#### Game Art

### **Lesson 2 Quick Reference Guide**

**Animated Sprites: Walk Cycle & Idle Poses** 

**Duration:** 40 minutes

Software: Adobe Photoshop CC 2024 + Godot 4.5

Prerequisites: Completed Lesson 1

## M What We're Building Today

### Photoshop (20 min):

- Create 3-4 walk cycle frames (character walking animation)
- Create idle pose (character standing still)
- Organize frames in a sprite sheet
- Export animation-ready PNG

### Godot (20 min):

- Replace Sprite2D with AnimatedSprite2D
- Set up "walk" and "idle" animations
- Code smooth animation transitions
- Make character animate while playing!

**Result:** Your character walks when moving and stands idle when stopped! 1



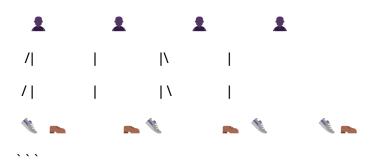
# Key Vocabulary

- Walk Cycle: Sequence of frames showing walking motion
- Frame: Single image in an animation sequence
- Idle Animation: Character standing still (can breathe, blink, sway)
- FPS (Frames Per Second): How fast animation plays (8 FPS = good for walk cycles)
- Animation Loop: Animation repeats continuously
- **Keyframe:** Important pose in animation (contact, passing, etc.)
- AnimatedSprite2D: Godot node that plays sprite animations

## Understanding Walk Cycles

#### The 4 Basic Positions:

Frame 1: Contact Frame 2: Passing Frame 3: Contact Frame 4: Passing (foot down) (legs cross) (other foot) (legs cross)



- \*\*Minimum walk cycle:\*\* 2 frames (left foot forward, right foot forward)
- \*\*Better walk cycle:\*\* 4 frames (includes passing positions)
- \*\*Professional walk cycle:\*\* 8+ frames (super smooth!)
- \*\*Today we'll make 3-4 frames perfect for learning!\*\*

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### \*\*Reference Examples:\*\*

Before starting, search for:

- "sprite walk cycle reference"
- "2D character walking animation"
- "pixel art walk cycle"

