UNDERSTANDING MOTION COMICS

Design Research Project

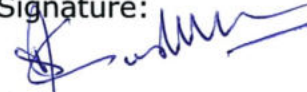Ratan Singh

Animation Design

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Guide By

Prof: Phani Tetali

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the research done for my design research seminar project and submitted as a written report to the Industrial Design Centre, IIT Bombay is a record of the original work done by me under the guidance of Prof. Phani Tetali.

I affirm that I have adhered to all principles of academic honesty and integrity and have not misrepresented or falsified any idea/data/fact/source to the best of my knowledge. I understand that any violation of the above will cause for disciplinary action by the Institute .

Signature:

Date:

Ratan Singh
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APPROVAL SHEET

The Design Research Seminar Report is approved in partial fulfillment of the requirement for Understanding the Motion Comic and how Animation works inside the comic panel .

Project Guide : _T. Dhani_

Date (DD/MM/YY) : 27 / 07 / 2016

Introduction

Comic is a medium to enhance visualization skill or storyboarding skill, and it allows you to tell your story in visual form in a better way . Its gives me better understanding of how to compose a particular scène in a one frame.

Now technology is evolving; every things is going into digital platform. This project gave me an opportunity to look forward to how motion comics work in digital medium.

Motion comic has minimal animation to convey your story. Added sound effect gives them more impact and the events feel more real to the viewer.

History of Motion Comics

The independent motion comics were started at early 2001. The concept was fully outlined in the mid-1960s by science fiction author Philip K. Dick in his novel The Zap Gun.

In 2008, the Wall Street Journal reported that DC Comics would begin to utilize a "new kind of Web entertainment" called motion comics.

The visibility of motion comics came in 2008-2009 Watchmen . It was a great revolution in new entertain media. The first motion comics were released by Warner Bros, releasing an adaptation of Batman: Mad Love and Watchmen. Marvel Comics has released motion comics using a company owned by Neal Adams. The first release was an adaptation of Joss Whedon and John Cassaday's Astonishing X-Men: "Gifted". Other adaptations include Spider-Woman: "Agent of S.W.O.R.D.", Iron Man: "Extremis", Black Panther, Thor/Loki: Blood Brothers, and Astonishing X-Men: "Dangerous".

How Motion Comics Works

When motion comics were started the narrative and art works were used as a primary source of visual material for its creation. The hand- drawn illustration or drawing were scanned, converted into a digital image and then various elements were separated into various layer according to depth of field and other requirements, which could be animated separately. The movement of camera angel and sound effect give more impact to create spatial depth.

How motion comic panel works
Initially all panel has still image or some amount of animation occur in individual panel; when we touch or go into different panel then the narrative flow can be visible and good amount of animation is appeared simultaneously we can hear sound effect also.

Still image screen

after touch animation
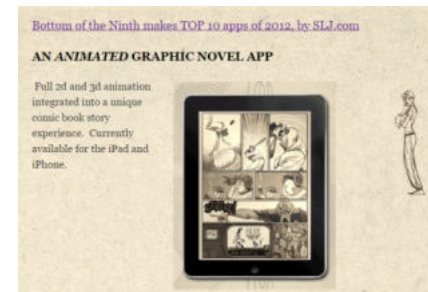sound effects are
 working .

Types of Motion Comics

There are two types of motion comics :

❖ **interaction with story panel**

❖ **Video sequential**

Interaction with story panel:- In this type of motion comics, the viewer has some amount of interaction with the comic panels. We can have different story in each panel. If a page has six different panel than may be possible that each panel has a different story. Which can end in a same way or another, depending on how the script is written .

1.interaction with story panel

Video sequential :- In this of motion comics, frames are taken from the comics and played like a video with a little animation and sound. A good example of this would be peanuts Motion Comics.

