

Using Microsoft Movie Maker 2

From "Using Digital Media in Windows XP: A Guide for Educators"
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Connecting Your Camera to Your Computer

Before you can start editing video with Windows Movie Maker 2 for Windows XP, you have to make sure you're set up with the right hardware.

Because there is such a wide variety of hardware available, it is impossible to detail every possible configuration. The following list describes some of the basic capture devices and explains how to connect them to your computer. Depending on the capture device and associated hardware you have on your computer, you could use none, one, or several of the listed configurations.

Digital Camera Connected to an IEEE 1394 Card

To get the best quality from your digital video (DV) camera or mini-DV camera, you should have an IEEE 1394 capture card installed on your computer. An IEEE 1394 card is a piece of hardware that passes the information from the DV camera to your computer. Because the data is already in digital form, it can be read and transferred directly to your computer without any processing or conversion. That means you'll enjoy the highest-quality video that is possible with a consumer video camera.

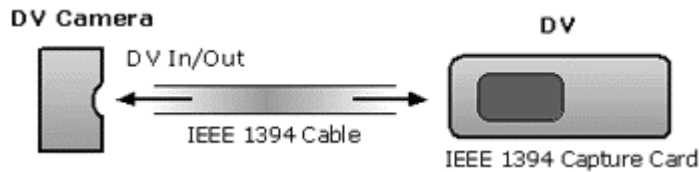


Figure 3-1. Connecting a DV camcorder to an IEEE 1394 capture card.

Downloading Video to Your Computer

Once you have your hardware configured, you can capture video and audio to your computer. Using Movie Maker 2 with Windows XP, it's easy to capture video and audio from tape or live action. This article explains how.

Capture Video from a Tape in a DV Camera

Connect your DV camera to your computer; as discussed earlier, in most cases this requires an IEEE 1394 adapter on your PC and an IEEE 1394 cable to connect your camera. On the camera, set the camera mode to play the recorded video. (This is often labeled VTR or VCR on a DV camera.)

Start Movie Maker. To start Movie Maker, click Start, point to All Programs, point to Accessories, and then click Windows Movie Maker.

On the File menu, click Capture Video. Alternatively, in the Movie Tasks pane, under Capture Video, click Capture From Video Device.

On the Video Capture Device page, in Available Devices, click the DV camera.

In the Enter A File Name For Your Captured Video box, enter a name for your captured video file. Then, in the Choose A Place To Save Your Captured Video box, select the location where you want your video to be saved, or click Browse to select a location.

On the Video Setting page, choose the video setting you want to use for capturing video and audio.

On the Capture Method page, click Capture The Entire Tape Automatically. The tape in the DV camera will rewind. Capture will begin automatically and ends when the video tape ends.

Select any of the following commands:

- To separate the video into smaller clips, select the Create Clips When Wizard Finishes check box.
- To stop capturing before the end of the video tape, click Stop Capture, and then click Yes in the resulting dialog box to save the video that has been captured.

To close the Video Capture Wizard, click Finish.

The captured content will be imported into a new collection with the same name as the specified video file.

Capture Parts of a Video from a Tape in a DV Camera

If you want to capture parts of a video from a tape on your DV camera, rather than the entire video, perform the first five steps in the procedure above, and then the following steps:

1. On the Capture Method page, click Capture Parts Of The Tape Manually.
2. To separate the video into smaller clips, select the Create Clips When Wizard Finishes check box.
3. To prevent audio from playing while capturing video, select the Mute Speakers check box.
4. Locate the video and audio you want to capture from your tape by using either the controls on your DV camera or VCR or the DV Camera Controls in the wizard.
5. To begin capturing video, click Start Capture. The tape will play automatically and capture will begin.
6. When the tape reaches the point at which you want to stop capturing, click Stop Capture. Repeat these steps for each part of the video tape that you want to capture.

7. When you have finished capturing, click Finish to close the Video Capture Wizard.

The captured content will be imported into a new collection with the same name as the specified video file.

AutoMovie Makes It Easy

Once you have captured video onto your computer, you're ready to make your own movies. Windows Movie Maker 2 has a new built-in feature called AutoMovie, which does exactly what its name implies: it automatically makes a home movie for you. Now, you can create great home movies with just a few clicks. All you have to do is select the footage, select an audio track, and choose an editing style. AutoMovie does the rest. It analyzes the selected video, pictures, and music, and combines the different elements with transitions and effects to make a movie.

Best of all, AutoMovie will create a storyboard and timeline for you, so if there's anything you want to change about your AutoMovie, you can easily do that later.

