

# STOP MOTION USING APPS

By Sharon Richards  
Westside Secondary, SD #73  
Visually Speaking Editor

## WHY USE AN APP FOR STOP MOTION?

- Apps can be very easy to learn. An app can be a good choice for younger students or those newer to animation.
- Many students of all ages will be able to pick up the technology with little instruction, which can be great for teachers who either don't know much about stop motion animation or those who'd like to focus more on the artistic aspects of the medium and less on the technical ones.
- Even simple technology can produce some terrific work from creative students. Just because the technology is easy to learn doesn't mean the results have to be simplistic.
- It can be a more affordable option for teachers who don't have access to sophisticated equipment and expensive computer programs.

**IMOTION**  
**BY FINGERLAB**

This app is an intuitive time lapse and stop motion app for iOS. Time lapse is when you capture changes over time (e.g. moving clouds) by setting an interval between your frames and then when you play the scene, it appears to speed it up. Stop motion is about taking pictures in a sequence to create a sense of movement (e.g. claymation, Lego movies, etc.).

**Cost:** Free from the App Store

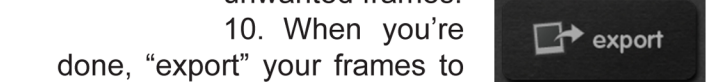
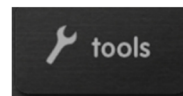
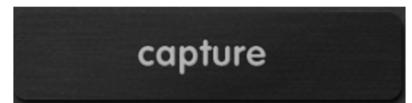


## HOW IT WORKS

1. Open the app and select "New Movie".
2. To create stop motion, select "Manual".
3. Select the "title" box and then type in your title.
4. Press "Start".



5. Make sure your subject/scene is in focus and positioned correctly, and then press "Capture" to take your first photo.
6. Move your subject(s) slightly and then capture your second photo.
7. Repeat step 6 until you have finished your sequence, making small changes each time to ensure smooth movement in the finished movie.
8. You can adjust the speed of your to the number of frames per second that is desired ("fps").



9. You can also press "tools" and delete any unwanted frames.
10. When you're done, "export" your frames to your "photo library".
11. At this point, you can close iMotion, and continue



working on your stop motion film in iMovie. You can stitch various sequences and scenes together by dropping them into iMovie, and then add sound, text, images, etc.

## THINGS TO CONSIDER

### Storyboard

- Have students create storyboards for their films, planning out their object(s)' moves, the angles, and the type of shots. You might consider creating a template for them to follow.

### Set Design

- Simple is fine. White paper can be effective, but you can also use green paper or fabric as a green screen. It depends entirely on the desired effect.

### Lighting

- Choose a well-lit area or add simple lighting to get the spotlights and shadows you want. Small portable light studios can be purchased at fairly reasonable prices. I bought one at London Drugs, but you can also get them on Amazon and at various camera stores. You can also make do with a lamp (or 2) that has an adjustable neck, such as the OttLite if you have one.

### Angle

- Choose angles with intention, rather than placing the iPad in front of the scene at eye level without thought as to which angle may be the best one for a particular scene. Some other angles that can be considered are aerial, bird's eye, low angle (worm's eye) and dutch tilt.

### Camera

- Use a tripod with an iPad adapter if you have one, or get students to use any available surface that will keep the iPad still while allowing them the angle they want.
- Move the objects in the sequence, not the camera. You want to avoid audience motion sickness from a constantly jolting camera.

### Shooting

- Things will go much smoother if you don't try to get too many shots in one sequence. The film sequences can be stitched together in iMovie once

GOT AN  
ANDROID?  
There's always  
Google Play's PicPac  
Stop Motion and Time  
Lapse (free), or PicPac  
Stop Motion Pro  
(\$4.99). Rated E  
for everyone.

you've shot all your sequences.

- Use a variety of shots to generate interest. Shots can include a combination of the following standard types:
  - long shot (LS)
  - medium shot (MS)
  - close-up (CS)
  - extreme close-up (ECU or XCU)
  - cut-away (CA)

### Examples

- Check out various stop motion films posted in places like YouTube and select some that are appropriate, engaging, and demonstrate a skill level that suits your class.

## OTHER ANIMATION APPS FOR IPADS

Stop Motion Recorder (\$0.99). Rated 4+  
Animation Creator (\$2.99). Rated 12+ for content (use with caution).  
Animation Creator HD (\$3.99). Rated 12+ for content (use with caution).  
FlipBook (\$4.99). Rated 4+  
MyStopAction (\$0.99). Rated 4+  
Smovie (\$6.99). Rated 4+  
Draw and Show (\$1.99). Rated 4+  
Lego Movie Maker (free). Rated 4+  
Animation & Drawing by DoInk (\$6.99). Rated 4+  
Green Screen by DoInk (\$3.99). Rated 4+  
Puppet Pals HD Director's Pass (\$5.49). Rated 4+