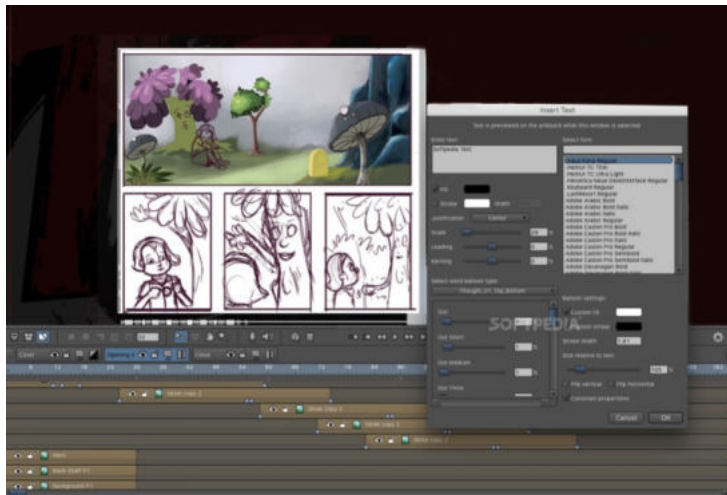Video sequential

Motion artist

Method & techniques for making motion comics

There are many software which allow us to make motion comics:-

1. Adobe Flash Professional
2. Motion Artist
3. Narr8- Storyteller
4. Madefire.com
5. Adobe after effect
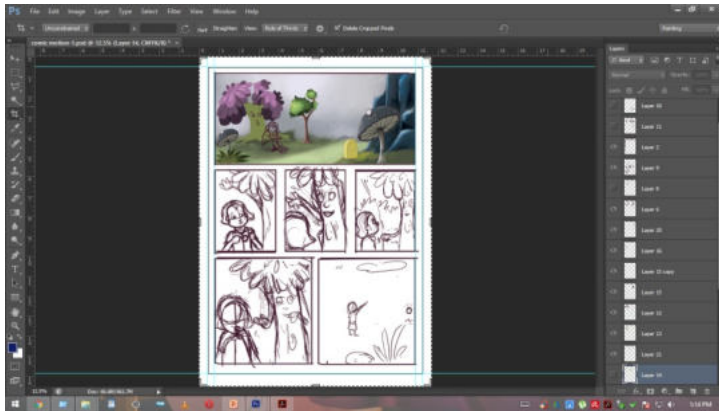6. Adobe Photoshop or illustrator

Photoshop & illustrator give freedom to make drawing in various layer.
For coding and interaction in each panel we can use java, html or any other programing language.

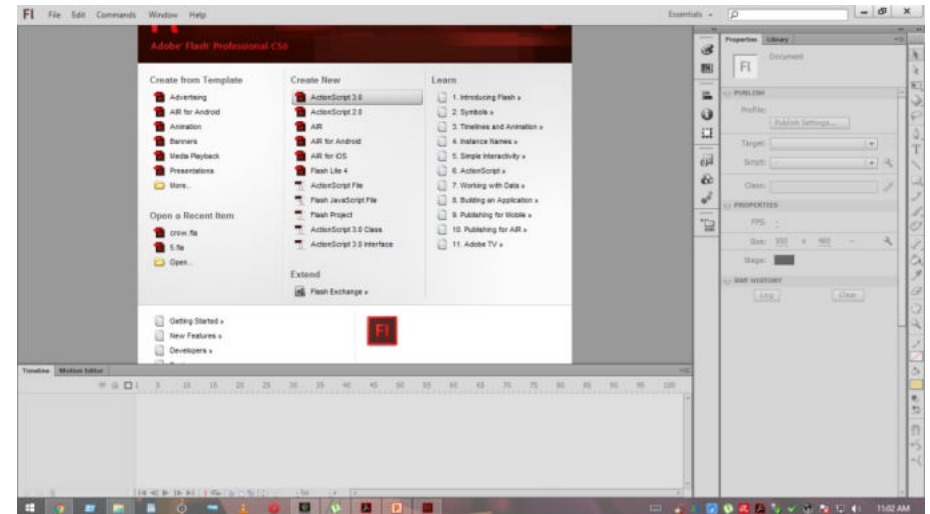# How to make motion comics in adobe flash professional

