

Creating a Video Presentation Using Apple's PhotoBooth™

In this lesson, you will create an impressive autobiographical video presentation. You will use your Intel-based MacBook, or iMac, (or other Macintosh computer running OSX 10.5 “Leopard” or higher), and the included PhotoBooth software to complete the project.

Images are provided to help you along the way. Try to follow the steps in the activity as closely as you can, but once you have a feel for the way the software works, feel free to elaborate in order to personalize your results and further develop your computer skills.

Procedure:

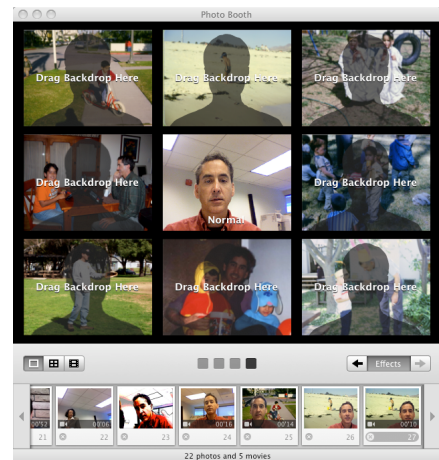
- Open PhotoBooth application. Look for the icon in the Dock. If you can't find it there, open a New Finder Window, then click on Applications, then scroll down to PhotoBooth. Double-click on it to open the application.



- When PhotoBooth opens, it will likely look like the image shown to the right (with a live image of you!)



- Click on the Effects button on the right. You will see arrows appear to the right and left of the effects button, as well as four small squares in the center. Each square represents a set of PhotoBooth special effects.
- Go ahead and click through the four buttons to see how they would change a photo if you clicked the camera. Go ahead and try to take some photos with these effects.
- Click on particular effect you'd like to try, and your image will appear that way in the center window. Click on the red camera icon. When you click on the camera, you will see a "3, 2, 1...". The photo is taken at the end of the countdown. The photo will appear in the space at the bottom. If you don't like the photo, you can delete it by clicking on the "x" in the corner of the photo.
- Click on the last square or use the arrow pointing right to arrive at the last set of effects. Here you will see the prompt, "Drag Backdrop Here" on each of the eight surrounding panes.
- In this illustration, you see that backdrop photos have already been placed in the surrounding panes. The grey colored panes you'll see are ready to accept photos.
- These photos can come from almost any source: iPhoto, images from Google images, jpg's on your hard drive, even photos from PhotoBooth can be dragged up into a pane. (If all the panes are full, you can drag a new photo into any pane and replace it.)
- Once you drag an image into a pane, click on the pane again to activate it. Once you've done that, your image becomes "live" in the center pane. You will see a prompt asking you to 'Step out of the frame'. You can either get up and stand out of the way, or just lean to the side, and down, until your image does not appear in the window.
- Once you have stepped out of the frame, PhotoBooth will place your image in the frame and indicate "Background Detected". If you are using a laptop, do not move the computer or change the tilt of the screen. If you notice that your image is distorted, you can reset the background



effect by pulling down the **View** menu to **Reset Effect**. Then repeat the procedure.

- This is necessary because what PhotoBooth does is detect the colors in the background and subtracts them, then replaces the live background with the image you placed there. It's like the "Green Screen" technology used on the TV news (especially by weather forecasters).
- If you do not step away in time, you may notice the background being erased by the movement of your body. If this occurs, try the **Reset Effect** mentioned above.
- Here are some warnings to heed when trying this effect:
 - Try to make sure that the wall behind you is plain, with no open windows or lamps.
 - Make sure you are not wearing any of the exact colors of items in the space behind you.
 - Be sure there isn't anything or anyone moving behind you.
- Once you have gotten to this point, you can take a still image of yourself in front of the image you chose (Eiffel Tower, Grand Canyon, a photo of yourself as a kid, a photo of a famous person, a field trip photo, etc...).
- The coolest part of the effect, however, is to use the video feature. The third icon of the set of the icons on the left is for video (the one that looks like a strip of film).
- When you click on the filmstrip icon and then click on your background, you are ready to record your clip. This works just like the still photos. You will see the "3, 2, 1..." and then you record your clip. A counter runs on the left side showing the duration of the clip. Click the square stop button to stop recording. The clip appears in the space at the bottom, with a videocamera icon on the clip.
- You can use your clip in Keynote™ or any other Apple™ application just by dragging the clip into the window of the other application. If you want to use the clip in PowerPoint™, or some other application, you need to convert the clip to a QuickTime™ file. You can do this easily by dragging the clip out onto the Desktop or any



Finder window. You'll notice that the clip has a name like "Movie 46.mov". You can rename the clip just by clicking on the filename.

You might ask if you can also insert a QuickTime clip into a pane in PhotoBooth. Yes, you can do that too. The quality of this layered clip may depend on the available memory on your computer, so you should use this technique with caution. When I tried it, I could only hear the my voice, not the voices of the characters in the movie clip I placed in the background. Your results may vary.



Enjoy.