



Backgrounds

Maybe you live in a world with a completely white background. If that's the case then you might like to skip this section. But if you'd like to make your animations a little more interesting then stick around because Animation Pro allows you to insert both background images and video.

TOPICS

[Adding a Background Image](#)

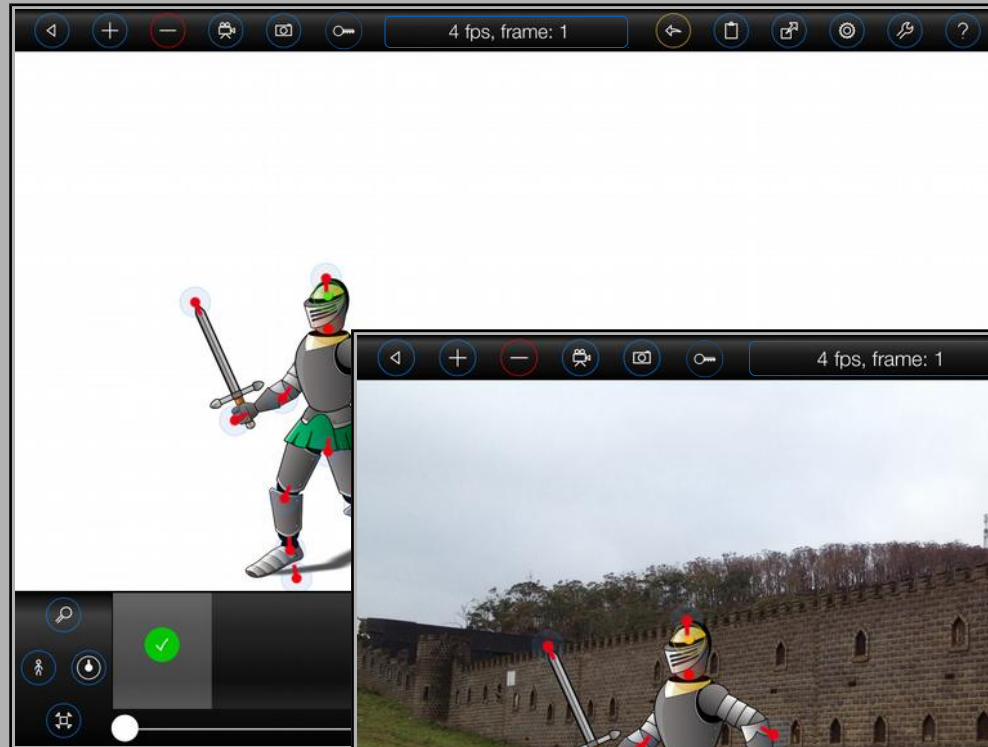
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Adding a Background Image

To add a background image to a frame (or to change an existing background image):

1.

