

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

Wacom tablet

Name Alexs Stadermann.

Job Animated-movie director.

Where Flying Bark Productions.

Why is it important? At the moment, I'm directing a movie that is a co-production with Germany. I use the Wacom and Skype during conference calls. Visual references are so ambiguous [but this way] I can draw on the screen to get a visual idea across. If I say I want a picture of a girl with freckles, ponytail and a dress, everyone has a different idea, but I can sketch it straight away and it speeds things up phenomenally. [I write on the tablet] using a special pen with such fine pressure sensitivity that it mimics the finest brush: the harder I press on the screen, the thicker the line.

What do your colleagues think?

We used to paint everything with brushes and paint. When these tablets first came out, people said: "It'll never replicate the art." But once they learn how to use it, they never want to go back. It frees them up to do so much more, or to fix mistakes or copy images quickly.

Unusual moment? You do have a whole bunch of buttons on the side, which are touch sensitive. I once looked at a piece of artwork on someone's desk and he accidentally brushed a button and a picture of his girlfriend came up – the kind of picture you don't want to share.

How much does it cost? About \$2500 to \$3000. You can buy cheaper versions but they don't have the same pressure sensitivity.

SUE WHITE



Quick on the draw ... Alexs Stadermann. Photo: Tamara Dean