

6. Chromakeying: Working with Bluescreen

This is the process of 'keying out' a particular colour to partly reveal a video track below. This is an ambitious and time-consuming exercise and should be used in moderation.

Use this classroom activity to teach your students the technique. Create your two video tracks, both one minute long. The first should show a student holding and moving a piece of bright blue paper. The second should show clouds or if that's not possible, painting close up. Use this tutorial to key out the blue paper. *While one can key out any colour, blue and green are most commonly used as they interfere with skin tone less.

References

Tutorial 3 - Chromakeying

Clip 6.1 was inspired by Powell & Pressburgers classic 'The Red Shoes'.

In their Video, 'No Budget Special fx', the Spence brothers illustrate how the right attitude can go a very long way to achieving professional effects normally costing vast sums. One of the developing hallmarks of the Moving Image Arts Course has been the student's willingness to improvise zero budget solutions for practical filming necessities. (One student built their own steadicam for less than £20)

Clips 6.1 through to **6.4** show various uses which an ambitious student made of their home-built blue stage.

In **Clip 6.5**, found footage from world war two was exported, frame by frame into Photoshop where the blue sky was added (polygonal lasso then fill) then brought back into Pinnacle where the blue was keyed out to reveal a timelapse sky.

In Clip 6.6, the student talks about what was involved in building their stage.