Video Companion: Remove a Color

Print this document to follow along and take notes on the video.

> ### Video Summary
>
> Learn how to remove a solid-colored background from image and video clips. This tutorial covers shooting in front of a green screen, adding and editing the effect in Camtasia, and tips to keep in mind when removing a color from your video.

Why remove a color?

- Connect with viewers by superimposing a subject onto a digital background.
- Interact with your screenshots, presentation, or other elements of your project.

Shooting your video or image:

- Background
  - Green screen cloths and solid-colored walls work great. Whatever you use, make sure your solid-colored background has a smooth and non-reflective surface.
  - Make sure your subject wears clothing that's a different color than your background.
- Lighting
  - It's better to have multiple light sources, as opposed to one.
  - Keep in mind that strong shadows on your subject or background will be hard to correct later.
  - Whether you have multiple sources, or just one, position your light so that it hits both your subject and background evenly.
- Positioning
  - Position your subject as close as possible to the camera while leaving room for movement.
  - Avoid using shiny jewelry or anything reflective or glossy in the shot.

Notes:

- If your subject is wearing glasses, make sure that the light is not creating a glare. Tilt them down a bit or adjust the angle of the light, as needed, to avoid a glare.

Applying the effect:

1. In Camtasia, import your image or video and add it to the timeline.
2. Apply the Remove a Color effect from the Video FX tab to your clip on the timeline.

Editing the effect:

1. Open the properties panel and find the Remove a Color section.
2. Click the color picker and choose a color from the background to remove.
3. Use the tolerance slider to adjust how selective the effect is—move it right to widen the range of tints and shades you remove.
4. The softness slider smoothes out pixelation and rough edges of color that remain.
5. Skip over the hue slider, and move the defringe slider slightly left or right to make any remaining color less noticeable.

Invert will hide everything *but* the color removed.

6. Add your new background to the timeline on the track below your edited clip. Preview the effect.
7. Go back to the hue slider in the properties panel, and use it to correct any differences in hue between your newly added background and your edited clip.

Tips:

- Lookout for shadows when shooting your clip, especially when your subject is in motion.
- Check different points in the clip as you edit.
- Use a blank animation to transition between Remove a Color settings on the same clip.