When using AutoMovie, you must first complete the following steps:

- Select a clip collection or choose multiple individual clips in the Collections pane or Contents pane.
- Make sure the clips you chose contain video and/or pictures, as well as at least one audio clip.
- Make sure the audio clip is long enough to play for the total duration of all of the clips you've selected.

To use AutoMovie:

1. Select a collection or multiple clips in the Contents pane.

On the Tools menu, click AutoMovie.

Or:

2. In the Movie Tasks pane, under Edit Movie, click Make an AutoMovie.
3. In the Select An AutoMovie Editing Style dialog box, click on a style.

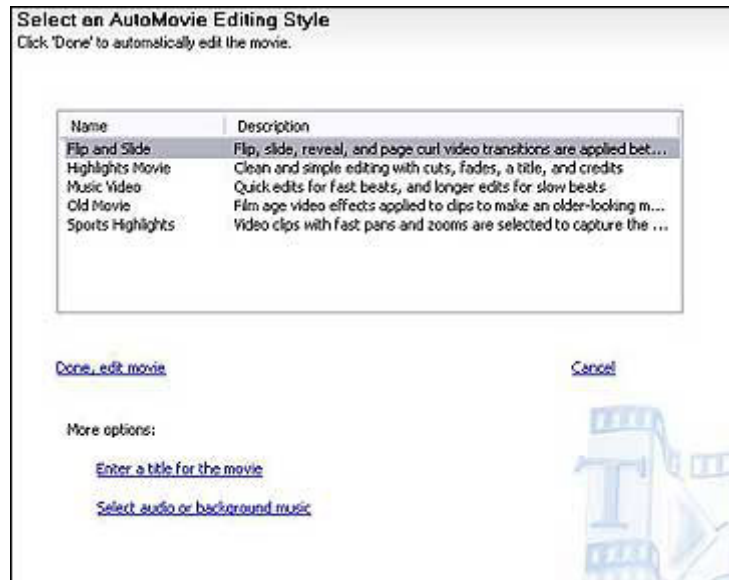


Figure 3-7. Select an editing style.

Under More Options, click Enter A Title For The Movie.

4. In the Enter Text For Title dialog box, type the text you want to appear as the title.
5. Under More Options, click Select Audio Or Background Music.

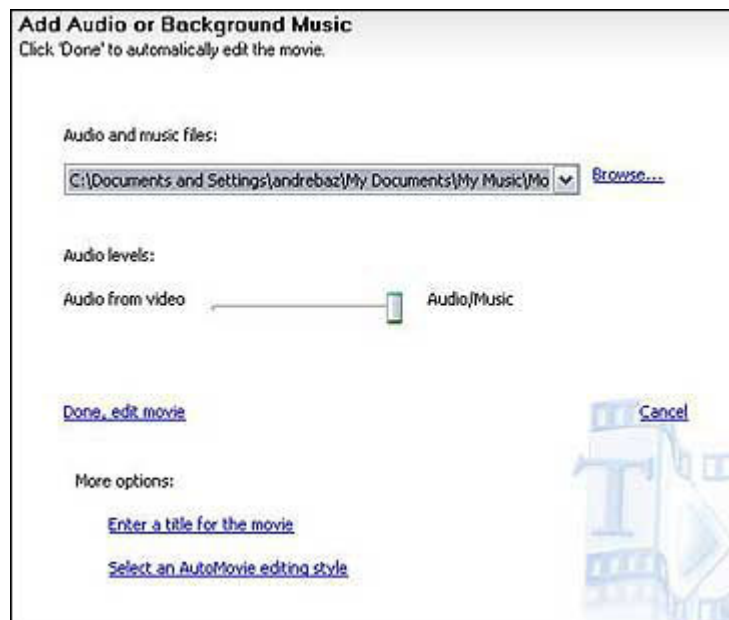


Figure 3-8. Add audio and music files.

Under Audio And Music Files, do one of the following:

- Select an audio or music file from the current list.

- Click Browse to import an audio or music file on your hard disk into Windows Movie Maker 2 to use in your movie.
- Select None if you do not want any audio or music added to your movie.

If your movie will include audio or music, you can do one of the following:

- To increase the audio level of an audio clip on the Audio/Music track, drag the slider bar towards Audio/Music.
- To increase the audio level of the audio on the Audio track that is part of a video clip, drag the slider bar towards Audio From Video.

Click Done, Edit Movie to create the AutoMovie and add the clips to the storyboard/timeline.