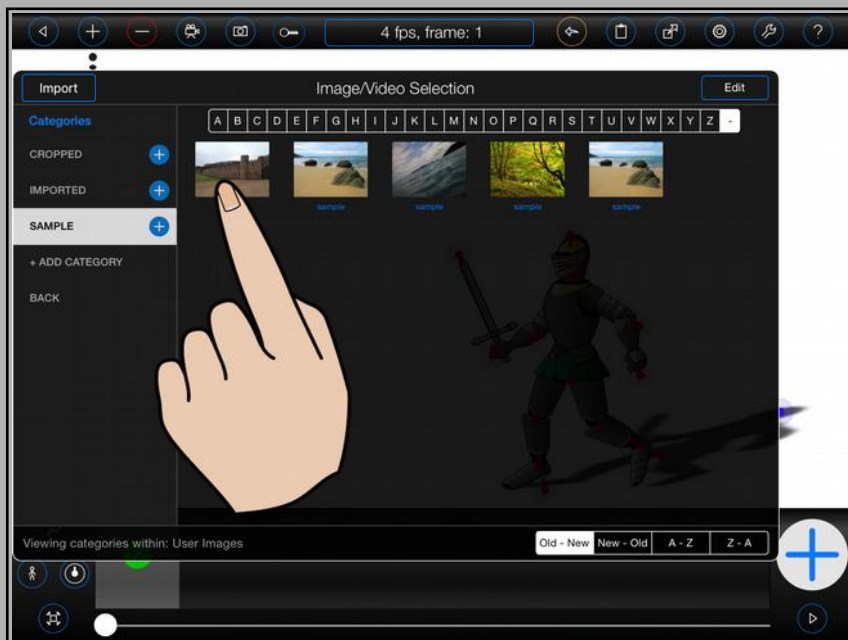
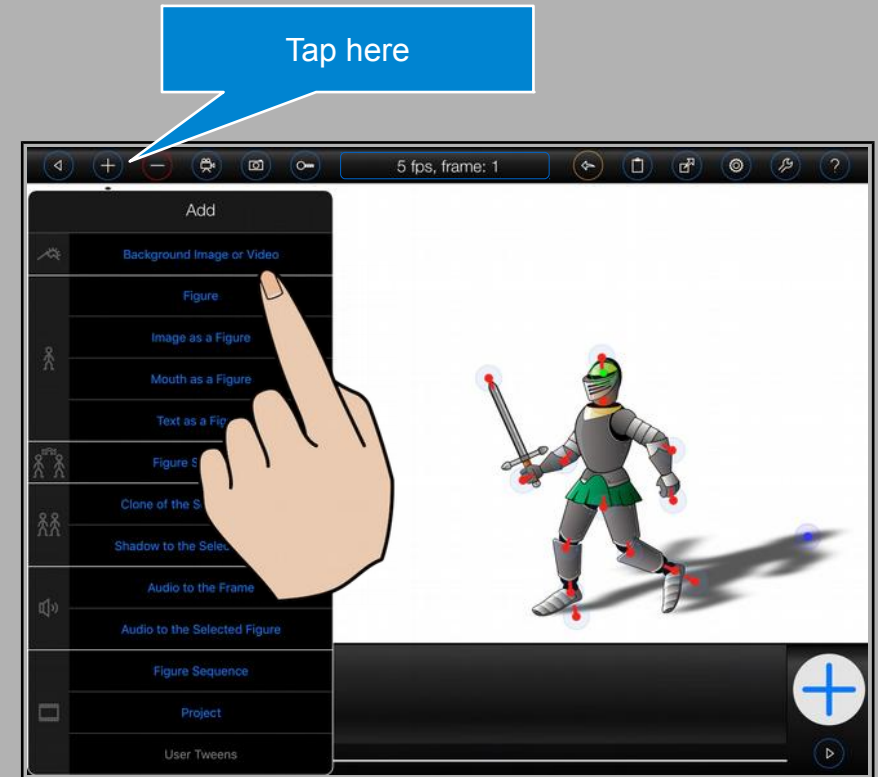
Press the  button to open the 'Add' menu

2.

Select 'Background Image or Video'


3.


Choose an image using the file manager:




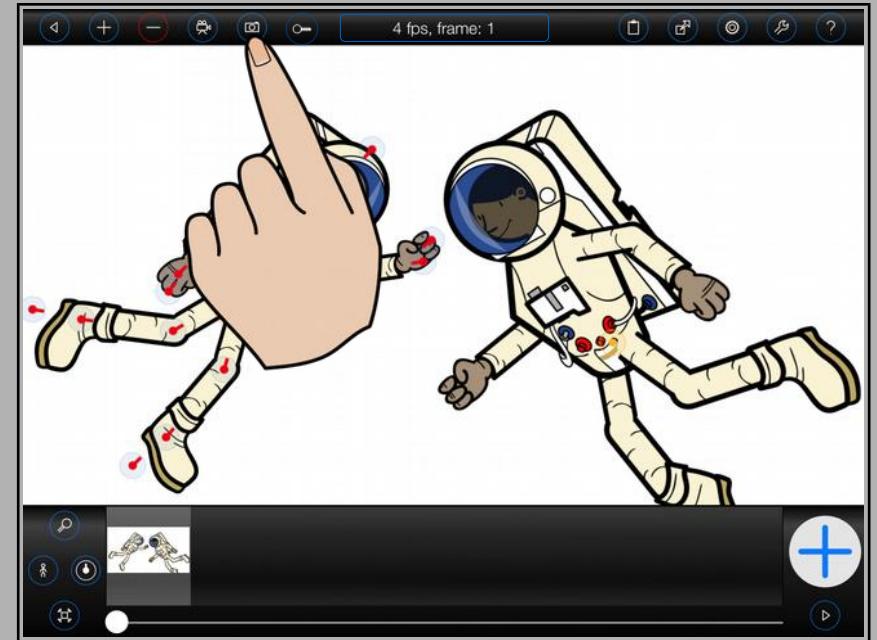
Shooting a Background Image

You can use the Animation Pro Stop-Motion camera to add a background image into a frame:

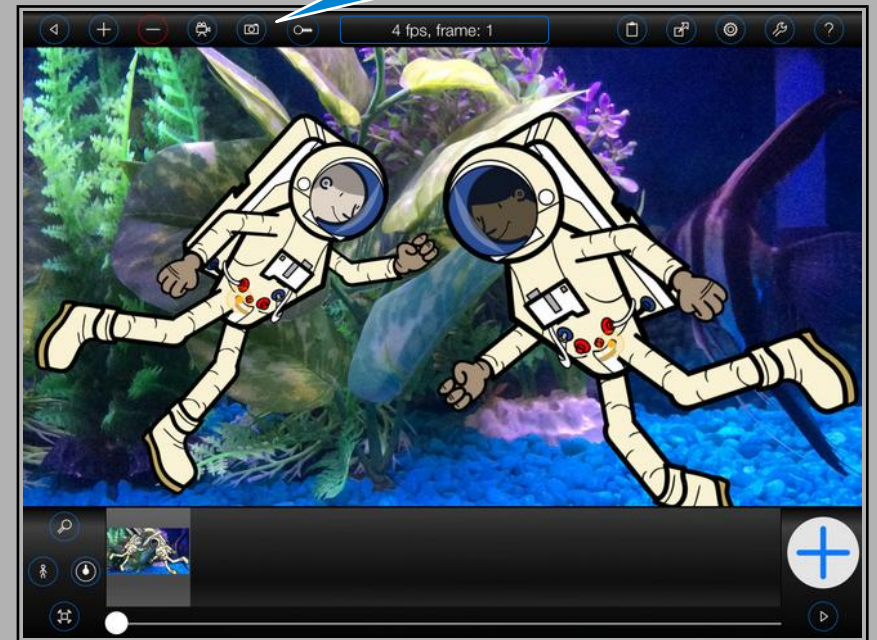
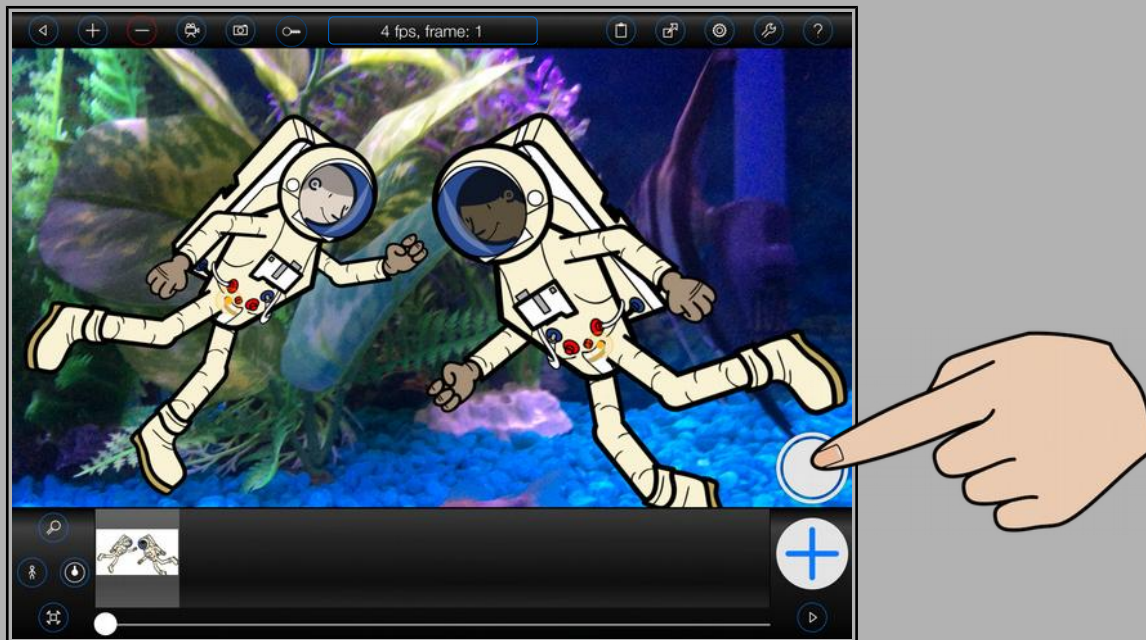
1. Press the  (Camera) button to open the Stop-Motion camera

