

LIGHTS! CAMERA! & ACTION! Let's Make a Movie (Windows Movie Maker)

[Download video from your camera to your computer](#)

The first step toward creating great home movies is to download your video from your camera to your computer. Once you download your video, you can edit it into an exciting movie that you can share with friends across the Internet or watch on your TV.

Depending on your camera and connection, there are several different ways to download video from your camera to your PC:

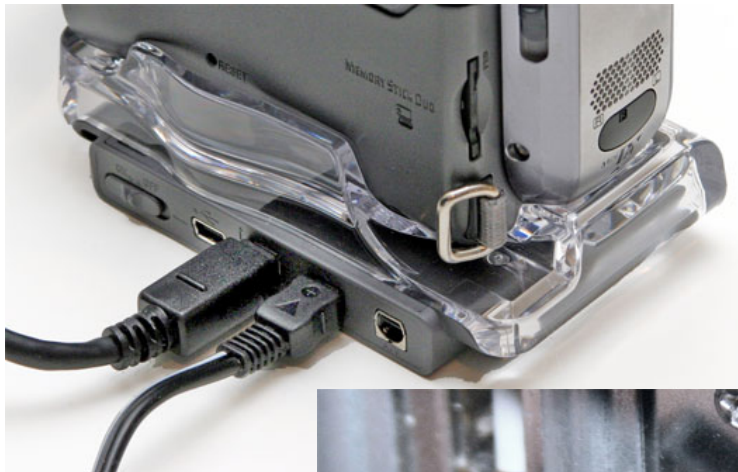
- i, Link cable (also known as FireWire or IEEE 1394) connection
- USB cable connection and video footage on a tape
- Video footage on a hard disk or memory card

How to download video using an i.Link/FireWire/IEEE 1394 connection

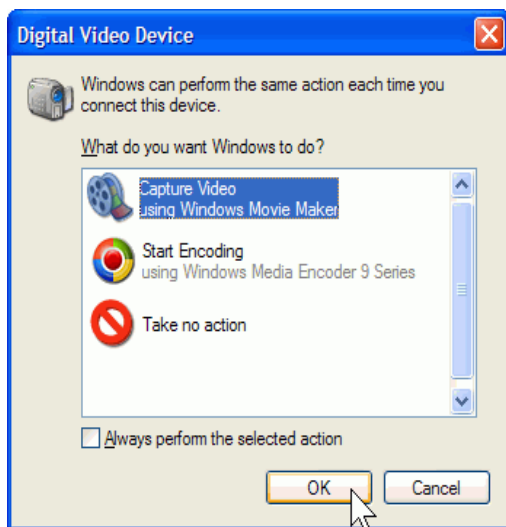
An i.Link cable is the quickest and easiest way to download your video to your computer.

