. Bubbles are not only circular, but actually they can also be flat or oval-shaped, and sometimes two or three of them are temporarily stuck together.

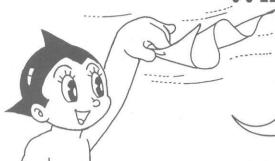
Figure 117 Rain flowing down a glass window



For rainwater streaming down a window, you can also use flow and shape-changing movement.

Effects

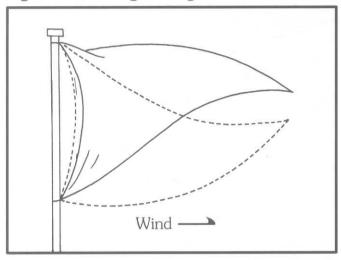
- Wind -



Wind is something you can't see with your eyes, right? So then how do you draw wind? You show it by moving the target object that the wind is blowing.

Let's explain this by using the most readily understood example of a flag.

Figure 118 Triangular flag

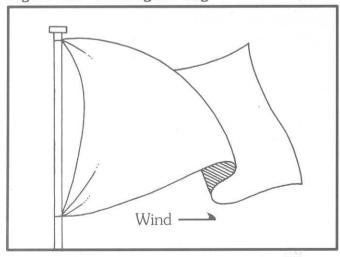


Flags

• Flutter the flag (apparent when the wind picks up and drops off) and flow it according to the direction of the wind.

Figure 118 is a simple example of this. You can depict a two-dimensional form using flow, without incorporating three-dimensional flutters.

Figure 119 Rectangular flag



• Figure 119 is a slightly more complex example of a flag. It is more complicated because of the flowing out of the three-dimensional flutters.

Flags with markings or pictures, or national flags bearing designs are far more difficult.

Figure 120 Movement of flag (triangular)

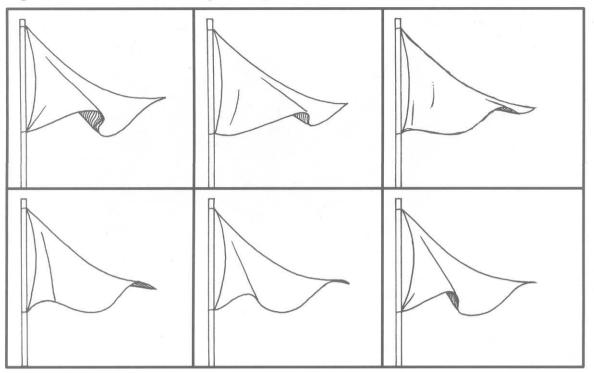
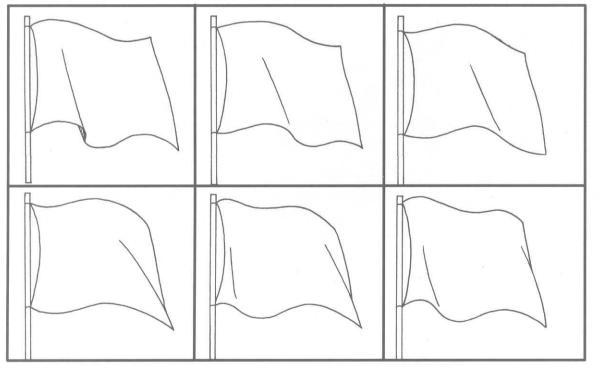


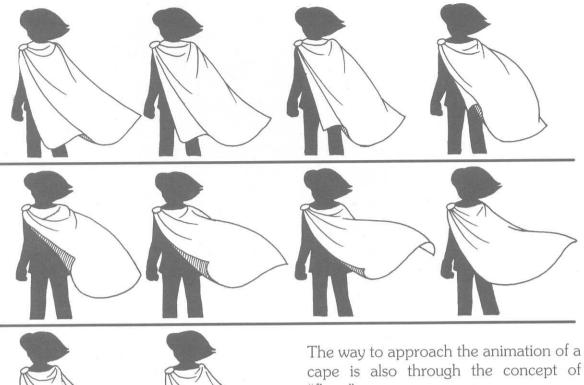
Figure 121 Movement of flag (rectangular)



Here's an illustration of the most simple and basic motion.

Figure 122 Cape movement

A fluttering cape is something you see a lot in animation.



cape is also through the concept of "flow."

It helps if you imagine a ball of air that swells up the cape and moves around inside it.

Figure 123 Cape movement

Flow out the edges of the cape only. It gives a more realistic touch when a cape swells with air.

