

The Ultimate Greenscreen Resource Guide

Our Favorite
Tools For
Making
High-Quality
Greenscreen Videos



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Despite advances in technology, so many items that look so good online last only as long as it takes to unwrap them. The price, I suppose, of living in a global marketplace.

Speaking of price, this is not a cheap investment. I'm not showing you a bunch of "hacks" to get around the need to acquire stuff that actually works. So I trust you're going into this with your eyes wide open.

Are you really ready to invest in doing green screen videos, and lots of them, with all the passion that's in you? If not, think twice. The ROI stinks for doing only one or two.

If yes, then relax. I'm only showing you the stuff that works like a dream. Think of all the frustration and expense you get to avoid now!

Because many items are not available in every market, instead of giving you links to certain suppliers, I'm giving you precise search terms, so you can seek out the best retailer and pricing for your country.

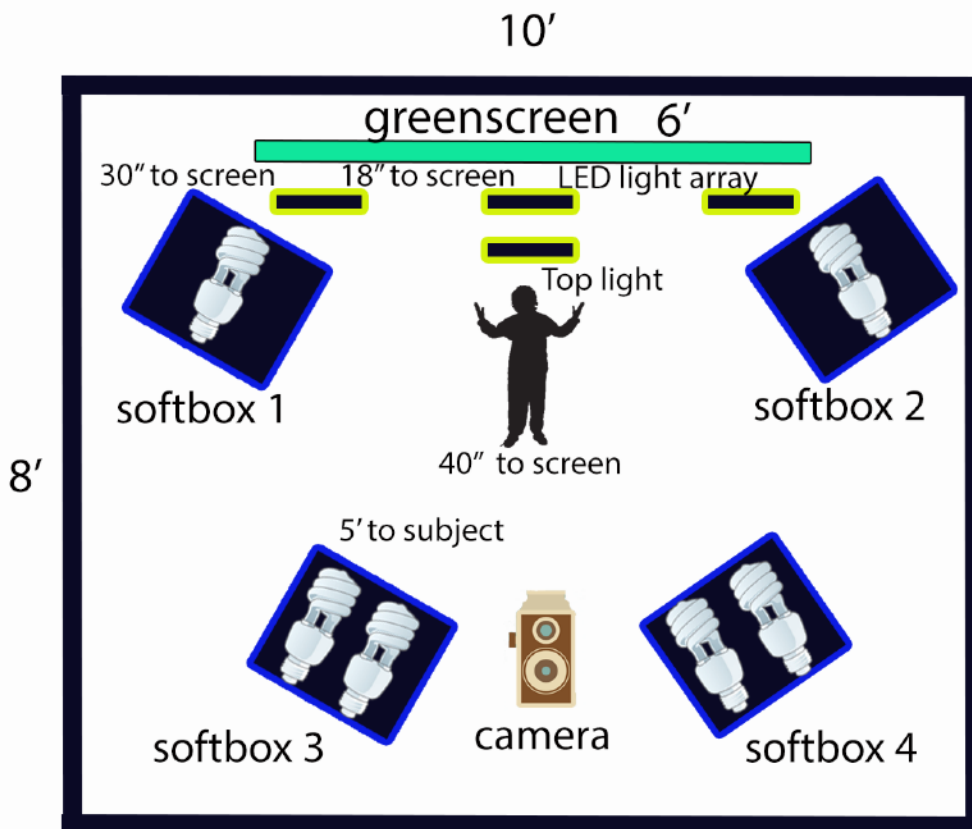
And finally, remember that this guide is meant to be used as an adjunct to [the video](#) on how to use this all in production.

Enjoy!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve".

First things first. Here's the floor plan for the system that was explained in the video on how to do all this stuff.

The plan is to shoot a 6 x 6' area within an 8 x 10' room. The floor plan shows you where to lay out everything that is discussed in the rest of this guide.