To transfer your video

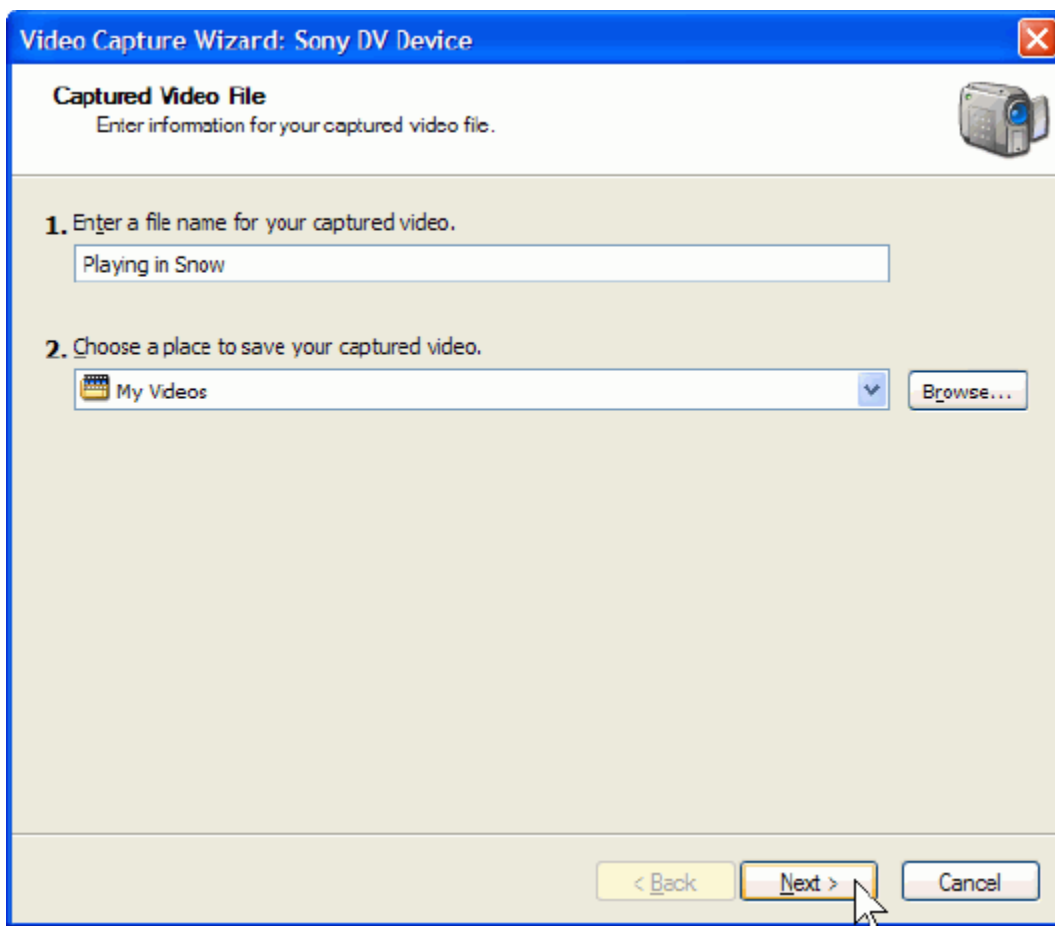
1. Connect your digital video camera to your computer using a i, Link cable.



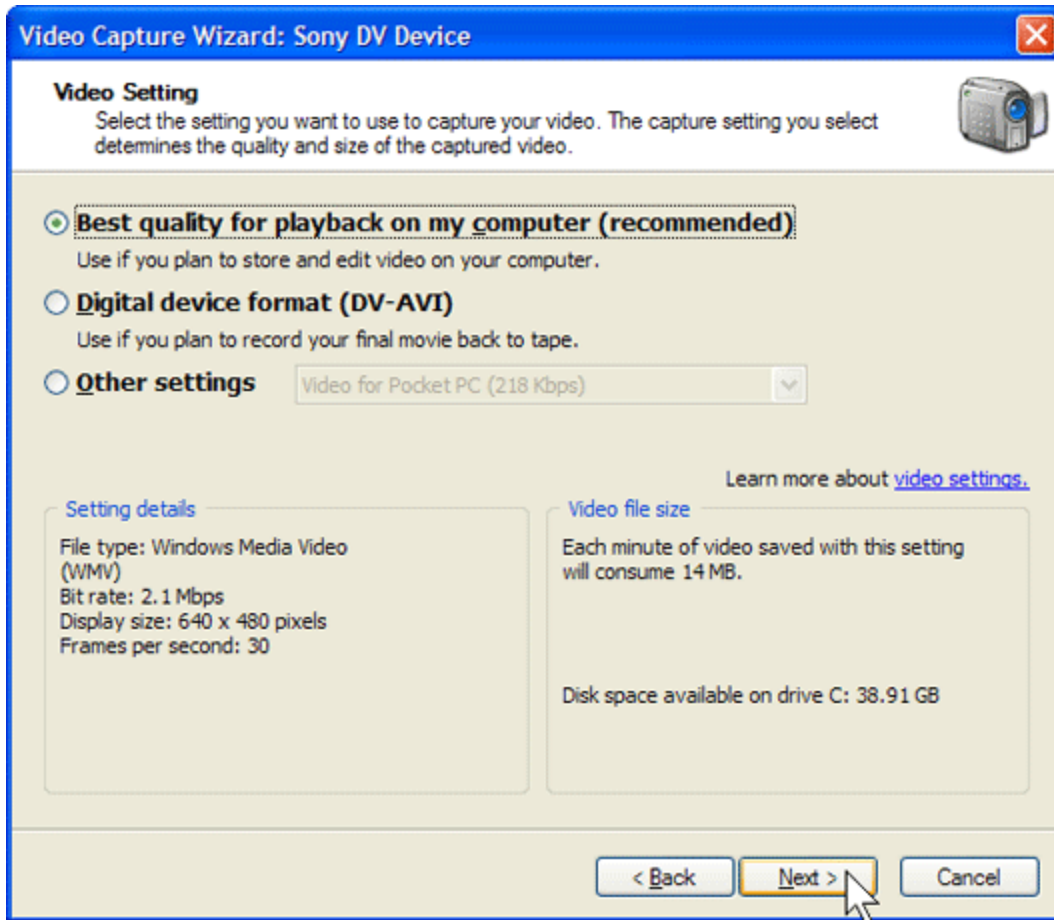
2. Turn your camera on, and set it to playback mode. When prompted, click Capture Video using Windows Movie Maker. Then click OK.



