

PORTAPROMPT

Interrotrons

The first question for many is what is an Interrotron? It's a traditional prompter but instead of the words from the script the presenter sees the interviewer's or director's face. This technique was pioneered by American film director Errol Morris in his award winning film *The Fog of War*. He explains:-

"I put my face on the Teleprompter or, strictly speaking, my live video image. For the first time, I could be talking to someone, and they could be talking to me and at the same time looking directly into the lens of the camera. Now, there was no looking off slightly to the side. No more faux first person. This was the true first person"

Interrotrons have been used in this way very successfully and not just for interviews. A recent job used the monitor purely as a bright light to attract a baby's attention & they have also been used with pets, with the owners face on screen, to get the animals attention down the lens. However the most typical usage is when working with the general public and shows like "24 Hours in A&E" are using this technique to get that open, easy & natural interview.

Today programme makers are using Interrotrons as an alternative to "word" prompting. This tends to be in where often one is working with inexperienced presenters who may not be comfortable in "reading" the script or are intimidated looking directly at the raw lens. Using an Interrotron means that the director can coach a natural conversation from the presenter (tell me about xyz) who now has a human face to react with. You also have the "through the lens" credibility and as with all prompting styles you are minimising the amounts of takes, to get the perfect one, **saving production cost!**



We offer 3 Interrotron solutions that can be either rented, or purchased from Portaprompt

Option 1: Passive Interrotron: A monitor less, stand based system, with the reflective glass mounted horizontally, allowing the interviewer to sit at 45 degrees to the interviewee.

Option 2: Active Interrotron: A monitor based system, which is in essence an *On Camera teleprompter* with a supplementary, freestanding webcam. The on-camera teleprompter is mounted on the studio camera tripod, RECORDING the PRESENTER for transmission. The Portaprompt webcam mounted on a light weight tripod sending a live image of the DIRECTOR, back to the Presenter. This image is not for Transmission. You can of course send other images to the PRESENTER monitor to suit the situation.

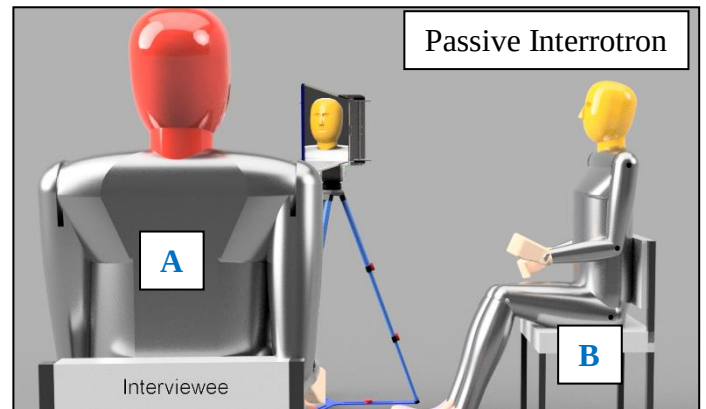
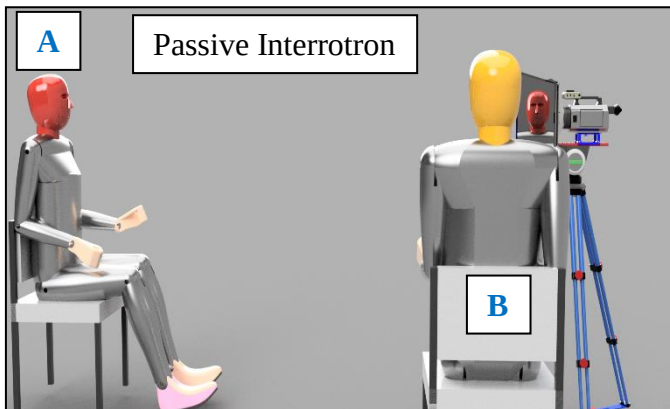
Option 3: Double Active Interrotron: A twin monitor based system with a supplementary, freestanding webcam. One standard on-camera teleprompter mounted on the studio camera tripod, RECORDING the PRESENTER for transmission. This image is also sent to the second on-camera teleprompter so the DIRECTOR can see the presenter. The other on-camera teleprompter mounted on our roll out stand with a Portaprompt webcam mounted in the rear of the hood, sending a live image of the DIRECTOR, back to the Presenter. This image is not for Transmission. This would be your 'video conferencing device' option allowing director & interviewee to converse with each other.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at info@portaprompt.co.uk to discuss your needs and we will be happy to offer our advice on the best possible solution for your particular needs.



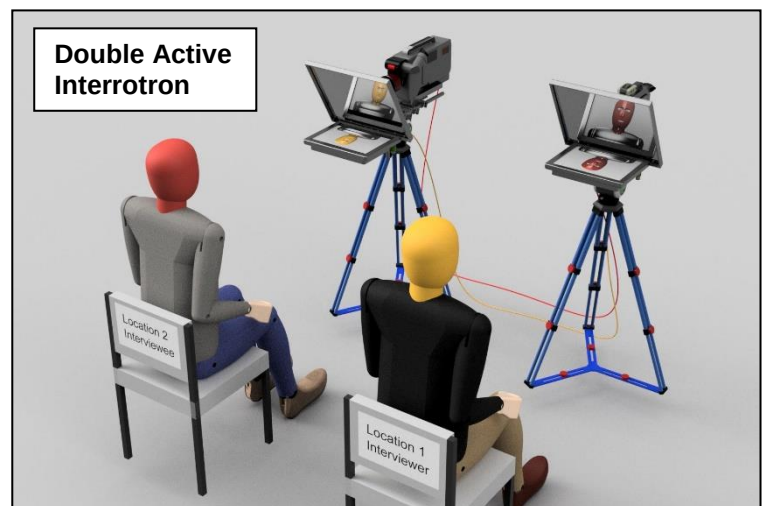
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How a Passive Interrotron works? - We take the usual prompting rig, remove the monitor and change the angle of the glass from reflecting the monitor at 45° to 90°. We then turn this to the left or the right so the presenter (A) whilst still looking down the camera lens, can also see the reflection in the glass of the director (B) who is sitting to either left or right of camera. This allows the presenter to maintain eye contact down the lens and react with the director. One tip is to use a simple office screen between the 2 people to break the direct eye-line makes sure the presenter keeps looking at the camera.



How an Active Interrotron works? This to all intent and purposes is a normal prompting rig but instead of a prompting software source (the script) from a PC the prompter head-up display is fed by a second camera which is capturing the director for the presenter to see.

More like a video conferencing device & does mean that the director and presenter could be in a **different locations or even countries** whilst still maintaining that all important down the lens eye contact. We have one client who regularly hires these for one of their shows where they have a presenter in Bristol and another one in London and by using this technique are able to save significant crew and travel costs using an Interrotron but which to the viewer makes it look as if they are in the same place and location and talking to each other!



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The Roll in Roll out stand (see picture)

The Interrotron can be rigged as a standard “on camera prompter” on tripod but what we do find is that many clients like to use a separate roll in / roll out stand so that can roll the Interrotron in when needed and away when not providing cameras with the all the flexibility required for shot composition and storytelling!

All of Portaprompt’s standard ranges, the 365/465 Personal Prompter, the Fusion mid-budget Range and our Broadcast Quasar Range have Interrotron functionality built in at no extra cost!