The Greenscreen Floor Plan

Just refer back to this document if ever things get a little fuzzy or overwhelming. For now, on with the show!

The Camera

Sony FDR AX-100



[Retail \\$1,500.00](#)

4K in a very small and economical package. It's ideal for a green screen studio because you don't need bokeh, so why pay for the cost and complexity of DSLRs?

The camera has graduated exposure, which means you can get a wider f-stop at closer range, which really helps control the look of your shoot.

There are all kinds of cameras that will do the job. But for some reason, this one has a feature set that makes everything go super-fast and with great quality.

The Camera

Black Magic Design Pocket Cinema Camera 4K



[Retail \\$1,295.00 minus lens](#)

The ultimate 4K Green Screen machine, it replaces our previous choice of the Panasonic GH5S.

Paired with almost any compatible lens, this camera has the ability to shoot in 4:2:2 10-bit color in any of its ProRes formats for the most accurate and hassle-free keying experience in any editing software.

Plus, it's user-friendly design leaves the complex DSLR and mirrorless menus in the dust!

It's not for everyone, but if you have the budget, this will make life a lot easier and better-looking, especially with fine details like hair.

The Lens

Panasonic Lumix G X Vario 12-35mm f/2.8 II ASPH.
POWER O.I.S. Lens



[Retail \\$800.00](#)

Out of all the lenses in the world, why this one? It's very sharp, and your keyer wants the sharpest image possible to cut a clean key. It's got a lower focal length, and for those shooting themselves in a small room, 35mm is the longest focal length you'll ever need.

And it will work with the Black Magic to do auto focus, which is a big, big plus at these file sizes!

LED Lights

Viltrox L116T



[Retail \\$45.00](#)



These little lights are quite versatile in our green screen setup. They run on batteries or AC (AC optional) and are adjustable, both in terms of color temp (3300 - 5600K) and intensity (20 - 100%).

I line up 3 of them along the bottom of my green screen and hang another as a top light. They don't require barn doors either. Just a fast, clean hassle-free setup. And you can't beat the price for its sturdy construction and reliable operation.

Start by running them at 100%, including the backlight, and at the same color temperature as the other lights on the set.

The Teleprompter

Ikan PT1200 12" Portable Teleprompter Kit



[\\$900.00 Retail](#)

This was a tough one. My teleprompter uses a 17" screen and is \$1,600.00. I bought it for using with clients, so it made sense economically. But it also made sense ergonomically. Who wants to fiddle with iPads and the need to transfer scripts between devices and then convert them into different formats? Plus there's the problem of the iPad moving around on the tray, showing words upside down, and getting jostled around. All that adds up to a big "why do it in the first place?" moment.

This piece of hardware solves all those problems. At 12", it's large enough to be seen at 5 feet away, which is perfect. It allows a connection to your laptop, which is even better. And it's rock solid, performing just like mine, but nearly \$1,000 less.

Believe it or not, this is a big bargain!

The Budget Teleprompter

Caddie Buddy Professional Teleprompter



[Retail \\$159.00](#)

iPads have changed the way we do everything; from flying airplanes to doing surgery, and now, finally, reading from a teleprompter. There have been other small form factor prompters on the market for a while, but this is something special.

It's strong, it has a good heft to it and paired with PromptSmartPro, it's hard to beat.

The Monitor

FeelWorld FW760 7" On-Camera LCD Monitor



[Retail \\$190.00](#)

This whole thing falls apart if you don't get centered on the screen. And while the camera I described earlier doesn't offer 4K output to a monitor once you hit the record button, you don't really need constant monitoring. That only encourages you to watch yourself instead of focusing on your audience.

You can spend more, but this is a solid choice with HDMI input, so you'll get a great image with zero fiddling around.

The Tripod

Manfrotto 502A Fluid Head and MT055XPO3 Aluminum Tripod System



[Retail \\$410.00](#)

You don't buy a tripod. You marry it. A good one lasts longer than most relationships. I've had my Manfrotto for over 10 years.