Adobe Photoshop to create drawing in different layer

I did my all background layer in adobe Photoshop, exported them in PNG sequence later moved them to flash professional and did character animation. Adobe flash has that flexibility where through action script file format we can do programing and animation too.
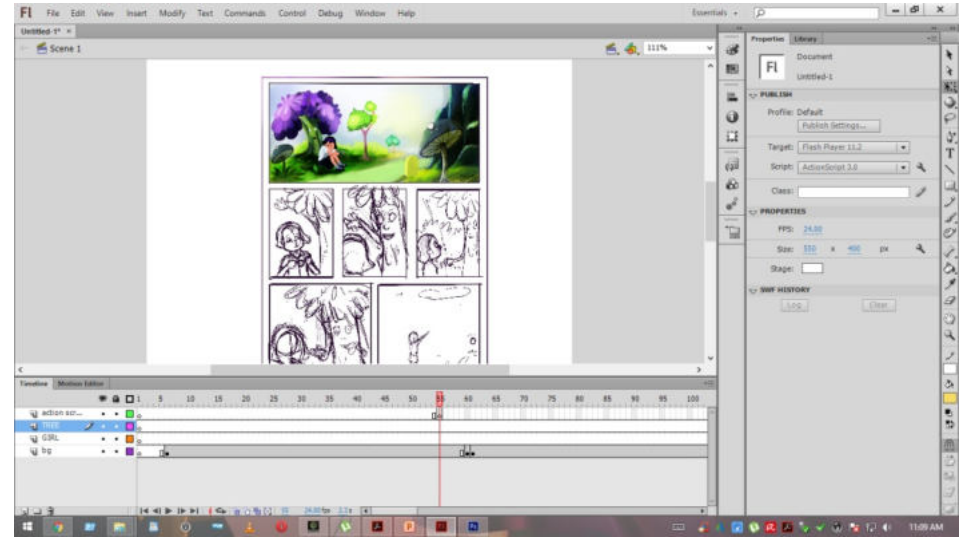
Step-1

- First create different layer according to your composition . I created four layers. first layer for back ground, second layer for animation and third layer for dialogue and narrative and fourth one for controlling layer for programing (action script).for controlling animation we can create a button tool as well.
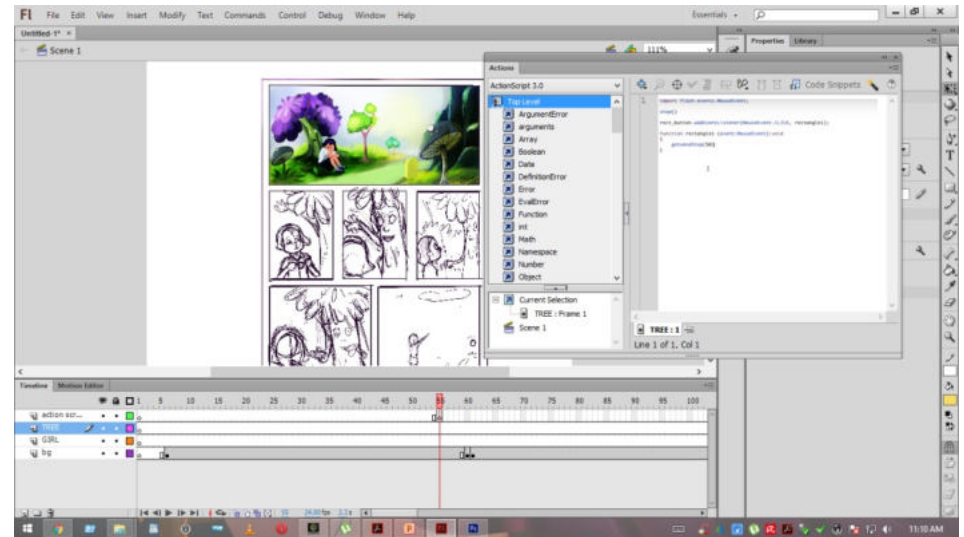
Always choose action script format

- Make sure that action script layer is always on top or start from stop (); and type gotoAnd play(54) or any other frame no where you Want to stop your animation.

