



PERSONAL VIDEO STUDIO

1. INTRODUCTION

There is nothing like having your own video studio. Sounds like a dream? Costs a whole lot of money? Is difficult to achieve? Well, the answer is NO! With some simple tricks and a little bit of work it's possible to make this happen at a very low cost. But some practical and the use of hammer and nails are required. In this tutorial, VE will show you a couple of tricks about how to make this come true. And you can get a result like the one below – just as an example.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

2. PREPARATIONS

Now, there are several software solutions letting you capture video and streaming/publishing your video directly. It might be dull to have a boring background, and if you look at all major TV presentations there is always something happening in the background. For inspiration you can check out "Sin City" – filmed totally with green screen background and everything added in postproduction – except for the actors that is. Or if you like to make something special for your intro and you need to be able to edit the background.

To accomplish this, there's the trick with green screen (or blue screen). That means in practical terms that you shoot your film with a green background, which is removed in production and replaced with some other kind of video or still image. Just look at every weather broadcast. A more consistent "green" than in Fig. 1 is recommended. Unless you also plan to use rotoscoping or remove some of the screen with some sort of matte (which I did).

In order to get things started, you need a couple of things. VE has built the frame and attached some green sheets to this achieving the wanted effect. The green sheets are not normal bed lining, but special sheets bought from Pinnacle (didn't cost much). You can get more expensive equipment and whole prebuilt sets. But sets are costly, and you can easily build this yourself. In addition to the green sheets, you need some building material – wood and nails. Let's get started!



3. BUILDING THE FRAME

This will be the foundation and “holder” for the green screen. I have simply used pieces of wood and fasten them together making some sort of cradle. I make sure that the pole will fit tightly in the middle. If it becomes unstable, put extra weight on the “feet” (red arrow Fig. 3).

The pole is a solid piece of wood. This can be smaller – but this was what I had available. In one end I have carved out spacing for a rounded pole to which I’ll fasten the green sheets. I have used normal screws and fasten plenty of these along the pole (Fig. 4). On this screws I have hung a kind of clips letting me attach the sheets in an easy fashion (Fig. 5 and 6).

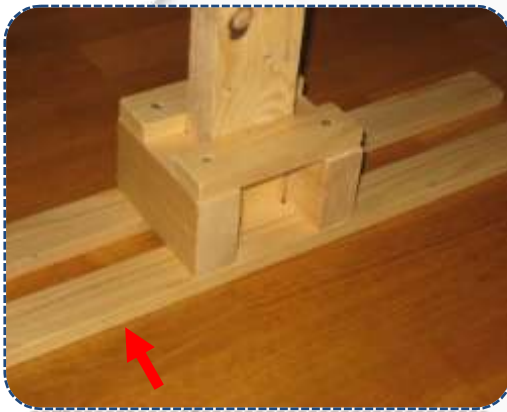


Fig. 3



Fig. 4

4. USING THE STUDIO

As you can see from Fig. 2, I have used the studio in order to add a cool background for myself talking. One important thing to remember is to have a consistent shade of green. This will make it easier when removing the colour in post production. Try to adjust or add light to get this right – easier to do under production than after.



Fig. 3

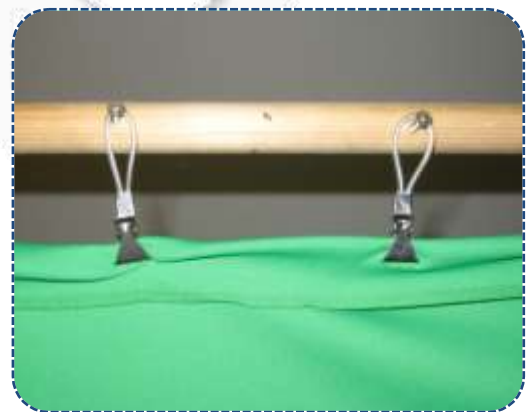


Fig. 4

5. CLOSING COMMENTS

Green screen and experimenting is FUN. It opens a whole new world, and this kind of personal studio is easy to build and doesn’t cost much. So go a head and try!