



INSERTING FRAMES

1. INTRODUCTION

This is not very normal in motion pictures, but still very fun when applied to your own video. This tutorial will show you how to insert a frame in your video that will appear on the screen. There are many variations of this, and I'll explain but a few. The rest is up to your imagination.

2. BEFORE YOU START

As always, it's a good idea to do some planning before you start. That is, know which format you are working with (16:9 or 4:3), do your software have a chroma key effect, do your software support TIFF/GIF (2 formats that support transparency). If you are using Premiere Elements or Pro and Photoshop the whole process is easier since all Adobe programs "talk with each other" – making it possible to use Photoshop files directly in your project. Some of the other manufacturers have similar benefits if you are using photo and video editing software from the same producer.

3. MAKING YOUR FRAME

I have started up Photoshop and a new file with settings that suit my project as you can see from Fig. 1. You can of course also open an existing image if you want to use that as your frame – or you can combine different images. Anything is doable depending of your photo editing program. From the palette a choose brush, thickness and colour and simply start to fill the edges (Fig. 2). There are plenty of different ways to do this – you can use the fill option, gradient, whatever that suits your wishes and plan. The point is to get it right. Even though I use Photoshop, the principles outlined can be used with other programs as well. A good thing to keep in mind is to save your current project so that you can return and make changes if it turns out bad when you insert the frame into your film.

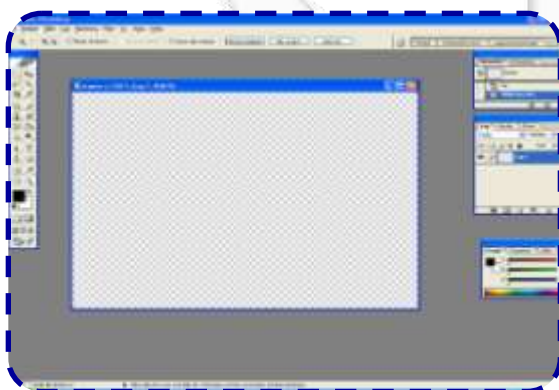


Fig. 1

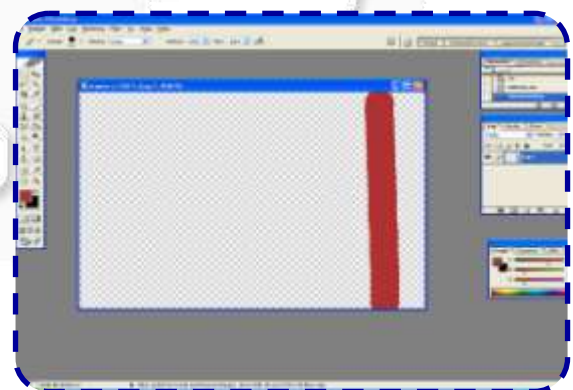


Fig. 2

In Fig. 3 I have finished making the frame I want – a very simple and square frame consisting of only one colour. To get the square in the middle as shown in Fig. 4, I use the selection tool (red arrow) and click "Delete". In Photoshop you have multiple solutions to this. You can do as I have explained or you can use the eraser tool. Using the eraser tool you have the possibility of using eraser of shape and form from the selection provided in Photoshop – and that is quite many.

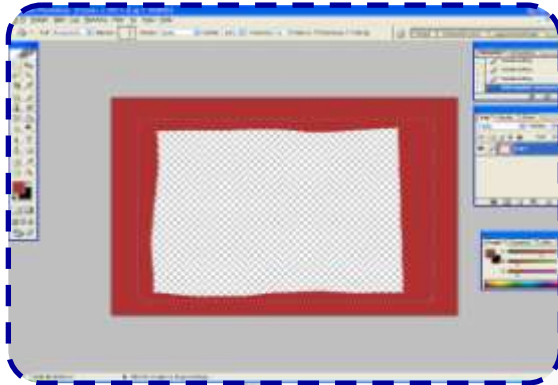


Fig. 3

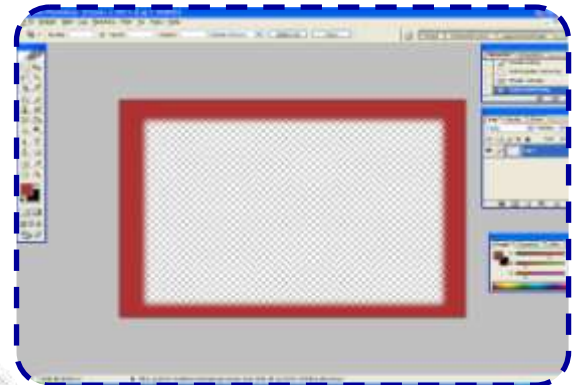


Fig. 4

In Fig. 5 I have used another technique. Instead of using the eraser tool, I have simply changed the brush tool and applied some more rough edges. You can also use spray it that's to your liking. But try though to keep the edges smooth since this will make it look better with the video editing software.

4. INSERTING THE FRAME

In Fig. 6 I have opened my project in Adobe Premiere Pro and imported my TIFF-file. I add the file to a new timeline and adjust the position so that I get the frame just where I want it. You should keep in mind the TV-safe margins and make sure you are a little bit inside depending on how much you want to display of your frame. You should also enter clip properties and choose "Remove Flicker" since this will stabilize the frame a bit and make specially the edges look smoother. And if the frame doesn't fit, go back and edit the original – which you can choose directly from Premiere.

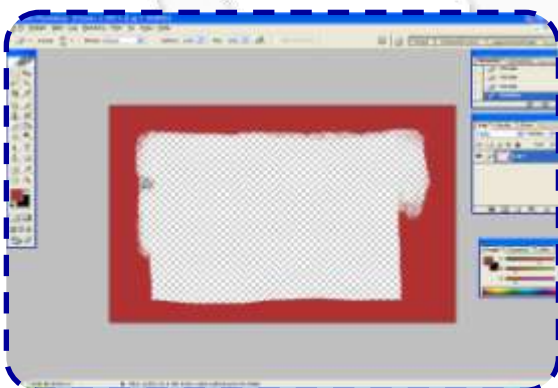


Fig. 5



Fig. 6

As I mentioned earlier, you have multiple choices with this. You can also simple insert coloured objects and use they as frames if you like – every video editing software I know of let's you do this. Or you can crop the image and have a coloured background for instance. The list goes on and on.



5. OTHER OPTIONS

The last thing I'll show you is how to combine this with the chroma tool, that also have been included in Pinnacle Studio 9 Plus and that have been with Ulead VideoStudio for some time.

In Fig. 7 I have inserted a frame that came with my video camera, but the centre is blue. I could have removed this with my photo editing software, but I'll do it within the video program this time.

Open the effect panel and find the chroma tool. Add this to the clip and open the effects panel for the clip. Use the eye drop tool to select the colour and adjust the settings (similarity (red arrow)) to make the blue disappear completely. And suddenly your film looks like an aquarium. Splendid for water footage, but perhaps not the best frame to use visiting the city.....



Fig. 7



Fig. 8

6. CONCLUSION

I think that frames like I have shown you can be very fun indeed. Or just add a picture in the right corner with a logo or something can give your film an extra touch. But the point is perhaps not to overdo this as it can draw the attention away from the real film.

Just try and have a go for yourself. It's very easy as long as you have some editing tools at your disposal and 2 timelines in your video editing software. ■■