Step -2
- Every single frame should be made in to keyframe format, for both layer action script layer or animation layer. If any animation is occurred in back ground layer so you must have to make keyframe for that layer also.
- Go to action script layer and select a frame and right-click on it and convert it to keyframe then press F9 to create coding page for that particular animation.
- For coding the button is:
  on(press){prevFrame()}
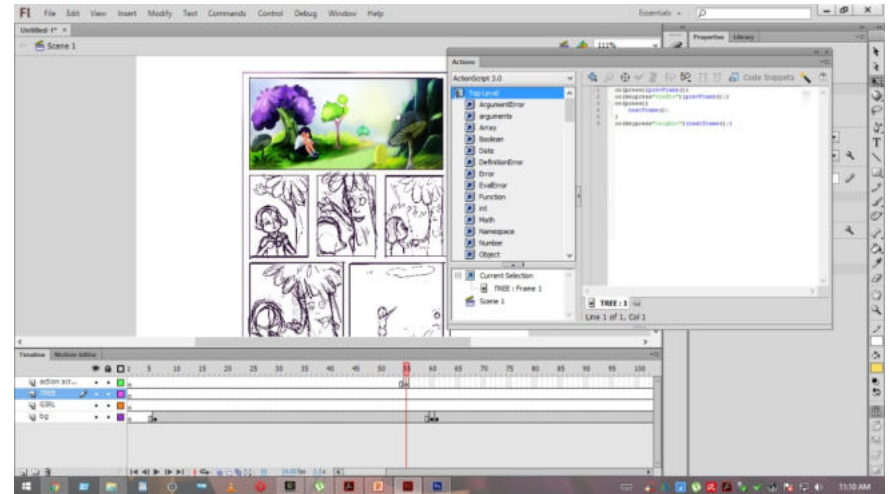 on(keypress"<left>"){prevFrame();}

Stape- 3

Through this coding (press we can make button able to press.

on (keypress"<left>") make your animation to navigate with your keys.

After this scripting user can use key press command:
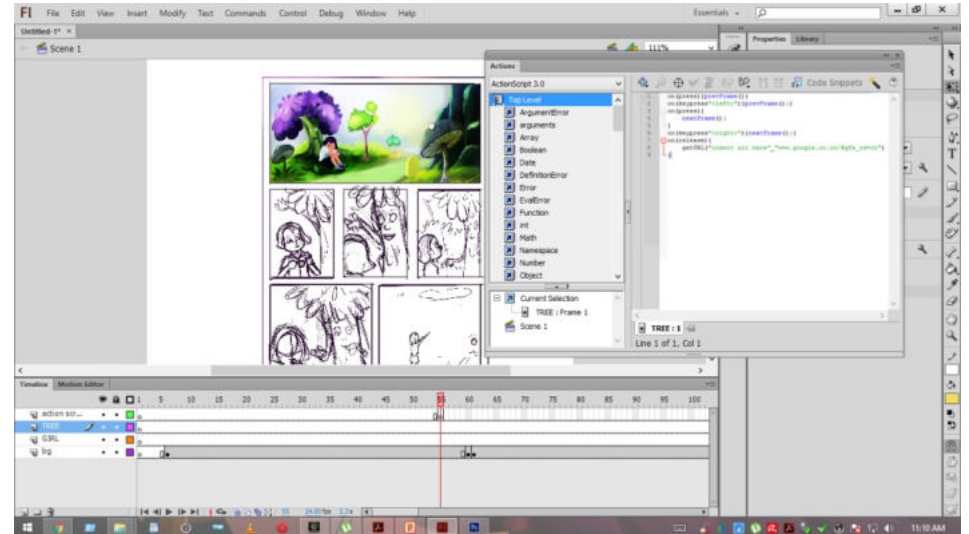
left , right, up, down.