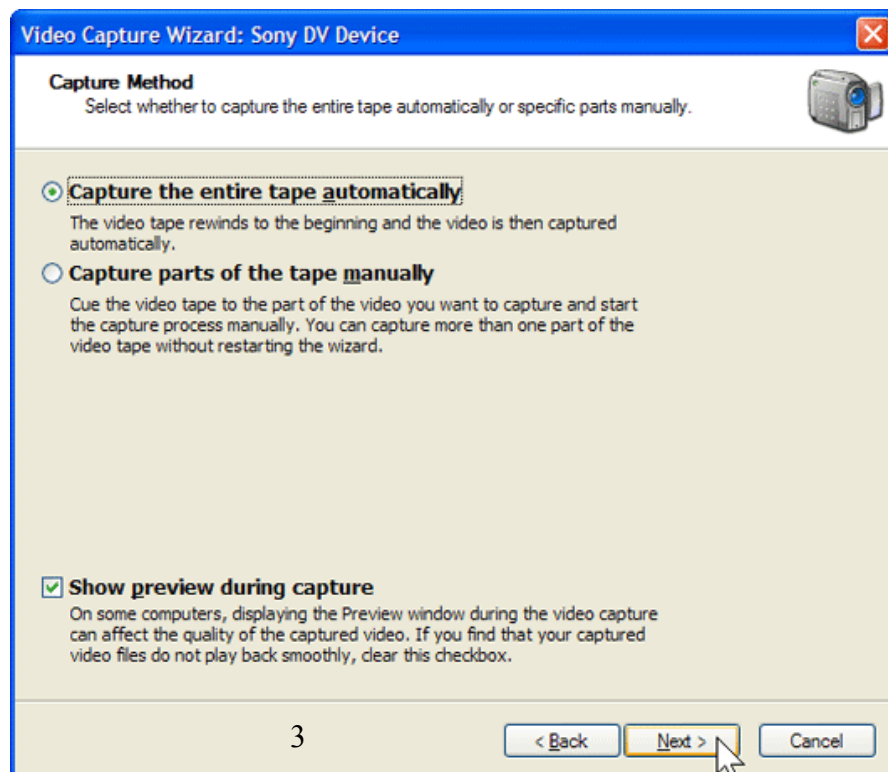
3. Microsoft Windows Movie Maker starts the Video Capture Wizard. On the **Capture Video File** page, type a name for your video. Then click **Next**.



