

Making a Time Lapse Video

The first step of creating a time lapse video is to think of a process that takes several minutes, hours, or days to complete. While several great time lapse videos have been created of many different actions, some of the most popular subjects are flowers coming to bloom, stars seeming to move across the sky, and paint drying on a wall. OK, well maybe not that, but you can make a time lapse of just about anything.

Read the directions below. They will help you with your time lapse photography project.

1. Select a topic that will show the passage of time over the period of several minutes, hours or days.
 - a. If you have a topic that shows the passage of time over minutes, you should set your camera to shoot pictures about every 5-10 seconds.
 - b. If you have a topic that shows the passage of time over several hours, you should set your camera to shoot pictures about every 5 – 10 minutes. (Length of time between shots will depend on how long the event is.)
 - c. If you have a topic that shows the passage of time over several days, you should set your camera to shoot pictures about every 20 – 30 minutes. Once again, depending on how long your event takes.
 - d. In the end, you want to have between 200 and 400 images.
2. Choose your location.
 - a. You need a location where your iPad can be left for the duration of the time period undisturbed.
 - b. If your iPad is going to be shooting outdoor events for a longer period of time, make sure it is covered to protect it from the elements.
3. You will need to download a time lapse app for your iPad. Some excellent free apps are listed below.
 - a. iMotion HD -
 - b. Time-Lapse HD
 - c. OSnap! Time Lapse and Stop Motion Lite
 - d. Quicklapse HD
4. Set up your App to take the pictures at the appropriate time interval. Leave it undisturbed until your pictures have all been taken.
5. Import your images into iMovie.
 - a. Open iMovie and create a new project
 - b. Import all of your images into iMovie. You can select the ones you intend to use in your project from the group.
 - c. Make sure as you select images that you are showing the passage of time, and the jerkiness is at a minimum.
6. Select a soundtrack
 - a. Select a musical soundtrack from Creative Commons to use as background music for your video.
 - b. Be sure you edit it so it doesn't stop suddenly or end before the end before the end of your video.
7. Should show the passage of time
 - a. Don't include images where nothing is happening for several minutes / hours.
8. Time Limits
 - a. You have 5 class days to complete your project. Don't rush through it, but don't waste your time either. Plan your camera shoot carefully. This is likely to be the most time consuming portion of your project. Allow plenty of time to gather the pictures.
9. Have fun