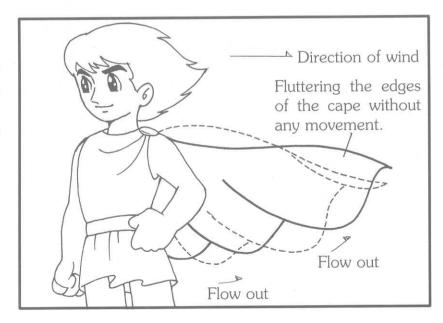
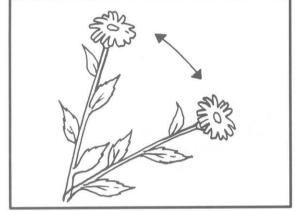
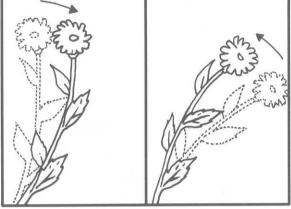


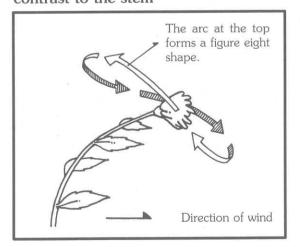


Figure 125 Vibration of fluttering flower Figure 126 A "delayed" inbetween



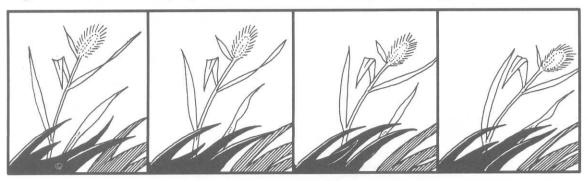


- The movement of a flower fluttering in the wind is basically a vibrating motion that uses the base as a fulcrum.
- The movement will look more natural if you make use of "delay" for flowers and leaves, as in Figure 125.
- Vibration is not merely a back and forth motion. It has to demonstrate the flexibility and lightness of the flower. How do you add that touch?
- Figure 127 Staggering the timing in contrast to the stem
- · If you want to make it more realistic, slightly stagger the timing of the movement of the stem, the petals, and the leaves.



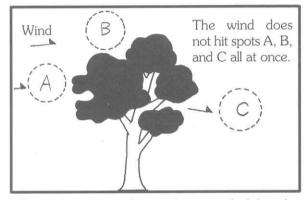
The effect of the wind can be more clearly shown according to the angle of the flutter and the length of the delay.

Figure 128 Grass swaying in the wind and fluttering with staggered timing



As in Figure 128, when drawing grass in the foreground and foxtails in the background, the manner and speed in which they sway may differ. Because the conditions of the wind may fluctuate, it is important to vary the timing, not only for the wind, but for all effects.

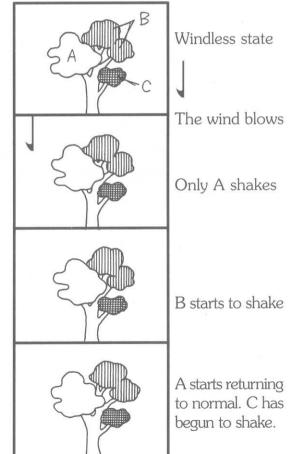
Figure 129 A large tree rustled by the wind



When drawing a large tree rustled by the wind, the timing should generally be staggered, as is the case with grass and flowers.

There may be fluctuations in the power of the wind, and indeed, there may be no wind at all just feets away. It adds a nice touch if you skillfully shift between the tree in its orginal position and the tree as it is moved by the wind.

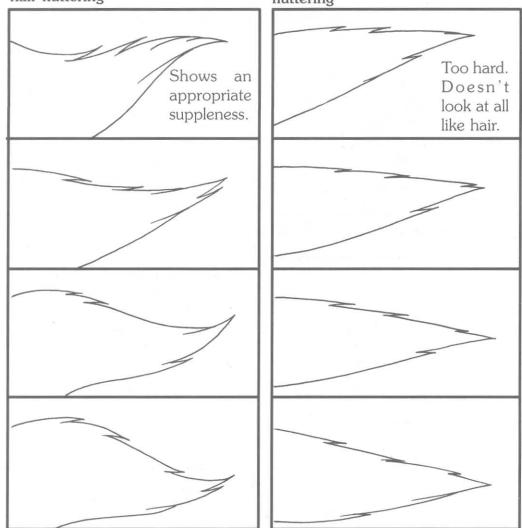
Figure 130 Rustling that is slightly staggered



Fluttering of the hair is probably the effect that appears most often in animation.

