

StudioHowTo

— A series of tips, tricks and techniques designed to help the home videographer become a filmmaker. —



Pinnacle Studio™ Plus Lesson #3: Fun with Green Screens.

■ If you're ready to have some fun with Pinnacle Studio Plus, then you're going want to pull out your green screen and do some chroma keying. Chroma keying is a technique that lets you combine two different pieces of video together and make them look like one.

■ To create a **chroma key**, you need a colored background, also known as a **green screen**. When you shoot a subject on a green screen, Pinnacle Studio Plus lets you make the 'green' disappear so all you see is your subject. Then you simply place a different background video behind them to make it appear as if they are walking on the moon, or in the woods, or in your favorite movie. Anywhere you want.

■ The secret to creating a good chroma key is the **lighting**. You want your green screen to be evenly lit. No hot spots. And no shadows. The simplest way to achieve this is to set your green screen up outside, and use the sun as your light source. Make sure your entire camera frame is filled with green, then introduce your subject and begin taping.

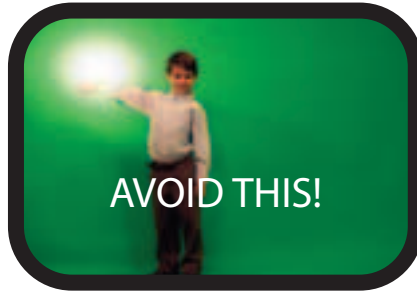
■ Next, take whatever **background footage** you want to use and lay that down on the main video track. Then lay down your green screen footage and lay that directly on the overlay track. To create your chroma key effect, open the chroma key tool. If your video was shot on a blue or green background, select the "blue or green presets." If your background is any other color, then you use the "eye dropper" tool to select the matching color in the preview window. Like magic the green screen will disappear, and your subject will now be "in" the background video. Very tricky.

■ Now you're ready to make some big-time special effects. Or just your very own weather report. Either way, experiment and have fun.

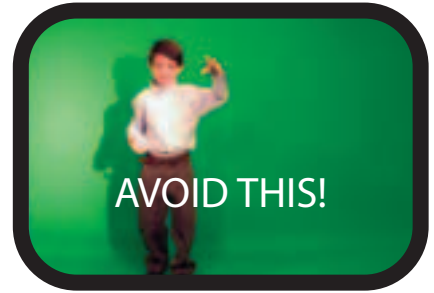
The Step-by-Step: a map for creating a green screen special effect.



1) HANG YOUR GREEN SCREEN SO YOUR SUBJECT CAN STAND IN FRONT OF IT



2) MAKE SURE IT'S EVENLY LIT WITH NO HOT SPOTS



3) ALSO, AVOID SHADOWS ON YOUR GREEN SCREEN



4) SET UP YOUR CAMERA SO THE VIEW-FINDER IS COMPLETELY FILLED WITH GREEN



5) HAVE YOUR SUBJECT STAND IN FRONT OF YOUR GREEN SCREEN



6) NOW FILM THEM AGAINST THE GREEN SCREEN



7) FILM A SEPARATE BACKGROUND IMAGE



8) COMPOSITE THE TWO IMAGES TOGETHER WITH STUDIO PLUS

Here's a blank **storyboard** you can use to sketch out ideas for shots in your movie.