It's got to be sturdy because it has to support the camera and the teleprompter.

The Greenscreen

Westcott 130 Wrinkle-Resistant Chroma-Key
Backdrop (9 x 10', Green Screen)



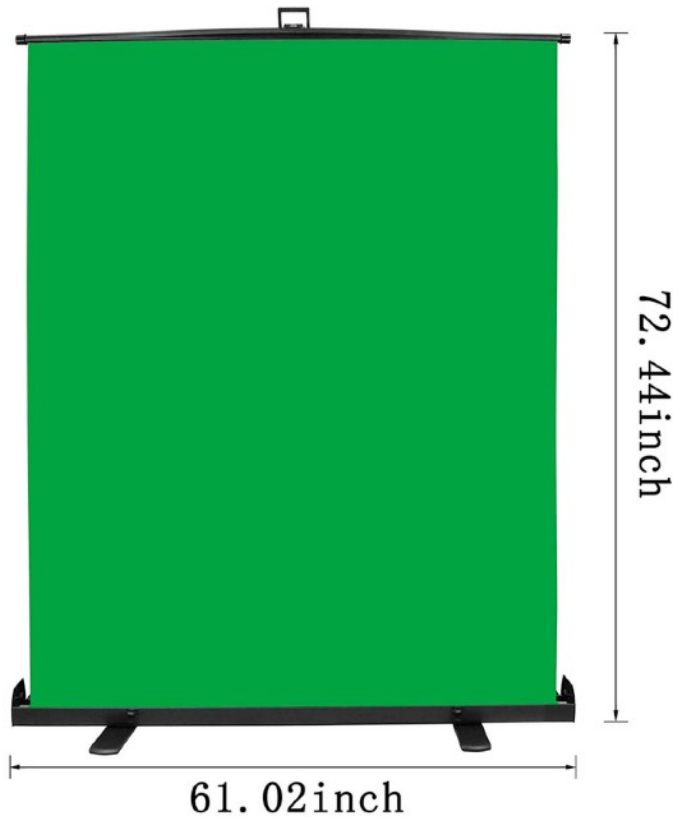
[Retail \\$75](#)

[+ Retail \\$105.00 for support system as shown](#)

One of the secrets of a great green screen is the quality of the fabric and the way it's hung. A non-reflective, wrinkle-resistant fabric will make your life so much easier.

The Portable Greenscreen

Emart Green Screen, Collapsible Chromakey Panel



...for Photo Backdrop
Video Studio with Portable
Pull Up Wrinkle-Resistant
Greenscreen Background,
Auto-Locking Air Cushion
Frame, Solid Safety
Aluminium Base

[Retail \\$140.00](#)

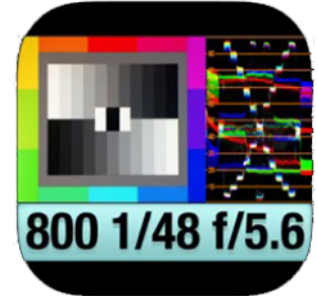
If you love the idea of green screen, but your lifestyle doesn't allow you to have it up all the time, you may want to spend the extra dinero on this collapsible and convenient and advertised wrinkle-free green screen that comes with a self-contained stand and that folds away into a roll and can be stowed under a bed.

The Production Apps

Greenscreener and Cine Meter



[\\$9.99](#)



[\\$4.99](#)

How odd that the equipment you will most value will cost the least.

Greenscreener helps you get good greenscreen lighting allegedly. I don't know how, though. Not because I haven't tried it, but because in all the times I did try it, I wasn't able to get anything like a good result. I literally did better with my eyes. But I'm including it because an enormous number of people swear by it. A big plus is that it's available both on the App Store and Google Play.

So there you go...