- **Stape** 4
- We have to code "NEXT' command button also; for that button coding is :-

```
on(press){
nextFrame();
 }
 on(keypress"<right>"){nextFrame();}
```

- Than make a circle or square shape to make button and press F8 this will convert it as a symbol.in side the symbol we can make some animation for button also like pressing effect etc.
- Now we have command for backward and forward page .We can make some button to control audio and narrative part.
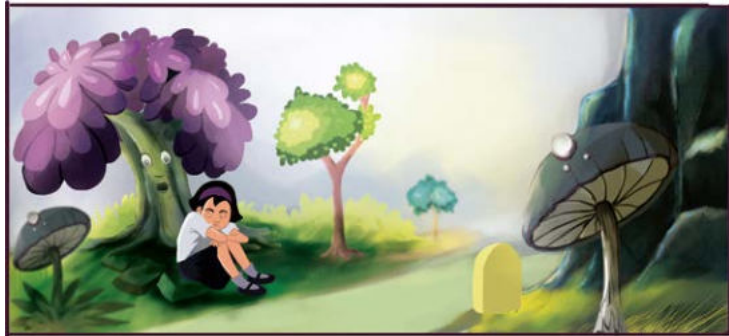
Final Look

STAPE 5

We have to make replay button & web page button for that button we use this scripting :-
on(release){
getURL("insert url here"_"www.google.co.in/#gfe_rd=cr")
}
After this coding has don press ctrl Enter we will get SWF file format which can be uploaded in website

Story line for motion comics

Once upon a time on the day of Rakhi a girl named Bitto was crying under a tree, Suddenly a voice comes from somewhere that says 'Bitto…… o Bitto'
Shocked, Bitto starts looking for the voice here and there but she finds no one .
"Bitto why are crying !!" the voice says again, Bitto notices that the voice is coming from the tree
 Bitto exclaims- "Oh a speaking tree!!''
Tree- Yes I can speak. Now tell me why are you crying.
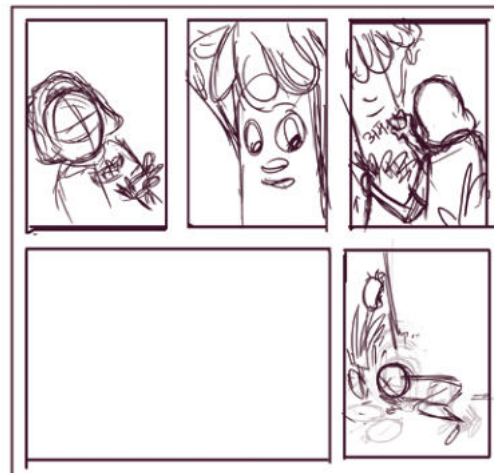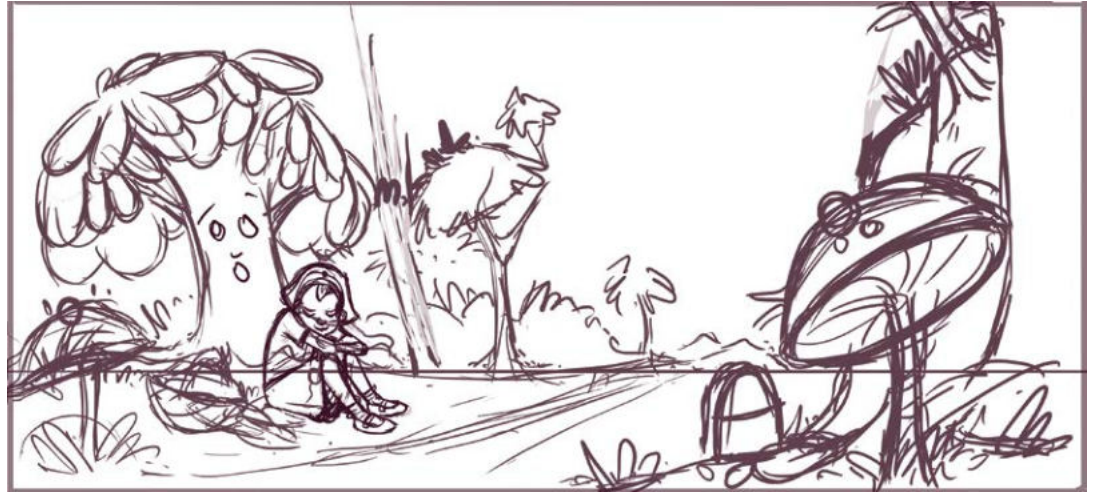**Bitto-** Why do you want to know that?
Tree- Tell me
Bitto- Today is Rakhi and I don't have a brother to celebrate it. My friends tie the Rakhi to their brothers & in return they recieve gifts
Tree- On !! is that why you are crying? you can consider me as your brother.
Bitto- You are just a tree, you can not walk or play. So, How can I consider you as my brother . You can't even protect me, help me nor you can gift me anything.