<sup>\*\*</sup>Study professional games:\*\*

```
- Mario (classic smooth walk)
- Celeste (modern pixel walk)
- Hollow Knight (detailed walk cycle)
## Part 1: Photoshop - Create Walk Cycle (20 min)**
### **Step 1: Open Your Previous Work (1 min)**
**Open your Lesson 1 file:**
Desktop/GameArt_Year9/working_files/player_sprite.psd
**OR start fresh:**
- **File → New**
- Width: **256 pixels** (fits 4 frames of 64px)
- Height: **64 pixels**
- Background: **Transparent**
### **Step 2: Find Walk Cycle Reference Images (3 min)**
**Option A: Download Existing Walk Cycle**
Search for:
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- "character walk cycle sprite sheet"
- "[your favorite game] walking sprites"
- "pixel art walk animation"
**Download 3-4 images showing different walking poses**
**Option B: Use Your Lesson 1 Character**
If you already have different poses, great! We'll modify them.
### **Step 3: Create Frame 1 - Contact Pose (4 min)**
**This is the character with one foot fully on the ground**
#### **Import or Draw Frame 1:**
**If you have a reference:**
1. **File → Place Embedded** your walk frame 1
2. Remove background (Magic Wand + Eraser - you learned this!)
3. Resize to 60 pixels tall (`Ctrl+T`, hold Shift)
**If drawing from scratch:**
1. Create **New Layer** → Name: "Walk_Frame1"
2. Use **Brush Tool (B)** to draw:
 - Body centered
 - Left leg forward (foot flat)
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- Right leg back (foot raised)
 - Arms opposite to legs (right arm forward)
**Position:** Place on LEFT side of canvas (x: 32)
** P Drawing Tips:**
- Keep it simple - stick figures work!
- Legs in opposite positions to arms (natural walking)
- Body leans slightly forward
### **Step 4: Create Frame 2 - Passing Pose (4 min)**
**Character with legs crossing (mid-stride)**
#### **Method A: Duplicate & Modify**
1. Select "Walk_Frame1" layer
2. `Ctrl+J` / `Cmd+J` (duplicate)
3. Rename: "Walk_Frame2"
4. Press **V** (Move Tool)
5. Drag to the RIGHT of Frame 1 (leave small gap)
#### **Modify the Pose:**
**Using Free Transform & Lasso:**
1. Press **L** for **Lasso Tool**
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2. Draw selection around **right leg**
3. `Ctrl+T` / `Cmd+T` (Transform)
4. Move leg forward (legs should be close together)
5. Press **Enter**
**Repeat for arms:**
- Left arm moves back
- Right arm moves forward
- Body upright
**Result:** Legs close together, mid-stride position
### **Step 5: Create Frame 3 - Contact Pose (Opposite) (3 min)**
**Same as Frame 1, but opposite foot forward**
#### **Quick Method: Duplicate Frame 1**
1. Duplicate "Walk_Frame1" layer
2. Rename: "Walk_Frame3"
3. Move to RIGHT of Frame 2
#### **Flip the Pose:**
**Option A: Manual Flip**
1. Select the leg/arm parts with Lasso
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2. Swap their positions
**Option B: Use Transform**
1. `Ctrl+T` / `Cmd+T`
2. **Right-click** → **Flip Horizontal**
3. This flips the whole sprite
** Prip:** If you flip the whole sprite, you might need to adjust details to keep i looking natural!
### **Step 6: Create Frame 4 - Passing Pose (Optional) (2 min)**
**For a 4-frame walk cycle, duplicate Frame 2 and flip it**
1. Duplicate "Walk_Frame2"
2. Rename: "Walk_Frame4"
3. Move to RIGHT of Frame 3
4. Modify leg/arm positions (opposite of Frame 2)
**Or skip this if you're short on time - 3 frames works fine!**
### **Step 7: Create Idle Pose (3 min)**
**Character standing still - this goes in same sprite sheet!**

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#### **Create New Document Section (or extend canvas):**
**Option A: Extend Current Canvas**
1. **Image → Canvas Size**
2. Width: **320 pixels** (add 64px for idle frame)
3. Anchor: Left (adds space to the right)
4. Click **OK**
**Option B: New Layer in Current Document**
- Just add idle frame to the far right of your current layout
#### **Create Idle Frame:**
**If you have a standing reference:**
1. Import with **Place Embedded**
2. Remove background
3. Position to RIGHT of walk frames
**If drawing:**
1. New layer: "Idle_Frame"
```

2. Draw character standing naturally:

- Feet together or slightly apart

- Arms at sides or on hips

- Can have slight lean or tilt

- Relaxed posture

```
breathing/swaying animation!
### **Your Canvas Should Look Like:**
[Walk 1] [Walk 2] [Walk 3] [Walk 4] [Idle]
(Contact)(Passing)(Contact)(Passing)(Stand)
. . .
**Or minimum version:**
. . .
[Walk 1] [Walk 2] [Walk 3] [Idle]
### **Step 8: Clean Up & Label (1 min)**
**Organize your Layers panel:**
Layers Panel:
Walk_Frame1
Walk_Frame2
Walk_Frame3
Walk_Frame4 (optional)
Idle_Frame
```

\*\* P Advanced Idle:\*\* Make 2 idle frames that are slightly different - creates subtle

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**Hide any reference layers** (  icon)
### **Step 9: Export Animation Sprite Sheet (2 min)**
**File → Export → Export As...**
**Settings:**
| Setting | Value |
|-----|
| **Format** | **PNG** |
| **Transparency** | ** Checked** |
| **Smaller File** | ✓ Checked |
**Save As:**
Desktop/GameArt_Year9/exported_sprites/player_animated.png
**Click Export**
**Also save PSD:**
```

Desktop/GameArt\_Year9/working\_files/player\_animated.psd

. . .

