

THE PROP LIST

Every real object that has to exist on the day.

Sizes are approximate and none of them are critical to the centimetre. What matters is that things read correctly on camera, and there are only three where the size genuinely changes the shot. Those are marked.

Ask Venkatesh first. He is a working cinematographer and may already own the backdrop, the stands and the lights. That will take most of this list off you in one message.

Anything he has is good enough. Nothing here needs to be bought new.

THE THREE THAT MATTER

The grey background

It must be about one stop darker than his grey hoodie or he cannot be cut out cleanly. Neutral, matte, no blue and no green.

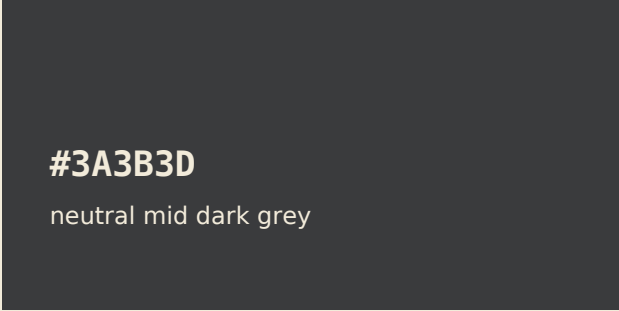
The magnifying glass

The lens must be big, about the width of his head. It is the film's transition object, so a small one will not work.

The ball on a stand

Hard and smooth, roughly a cricket ball. Not a tennis ball. His fingers must sit on a firm curve the way they would on a real lever.

The grey background



#3A3B3D

neutral mid dark grey

Savage Thunder Gray, Colorama Storm Grey, or a flat wall painted in that shade.

At least 3 by 3 metres so he has room to stand well clear of it.

- Truly neutral. No blue and no green in it. A colour cast throws that colour onto the edges of his hair and shoulders and it is very hard to remove afterwards.
- Matte, not shiny. A little texture is fine, a sheen is not.
- Lit evenly across the whole surface, no bright patch in the middle.
- He stands at least a metre and a half in front of it, ideally two. This is the one people get wrong. If he stands close, his shadow lands on the wall and he cannot be cut out.

NOT GREEN

There is no chroma key on this film. He is cut out against neutral grey and composited into drawn panels. A green screen would spill green light onto his hair and shoulders and we would lose the soft edges.

MAGNIFYING GLASS



Brass rim, clear glass, wooden handle. The lens must be big, about the width of Manan's head. This is the film's transition object, so a small one will not work.

MICROPHONE AND STAND



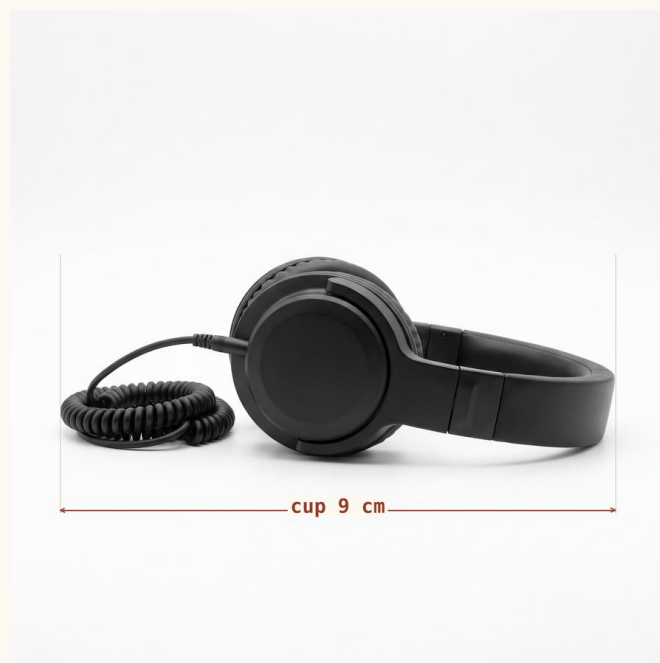
It only has to look like a studio microphone on camera. A pop shield in front of it reads instantly. Not used for the real recording, that is done separately.

