

Stop Motion Animation

Getting Started:

Models

Models can be made from clay or plasticene. In professional stop motion animation they are made from clay and have skeletons (or **armatures**) that support them.

Backgrounds

As well as models, backgrounds and sets need to be produced. It is important that your set and models stay still when capturing your animation. We have found that attaching (with sellotape) the background to the back of a monitor or wall is best.

Equipment

You will need:

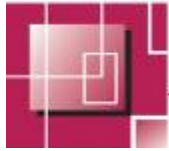
Camera (Digital Video Camera)
Clay / Plastecene
Card / Coloured paper
Sellotape / Blu Tack
Tripod

Firewire Lead



A fire wire cable is the lead that takes the video from the camera to your computer. They come as either 4 pin – 6 pin or 4 pin to 4 pin. You need to check what your PC or laptop takes. Cameras are usually 4 pin.

Power cable for your camera (Don't rely on the battery!)



PC/Laptop running a video editing (with frame grabber) or animation package (e.g. Pinnacle 10, Adobe Premiere Elements, I can Animate (Mac), Stop Motion Pro (Mac)).

Camera and Tripod

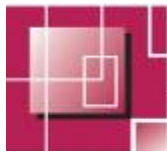
The camera needs to be moveable for different angled shots so it is best mounting it on a tripod. However, it needs to be at a reasonably close level to the models so as not to make them look tiny! We find that putting the tripod on the floor in front or to the side of the desk where the models and set are is a good idea.



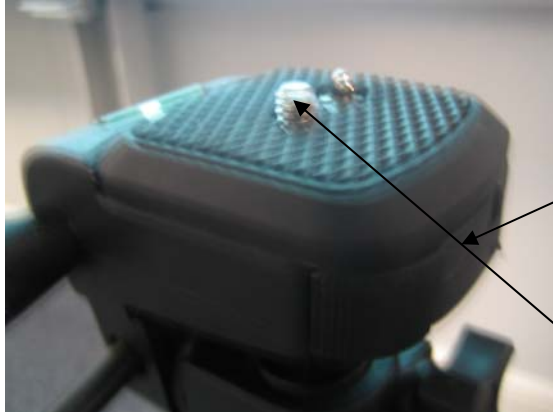
Setting it all up...

1. Switch on the camera. Push in the small green button and turn the power switch up towards you. A light should come on that says camera. If it says edit you will need to turn it once more towards you. Open the camera lens cover.





2. Take any tapes out of the camera.
At the back of the camera, below the power button is an eject button. Press this and the case should open and the tape will automatically eject. To close the case, gently push the metal tape holder shut and it will automatically withdraw into the case. Do not force it.
3. Mount the camera on the tripod.



Pull the lever on the head of the tripod out towards you to release the mounting plate.

Screw this to the bottom of the camera

4. Plug the camera into the mains. The power in socket is located on the back of the Sony cameras (at the front on the Canons).



5. Plug the fire wire cable into the camera. Plug the other end of the cable into the PC / Mac. On the Mac Minis this is on the back.



Connect fire wire cable here on Sony cameras (panel on front on Canon's)