```
. . .
## <a href="#">**Photoshop Checklist**</a>
☐ Walk cycle created (3-4 frames minimum)
\square Idle pose created (1 frame)
☐ All backgrounds removed (transparent)
☐ Frames arranged in a row left to right
☐ Layers properly named
☐ PNG exported to exported_sprites/
\square PSD saved to working_files/
☐ Preview PNG shows all frames clearly
## 🎮 **Part 2: Import to Godot & Animate (20 min)**
### **Step 1: Copy New Sprite to Godot (1 min)**
**Copy:**
. . .
Desktop/GameArt_Year9/exported_sprites/player_animated.png
**To:**
```

```
Desktop/Year9_Platformer/assets/sprites/player_animated.png
### **Step 2: Open Godot Project (1 min)**
1. Launch **Godot 4.5**
2. Open **Year9_Platformer**
3. Open **level_1.tscn**
### **Step 3: Configure Import Settings (3 min)**
**This step is CRITICAL for pixel art! If you skip this, your sprites will look blurry!**
#### **Part A: Select Your Sprite File (30 seconds)**
1. Look at **FileSystem panel** (bottom-left corner)
2. Navigate to: `res://assets/sprites/`
3. **Single-click** on `player_animated.png`
4. Filename should be **highlighted in blue**
#### **Part B: Change Compression Settings (1 min)**
**Location: Import Tab (top of screen)**
```

. . .

```
1. Look at **top of screen** for tabs
2. Click the **Import** tab (next to Scene tab)
3. Find the **Compress** section:
Compress
Mode: [VRAM Compressed ▼]
4. Click the **Mode** dropdown
5. Select: **Lossless**
#### **Part C: Change Texture Filter Settings (1 min)**
**Location: Inspector Panel (right side of screen)**
**IMPORTANT:** Make sure `player_animated.png` is still selected in FileSystem!
1. Look at **Inspector panel** (right side)
2. **Scroll down** in Inspector until you find:
Texture (or Sampling)
Filter: [Linear ▼]
 Repeat: [Disabled ▼]
. . .
3. Click the **Filter** dropdown
4. Select: **Nearest**
```

```
#### **Part D: Optional - Turn Off Mipmaps (30 seconds)**
**Location: Import Tab**
In the Import tab, find:
Mipmaps
Generate: [On]
1. Click to turn it **Off**
#### **Part E: Apply Changes - CRITICAL!**
1. Scroll to **bottom** of Import tab
2. Click **Reimport** button
3. Wait 1-2 seconds
#### **Part F: Verify Settings Worked**
- Look at sprite preview in FileSystem
- Pixels should be **sharp and clear** (not blurry)
**Quick Settings Summary:**
. . .
Import Tab (top):
 ✓ Compress → Mode = Lossless
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```
✓ Mipmaps → Generate = Off

√ Reimport clicked

Inspector Panel (right):
 ✓ Texture → Filter = Nearest
 ✓ Texture → Repeat = Disabled
### **Step 4: Replace Sprite2D with AnimatedSprite2D (3 min)**
**We need to upgrade from static sprite to animated sprite!**
#### **Delete Old Sprite2D:**
1. Select **Player** node
2. Find **Sprite2D** child node
3. **Right-click → Delete**
4. Click **OK**
#### **Add AnimatedSprite2D:**
1. Select **Player** node
2. Click **+** (Add Child Node)
3. Search: **AnimatedSprite2D**
4. Click **Create**
```

```
**Your Player node should now have:**
Player (CharacterBody2D)
 ├— AnimatedSprite2D ← NEW!
 CollisionShape2D
### **Step 5: Create SpriteFrames Resource (3 min)**
**This is where we store all our animations!**
1. Select **AnimatedSprite2D** node
2. **Inspector → Sprite Frames** property
3. Click **[empty]** dropdown
4. Select **New SpriteFrames**
**You should see:** `[SpriteFrames]` appear
5. **Double-click** `[SpriteFrames]` to open editor
**SpriteFrames Editor opens at bottom of screen!**
### **Step 6: Create "idle" Animation (4 min)**
```

