

3DMax and Box Modeling

The interface of 3D Max is complex and confusing. Thankfully, there are only a handful of buttons and settings that you need to know to get started.

TWELVE COMMONLY USED COMMANDS, BUTTONS AND PROCEDURES

The screenshot shows the Autodesk 3ds Max 2010 interface with various tools and panels highlighted and annotated. The annotations are as follows:

- 7. Undo & Redo**: Located in the top-left corner of the interface.
- 2. Transform Tools**: A group of three tools (Select & Move, Select & Rotate*, and Select & Scale) located in the top toolbar. A note below states: "*Use this tool only if you want rotate an object".
- 4. Modify Panel**: A note pointing to the Modify panel in the Command Panel on the right, with the text: "(Click to modify an object & to see Modify List (Bend, MeshSmooth etc.)".
- 1. Create Panel**: A note pointing to the Create panel in the Command Panel on the right, listing: "Geometry", "Shapes", "Lights", and "Camera".
- 8. Reflect Tool**: A note pointing to the Reflect tool in the top toolbar.
- 5. Material Editor**: A note pointing to the Material Editor button in the top toolbar, with the text: "add textures & colors".
- 12. Quick Render**: A note pointing to the Quick Render button in the bottom-right corner of the interface.
- 11. Make Key**: A note pointing to the Make Key button in the bottom toolbar, with the text: "Sets the timing of a modifier.".
- 10. Auto Key**: A note pointing to the Auto Key button in the bottom toolbar, with the text: "Turns on animation mode.".
- 9. Key Filters**: A note pointing to the Key Filters button in the bottom toolbar.
- 3. Zoom**: A note pointing to the Zoom tool in the bottom toolbar, with the text: "Centers all objects into viewports.".

6. Arc Rotate - Spins viewer around object - Use this "only" in the perspective window.



MOUSE/KEYBOARD SKILLS

The mouse is a useful tool when using 3D Max

The Left button is for selecting and transforming (move, rotate, rescale) objects.

Holding down the Left mouse button on a parameter and moving the mouse forward or backward will quickly adjust that parameter.

The Center Roller will allow you move in closer to your scene.

Holding the Center Roller down will let you the viewport frame.



Holding the "Control" key allows you to select more than one object.