The time it takes for the AutoMovie to be processed and added to the storyboard/timeline depends on the duration of the movie, and the size of the audio, video, and picture files. Generally, it will take about 1/3 the time of the overall length of the clips to complete the process.

Creating a Movie

Windows Movie Maker 2 makes it easy for just about anyone to make movies on their computer. Chapter 3 showed you how to use Movie Maker's AutoMovie feature to automatically generate a movie with an audio track, transitions, and video effects. When you use AutoMovie, most of the directorial decisions are made for you.

But you can also have complete control over your movie, from building the storyboard to editing clips, to selecting and adding transitions, effects, titles, music, and narration. This chapter will show you how, as well as how to save and share your finished movie.

Build a Storyboard

Movie Maker automatically divides your video into segments to make it easier to drag and drop the parts you want onto the storyboard where you put your movie together.

To build a storyboard:

6. Import video to your PC. You'll see your clips in the Collections view.
7. Double click on each clip to see how it looks in the preview window.

Once you've decided which ones you want to put in your movie, click and drag the clips to the Storyboard in the order in which you'd like them to appear in your final movie.



Figure 4-1. The Storyboard.

To rearrange your clips on the storyboard, just drag and drop them to a different location.

Edit Your Clips

Trim your clips to get exactly the footage you need.

To edit clips:

8. In the Timeline view, click on the clip you'd like to trim.
9. In the Preview window, drag the scroll bar slowly and watch as the video progresses.
10. Stop at the point where you want to trim the clip.
11. On the Clip menu, click Set Start Trim Point.
12. Now continue to drag the progress indicator until you reach the desired end point of your clip.

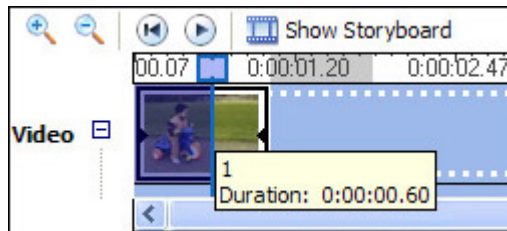


Figure 4-2. Editing a clip.

13. On the Clip menu, click Set End Trim Point.

You will now have your trimmed clip.

After selecting and editing your clips, you're ready to add other movie features to your timeline. The remaining sections of this chapter will show you how.

Creating Video Transitions

With Windows Movie Maker 2 for Windows XP, you can make your home movies look more polished and professional by adding video transitions. A video transition controls the way one clip or picture in your movie moves to the next. You can add a transition between any combination of video clips, pictures, and titles on the timeline or storyboard view.

Transitions are stored in the Video Transitions folder in the Collections pane. Windows Movie Maker 2 has over 130 new titles, effects, and transitions. You can control the playback duration of a video transition, but it can't be any longer than the shorter of the two adjacent clips. Select the clip or picture to which you want to transition. Drag it over the clip or picture from which you want to transition on the timeline. A cross-fade is the default transition that is automatically added between the two clips.

Any transitions you add appear on the Transition track of the timeline. Expand the Video track to see the Transition track. The video transition length, highlighted in the square, is determined by the amount of overlap between two clips.



Figure 4-3. A timeline with an added video transition.

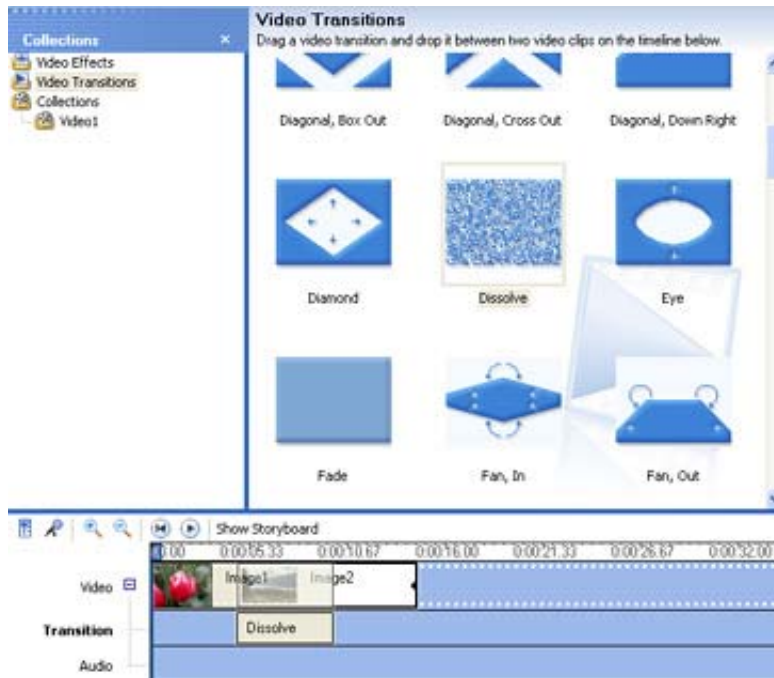


Figure 4-4. A project on the storyboard with a video transition.