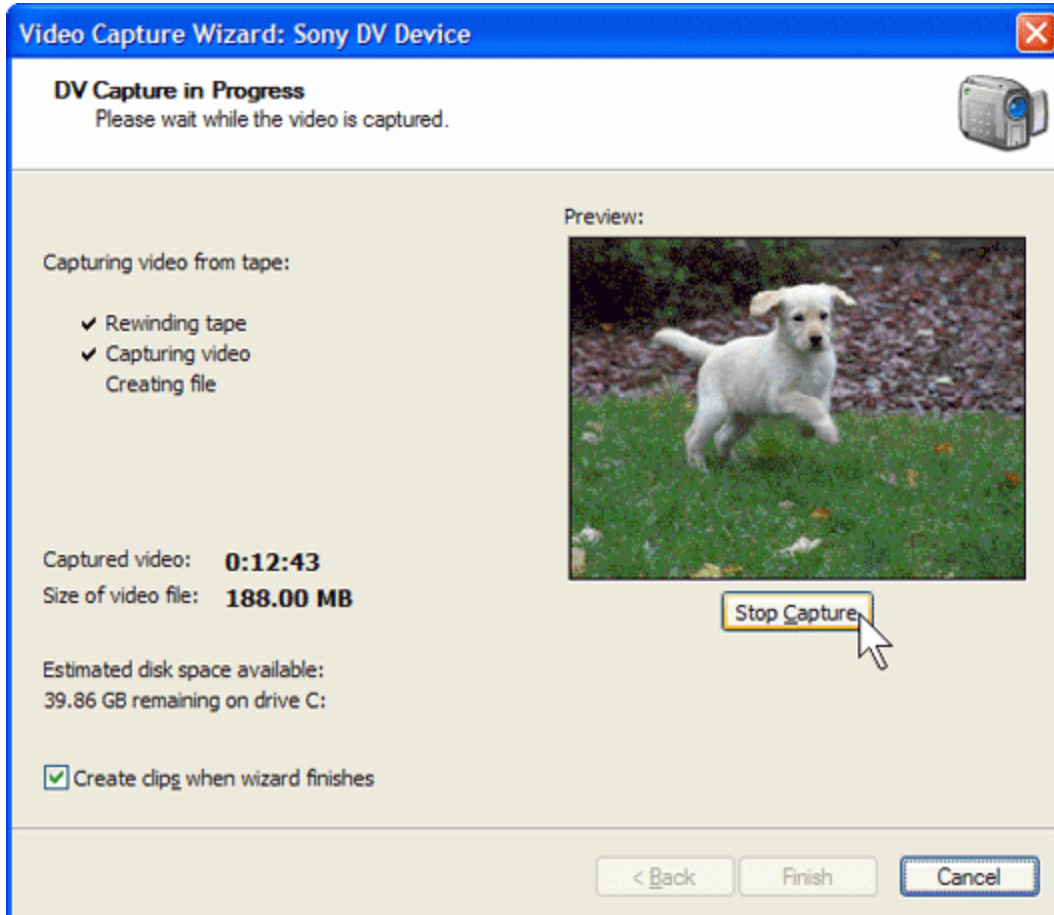
4. On the **Video Setting** page, accept the default settings by clicking **Next**.



5. On the **Capture Method** page, click **Next**. It's easiest to capture the entire tape at once; if sections remain that you don't need, you can delete them later.



6. The Video Capture Wizard rewinds your tape and then begins capturing it. While the tape is being captured, you'll see it playing in the Preview window and you'll be able to hear the audio through your speakers. After the tape is captured (this usually takes about an hour), the wizard will stop automatically. It always scans the entire tape, even if you have just recorded a few minutes of video. If you reach the end of your recording before it reaches the end of your tape, click the **Stop Capture** button, and then click **Yes**.



Movie Maker automatically breaks your movie into clips and adds the clips to a video collection with the name you provided. Now you're ready to [edit your movie](#).

How to download video using a USB or analog connection

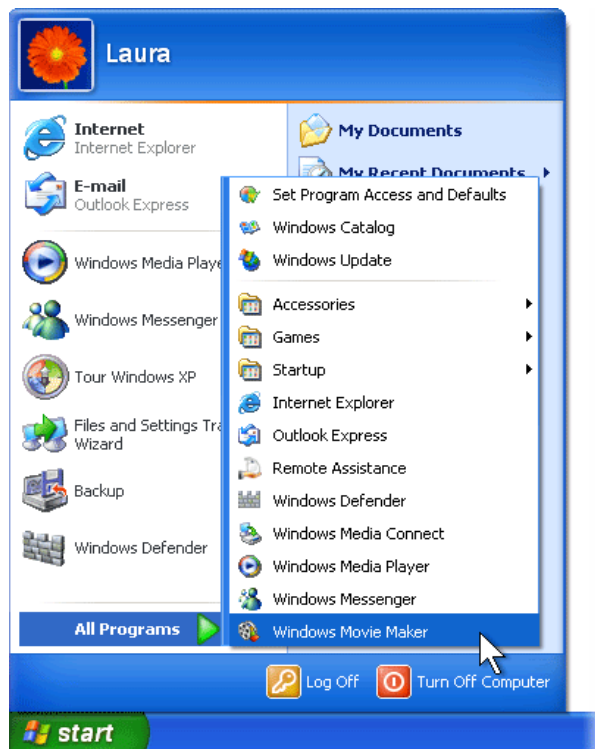
Though a USB cable or analog video connection is not as easy to use as an i.Link connection, you can still download video to your computer by manually rewinding your camera, pressing the play button, and then starting the capture.

