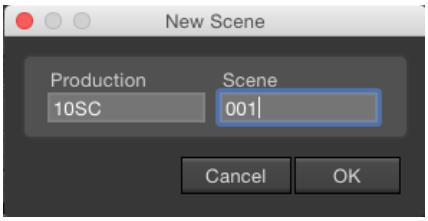
III. SETTING-UP DRAGONFRAME

A. Create New Dragonframe Scene

Open Dragonframe from the applications folder. Choose *Create New Scene* and enter naming that makes sense to you in the Production/Scene boxes. Click on OK.



Browse to your Project/Folder on your Personal Hard Drive. Select/Create a DragonFrame folder and click *Save*.

When *Dragonframe* opens, you should hear a 'click' from the camera and a live image of the copy table should appear. If not, click 'Cmd R' or go to Capture/Video Source and Capture/Capture Source to manually set them to 'Canon EOS'.

> **Note:** The camera has to be on before opening Dragonframe or it may not connect. You can try using the Ctrl R command, but you may have to quit Dragonframe and open it again after turning on camera.

B. Set Up Cinematography Window

This would be a good time to watch the brief Dragonframe "How it Works" tutorial in the Overview tutorials section on the Dragonframe tutorials page.

1. Click on the Cinematography tab in Dragonframe. In the lower right section of the screen you'll find the **Camera Setting Tab.**

2. **Quality Settings:** To maintain quality for final animation it is important that adhere to the following settings:

   Go to the Cinematography tab located in the upper right of the screen. In the lower right section of the window set the Output Setting to the FINE JPG setting.

   Large/Fine JPG is an appropriate setting in most circumstances to balance quality of image and manageable data size.

   Jpeg + Raw setting is for projects that require full color and exposure control in Postproduction. This can slow your workflow and raise your data size considerably so use this setting with caution.

   Depending on your project you will set the image size accordingly*:

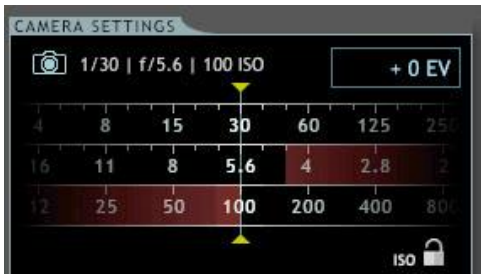
   LARGE (4272 x 2848)
   MEDIUM (3088 x 2056)
   SMALL (2256 x 1504).

   * Based on the Canon T1i. Newer cameras will give larger px sizes for each setting.

3. **Setting Exposure in Dragonframe:** Make sure you have your lights turned on, your character/object placed in the set, and the camera/lens at an approximate placement from your subject. Next set the aperture ring on your camera lens

3.5 for shallow focus - rack focus, etc.
5.6 in the middle range - this is a good place to start.
22 for deep focus – cuts down on light considerably.

a) In the lower right section of the screen turn the lowest dial in the right column to set the ISO between 100 and 200. Any higher will diminish detail in your image.



b) Now turn the top dial to adjust the shutter speed until the image in the live view looks like a good exposure.
c) Set the White Balance to Tungsten or LED. Depending on your choice, you can adjust the temperature on the LED lights for an accurate white balance. This can also be adjusted in post.
d) Next click on the “Test Shot” button at the lower right to take a test shot. The image that appears on the screen will switch from Live view to the test image you have just taken. Regardless of how your live view (or preview) is set the “Test Shot” is an accurate sampling of how your animation will be exposed. You can compare the test to the live view by clicking the "camera icon" located just under the preview screen.
e) Now adjust the shutter speed until you are satisfied with the exposure in the live preview window.

Note: If your live preview and the test shot do not match the lens is out of

calibration and you should make a note in the log and email instructor. In the meantime, right click on the Exposure Preview Offset and set it so that the exposure in your live preview matches the test frame that you took (typically between +3 and +4).

4. **Using the Focus Check Tool to Set Focus**
   a) Use the focus ring on the camera lens to adjust your focus as best you can.
   b) With the preview in Live View click on the **Focus Check Target** next to the camera icon to open the focus rectangle.
   c) Next, in the preview window, select and drag the focus rectangle over the area of you image that you want to be in focus.
   d) Click in the rectangle to magnify the area and fine tune focus by adjusting the ring on the camera lens.
   e) Click the **Focus Check Target** again to go back to regular Live view.

5. **Final Test Image**
   a) Once you are pleased with the overall image quality in the live view, take another test shot.
   b) Right mouse on the image in the test strip below and preview it full size in finder to ensure that the image is properly exposed and in focus.