```
**The SpriteFrames editor should show:**
Animation Frames:
default ▼ [Rename] [ + Add] [Delete]
| | (empty - drag frames here) | |
#### **Rename "default" to "idle":**
1. Click **Rename** button
2. Type: **idle**
3. Press **Enter**
#### **Add Idle Frame:**
1. Find `player_animated.png` in **FileSystem** panel
2. **Drag it** into the frames area
**"Select Frames" dialog appears - shows your sprite sheet in a grid**
3. **Click ONLY the idle frame** (rightmost frame)
4. Click **Add X Frame(s)** button
```

✓ Idle frame appears in frames list!

```
#### **Set Animation Speed:**
- **Speed (FPS):** **5** (idle is slow)
- **Loop:** ✓ Checked
### **Step 7: Create "walk" Animation (4 min)**
#### **Add New Animation:**
1. Click ** + Add Animation** button
2. Name: **walk**
3. Press **Enter**
#### **Add Walk Frames:**
1. **Drag** `player_animated.png` into frames area
2. **"Select Frames" dialog appears**
**Select your walk cycle frames:**
- **Click** Frame 1 (first walk frame)
- Hold **Shift** + **Click** Frame 3 or 4 (last walk frame)
- This selects all walk frames!
3. Click **Add X Frame(s)**
```

```
✓ You should see 3-4 walk frames in sequence!
#### **Set Walk Animation Speed:**
- **Speed (FPS):** **8** (smooth walking)
- **Loop:** ✓ Checked
**Your SpriteFrames Should Have:**
Animations:
 └ idle [1 frame, 5 FPS, loop]
 walk [3-4 frames, 8 FPS, loop]
Close SpriteFrames editor (or keep open to preview!)
Step 8: Test Animations in Editor (1 min)
Preview without running the game!
With AnimatedSprite2D selected:
   1. Inspector → Animation: Select "walk"
   2. Playing: ✓ Check this box
Character should walk in viewport! 1
Try "idle" - character stands still!
Uncheck Playing when done
```

## **Step 9: Code Animation Transitions (5 min)**

Make animations play automatically based on movement!

## Open player.gd:

- 1. Select Player node
- 2. Click script icon ( )

```
Update Animation Code:
Find _physics_process function.
REMOVE this (from Lesson 1):
gdscript
# --- SPRITE FLIPPING ---
if direction > 0:
       $Sprite2D.flip_h = false
elif direction < 0:
       $Sprite2D.flip_h = true
REPLACE with this:
gdscript
func _physics_process(delta):
       # --- APPLY GRAVITY ---
       if not is_on_floor():
              velocity += get_gravity() * delta
       # --- JUMP CODE (DISABLED FOR LESSON 1-2) ---
       # if Input.is_action_just_pressed("ui_accept") and is_on_floor():
       # velocity.y = JUMP_VELOCITY
       # --- GET PLAYER INPUT ---
       var direction = Input.get_axis("ui_left", "ui_right")
       # --- MOVE THE PLAYER ---
       if direction:
              velocity.x = direction * SPEED
       else:
              velocity.x = move_toward(velocity.x, 0, SPEED)
```

Save: Ctrl+S / Cmd+S

## **Understanding the Animation Code:**

gdscript

if direction != 0:

Meaning: If player is pressing left OR right...

gdscript

\$AnimatedSprite2D.play("walk")

Meaning: Play the "walk" animation

gdscript

\$AnimatedSprite2D.flip\_h = (direction < 0)

### Meaning:

- flip\_h = flip horizontally
- direction < 0 = moving left
- Result: Faces left when moving left, right when moving right!

gdscript

else:

\$AnimatedSprite2D.play("idle")

Meaning: If NOT moving, play "idle" animation

### **Step 10: Test Your Animated Character! (2 min)**

Press F5 to run!

#### You Should See:

- Character starts in idle animation
- Press Right Arrow → Character walks right with animation!
- Press Left Arrow → Character walks left (flipped + animated!)
- Release arrows → Character returns to idle
- Smooth transitions between animations

Success! Your character is fully animated! 🞉

## **©** Troubleshooting

Problem	Solution
No animation playing	Check animation name spelling matches code
Only first frame shows	Check "Loop" is enabled in SpriteFrames
Animation too fast/slow	Adjust FPS in SpriteFrames editor
Character slides without animating	Check play("walk") is inside if direction != 0
Wrong animation plays	Check names: "idle" and "walk" (lowercase)
Sprite flips wrong direction	Change < 0 to > 0 in flip_h line
Error: Invalid call	Check node is AnimatedSprite2D not Sprite2D
Frames in wrong order	Reorder in SpriteFrames (drag and drop)

Go back: Filter must = Nearest, then Reimport

## Complete Code Reference

Sprite looks blurry