2. Tap anywhere on the image to focus and press the  (Shutter) button to take a photo

3. Press the  (Camera) button again to close the Stop-Motion camera




Press again to close the Stop-Motion camera



Adding Background Video

It's also possible to add a video as a sequence of background images. Please note that, unlike adding a background image or photograph, this process will insert new frames into your animation. So if you wish to animate over video, please add the video first.

1.

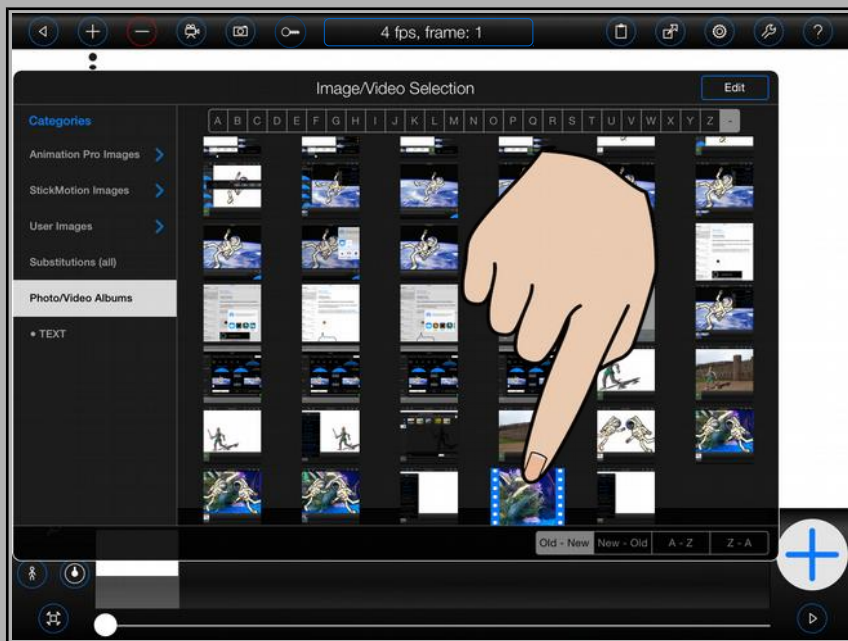
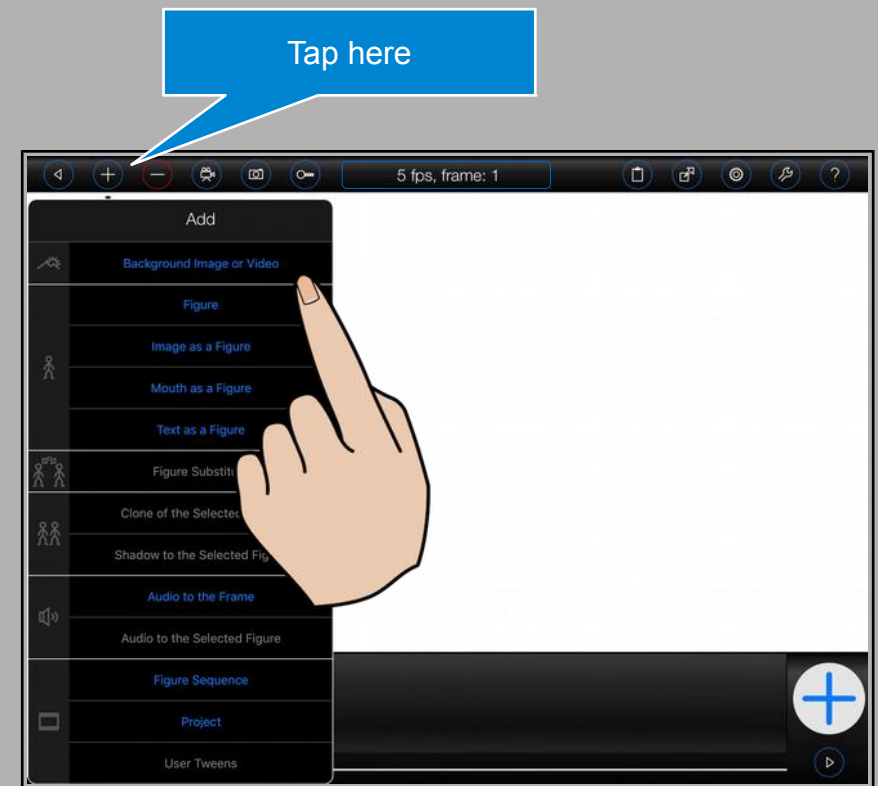
Press the  button to open the 'Add' menu

2.

Select 'Select Background Image or Video'

3.

Choose a video from your 'Photo/Video Albums' using the file manager:



Selecting a Video Range

Upon selecting a video from your 'Photo/Video Albums', Animation Pro will prompt you to select a video range and a frame-rate.


If you wish to preserve the play-back speed of the original video, select a frame-rate that matches the frame-rate at which you intend to export your animation (excluding tweens). Otherwise:

- If you select a frame-rate higher than the frame-rate (excluding tweens) that you intend to export your animation at then the background video will appear to play back slower than its original speed.
- If you select a frame-rate lower than the frame-rate (excluding tweens) that you intend to export your animation at then the background video will appear to play back faster than its original speed.

