

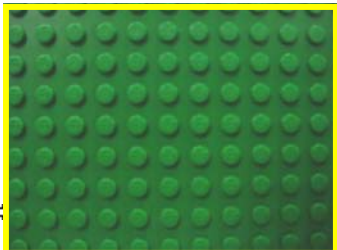
Good Surfaces For A Stop Action Video

~When producing a stop action video, you will want to have a workable surface that the figures will be able to stand on without you supporting them. Here are some suggested surfaces.

~A flat surface such as a table

~Outside surfaces such as sidewalk or blacktop

~LEGO people work best on LEGO surfaces. LEGOs let you make your own terrain.



Good Backgrounds for a Stop Action Video

~While taping, you want to make sure that your background suits the tape. Some backgrounds that would work are -

~A solid colored wall

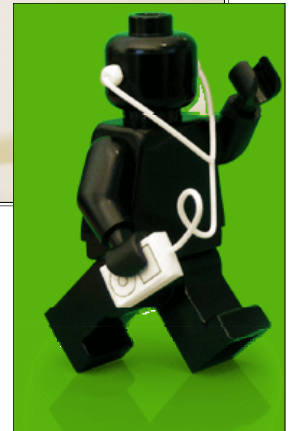
~Large table top that is one solid color (flip the table over)

~Your own creative background such as poster board or construction paper



Stop Action Animation

A Tutorial



Prepared by
Nathan Smith and Steven Chung
Advanced Multimedia Productions
Luther Jackson Middle School

What is stop action animation?

Stop action animation is the art of using non-living objects to animate a video.

This is accomplished by creating many different slides of the still figures, each slide having the figure make a slight move.

Be aware that it takes a long time to make even a two minute video!

Walking Technique

One of the hardest things to do in a stop action video is to make it seem as though the figure is walking. This can be done easily if you follow these steps.

Step 1: Start out with the figure standing

Step 2: Lift one leg and record this position

Step 3: Move figure forward, put other leg down and put opposite leg up

Step 4: Tape and repeat, until the figure reaches its destination



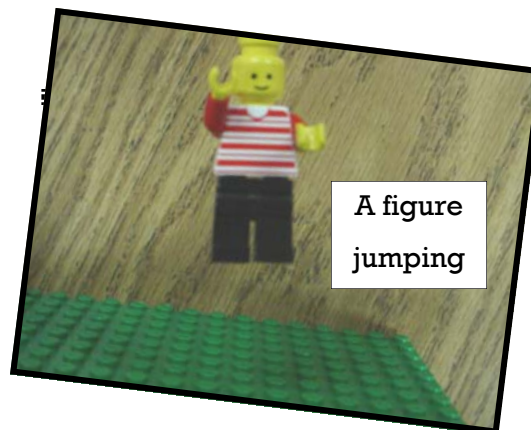
A figure walking

Jumping Technique

A more advanced technique is making a figure jump. The steps below will explain how to do this.

~To make a figure jump, such as an action figure, hold the figure by the head and tape so that your hand is not visible.

~For LEGO figures, attach a series of clear pieces to the figure's head, and hold the pieces so that it seems like they are actually in mid air.



A figure jumping

Taping and Editing Technique



Taping an Action Scene

~When taping a stop action scene, only tape each scene for a half a second. You will need to press the record button quickly.

~Note: When editing your stop action video, beware that if you cut down clips too small, no action will show up at all on the final product.