To download your video:

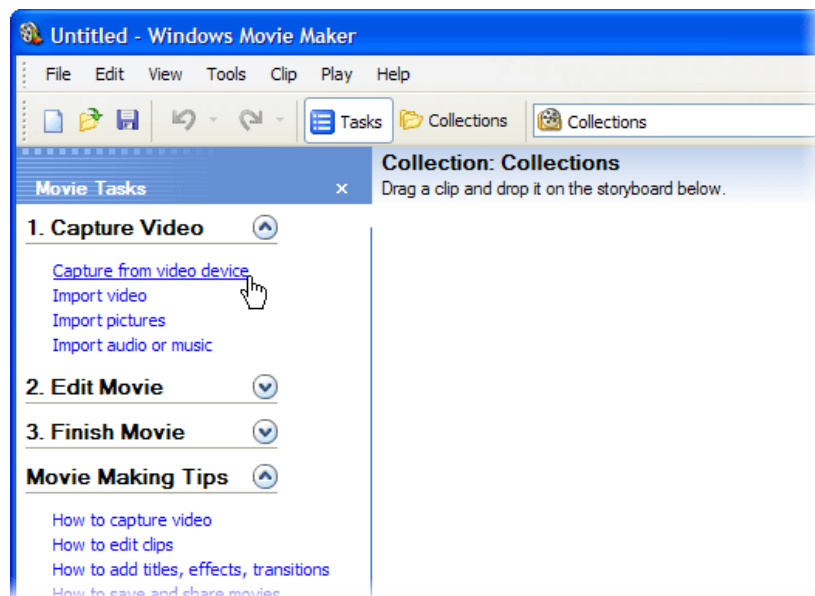
1. Connect your digital video camera to your computer using a USB cable or analog video connection.



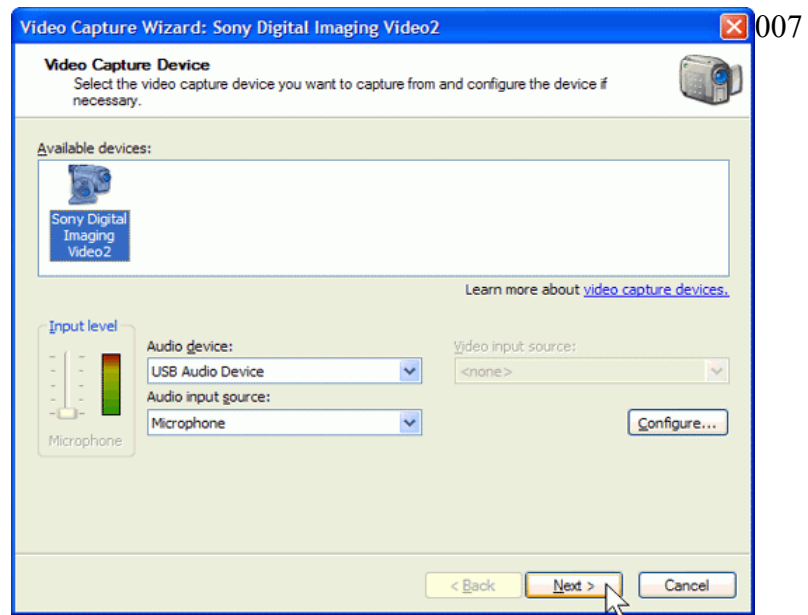
2. Start Movie Maker by clicking **Start**, pointing to **All Programs**, and then clicking **Windows Movie Maker**.