MUSIC STAND



Holds his script pages at chest height. The pages are the brightest thing in the booth frame, so plain white paper, printed one side.

HEADPHONES



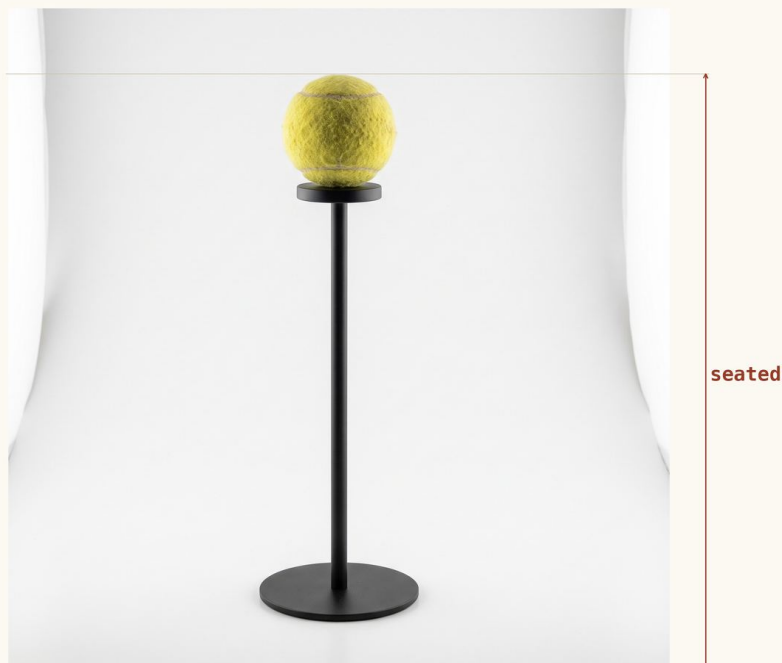
Over ear, dark. His own are fine. They read as a silhouette so only the shape matters.

BALL ON A STAND



For frames 8.3 and 8.6. His hand rests on top of it and the lever is drawn around his hand. Hard and smooth, roughly a cricket ball. NOT a tennis ball, it must not squash under the hand.

EYELINE MARKER



Never appears in the film. It gives Manan something real to look at where Coach Brain will be drawn. Any ball. Place it just left of the camera for frames 4.2 and 4.7.

BLACKBOARD AND CHALK



Leaning against the wall, shot completely clean and empty. The chain and the year are added after. Real white chalk in his hand. Matte slate, not glossy.

THE KEY



The only colour anywhere in the film. Brass or gold coloured, on a fine chain. He receives it in 8.5 and holds it in 8.7.

CYCLING HELMET



Plain, dark, no markings or logos. For the road frame 5.5 only.

STATIONARY BIKE



In his room, frames 5.6 to 5.9. Any exercise bike. Position it so the window light is behind him and the laptop sits to his left.

Wardrobe

The grey hoodie everywhere, except on the stationary bike where he is in a plain dark t shirt. He rides the road in the hoodie, comes back sweating, takes it off, and races the recording in a t shirt. The change reads as time passing between the outdoor ride and the indoor session, which is exactly the gap the scene needs and never states.

Plain mid grey, no logos, no stripes, nothing written on it. Dark jeans. Ordinary shoes.

The whole list

☐ Grey background, about 3 by 3 m	#3A3B3D, matte, neutral
☐ Magnifying glass	brass, lens about 15 cm, head sized
☐ Ball on a stand	8 cm hard ball, top at chest height 130 cm
☐ Tennis ball on a stand	eyeline marker, seated head height 115 cm
☐ Blackboard and white chalk	about 90 by 70 cm, matte slate, leaning
☐ Stationary exercise bike	any, in his room
☐ Bicycle and plain dark helmet	for the road, no logos on the helmet
☐ Small gold or brass key on a chain	the only colour in the film
☐ Music stand	90 to 140 cm
☐ Microphone on a stand with pop shield	only has to look right on camera
☐ Headphones	his own are fine
☐ Script pages printed	white paper, one side, they catch the light
☐ His own phone and laptop	already in the film
☐ Grey hoodie and plain dark t shirt	no logos