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How To Create A Storyboard For Music Videos (With Template)

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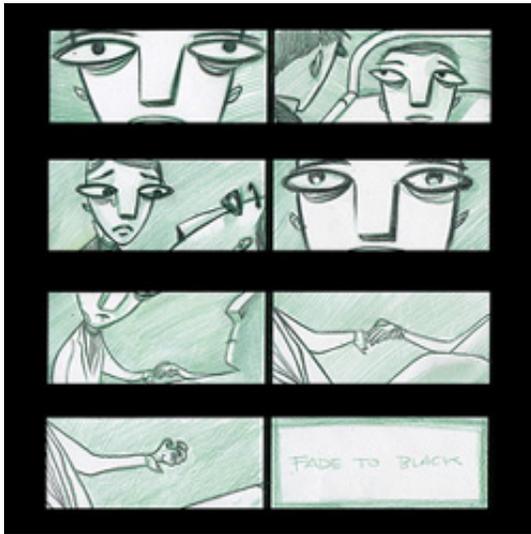
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In this article we will show you **how to create a storyboard for music videos**.

Whether you're recording your own

music video or you're paying someone to make one for you, at some point you will need to create a storyboard. Today we will look at what a storyboard is, why you need one when making a music video, what you should include in a music video storyboard, and finally how to put all those pieces together and create one. We also provide you with a free music video storyboard template so you can get started on creating your own one right away.

What Is A Storyboard?

A storyboard is a step by step plan of how your music video will go. On this storyboard, you will have rough sketches of how you want each scene to look, as well as notes on what you want to be happening. While storyboards can be designed on white boards or black boards, it's often easier and more convenient to design them on paper. This is because it can be easily duplicated and distributed to anyone that needs a copy. People that may need a copy include the video recorded, the director, the video editor, and anyone else that's involved in your



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Why Do You Need A Storyboard When Making A Music Video?

Before we look at *how to create a storyboard for music videos*, we need to know why you need to. So, why are storyboards so important? Simple, because planning is key to making everything run smoothly.

When it comes to making a music video, some people like to completely overlook making the storyboard before hand. Instead, they have a rough idea of how the video's going to go, and just record on the day. In my opinion, this is a mistake. Planning is vital for using your time as effectively as possible on the day of the shoot. As you're paying to hire a video recording crew, you will most likely have a limited amount of time to shoot your video. If both you and everyone else knows exactly what they're doing (Especially the video recording crew) then everything will go a lot quicker.

Explaining to your camera man exactly how you want the shot can take a while to do. If they already know before hand however, this will save a lot of time on the day.

Another reason you need a storyboard when recording a music video, is so you know what footage you need to get. There's nothing worse then going to edit your video and realising you haven't got enough footage or forgot to add a certain scene. If you have a story board before hand, you will be able to see exactly what footage you need to

capture. Furthermore, you can plan what order you're going to record the footage in, the most important parts going first.

Creating storyboards is all about saving time and getting things right on the day, which can be more useful than a lot of musicians realise.

What Should You Include In A Music Video Storyboard?

Ok, so now you know what a storyboard is and why it's so important. But what should you actually include on your storyboard? Here are the main things:

- **A Sketch.**

First of all, you will need to include a sketch of what's going on in the scene. It doesn't have to be a perfect or even good quality drawing, but it does need to show a few things. First of all, it needs to show the layout of the scene. Is the camera going to be zoomed up right into the main character's face? Or is it going to be getting a full body shot of them? However you want the camera zoomed, you need to show it in the storyboard. Next, you need to include any important details. For example, how many people will be in the shot? Or is there any specific objects that will be in there? Or certain movements by the characters or objects? Any important details need to be sketched in, so everyone knows exactly where they should be and what should be happening.

- **Notes On What's Happening In The Scene.**

As well as having the drawings, it is also important to have notes on what will actually be happening in the scene. While sketches can be good to visualise things, notes can emphasise things that are harder to sketch. For example, you may have 39 people in once scene. Instead of drawing 39 people in your small sketch box, it'd probably be better to sketch a few stick people in the background and in the notes state 'there will be 39 background people in this shot'.

Another things that's hard to sketch is the movements of people or things. Let's say for example your lead musician needs to be spinning clockwise over three seconds, this would be hard to show in a sketch. You can easily put this in the notes however, so it's still clear what should be happening in the scene.

- **The Time Frame.**

As you're making a music video, one important thing you need to bare in mind when creating your storyboard is the timing of it all. You should note down how long each scene is going to last, and match it up with the timing of the song you're making a video for. For example, let's say your first chorus comes in at 1 minuet 12 seconds. Most likely you'll want a different scene beginning around then, so make a note of the time the scene should start. You should also note how long that scene will be. This will make it a lot easier for your music video editor, as they will know exactly what is expected of them.

You will also need to make a note of any effects you

want put in the scene, any lighting effects you expect, and any scene switching effects (E.G. If you want two scenes to keep switching with each other every couple of seconds). Most of these things will go in the notes section, or on a separate page if they are instructions for your video editor. If you want any part of your video to be a certain way, make sure you note it down here.

How To Create A Story Board For Your Music Video

Once you know what to include, it's not hard to make a story board. We've made it even easier by giving you our free storyboard template in the section below, so all you need to do is download that, print it up and fill it out. You fill it out by sketching each scene in the provided box, and make a note of the what's happening in the text area. You will also want to include how long each scene last for, so you know how much footage you need to record.

When it comes to making a storyboard, it doesn't have to be perfect. By this I mean your drawings don't have to be the best, and it doesn't have to be the neatest. What it does need to be however, is easy to understand, and precise. The whole point of this is so you and everyone else have got a plan, and know what they should be doing on the day. As long as it gives people time to plan ahead, know their role and know what the final outcome should be, the storyboard has done it's job.

Free Printable Storyboard Template For Music Videos

Below is a *free printable music video storyboard template* which you can print out and use free of charge. It is pretty easy to use, but if you're not sure what to put on it, simply check the 'What Should You Include In A Music Video Storyboard?' section above. This will tell you how to use this **free storyboard template for music videos**. For now though, here's the free template:

			
Scene Start: _____ Duration: _____ _____ _____			
			
Scene Start: _____ Duration: _____ _____ _____			

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*Click the above image for the full sized printable storyboard template (Opens in a new window). This music video storyboard template is printable and free to use.

How To Create A Story Board For Your Music Video Conclusion

Storyboards are an essential step in learning [how to make a music video](#). They're a great time saving tool, and help ensure you have covered all areas on the day of your video shoot. If you're learning how to record a music video, you should also add storyboard making into your skill set. Now you know [how to create a storyboard for music videos](#) and

have a [free printable template](#) to get you started, good luck with plaining your video.

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