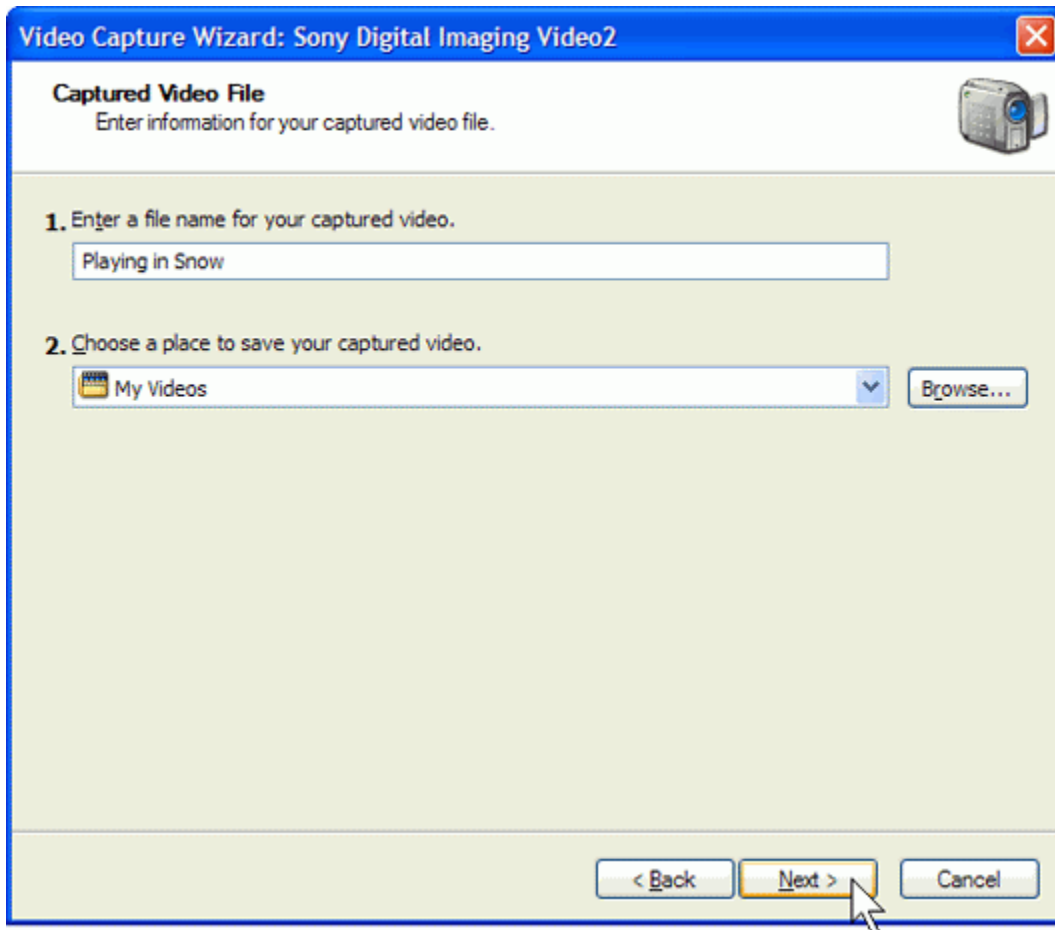
In the **Movie Tasks** pane, under **Capture Video**, click **Capture from video device**.



