

Stop-Motion Puppet Project

STEP-BY-STEP OVERVIEW FOR PAPER PUPPET

1. Design your character on the Design Worksheet.
2. Make all of your puppet parts. (Don't forget to make each side of an overlapping joint – two overlapping knees create one moveable knee).
3. Be sure to choose a limited color scheme of three colors with 2 values of each color (six color swatches total).
4. Make enough puppets to create all of the motions you intend to create. (It might be easier to color the front and back of one puppet than make two very similar left-facing and right-facing puppets).
5. Put all of your puppet parts together using eyelets (permanent and hold position well) or brads (removable and create loose joints).
6. Prepare the camera for picture-taking.

See also Powerpoint and reminder sheet on table.

- a. Put the camera on the stand.
- b. Make sure the image dimensions are set for widescreen 16:9.
- c. Make sure the camera focus ring is set to flower (autofocus close).
- c. Put something on the table in front of the camera and hold down the shutter (taking picture button) half way. This will focus the camera on the thing in the center.
- d. Now change the focus ring to manual, so it doesn't lose focus at the beginning and end of your video.
- e. Set the white balance.
- f. Adjust the exposure so that your whites are white.
7. Take pictures of each and every movement. (It should take about six pictures for your character to take one step...you will have a lot of pictures!)
8. Turn the camera off. PUT THE LENS CAP ON. Remove the camera from the stand. Take it back to your desk and plug the cable into the slot inside the HDMI cover on the side of the camera.
9. Upload the pictures from the camera onto your computer. (Push the Menu/Set button on the camera to choose PC). Double click on "No Name". Open DCIM. Open 110LEICA. Select all your photos. Drag them into a new folder on your desktop. After you have all the photos on your computer. Eject the camera from the computer. Do not take the lens cap off. Push play on the camera. Push the Q button. Delete all. Turn the camera off.
10. Edit photos in Photoshop.
 - a. Open ONE photo that has your puppet in the center in Photoshop.
 - b. Save As – save it outside of that folder. *important step*
 - c. Now you want to edit all of your photos so that the whites are white, the size is right, and the colors match. If you had to do that to each photo individually, you would cry.

Let's set up a series of recorded actions and have the computer do those to all your files automatically. Doesn't that sound nice?

1. Create an action.
 - a. While the file is still open, go to the Window pull down menu at the top. Make the Actions window visible.
 - b. Push the New Action button at the bottom of the window (it looks like a piece of paper with a folded corner).
 - c. Name it something like your name, and push record.
 - d. Now you are going to do all the things you want the computer to do to every photo in your folder.
 1. Image -> Image size: 1280 x 720
 2. Image -> Adjustments -> Exposure
 3. Image -> Adjustments -> Brightness/Contrast
If your whites are a color instead of white – like green or orange, you will have to change the Channel Mixer or Color Balance.
 4. Save to a new folder.
 5. Close. *important step*
 - e. Hit the stop recording button on the Action Window. It looks like a grey square.
2. Batch your files (have the computer do that stuff to all the files)
 - a. File -> Automate -> Batch...
 - b. Make sure your action is listed at the top where it says action.
 - c. Choose the folder that has all the files you want to adjust.
 - d. Press Ok.
 - e. All of the files will quickly open and close. Wait until the program stops working through the actions for all of the photographs.
11. Edit photos for motion in Final Cut Pro.
 - a. Open Final Cut and create a new event and project.
 - b. Import the edited photos to Final Cut.
 - c. Edit the duration, adjust the placement, etc. so that the motion looks smooth.
 - d. Once the movements are set, if the color is still not balanced – select all of the photos that are alike for a set motion and create a new compound clip (right click).
Now you can edit the video for color, exposure, etc. all at once. (Tools are on the right).
 - e. Add sound effects and score (music).
 - f. Adjust the length of the compound clips to match the speed of the motion to the music.
 - g. Add black or white openers and closers (a bit of solid screen at the beginning and end).
12. Share: Master File. Remember to name the file.
13. Share: Youtube. Set it to Public. Fill in the name, description, and tags.