

# How<sup>To</sup> Shoot Like A Pro

Quick tips, tricks and techniques to get the best out of your budding filmmakers.

## Lesson #1 for educators and students:

“Traveling” to faraway lands with chroma key and your green screen.

The **chroma key/green screen** technique is a fun, easy way to add excitement to your digital video. It allows you to combine two video clips into one, so you can superimpose yourself onto any video scene. It’s the same technique countless science fiction movies have used and what your local TV weatherman uses to appear in front of a weather map.

With **chroma key** and the **green screen** included in your Pinnacle Studio Academic Toolkit or Pinnacle Advanced Academic Toolkit, your students can travel anywhere in the universe—Paris, the Moon, anywhere they want.

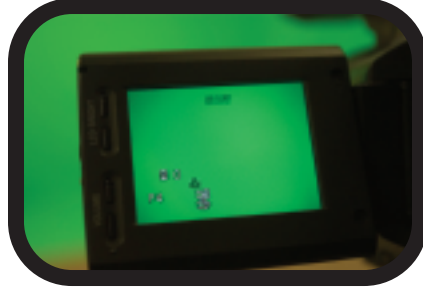
Take a look at our step-by-step guide for hints on using **chroma key** and **green screen** like a pro.



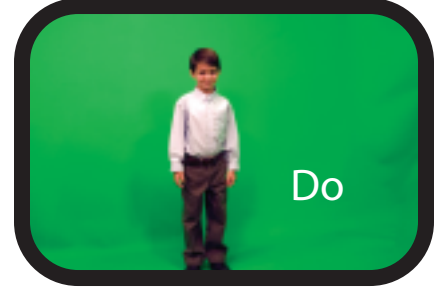
## How to use chroma key/green screen like a pro.



**Step 1:** Hang your green screen so your subject can stand in front of it. You can use the large green sheet included in your Pinnacle Academic Toolkit or another solid-color backdrop—green and blue work the best.



**Step 2:** Set up your camera so you only see green through your viewfinder.



**Step 3:** Have your subject stand in front of your green screen.

### DO

Make sure your green screen is evenly lit. Proper lighting is key to creating believable effects. Many find it easier to achieve with natural light, so you may want to try this exercise outside first.



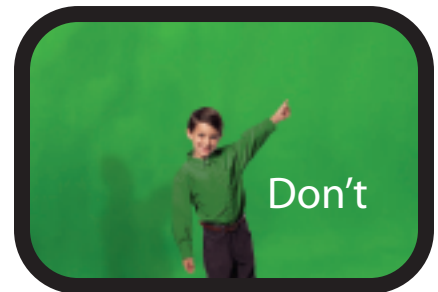
### DON'T

Don't start shooting if you see "hot spots" or other light glare. Reposition your green screen and/or light sources until you have an evenly lit surface.



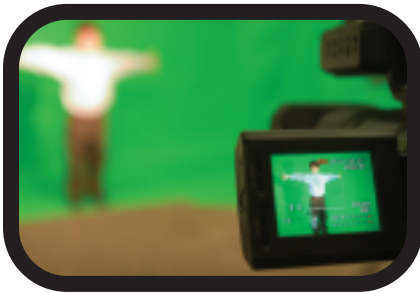
### DON'T

Don't start shooting if you see harsh shadows. Repositioning your green screen and/or light sources usually fixes the problem.

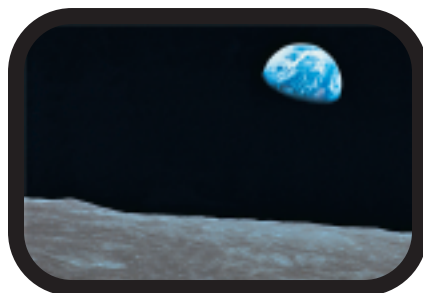


### DON'T

Don't let your subjects wear green, or they'll disappear into the background.

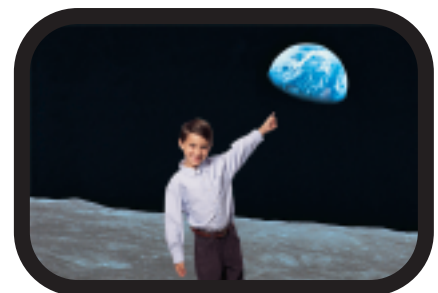


**Step 4:** Film your subject against the green screen. It helps if your subject has rehearsed before shooting—especially if the scene requires lots of walking or movement. You don't want them to walk off your green screen!



**Step 5:** Film a background image, or collect a previously shot background scene.

Now you're ready to put your two scenes together with Pinnacle Studio Plus or Pinnacle Liquid Edition software.



**Step 6:** Open the Chroma Key tool. If your video was shot on a blue or green background, select the Blue or Green presets. If it was shot on another color, use the Eye Dropper tool to select a matching color in the preview window.

Like magic, your green screen will disappear, and your subject will appear in your chosen background scene.

This is **a blank storyboard**. Use it to sketch out scene sequences that you will shoot for your movie.

