Chroma Key Quick Start Guide

DO NOT PRINT THIS IN THE DIGITAL DESIGN STUDIO

There are three Chroma Key screens in the UB Media Lab: the green painted wall in LAP207, the floor to ceiling chroma key screen, and the smaller flexible chroma key disc. Although this Quick Start Guide features the chroma key disc, the method of lighting described applies to all three options.

Equipment
(all located in LAP217 – please see Media Lab Assistant to gain access)

Sandbags (to hold down the disc tripods).
Place these on the legs of all set up tripods to help with stability.

Wescott Illuminator Background (Disc)

Wescott Tripod
Lowell Light Kit

Lowell Softbox Tripod

Light Meter
Stored in the Media Lab Closet.
Inside the Lowell Softbox Kit

- Softbox rods
- Softbox covers
- Softbox Frames
- Lighting Instrument Holder
“S” Mark. This is the location where you insert the softbox rods.

Insert 4 rods into each softbox frame. Run the rod through the elastic and into the compartment on the edge of the softbox frame.

Insert the rods into the “S” slots. This isn’t easy and it’s best to have two people doing this part of the construction.

Setting Up the Lighting Instruments
Continue inserting the rods into the “S” slots until complete.

With a partner helping, stretch the cover around, keeping the rods in the “S” slots and zip up the box. The rods need to bend quite a bit to make this happen.

Screw the lamp into the threaded slot.
Make sure you don’t touch the glass part of the lamp. Skin oil on the glass can cause it to explode when heated. Use the bubble wrap or a t-shirt to hold the glass.

Velcro the softbox cover to the frame.
Chroma Key Screen (Disc)

Open the chroma key disc (or set up the screen wall).

Hook the disc into the top hook of the Wescott tripod.

Hook the bottom part of the disc into the moving disc mount. Make sure you center the disc as well as you can. Stretch out the disc so there are no wrinkles, lock down the tripod, and with help – raise it up.
Your set up should look like this.
Lighting the Screen

The objective is to make the light as even as possible.

Make sure you have the incident disc on the light meter. It’s the flat one, not the dome.

Click the button under the thumb in the photograph to turn the unit on.

Push the Mode button (upper right corner of the unit) until the display reads AVG. It really doesn’t matter what the other settings are on as we’re only interested in variations of the reading, not the reading itself.

Hold down the button and walk across the screen. Watch the center number (it’s on 2.8 in the above example). You don’t want it to change.

Move your instruments as you need to insure the light meter reading is the same across the entire screen.

When finished, pack all the equipment into the appropriate bags/boxes and return to the Lab Assistant.