



# Make Your Own Photobooth!

Since 2011 TechBrick Robotics has used a Photobooth instead of handing out buttons and other items. Why?

1. It is personalized and unique.
2. It is fun.
3. The cost is about .37 cents apiece. Comparable to buttons.
4. It gives a chance to interact with 100's of people during an event.
5. There are teams that collected these for the past 6 years. Cool!



## Here's what you need:

**Get a basic Windows 7 or 10 laptop.** It works best if you dedicate a laptop to this. You can get basic laptops for less than \$350 almost any day at Staples or BestBuy. Make sure it has at least two, if not three, real USB ports.

**Buy a copy of SparkBooth at <http://sparkbooth.com>.** There are commercial and personal licenses. You'll have to decide which one fits your application. Cost: Either \$55 or \$135. **Really, this is the best software out there but you can waste your time looking if you want to.** The pro version allows for a kiosk mode. Read about it at the website.



**Get a decent webcam. We recommend: Logitech HD Pro Webcams or similar high resolution web cam.** Great images and audio. Sparkbooth has a DSLR option if you want to go really big.



**Buy a USB Button.** You will use this to start the software without using the keyboard. There are other products if you search for "USB Button" on Google or Amazon. You can also get buttons here: <https://www.etsy.com/shop/raster>



**You Will Need a Powered USB 3.0 Hub with 4 or more ports:** Most laptops only have 2 or 3 USB ports and you may need more. Note: Do not plug cameras into the USB hub, plug them directly into the laptop. You can find them here: <https://www.amazon.com/s?k=usb+3.0+hub>



**Get a small external speaker that runs off USB.**

You can find them here: <https://www.amazon.com/s?k=usb+powered+speaker>



**Buy a Printer. We use the Canon Selphy Series.** It is small and prints 4-pass dye sublimation prints that won't smear and don't need to dry. Cost about \$99 from Staples. Paper comes in packs of 108 prints per box (Canon KP-108IN Black and Color Ink Cartridge & Photo Paper) at about \$38 per box. There are other small printers around if you want to search for others. But this one has a great cost-per-print factor. *Note: Make sure the printer you purchase has drivers for your operating system.*



**Look for the latest SELPHY here:**

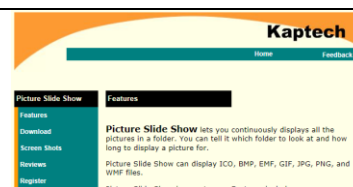
<https://www.usa.canon.com/internet/portal/us/home/products/list/printers/mobile-compact-printer/mobile-compact-printer>

**Use an LED ring light to highlight faces.** We use the Sunpak DSLR67 Non Dedicated Macro LED Ring Light (DSLRL67MRL) about \$30.

<http://www.adorama.com/sudslr67.html>. You will need to attach this to a mini-tripod or make a clamp.



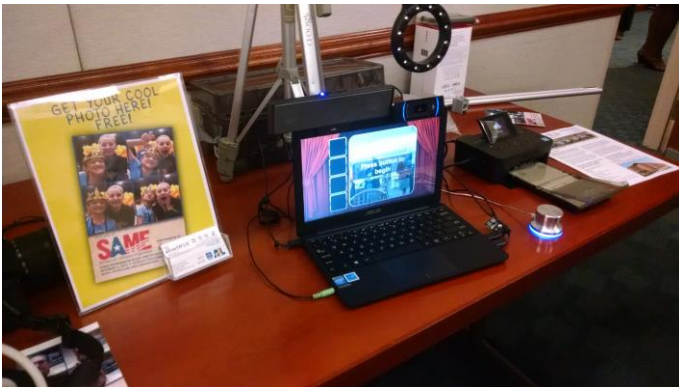
**Be Creative.** If you are so inclined use an external monitor and create a booth box, etc. Use a second laptop with a crossover cable and slide show software to show pictures as they are taken, etc.



## THE SETUP:



Camera plugged directly into the laptop. USB hub plugged into the other port. Printer, button, mouse (not visible) and speaker power plugged into strip in box behind the laptop.



Here you can see the ring light over the laptop to cast light on the faces.



We bought a small box to put the power strip and USB strip in and to keep all extra wires hidden and it also stores everything except the laptop.

Of course you could build a box with an external monitor etc. and make it official.

# Samples...

There are many templates in SparkBooth. We typically use the 4-top with a custom background. Sometimes we use a totally custom template. The pro version of Sparkbooth lets you design your own layouts.



Sparkbooth will save the full and individual pictures which can be use later for videos.

