

## Anime Mania: How to Draw Characters for Japanese Animation (Manga Mania)

By Christopher Hart



**Anime Mania: How to Draw Characters for Japanese Animation (Manga Mania)** By Christopher Hart

There's no doubt about it: Japanese animation is hot. Television shows, films, and videos featuring the anime style of animation are wildly popular. Japanese animation is like a comic book come to life, retaining all its power but in moving form. It has a very different style from traditional western animation, incorporating heavy shading, dramatic camera angles, and beautifully rendered special effects—especially the fantastic anime depictions of ocean waves, storms, smoke, and explosions. Easier to draw than its western counterpart, anime is more limited and simpler in its execution. In Japanese anime the characters move, but their movements are generally staccato, sharp, and dramatic—not free-flowing with lots of overlapping action, anticipation, and follow-through.

In *Anime Mania*, famous cartoonist, teacher, and best-selling author Christopher Hart demonstrates how any comic book artist can become expert in this wonderful style of animation. Step by step, he details how to draw the coolest anime characters from the widest selection of popular styles: high-tech cyberpunks who live in the world of the future; teen characters—with troubled relationships at school, home, and on the street; and mighty monsters, fantasy warriors, and giant robots. Aspiring animators will also find chapters on anime's spectacular special effects, the role of storyboarding in anime, sketching and the art of character design, and a mini-crash course in perspective. The book concludes with interviews with Scott Frazier, an American anime director working in Japan, and Mahiro Meada, a renowned Japanese animation director.

Brimming with hundreds of spectacular examples, illustrations, and step-by-step exercises, *Anime Mania* details how anyone can become a real anime artist without having to reinvent the art of drawing.



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#### Anime Mania: How to Draw Characters for Japanese Animation (Manga Mania) By Christopher Hart Bibliography

Sales Rank: #1107001 in Books
Brand: WATSON-GUPTILL
Published on: 2002-07-01
Released on: 2002-07-01
Original language: English

• Number of items: 1

• Dimensions: 10.99" h x .34" w x 8.54" l, 1.02 pounds

• Binding: Paperback

• 144 pages

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#### **Editorial Review**

#### From Library Journal

A successful contributor to MAD magazine, the "Blondie" cartoon strip, and various film and TV productions, Hart previously brought us Manga Mania: How To Draw Japanese Comics. In this follow-up, he demonstrates anime, the unique Japanese animation style of heavy shading, dramatic camera angles, and beautifully rendered special effects, most popularly known to U.S. audiences through series like Digimon and Sailor Moon. Based more on character than action, these anime include high-tech cyberpunks and teen characters with troubled relationships, as well as monsters, fantasy warriors, and giant robots. Hart covers storyboarding, sketching, perspective, the basics of animating, and the functioning of an animation studio. Rounding out the book are interviews with two anime directors. Highly recommended for public libraries. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.

#### About the Author

CHRISTOPHER HART is the world's bestselling author of drawing and cartooning books. His books have sold more than 7.4 million copies and have been translated into 20 languages. Renowned for up-to-the-minute content and easy-to-follow steps, all of Hart's books have become staples for a new generation of aspiring artists and professionals, and they have been selected by the American Library Association for special notice.

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