To add a transition:

8. On the storyboard/timeline, select the second of the two video clips or pictures that you want to transition between.
9. On the Tools menu, click Video Transitions.

Or :

1. In the Movie Tasks pane, under Edit Movie, click View Video Transitions.
2. In the Contents pane, double click on the video transitions to preview them.
3. Select the one you want, click on it, and drag it to the appropriate place on the storyboard or timeline.
4. On the Clip menu, click Add To Timeline or Add To Storyboard.

You can also add a transition between two clips by going to the Clip menu, clicking Add To Timeline or Add To Storyboard. Or, on the storyboard, you can drag and drop a transition to the video transition cell between two clips.

Adding Video Effects

Windows Movie Maker 2 for Windows XP makes it easy to add a wide variety of eye-popping effects to your home movies.

A video effect determines how a video clip, picture, or title looks in your final movie. For example, you might have video that would look great if it had a classic, old-time movie look. With Movie Maker, you can add one of the Film Age video effects to give it that old-fashioned look. A video effect is applied for the duration of the video clip, picture, or title. You can add any of the video effects that appear in the Video Effects folder in the Collections pane.

Video effects are maintained when you split, cut, copy, or move a video clip or picture. For example, if you add the Grayscale video effect, and then split the clip, the Grayscale video effect is applied to both clips. If you combine two video clips, the video effects that were associated with the first clip are applied to the new combined clip. The video effects that were associated with the second clip are removed.

The following illustration shows a project on the timeline with an added video effect. An icon appears on the video clip or picture that you applied the effect to.

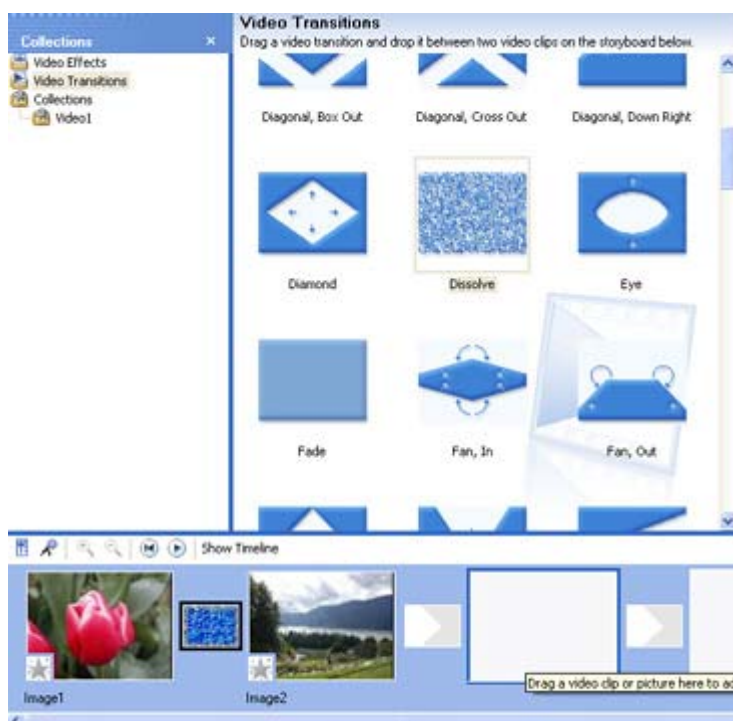


Figure 4-5. Project on timeline with an added video effect.

The following illustration shows a project on the storyboard with an added video effect. An icon, highlighted in the red square, appears in the video effects cell to indicate that a video effect is applied.