Layouts

Tree- I can do all that. tie me the Rakhi

Bitto-Today Rakhi is over but if you will do these things in future, then I will surely celebrate next Rakhi with you.

Tree- But you have to come here everyday as I can not walk .

Bitto- Okay, but how will I recognize you.? What is your name?

Tree- Tell me, If u had a brother what would you have named him..?

Bitto- Aman!

Tree- Then I am Aman.

Bitto picks a stone & write Aman on the tree. Days pass and Bitto meets Aman everyday. Aman helped her by giving her shade, Providing swing on its branches, by giving her fruits & in many ways like that.
This way a strong bond starts to form between Aman & Bitto.

One days when Bitto was again upset tree asked her "What happened"…?

Bitto- Today is my birthday and all my toffees fell into water, Now what am I going to give my friends as my birthday treat?

Tree- Don't worry, I will do something. Tree started shaking its branches & within no time Bitto gets lot of fruits for her Friends.
On the some day in evening, Bitto came to the Tree & She was very happy.
Bitto- Do you know that what day is it tomorrow?
Tree- No, I don't.
Bitto- Tomorrow is Rakhi
Tree- Are you going to celebrate it with me?
Bitto- Only if you will give me a gift ! Next day Bitto got ready in her new dress. she was happy, Her mother asked -
 Bitto today is Rakhi but unlike every year you look happy today and your father has brought a gift for u that you always wanted to own.
Bitto- Maa !! I am getting late , I have to leave now as I am going to celebrate this day with my brother.

  Bitto went to that place but no tree was there only a small stem was lying on the sail. Bitto ties Rakhi to that fallen stem.

When she went back to home she cried a lot. She told her mother that she met a tree a year back and she started considering the tree as her brother. But, today only a stem was there instead of that tree.
Her mother told her that Her father has brought something for her.
She found a study table as a gift on the top of which was written 'from Aman'.

Conclusion

Comics has potential to tell your story in visual form but motion comic allows you to add depth in it. Combination of animation, narrative and certain amount of interaction with digital medium weave your story in better manner. Which is a significant part of motion comics.

Through this project I got a much more clear idea about how motion comics work. This project give me an opportunity to enhance my story telling, sketching and animation skill.

Through the entire process of making a motion comics, I have learnt how much technical part is involved in it like various programming language and action script to control animation.

References link

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Men+motion+comic+with+augmented+reality&biw=2133&bih=1021&source=lnms&tbm=isch&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwiIy7npw9bNAhVEN48KHWSdBPwQ_
https://www.herts.ac.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0018/100791/wvc-dc7-smith.pdf