Figure 131 Good example of hair fluttering

Figure 132 Bad example of hair fluttering





Always make sure the amount of hair appears uniform.

- When drawing fluttering hair, it doesn't look at all realistic when there is a stiffness to the quality and movement of the hair, as in Figure 132.
- Hair is soft, fine, and light. In animation, you have to demonstrate the feel of hair through image and movement.
- Many thousands of fine hairs gather naturally into several clumps. It can be effective if you subtly vary the appearance and thickness of those clumps.

Figure 133 Fluttering of bangs

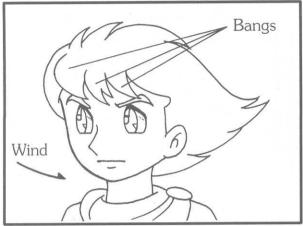
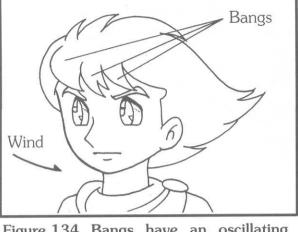
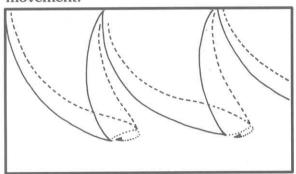


Figure 134 Bangs have an oscillating movement.

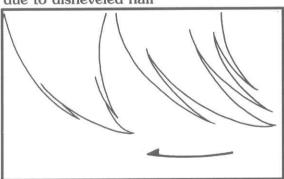


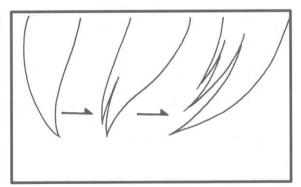
- In general, bangs should move in a gentle manner, in comparison to the rest of the hair.
- If you have the bangs moving as much as the rest of the hair, the image of the character may change entirely. In most cases, in animation, the facial expression of the character should take precedence over everything else.



 Basically, the movement of bangs is conveyed with an oscillating motion. It is important to incorporate a slight delay, to convey a lightness and softness. (In some dramatic works, the bangs are intentionally not moved at all).

Figure 135 Change in number of clumps Figure 136 Disheveled hair with inbetween due to disheveled hair





When drawing fluttering hair, the hair will often get disheveled and the number of clumps will change. In such cases, break down the clumps with a few inbetweens at a time, in even intervals. Overall, conveying a realistic sense of hair requires a highlyrefined sensitivity and technique.

- Smoke -

Smoke is also one of the more important effects. There are many different types of smoke, from the thin kind that dissolves into the air, like cigarette smoke, to smoke that carries a sense of weight, like smoke from a fire or volcano. Each of them is drawn in its own manner and has its own style of movement.

Figure 137 Cigarette smoke (Type A)

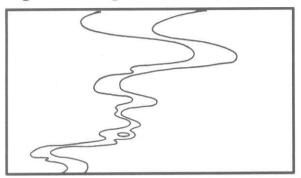


Figure 138 Cigarette smoke (Type B)

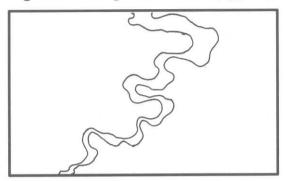
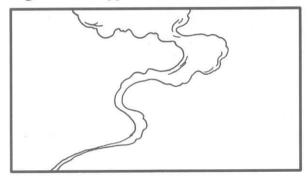
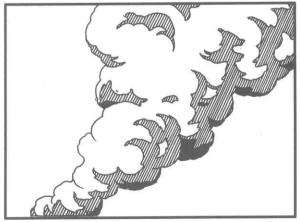


Figure 139 Type A drawn realistically



- Figure 137 shows cartoonish cigarette smoke. For this type of smoke, you can animate it with a simple "flow."
- In Figure 139, the movement becomes a bit more realistic, and a simple "flow" will not suffice.