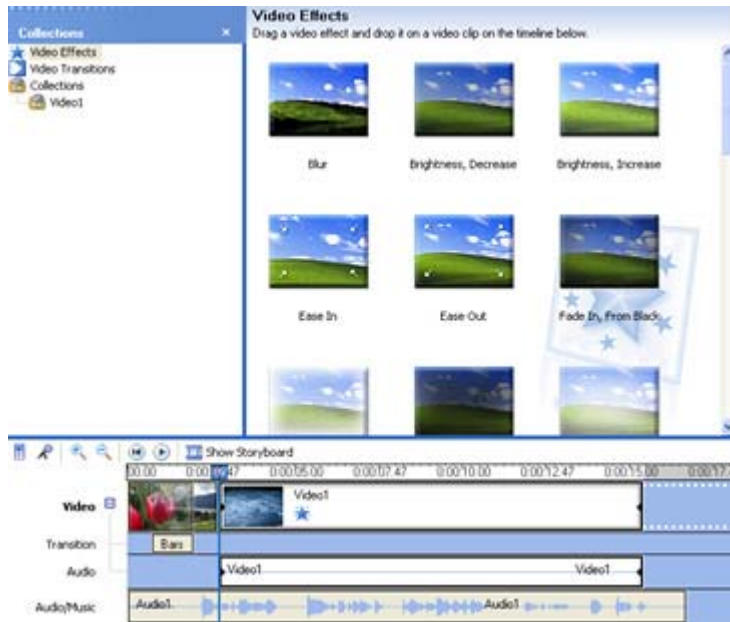


Figure 4-6. Project on storyboard with an added video effect.

To add video effects to your video clips, pictures, or titles:

14. On the storyboard/timeline, select the video clip, picture, or title that you want to add the video effect to.
15. On the Tools menu, click Video Effects.

Or:

16. In the Movie Tasks pane, under Edit Movie, click View Video Effects.
17. Double-click the effects to see how they look in the preview window.
18. Drag the effect you want to use onto the clip in the storyboard and place it on top of the star in the lower left-hand corner of the clip.

You can also add an effect by clicking on the effect, then going to the Clip Menu and clicking Add To Timeline or Add To Storyboard.

Adding Titles and Credits

Windows Movie Maker 2 for Windows XP includes features that make it easy to add titles and credits to your movies. You can add any text that you'd like, including the title of your movie, your name, the date, and the names of the actors. You can also place the titles anywhere you want—at the beginning or end of a movie, before or after a clip, or even overlaying a clip. You can also specify the length of time that the title will appear.

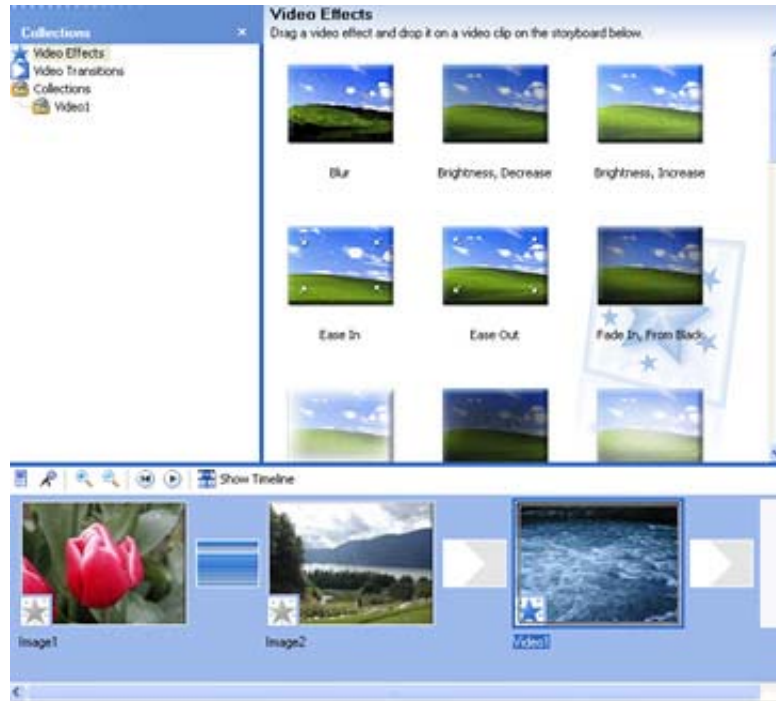


Figure 4-7. A project with a title that displays before a video clip.

