

Creating Your Own Custom Backgrounds and Outrageous Characters for Smart Industries Photo Booths



When creating a Background or Outrageous Character for a Smart Industries photo booth, we recommend setting up your original file in either Adobe Photoshop or Illustrator (up to CS3 software version) with art in different layers. This is because we actually create different layered files from your finished artwork in order to tell the photo booth program exactly how to position your art with the photos your customers take when they step in the booth.



We recommend setting your file up in RGB color mode at 72dpi. The dimensions can vary, but should stick close to a width that is 70% of the length. Also remember that you want to give the customers most of that space to frame themselves in, so their faces will still be a decent size on the final printout. We have found that 886 pixels x 620 pixels works well for a landscape image, while 650x925 works well for an image with portrait orientation.



Set up your design so that a 640 pixel x 480 pixel portion could be cropped out. This is the section customers will see on-screen when they are framing their faces in the photo booth. Use a layer in your file to suggest the area where the image would be cropped. (Since this is the section which must fit on the photo booth screen, this area has to be 640 pixels wide regardless of whether the final print is portrait or landscape).

Set up a white box on another layer within the 640x480 area. The white box should be slightly smaller than your 640x480 area so customers can see some of the design on-screen. The box does not have to be completely rectangle. In fact, you can have part of your design overlap this box if you choose.

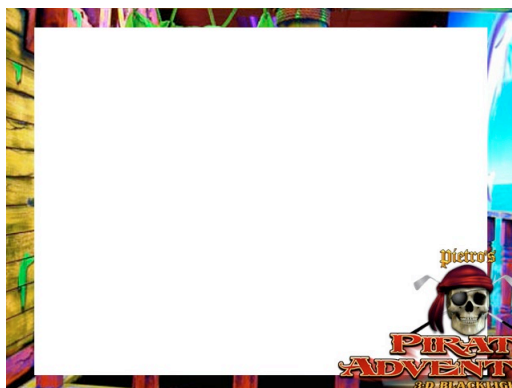


Image 1: Final printed design with space shown where customer's photo would appear.

Image 2: Design with red lines indicating where the 640pixel x 480pixel section should be.

Image 3: 640x480 section as it appears on-screen when the customer chooses this background (white area would show customer on camera in actual booth)



Setting up Outrageous Characters is the pretty much the same as setting up Backgrounds. For the examples shown at left, we show a character with portrait orientation, but your file could be landscape or portrait.

Instead of setting up a white box (on another layer within the 640x480 area) to show where a customer's face would go, use a white area shaped like a cutout of the original face. This will give customers the best idea of how to position their face and the composite of the two images will make for a better print. As with Backgrounds, the larger you make this area in your design, the better, since it gives customers more area to position their face just right.

Once your artwork is ready:

If your Photoshop or Illustrator file is 5MB or less, send it via email to mogara@smartind.com. If the file size is too large for this, use services like www.yousendit.com to get the file to us via FTP. We will use your artwork to program the necessary files for the Smart photo booths, then send them back to you either through email or on a CD-ROM. Time spent doing this will be charged at our normal design rate, and at the end of the process you will have files and instructions to allow you to install your new custom backgrounds/characters on as many Smart Photo Booths as you like!

Please contact the Art Director at Smart Industries toll-free at 1-800-553-2442 with any questions.

Thank you for your interest in Smart Photo Booths!

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Image 3: 640x480 section as it appears on-screen when the customer chooses this character (white area would show customer's face on camera in actual photo booth)