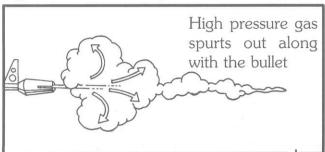
Figure 140 Large cloud of smoke

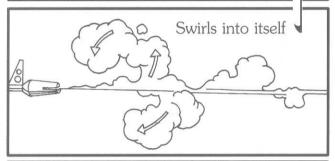


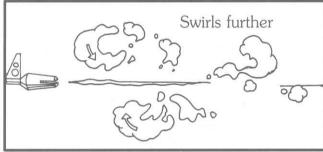
A large cloud of smoke moves powerfully during a volcanic eruption

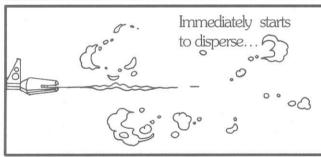
- When you look at an extensive cloud of smoke from a distance, as in a volcanic eruption, it hardly seems to be moving at all.
- Volcanic smoke gives you a sense of considerable weight and solidity.
- The sense of solidity is suggested by the smoke itself, due to its shadows and overlapping plumes.

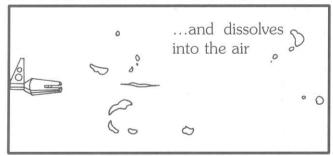
Figure 141 Momentary smoke



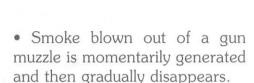






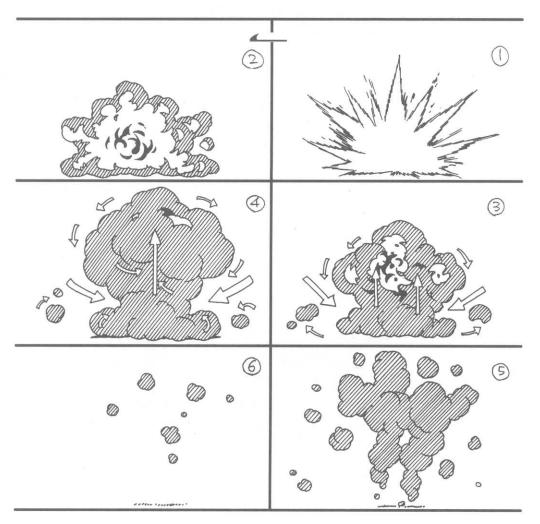


For drawing smoke, you can use either a tracing pen or a brush.



- For basic animation, make sure that the clumps of smoke roll in on themselves and small clumps then break off.
- Be careful to incorporate variations, so that the timing and shapes don't all appear uniform. Make sure that the same images don't repeat---this can be said for all effects.
- At first, it is actually difficult to vary the pictures in an intentionally inconsistent way. (It's easier to make everything uniform).
- In order to create effects skillfully, it's good to observe actual fire, smoke, and water, for reference.
- It's not that the effects have to look as real as if they were photographed, but the distortions should at least be based on the correct principles.

Figure 142 An explosion is a phenomenon of instantaneous ignition and combustion. It is an animation effect that often appears in science fiction or fighting scenes.



- (1) Instantaneous combustion
- (2) The flame and smoke generated expand in all directions momentarily.
- (3) The flame weakens little by little, and the smoke swirls. The smoke rises due to the heat.
- (4) Atmospheric pressure gathers at the base of the smoke cloud, which narrows, and as a result forms a mushroom shape.
- (5) The speed decreases the higher the smoke rises.
- (6) Little by little, the smoke expands into the surrounding air and starts to dissolve. For the flame in (1) and (2), a transparent color close to white is often used to convey the higher temperature.

Effects- Lightning -

Lightning is a phenomenon in which an electrical discharge is generated from cumulus clouds. Since the amount of time it shines is extremely short, it is usually shown in animation for about four to eight frames.

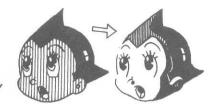
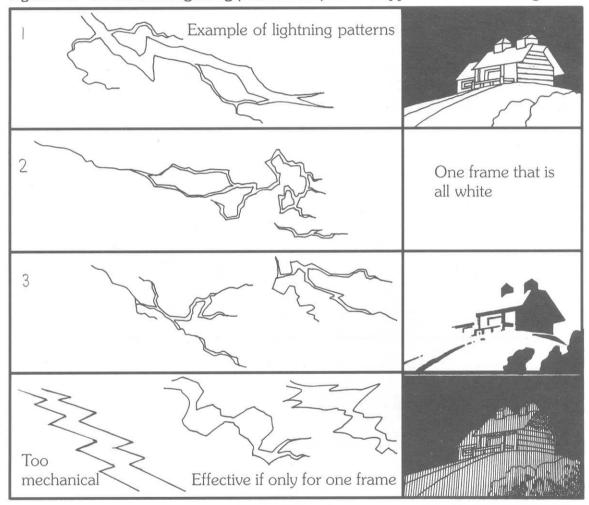


Figure 143 Movement of lightning (thunderbolts) and the appearance of the background



• In order to make an even stronger impact with lightning scenes, you can use methods such as using three to four different drawings of lightning patterns one after another, or giving a directional movement to the lightning, or making the lightning thicker. Also, when an illuminated background or character returns to normal after being shown in high-contrast, you can have a brief overlap as they return to normal.