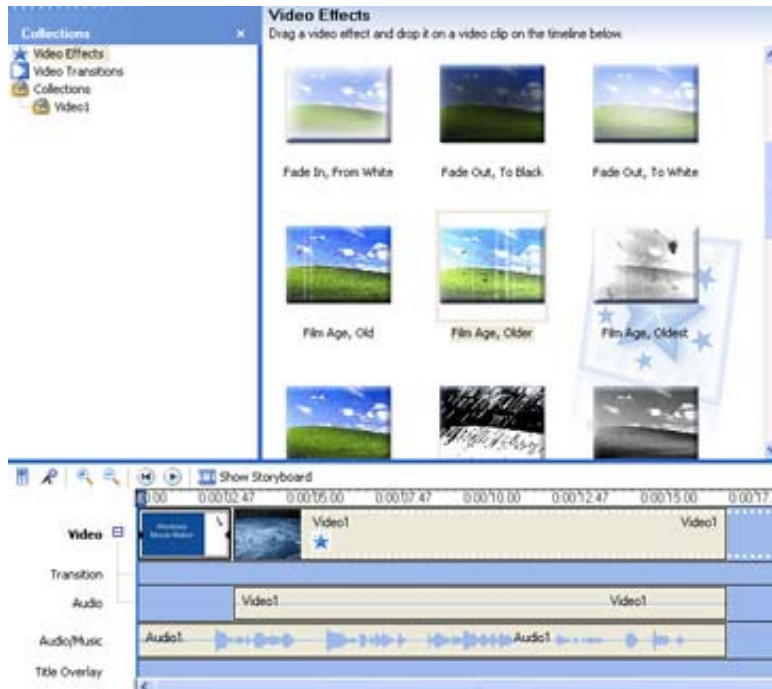


Figure 4-8. A project with displays as an overlay title over a video clip.

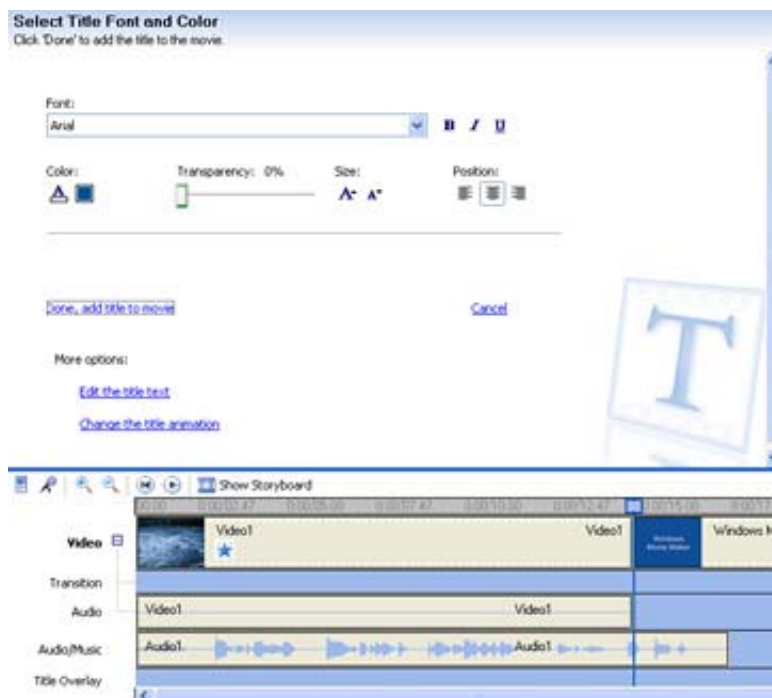


Figure 4-9. A project with credits that appear at the end of the project.

Choosing the Title Animation

With title animation effects, you can control the way titles play back in your movies. For example, the Typewriter title animation displays title text one character at a time.

Windows Movie Maker includes three categories of title animations:

- **Titles, One Line** As the name suggests, the title animations in this category are best suited for titles that contain a single line of text. When you select a title animation from this category, the text area for entering the title appears as one large text box. The text you enter then appears all at once in your movie, even if your title actually runs to more than one line of text.
- **Titles, Two Lines** The title animations in this category work best for titles that contain two or more lines of text. When you pick a title animation in this category, you'll see two areas for entering text. The first line of text you enter appears first and then the second line of text appears shortly after the first line of text is displayed.
- **Credits** Movie Maker also makes it easy to add credits to your home movies. When a title animation is selected in this category, the text area for entering the credits appears as a small grid. Use the top row to enter the title of your movie. The rows below provide two columns where you can enter information about your movie. You can use the first column for entering titles such as director and scriptwriter, and the second column to enter their names, for example.

For each category, if the title will appear as an overlay, you'll see the notation (overlay) at the end of the title animation description.

