Getting Started

What is Vine?

Vine is an app for your Android or iOS phone that lets you shoot 6 second videos and share them with the world. It’s kind of like Twitter and Instagram but for video.

How do I get it?

Vine is free, so download it from the Google Play or App store.

Only 6 seconds? That’s not long enough to make a movie!

Restrictions are challenging, but challenges inspire creativity. 6 seconds is plenty of time for an insightful or hilarious movie if you plan it out before you shoot.

How does it work?

Open the app and click on the video camera 🎥 to get started.

To record, tap in the middle of the screen. As soon as you let go, the recording stops. This makes Vine great for stop motion movies, as a quick tap will just shoot for a millisecond.

Flip from front to rear camera

Your progress is tracked by the green bar at the top of the screen.

Focus

Ghost layer

Turn on/off grid lines

Tip: Shoot continuously by tapping and holding.

Top 4 Vine Tips

1. Plan Ahead: You’ve only got 6 seconds, so if you want to tell a story, you’re going to have to know exactly how you’re going to fit it all in prior to filming. Write-up a short script and even make a shot board or two. Check out the Planning Your Movie project card for tips on writing scripts and drawing shot boards.

2. In-Camera Editing: Since there’s no going back to correct shots, you have to edit while you shoot. This is called in-camera editing, and, while it can be a pain to get good at, it’ll make you a better moviemaker and photographer. There aren’t Vine editors like there are for photos to crop and correct color, etc. So, remember: what you see is what you get.
3. Lighting

Shooting outside is much easier than shooting inside because natural light is rad...and super bright! Go figure. If you’re shooting indoors:

- Take some test shots and see how it looks before you shoot your scene.
- Set up some extra lights. Hey, don’t we have a light kit in the ideaLAB? Hint, hint.
- Use the focus button to adjust the lighting. This will also prevent autofocus, which makes your Vine look like it’s pulsing.

4. Sound

For vines with dialog, test your sound levels before you record. Be conscious of where the microphone is placed on your phone. Smartphone mics are usually of decent quality, but placement is crucial to getting good sound. If you find yourself frequently video blogging or shooting lots of vines with dialog, you might consider getting a special external mic for your phone (yeah, they make those!).

Let’s Make a Stop Motion Vine!

Vine’s tap function makes stop motion super easy. Don’t limit yourself to clayimation or inanimate objects—people can be great stop motion characters. Like to draw? Do some stop motion animation! Follow these steps to make a cool stop motion vine:

1. Be ye still, phone!: In order for stop motion to look right, you’ll need to keep your phone still. You can tape it to a shoe box or even rig up a tripod. It doesn’t have to be pretty, just keep it still!

2. Slow and steady wins the race: The less you move your objects, the more real your stop motion will look. Stick to small movements. Keep your shots short, too—just tap, don’t hold down. The shorter the shot the better. Think: tap-move, tap-move, tap-move. This part takes some time, but it’s worth it.

3. G-g-g-ghost!: Accidentally knock over your tripod? Did your dog run off with your star action figure? Don’t despair! Click on the ghost layer button and a semi-transparent copy of your last frame will appear on the screen. Use it to line up your frames.

YOU’RE DONE! Here are a few more tips and ideas:

Short loops: You don’t have to use up the full 6 seconds. End at anytime by clicking on the arrow in the upper right corner of the recording screen.

Embed your vines on the web: Vine is a mobile app only, but you can share your video online. Just Google: “embed Vine videos” and you’ll find instructions on how to do this.

Open/close shutter: Block your lens with your finger or put something solid in front of it so all you see is black or white. This mimics opening/closing the shutter, making for cool transitions.

Vine Alternatives: Also, there are other smartphone video apps, like Instagram, that work a lot like Vine. Try those out, too. Who knows? You might like them better. What we covered here will still be useful.