- Rain -

There are various ways to depict rain in animation, such as through drawing alone, through cinematic effects, or through other special filming techniques. Below, let's look at the basic method of animating rain.



Figure 144 Basic rain

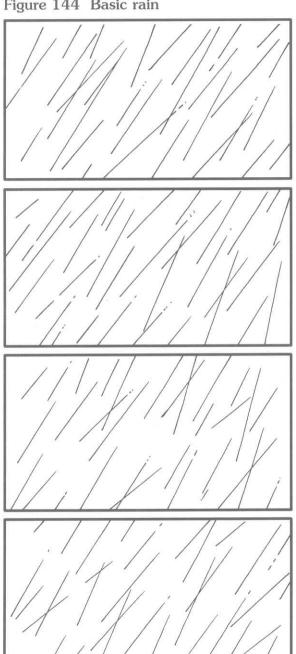
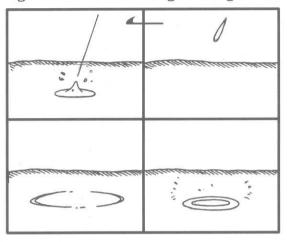


Figure 145 Rain falling to the ground



· Recently, it has become the norm to portray rain by drawing three to four pictures and then shooting them at random. This is the method shown in Figure 144.

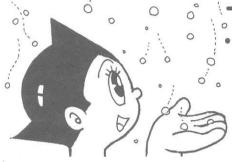
In this case, make sure that each picture has about the same amount of rain. Shooting should not be confined only to the sequence $1 \longrightarrow 2 \longrightarrow 3 \longrightarrow 4$, but should be random, such as 2-4-1-3.

• In Figure 145, rain is falling to the ground.

In this case, when the rain drop strikes the puddle, a ripple results, expanding outward. In general, this repetition should be made frequently, at irregular intervals. In such cases, it's also important to alter the timing of each cycle as well.

Snow -

Snow is the most widespread effect used to convey winter.



In animation where snow falls, put the snow on a gentle arc and flow it out it in repetition. This is the most basic way to animate snow.

Figure 146 Basic arc for snow

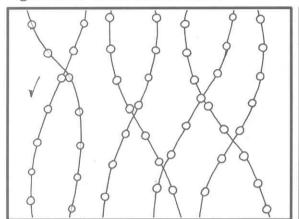


Figure 147 Break down into three inbetweens

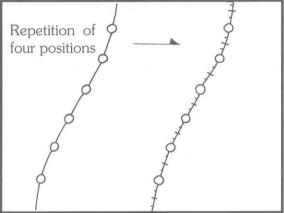


Figure 146 is the most basic way of animating snow and Figure 147 is the way to break it down into inbetweens. Snow's manner of falling should not be too vertical or too curvy. It is most snow-like when a quality of lightness is apparent. Also, if the "flow" speed is too fast, it won't look like snow, so pay attention to the placement or distance of the intervals between each snowflake.

Figure 148 Bad examples

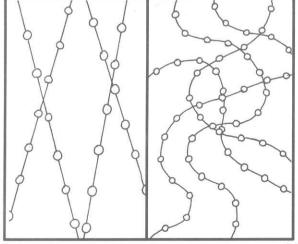
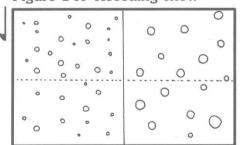


Figure 149 Receding snow



Snow in the background (Cel A) Snow in the foreground (Cel B)

There are times when snow falls very quietly, slowly and heavily. If you want to depict it in this way, you can draw dwindling snow that is receding in the background on an oblong cel.

102

- Metamorphosis

Metamorphosis is another way of saying animated transformation. It used to be the favored technique in animation, but recently, it's not often seen in Japanese animation. It's been replaced by CG in most cases, but if you're able to draw it well, it can still be a very effective and fun animation touch!