Much more to my liking is Adam Wilt's Cine Meter. You point it at the screen and light until you get a straight line across the waveform monitor at 50 - 60IRE. No guessing, no farbling. Just a very straightforward and easy result. And you don't have to get the super loaded-up version. Just the basic \$5.00 app is all you need.

IOS-only at this time.

The Teleprompter Apps

PromptSmart Pro and Teleprompter Pro

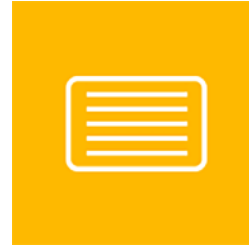


PromptSmart Pro

[\\$19.99 Tablet version on Mac](#)

[\\$29.99/yr. tablet version on PC](#)

[\\$59.99/yr. for Studio Edition](#)



Teleprompter Pro

[\\$8.99 for PC only](#)

I favor teleprompter apps that allow you to look straight into the lens. Why use video to make a connection when your eyes don't connect in the first place?

Both these apps will help you make that connection with your audience. Both claim "follow speech" support.

My favorite is PromptSmart Pro Studio. That's the version that works on a laptop. The tablet version is somewhat less reliable and prone to freezing. The PC tablet version seems to be a mixed bag. Some love it. Many really hate it. If you're on a PC, you might want to consider alternatives.

Teleprompter Pro works much the same way, but it's for Windows-only, and frankly, much easier to purchase, and doesn't require an annual subscription for the PC version.

The Keying Apps

Hawaiki Keyer and Primatte Keyer

hawaiki

[\\$99 for Mac Editors](#)



[\\$299 for Mac & PC](#)

The filters that come with your editing program will only get you so far. If you use the right editing program you can get decent, if not terribly convincing results. And for some, “good enough” can be good enough.

But for those in image-sensitive markets, or those wishing to earn the title of visible authority in their markets, a slightly higher level of finishing may be desired.

That’s where these apps come.

Boris Continuum is the granddaddy of keying apps. They’ve been around for 20 years. And no matter what editing platform you’re on, PC or Mac, they’ve got you covered.

I’m on a Mac, and these days I favor the Hawaiki filter. And at a third of the price, it’s a bargain.

The Main Lights

StudioFX 1600 Watt Video Kit



The last affordable softbox that can do the job of lighting both you and your green screen.

Note: You'll need 2 sets.

[\\$86.99 at Amazon](#)

Most softboxes are too bulky to fit in small rooms used as home green screen studios, but these should still fit the bill.

Note: These kinds of lights are getting harder to find at a decent price. It seems no sooner do I recommend a kit than they go out of stock. That's the reason I'm sending you to Amazon. If this one has disappeared, another similar version will have taken its place somewhere near the top of the page and you can continue your search there until this pdf is updated again.

Note 2: If the provider linked to on this page doesn't serve your country, I would try to find something similar at [B&H Photo and Video](#). They ship almost everywhere in the world.

The Light Stands

6-Foot Light Stand



[Retail \\$25.00](#)

These little guys can get close to the floor; just the right size to hold your LED lights along the bottom of your green screen.

The C-Stand

Matthews 40" C-Stand



[Retail \\$195.00](#)

Amazingly flexible device for getting rock-solid shots just about anywhere. Use it to hang your top light.

And if you are squeezed for space, you can use 2 of these to hang your green screen, then swing the main leg over to the wall. Do this on both sides of the screen and you gain another 2 feet of usable space!

The Greenscreen Guide

Well, that's it. Aren't you glad there isn't even more to pull together?

I'll be the first to admit that putting a real-life home studio together by yourself is not some little thing. You have to really want this; at least as much as you wanted to put your little girl's dollhouse together on Christmas eve. :)

And remember, there's a lot more [free stuff like this](#) and all available to our free members.

And if you've got a pressing business need or are just keen to get to your goal in a hurry but aren't exactly sure of the best way to go, check out [these options](#).

I hope this guide serves you well!