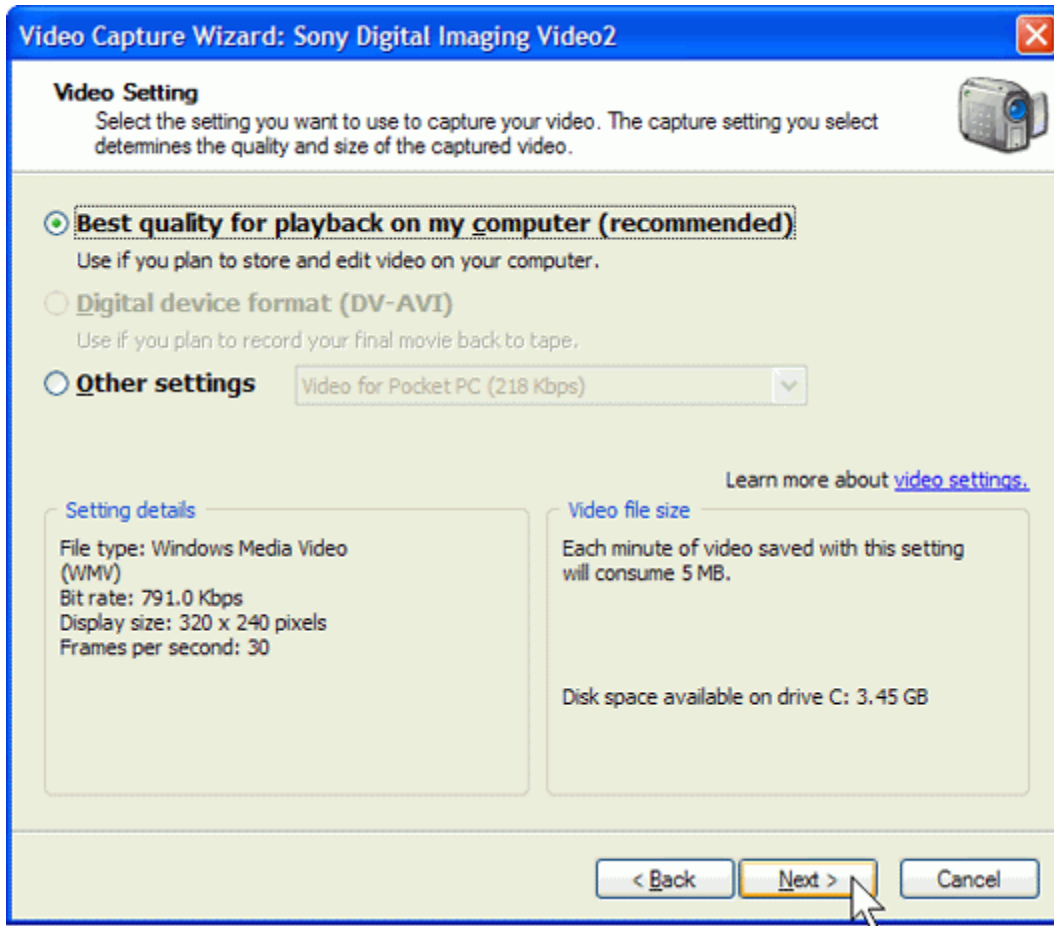
4. Movie Maker starts the Video Capture Wizard. On the **Video Capture Device** page, click your camera. Then click **Next**.



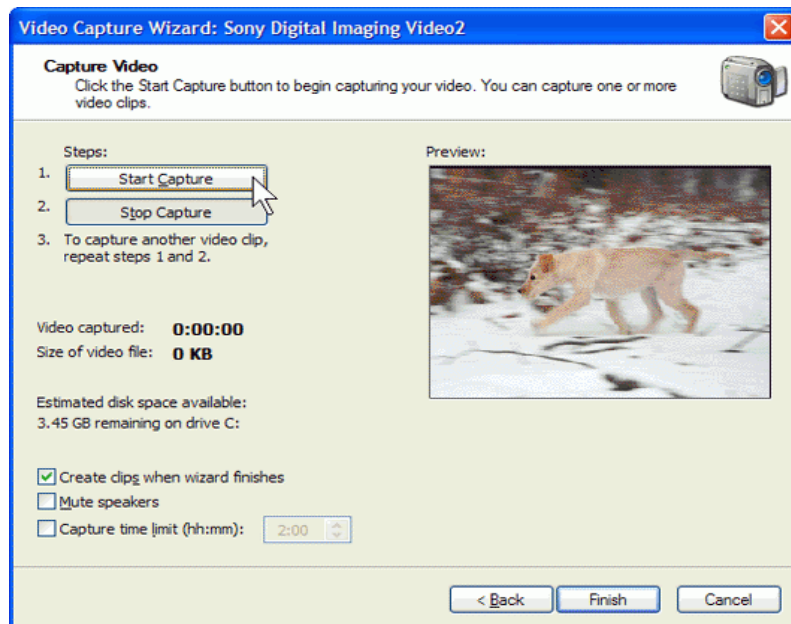
5. On the **Capture Video File** page, type a name for your video. Then click **Next**.