Figure 150 Basic metamorphosis (gradually transforming with each inbetween)

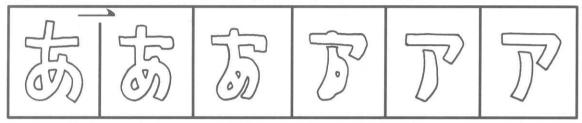
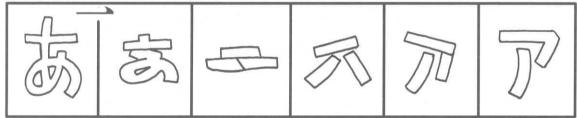
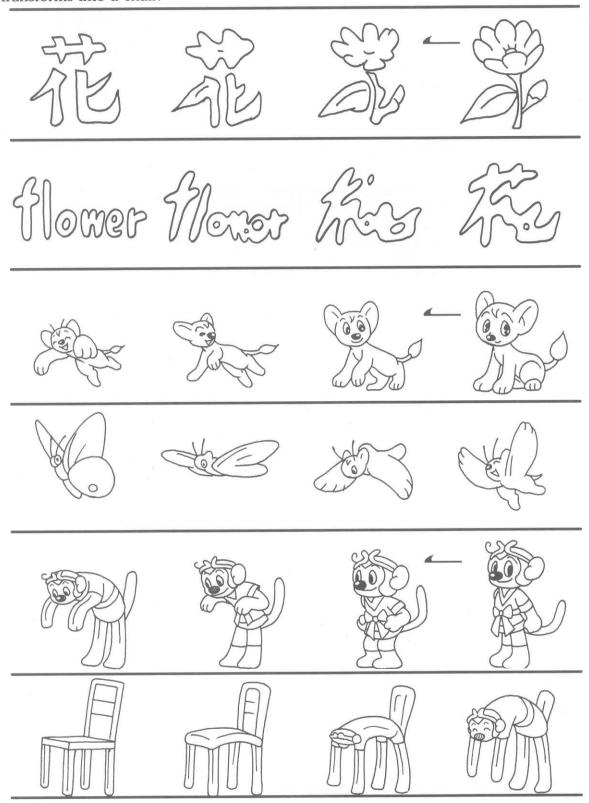


Figure 151 Metamorphosis after temporarily turning into other shapes (reaction transformation)



- \bullet Figure 150 is the style most often used, in which the shape of the character gradually transforms and finally becomes a different shape. Specifically, it can often be seen in such scenarios as a magic battle in which object A is animated and transformed into object B.
- In Figure 151, there's no gradual transformation of each inbetween, but instead, each picture turns into something completely unexpected. It can be a lot of fun, and if well-done, it will surprise people who see it.
- In the past, this type of metamorphosis was used abundantly in famous scenes in such films as Toei's *Journey to the West*, Disney's *The Sword in the Stone*, and Tezuka Productions' *Hi No Tori 2772*.

Figure 152 The following examples are for reference: a flower metamorphoses into Japanese writing and then into English letters; Rukio (the lion cub from *Kimba the White Lion*) turns to a butterfly, and Songoku (a character from many Chinese fables) transforms into a chair.



Background Animation- Special Animation Effects -

Background animation means what it says literally, namely animating the background. The group of buildings around me as I fly through this city is an example of an animated background. There are times when everything in the picture is moving. But in this case, the main animation is the scenery. If background animation is well-done, you can create a powerful and splendid sense of actually being there.

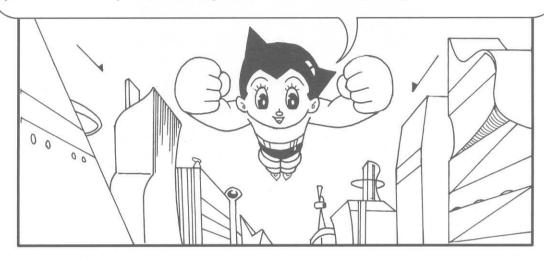
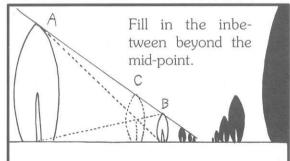


Figure 153 Side-view diagram

A C B

Figure 154 Background with perspective



- For background animation, the background usually doesn't have to be drawn nonstop, but is animated through "repetition" cycles of about four to ten drawings. Background animation that keeps on changing for a certain number of seconds can be dramatic, but for commercial animation, the number of drawings or frames is limited due to various limitations.
- Figure 154 is a background animation of a row of trees. If it's a repetition cycle of seven drawings, position C would be in the middle in terms of distance and would be drawing number four. Figure 153 is a diagram of the same thing seen directly from the side. Usually, for perspective drawings, like Figure 154, you should only fill in one inbetween for each interval. If you add numerous inbetweens for each interval, it will surely look strange.