ADVANCED GOOGLE SEARCHING

Introduction

Google searches are an excellent way to find how to do something in Blender (or indeed any software). However, the sheer number of results can be overwhelming, and the best are not necessarily on the first page. Here are a few recommendations to find what you need fast.

Limit your search range

By default Google looks through everything it knows and sorts the results of a query by the number of times it has been used: this means older information moves to the top of the results list. To correct this, limit your search history to the last year or two and it’s more likely to refer to a recent version of Blender. You can find this search option under Search Tools just below the Google search box. For obscure subjects you may have to go back further, but for common features and procedures it works well.

Use filters

If you don’t want links relating to kitchen blenders you should use a search operator. Looking for Blender spin -kitchen will eliminate pages with the word kitchen in them. Looking for “Blender 2.77” will just produce pages with that phrase on them (the quotes tell Google to search for exactly those words in that order). There is a useful article on this at https://support.google.com/websearch/answer/2466433?rd=1.

Use an image search for similar textures and sound

Most people know how to look for images using the regular Google search dialog box. However you can look for similar images to one that you with the specialized image search is at https://images.google.com. This looks for similar images - and sounds - to one that you have on your machine, and is useful for finding higher resolution images or better looking alternatives.

Limit site types

If you search for car photo site:org Google will only produce car images from .org sites. The same use of a colon with no space with the word define, such as define:gato gives you definitions of gato from the web in several languages.
Calculation and conversion

Typing, for example, 15% of (12+34*5/6) will give you the result of that calculation. Searching for 3 Euros in US$ or for 95 lbs in kg will give you those conversions.

There is a comprehensive guide to Google operators at http://www.googleguide.com/advanced_operators_reference.html

and another at https://lifehacker.com/the-tiny-essential-google-tricks-for-way-better-search-1826791031.

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