Entering Titles and Credits

Here's how to use title and credit features of Windows Movie Maker 2:

10. On the Tools menu, click Titles And Credits.

Or:

1. In the Movie Tasks pane, under Edit Movie, click Make Titles Or Credits.
2. On the Where Do You Want To Add A Title? page, click a link that corresponds to the place where you want to add the title.
3. In the Enter Text For Title page, type the text you want to appear as the title.
4. Click Change The Title Animation, and then on the Choose The Title Animation page, select a title animation from the list.
5. Click Change The Text And Font Color, and then on the Select Title Font And Color page, choose the font, font color, formatting, background color, transparency, font size, and position of the title.
6. Click Done, Add Title To Movie to add the title to your movie.

Adding Music

Adding a soundtrack is a great way to enhance the meaning and excitement of the movies you create. With Windows Movie Maker 2 for Windows XP, it's easy to add favorite songs, evocative mood music, or any other audio you'd like to include as part of a soundtrack.

Once you've assembled the elements of your home movie on the storyboard, you're ready to add music. Here's how:

11. In the Tasks Pane, click Import Audio Or Music (or click on File menu, then Import Into Collections)
12. Your My Music folder will open. Navigate to the song that you want and click on it, then click the Import button in the lower right-hand corner. This will bring your music clip into your collection.
13. Click on the Show Timeline button above the storyboard, or use the View drop-down menu and click on Timeline
14. Drag the audio file down to the Audio/Music track
15. You can move the audio clip left to right to coincide with a particular video clip. And if the music is too long for your video, you can trim it. Simply scroll along the Timeline all the way to the right, so you can see the end of the audio clip. Move the cursor onto the end of the song, and a red double arrow will appear. Drag the clip to the left as far as you want to create the end point of the music.

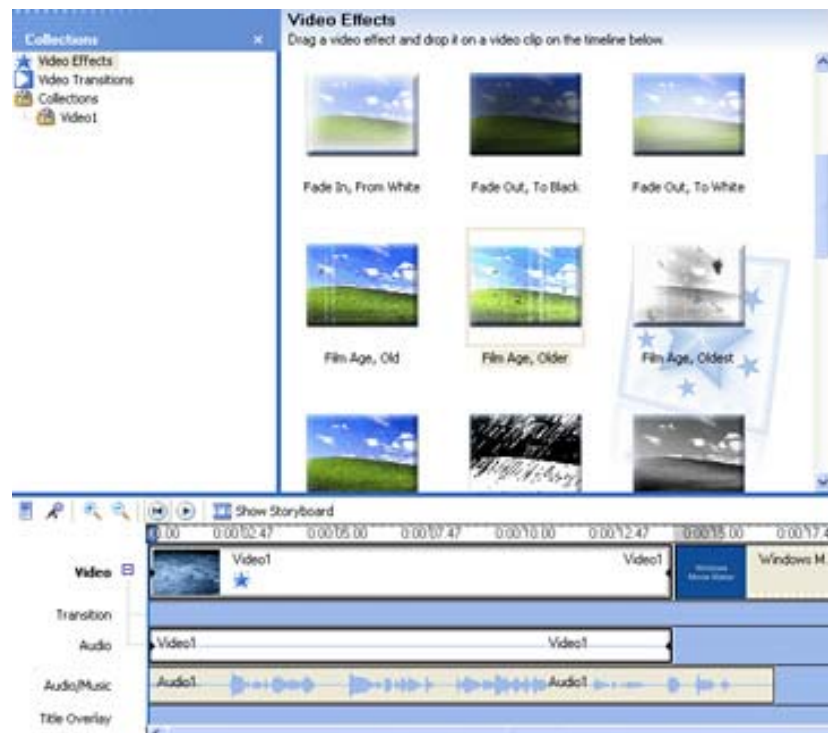


Figure 4-10. Adjusting the audio.

You can adjust the volume of the music you add in relationship to and the volume of the audio on the video clip. For example, or you can turn the audio track on the video clip all the way down so that only the music is heard, or adjust the levels so that both are audible.

To adjust the volume of an audio clip:

16. On the Audio or Audio/Music track of the timeline, select the audio clip that you want to adjust the volume for.
17. On the Clip menu, point to Audio, and then click Volume.
18. To adjust the volume, do one of the following:
 - To reduce the volume, move the Audio Volume Level slider to the left.
 - To increase the volume, move the Audio Volume Level slider to the right.
 - To mute the clip, select the Mute Clip check box.
 - To reset the volume to the original volume, click Reset.

To adjust the volume of an audio clip relative to the audio from the video clip:

19. Just above the Timeline view, click on the Volume icon on the left.
20. A slider will appear, and you can drag it left or right, depending on whether you want the audio from the video to be more prominent or the music to be more prominent.



Figure 4-11. Setting audio levels.