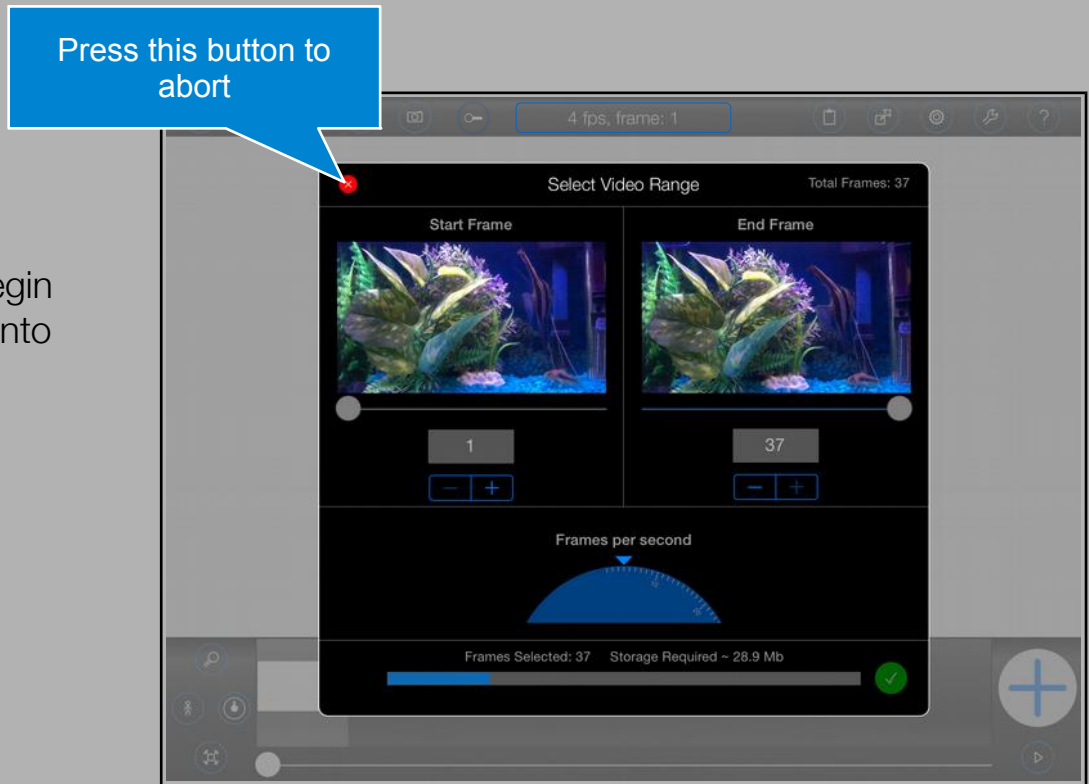
The screenshot shows the 'Select Video Range' interface with the following callouts:

- Press this button to exit:** Points to a red 'X' button in the top left corner.
- Use this slider to quickly select a starting frame from the video:** Points to a white slider knob on the 'Start Frame' video preview.
- Also use the stepper for precise selection:** Points to the minus and plus buttons below the 'Start Frame' video preview.
- Use this slider to quickly select the ending frame from the video:** Points to a white slider knob on the 'End Frame' video preview.
- Also use the stepper for precise selection:** Points to the minus and plus buttons below the 'End Frame' video preview.
- Select the desired frame-rate:** Points to a semi-circular dial labeled 'Frames per second' with a needle pointing to '4 fps'.
- Press this button to add the selected video range into your animation as a sequence of background images:** Points to a green checkmark button in the bottom right corner.

Additional interface elements visible include: 'Total Frames: 37' in the top right; 'Start Frame' and 'End Frame' labels above the video previews; numerical displays for '1' and '37' below the video previews; and status text at the bottom: 'Frames Selected: 37' and 'Storage Required ~ 28.9 Mb'.

Upon pressing the  button, Animation Pro will begin converting the video into a series of images, inserting them into your animation as it goes.

To abort the conversion process, press the  button.



Animating Over Existing Background Images

By default, a big blue plus button is displayed on the Animation screen that looks like this:




Pressing this button will make a copy of the currently selected frame and insert it into the film-strip.

Sometimes however, such as when you are animating over a background video, it can be useful to leave the background images intact and only copy the figures from frame to frame. This can be achieved by putting Animation Pro into 'Overlay' mode.

Overlay Mode

To put Animation Pro into 'Overlay' mode:

1.

Press the  button to open the 'Options' menu

2.

Select 'Overlay' (under 'Add Mode')

The big blue plus button will change its appearance to look like this:



Animation Pro will no longer create new frames. Instead it will copy your figures into the next frame leaving the background image there intact.

For more details on the various 'Add Modes', please open the 'Stop-Motion' topic (left).