```
player.gd with animations:
gdscript
extends CharacterBody2D
# === MOVEMENT CONSTANTS ===
const SPEED = 300.0
const JUMP_VELOCITY = -400.0
# === MAIN PHYSICS FUNCTION ===
func _physics_process(delta):
      # --- APPLY GRAVITY ---
      if not is_on_floor():
             velocity += get_gravity() * delta
      # --- JUMP CODE (DISABLED FOR LESSON 1-2) ---
      # if Input.is_action_just_pressed("ui_accept") and is_on_floor():
      # velocity.y = JUMP_VELOCITY
      # --- GET PLAYER INPUT ---
      var direction = Input.get_axis("ui_left", "ui_right")
      # --- MOVE THE PLAYER ---
      if direction:
             velocity.x = direction * SPEED
      else:
             velocity.x = move_toward(velocity.x, 0, SPEED)
```

# --- ANIMATION CONTROL ---

```
if direction != 0:
             $AnimatedSprite2D.play("walk")
             $AnimatedSprite2D.flip_h = (direction < 0)
      else:
             $AnimatedSprite2D.play("idle")
      # --- EXECUTE THE MOVEMENT ---
      move_and_slide()
# === GOAL DETECTION SETUP ===
func _ready():
      var goal_box = get_parent().get_node("GoalBox")
      goal_box.body_entered.connect(_on_goal_box_body_entered)
# === GOAL COLLISION RESPONSE ===
func _on_goal_box_body_entered(body):
      if body == self:
             print("Level Complete! Great job!")
             get_tree().change_scene_to_file("res://level_2.tscn")
```

# **Challenge Extensions**

## **Challenge 1: Add Breathing to Idle**

Create 2-frame idle for subtle movement:

- 1. Photoshop: Create 2 idle frames (slight up/down)
- 2. Add both to "idle" animation
- 3. Set FPS to 4 (slow breathing)

### **Challenge 2: Speed-Based Animation**

```
Animation speed matches movement:
gdscript
# In _physics_process, animation section:
if direction != 0:
      $AnimatedSprite2D.play("walk")
      $AnimatedSprite2D.speed_scale = abs(velocity.x) / SPEED
      $AnimatedSprite2D.flip_h = (direction < 0)
else:
      $AnimatedSprite2D.play("idle")
      $AnimatedSprite2D.speed_scale = 1.0
Challenge 3: Jump Animation (Preview)
Add jump frame:
```

- 1. Create "jump" animation (1 frame)
- 2. Add code:

gdscript

# After gravity, BEFORE walk/idle:

if not is\_on\_floor():

\$AnimatedSprite2D.play("jump")

elif direction != 0:

\$AnimatedSprite2D.play("walk")

\$AnimatedSprite2D.flip\_h = (direction < 0)

else:

\$AnimatedSprite2D.play("idle")

## **Challenge 4: Running Animation**

Separate "run" animation:

1. Make 4 frames with exaggerated motion