Adding Narration

With Windows Movie Maker 2 for Windows XP, you can easily add a voice-over to your home movies. Adding narration lets you use your own words and voice to describe the scene that viewers are seeing.

To add voice narration to your movie, you need a microphone installed on your PC.

Once you've assembled the elements of your home movie on the storyboard, you are ready to start your narration:

1. On the View menu, click Timeline (or click Show Timeline in the Storyboard section).
2. Move the playback indicator on the timeline, which appears as a square with a vertical line, to a point on the timeline where the Audio/Music track is empty and where you want to begin your audio narration.
3. Click on the microphone icon above the timeline, or go to Tools menu and select Narrate Timeline.
4. To see more options, click Show More Options, and do the following:
 - If you have added other audio clips to the Audio/Music track and you do not want the other clips to shift on the timeline, select the Limit Narration To Available Free Space On Audio/Music Track check box.
 - In the Audio Device list, click the audio capture device you want to use. Then, in Audio Input Source, click the line that you want to use.
 - To adjust the volume of your captured audio, move the Input Level slider to the level you prefer.



Figure 4-12: Adding narration.

- Select the Mute Speakers check box to prevent the audio from a video clip on the timeline from playing back over your speakers while you are narrating the timeline. This keeps unwanted audio from being captured in your narration.
5. Click Start Narration and begin narrating the content on the timeline.
 6. Do one of the following:
 - If the Limit Narration To Available Free Space On Audio/Music Track check box is selected, narrate the timeline until the time limit expires.

- If the Limit Narration To Available Free Space On Audio/Music Track check box is cleared, click Stop Narration after you have finished narrating the contents on the timeline.
7. In the File Name box, type a name for your captured audio narration, and then click Save.

The audio narration you captured is imported automatically into the current collection and the narration is added automatically to the point on the Audio/Music track where the narration was first started.

Saving and Sharing Movies

Once you've finished editing, added all the effects, and inserted titles and credits, the Save Movie Wizard in Windows Movie Maker 2 for Windows XP makes it easy to save your project as a final movie. Timing, layout, and content are all saved as one complete movie. You can save and store the movie on your computer or on a recordable CD. You can send it as an attachment in an e-mail message. Or upload it to a video hosting provider on the Web. You can also choose to record your movie on a tape in a digital video camera. Keep in mind that when you save your movie, you must decide how to balance quality against file size: the better the quality, the larger the resulting file size.

Options offered by the Save Movie Wizard include:

- **My Computer** Choose this option when you want to store your finished movie on your PC. You'll be able to play it back on your computer using Windows Media Player.

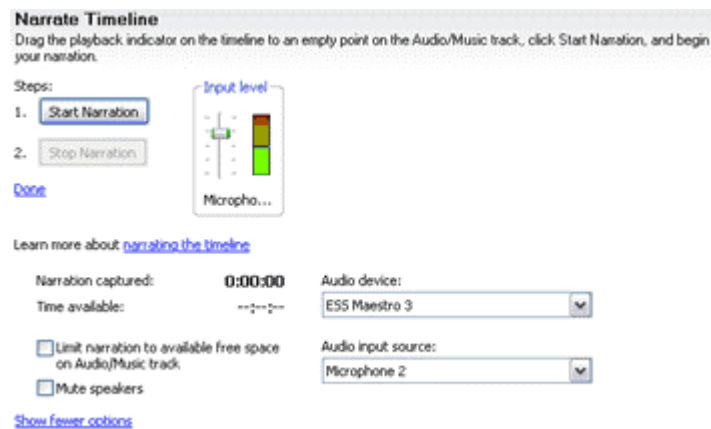


Figure 4-13. Save a Movie Wizard.

- **Recordable CD** Use this option to save your movie to a CD-ROM so your friends and family can view it on their own computers. To save movies to a CD, you must have a rewriteable or recordable CD drive attached to your computer.
- **E-mail** If your movie is short, you may want to send it directly in e-mail. This option will save your movie as an e-mail attachment. You'll probably

want to select a lower bit rate (for example 56 kbps) in order to keep the file size down.

- **The Web** You can post your movie to a Web hosting provider directly through Windows Movie Maker 2. If you don't already have an account at a video hosting provider, Movie Maker will walk you through the steps necessary to sign up with one of two providers that currently offer free trial accounts. Once your movies are posted, simply send a Web address to friends and family.
- **DV camera** You can also save your finished movie back to the tape in your digital video camera when connected through a FireWire cable. This option enables you to view your movie on a television (when you connect the camera to a TV).