Today's Lessons:
* Using Blue Box World to separate/remove chroma (color) from a scene
* The difference between J-cuts and L-cuts and how to use them in your productions

The following notes and procedures are demonstrated in the Casablanca Expert lesson Lesson – Episode 8. To follow along with Chet Davis (and gain the most value from these lessons) you are encouraged to download the Workshop Footage from the AVI DVD included with the packet into your Scene Bin – this is done with Disk Transfer software)

* Using Blue Box World to separate/remove chroma (color) from a scene

BlueBox World is add-on software for the Casablanca that allows not only many more options for chroma-key effects than the effect included in the Operating System (BlueBox) but also provides some other cool functions, like this ability to emphasize one color while muting or diminishing all other colors in a scene. I should indicate here before beginning this exercise that this will not necessarily work properly on every scene you wish to use this on... it works on many but not all -- due to the various colors which may be present in other subjects of your scene/s.

The BlueBox-Separate Chroma effect (titled BB-Separate Chroma in our menus) is found under Special in the Edit menu or in the list of effects in the Image Processing effects list.

Once you open the effect (as well will in a moment) there are a couple of variations you can make with the scene:
Color Span is the ration how far apart the colors will be affected relative to the sampled color
Saturation 1 is the chroma level for the selected color you have chosen,
Saturation 2 is the chroma level for all remaining colors (unselected).

Working the Magic
Select a scene to perform the separate chroma effect (the first scene I chose in the Web lesson was 'SEQ.14' (the orange meadow flowers).
1.Once you have this scene selected in your Scene Bin
2.Open the Special menu and select BB-Separate Chroma
3.Click into the Full Size (preview) - this opens up a large view of the selected scene with a mini-menu of options.
4.Click on 'Color Choice' which brings up the size and position menu to select the color you wish to modify. In the web lesson I first made the selector box 40x78 size and position in on top of the uniform color in the left flower.
5.Adjust Color Span, Saturation 1 and Saturation 2 as necessary
    I selected for the following settings with this flower scene:
    Color Span = 54%
    Saturation 1 = 115%
    Saturation 1 = 0%
Then create/render your scene and view it full-screen... ah, very nice!

Using Blue Box World to separate/remove chroma (color) from a scene (continued)

In the second example I worked with the shot of wild-flowers overlooking a cove at the California Coast. The scene was 'SEA.6'. I opened up BB-Separate Chroma in the Full Size preview and created a sample box with a size of 22x6 positioned in the bottom left corder of the scene - on the yellow flowers (at position 70, 414).
   I selected for the following settings with this flower scene:
   Color Span = 40%
   Saturation 1 = 158%
   Saturation 1 = 0%

With the remaining scenes in your Scene Bin for this exercise (from the Disk Transfer AVI DVD) you can play with this effect on your own (you're welcome to review the 'SP' clips of each scene to see the effect I was able to obtain with those scenes).

I find this works well with most selected colors, I have had a couple of instances where it did not work well - especially if there is part of this color in the others on screen.

When it works - it is a spectacular effect!

* The difference between J-cuts and L-cuts and how to use them in your productions

A Split Edit is when the audio and video are split or separated and occur at different times. This is a technique with it's own name as normally our video and audio of the same subject/ content begins together. Split edits can be divided into two different options:
J-cut: When the audio begins before the video from that scene occurs
L-cut: When the video comes on-screen before the audio from that scene occurs

These names come from the appearance of a timeline where the audio and video clips have their own space (like we see in our Audio mix window), or in the new Timeline view in Smart Edit 8/Bogart 2 and higher.

These can be a creative/professional method of changing the time/place of your story or interview. Some folks would use a J-cut to create what is known in Film as an Audio Bridge -- where the audio bridges an otherwise abrupt change in time or space.

On the next page, I will review how to create these two kinds of split-edits on your Casablanca video editor.

J-Cut

I added the Classroom scene to the storyboard. I then wanted to start the audio of Kerby over the last of the Classroom scene and then come back to Kerby full frame with both his image and his voice. I used the Split function to split the Kerby clip into two portion; the first timed at 06:03 and the second split at 2:06. Because I want this first portion to be heard and not seen I chose to use the 'Scene>Sample' button found under Special in the Edit menu. This copies the audio from any scene and sends it to the audio menus.

I then went into audio mix menu added the Kerby.1 audio sample under the Classroom scene, since you need to position this at the very end of the that scene (to synchronize the audio with the next scene of Kerby.2) I chose to use a Silent Sample (created in the New menu in the Audio Record/Edit window). By adding this to the same audio track (I chose to use the Commentary track) at the beginning of Kerby.2 I could then easily position my Kerby.1 audio sample as far as it would move, butted up against the silent sample.

Now we have the audio of Kerby.1 coming in 6-seconds before we see his face, talking about this great teacher seen in the Classroom scene.

(Jim Meeker correctly pointed out during the webinar that I could also have perhaps more easily split the Classroom scene into two portions, with Classroom.2 being 6.03 seconds long and place the video scene Kerby.1 in the storyboard and then insert the Classroom.2 over Kerby.1... this would allow us to hear him but see the 2nd half of the Classroom scene. This would avoid you having to use Scene>Sample or the audio menus at all for this purpose.

L-Cut

For this edit I wanted to take the other educator labeled Kalbus to start first while we see and hear her, then have a video scene of the classroom teacher come in over the end of Kalbus' dialog. So this time we are inserting at the end of the scene rather than the beginning which we performed for the J-cut. For this to work, split the Classroom scene into Classroom.1 (02:02) and Classroom.2 (04:12).

Add Kalbus to the Storyboard and then use the Insert function to perform a video insert at the end of the Classroom scene (this is most easily done by selecting the clip Classroom.1, clicking on 'Insert' and then using 'Position' rather than 'Trim' to move the end position of the scene as far to the right as it will go. This is the end of the scene and the end of the storyboard. Then add Classroom.2 directly after and you have successfully performed an L-cut edit!

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There are more than 300 articles (pages) of tutorials, tips and tricks on my website to help you get the most from your Casablanca video editor. Coupled with that are more than 30 streaming videos.

If you are not already a member – please visit the website today and consider subscribing to take advantage of these valuable resources! Visit my website today: http://www.CasablancaExpert.com