Chroma keying for photographers

Chroma Mask automatically replaces green, blue or red backgrounds while shooting.

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While most existing solutions for replacement of a colored background are directed at video or deal with each image separately, Chroma Mask applies all of its current settings to optimize a mask to all newly shot photos. During a tethered shoot the subject can thus be cropped and superimposed onto a new background of your choice without touching the software. If the settings in Chroma Mask are adjusted to the selected colored background, a photographer only has to touch the shutter-release button to then inspect the finished composition. This workflow makes it really easy to set and adjust the lighting to the selected background. In addition, the finished result can be displayed on a second monitor or TV-screen, which makes it very easy to coordinate the results with your customer.
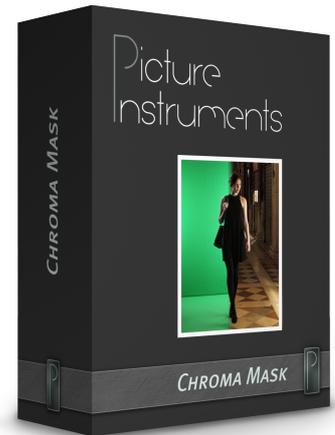
Even the common „color spill" can be removed with a single control. Thanks to the custom made algorithm developed by Picture Instruments the original color of the subject is protected so that no colorless edges are created.

Some may already know the GUI of the well-established software Mask Integrator. Both programs are very similar apart from the fact that Mask Integrator creates its mask via a separate backlight image (e.g. using Freemask) while Chroma Mask derives its mask from the images selected color channel. Many clever features have been taken from Mask Integrator and can now also be used to mask fast moving subjects.

This brings us directly to the major differences between the chroma key technique and masking by using a flash: while masking with a backlight clipping-mask is a little more detailed than with the chroma key technique, even a mere small movement already creates very serious issues, which is irrelevant for chroma keying. Chroma Mask even lets you mask moving hair on the fly.

This makes Mask Integrator absolutely perfect for product photography while Chroma Mask will be much more relevant in people photography.

You can find free demo versions of both programs in the Picture Instruments download area under: www.pic-in.de/download

Availability
The software is sold through the manufacturers online store for $189 (plus VAT if applicable): www.pic-in.de/chromakey

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