```
2. Play "run" when holding Shift:
gdscript
if direction != 0:
       if Input.is_action_pressed("ui_shift"):
             $AnimatedSprite2D.play("run")
       else:
             $AnimatedSprite2D.play("walk")
       $AnimatedSprite2D.flip_h = (direction < 0)
else:
       $AnimatedSprite2D.play("idle")
## 📊 **Animation Best Practices**
### **Frame Count Guidelines:**
| Animation Type | Frame Count | FPS |
|-----|----|
| **Idle** | 1-2 frames | 4-5 |
| **Walk** | 3-4 frames | 8 |
| **Run** | 4-6 frames | 12 |
| **Jump** | 1-2 frames | 10 |
| **Attack** | 3-5 frames | 10-15 |
### **Smooth Animation Tips:**
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```
1. **Keep frame count consistent** (all walk frames same size)
2. **Use even timing** (each frame shown equal time)
3. **Loop seamlessly** (last frame connects to first)
4. **Exaggerate motion** (clear, obvious movement)
5. **Test at different speeds** (adjust FPS until right)
## **Scene Structure**
**Your Player should look like:**
Player (CharacterBody2D) [ SCRIPT]
 — AnimatedSprite2D
    SpriteFrames
       ├— idle (1 frame, 5 FPS)
       walk (3-4 frames, 8 FPS)
 CollisionShape2D
## / **Final Success Checklist**
**Photoshop:**
☐ Walk cycle created (3-4 frames)
\square Idle pose created
```

$\square$ All frames in one sprite sheet
☐ Backgrounds removed (transparent)
☐ PNG exported
☐ PSD saved
**Godot:**
***
☐ New sprite copied to project
☐ Import settings: Compress = Lossless
$\square$ Inspector settings: Filter = Nearest
☐ Reimport clicked
$\square$ Sprite2D replaced with AnimatedSprite2D
☐ SpriteFrames resource created
$\square$ "idle" animation created
$\square$ "walk" animation created
☐ Animation code added to script
$\square$ CollisionShape2D correct size
**Testing:**
☐ Game runs (F5)
☐ Character starts idle
$\square$ Walk animation plays when moving
$\square$ Character flips to face direction
$\square$ Returns to idle when stopped
☐ Smooth transitions

# What You Learned Today

## **Photoshop Skills:**

- Creating animation sequences
- Understanding walk cycles
- Frame-by-frame animation
- Organizing animation frames

#### **Godot Skills:**

- AnimatedSprite2D node
- SpriteFrames resource
- Animation management
- Playing animations from code
- Conditional animation logic

### **Game Development Concepts:**

- Animation loops
- FPS (frames per second)
- State-based animation
- Visual polish and "game feel"

## Next Lesson Preview

### **Lesson 3: Creating UI Icons (Hearts, Coins, Buttons)**

## We'll create:

- Health heart icon (full, half, empty states)
- Collectible coin icon with shine
- Button designs (normal, hover, pressed)
- Implementing UI in Godot

**Think about:** What games have clear, easy-to-read UI? What makes good icon design?

## Reflection Questions

Answer in your exercise book:

- 1. Why do walk cycles need at least 2 different poses?
- 2. What FPS worked best for your walk animation? Why?
- 3. How does animation make a game feel more "alive"?
- 4. What was the hardest part of creating your walk cycle?
- 5. Name a game with excellent character animation. What makes it good?

# Homework (Optional)

- 1. Create a 6-frame walk cycle (smoother!)
- 2. Add a "crouch" or "duck" animation
- 3. Design an enemy with simple walk animation
- 4. Find and study 3 professional game walk cycles
- 5. Sketch ideas for attack or jump animations

**Example 2** Congratulations! Your character now moves with fluid, professional-looking animation!