



## **Stop-Motion Animation**

Using iMovie

### **What Is Stop-Motion Animation?**

Stop-motion is an illusion you can create by running a series of photographs through a computer so they display very quickly one after another. Watching the photos change so fast makes them seem like a movie!

### **Required Equipment**

- Webcam or digital camera
- Computer with iMovie

### **How to Create Your Movie**

#### **1. Plan**

Think about what story you want to tell. Create a storyboard by writing and drawing what will happen in your movie. When you're ready, create your set and prepare your characters.

#### **2. Prepare Your Camera**

##### **Webcam**

Plug it into your computer. Go to the webcam settings to create a folder where you will save your photos as you shoot them.

##### **Digital Camera**

If using a digital camera, your photos will be saved to your camera. Be sure to set your digital camera to **Photo** mode instead of **Video**.

#### **3. Shoot Your Movie**

Remember, your movie will be made up of lots of photographs. So, shooting your movie means taking lots of pictures. Prepare your characters and set, then snap your first photo. Move the characters slightly, and snap your next photo. Repeat until you've shot all of your action.

For smooth animation, keep your movements small from shot to shot, and take lots of pictures! You'll want at least 10 photos for each second of your film. Make sure your camera is in focus for every shot, and try not to move the camera too much. Instead, move your characters around the camera.

#### **4. Import Your Photos into iPhoto**

If using a digital camera, connect it to your computer. Make sure it's turned **On** and in **Playback** mode (triangle icon on your camera). Your computer should launch a program that allows you to download your pictures onto your computer. Select the pictures you want to import and click **import selected photos**. Hint: Holding down **Command A** at the same time will select all the photos at once.

If using a webcam, your photos are already saved on your computer. Make sure you know where your photos are saved.

Next, open iMovie. Select your photos and drag them into the iMovie.

#### **5. Adjust the Settings in iMovie**

In iMovie, select all the photos again (**Command A**). Hover over a picture and click on the blue gear. Select **clip and adjustments** and change the **Duration** to .20 seconds. Also, check the box **applies to all stills**, then click **done**.

Click on the gear one more time and select **Cropping, Ken Burns & Rotation**. In the upper left corner, select **fit**, then click **done** which is located in the upper right corner.

#### **6. Preview Your Movie**

Click on the first picture, press the space bar, and enjoy your video!

#### **7. Add Title & Credits**

Click the globe on the right side of the screen, in the middle of the page. Select an animation and click and drag the animation to the beginning of your movie. Next, click on the **T** to the left of the globe to select your text. Choose a font and drag it over the animation at the beginning of your movie.

Repeat these steps at the end of the movie to make credits.

#### **8. Add Music**

To add music, click on the musical note on the right side of the screen, in the middle of the page. You will see a list of all of your iTunes songs. Click and drag a song into your movie.

#### **9. Save Your Movie**

iMovie automatically saves your project files. To save the movie to a complete file, go up to the menu bar and select **share**. You have the option to export directly to YouTube, or you can export using QuickTime which will play on both Macs and PCs.