

About Blender

How can Blender be free?

People usually associate freeware software with the terms “bad”, “with limited features” or just a “demo”. Blender is fully functional. It works as an open-sourced, community development program where people from around the world contribute to its success. Blender is a rendering\animation\game development open-sourced freeware program maintained by the Blender Foundation and can be downloaded, free of charge, from www.blender.org. The goal of the foundation can be summarized as follows:

“The Blender Foundation is an independent organization (a Dutch “stichting”), acting as a non-profit public benefit corporation, with the following goals:

1. *To establish services for active users and developers of Blender.*
2. *To maintain and improve the current Blender product via a public accessible source code system under the GNU GPL license.*
3. *To establish funding or revenue mechanisms that serve the foundation's goals and cover the foundation's expenses.*
4. *To give the worldwide Internet community access to 3D technology in general, with Blender as a core.*

Blender website (blender.org)

Blender can be a difficult program to learn with limitless possibilities. What do you teach in the time you have to teach? That's a tough question because you can't teach it all. This tutorial book is designed to get you up and running in the basics of creating objects and scenes and animating. The best advice I can give you about learning this program is Don't Give Up! Any rendering and animation program has a tough learning curve and Blender is no exception. After a few weeks, things get easier. This tutorial has been developed to be used in conjunction with daily lesson planning and demonstrations. Because of this, some areas of Blender have not been described as fully as they could be. If you are using this guide as a stand-alone teaching or “self-help” tool, you may need to seek additional help from reputable places like www.blender.org and www.blenderartists.org to make sense of things. These sites give you access to help forums and tutorials. There are literally thousands of Blender users world-wide that browse the forums to give and get advice. Make use of that vast knowledge base!

Version Information:

The current release at the time of this printing is **version 2.5x**. Since Blender is developed by a worldwide pool of individuals giving freely of their time, releases can happen in as little as 4 months and as much as 1 year. Because of such a large number of individuals contributing to Blender, major changes can occur between releases showing substantial improvements. **Version 2.5 is a drastic move from past versions of Blender!** The interface has changed in an effort to improve the work flow and make it more comparable to other programs.