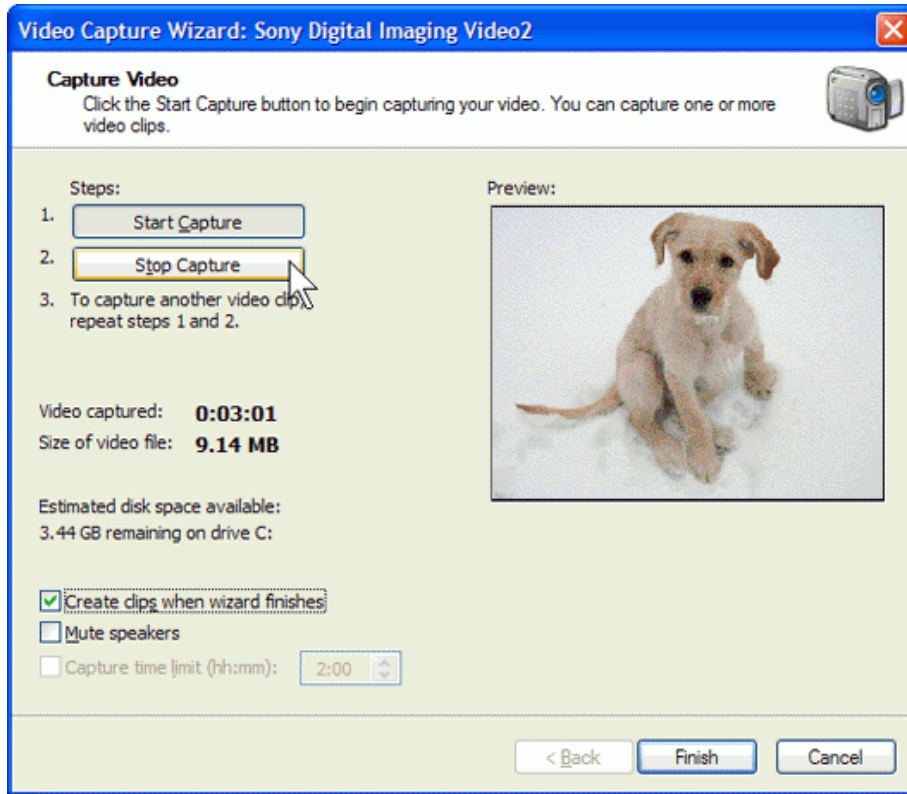
6. On the **Video Setting** page, accept the default settings by clicking **Next**.



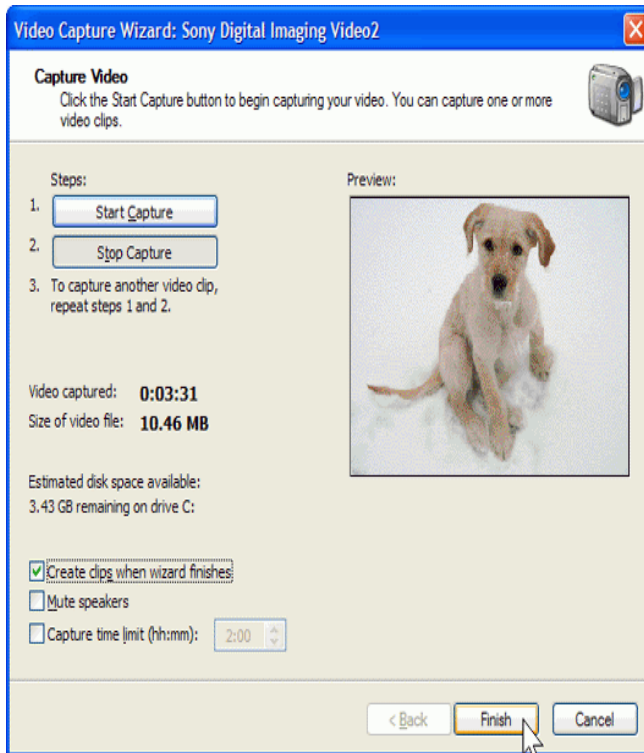
7. On the **Capture Video** page, use your video camera to rewind or fast-forward to about five seconds before the start of the clip that you want to download. Then press the play button on your video camera, and immediately click the **Start Capture** button in the Video Capture Wizard. It's okay if you start capturing too early, because you can trim the beginning of the clip later.



8. Click **Stop Capture** at the end of your clip. It's also okay to capture the entire tape at once, because you can break it into shorter clips later.



9. Repeat steps 7 and 8 to capture other clips. When you're done, click **Finish**.



Movie Maker automatically breaks your movie into clips and adds the clips to a video collection with the name you provided.

Add transitions and special effects

Windows Movie Maker includes about 60 transitions and 28 special effects you can easily use to add professional touches and visual interest to your movies.

Transitions are how one scene switches to the next. Rather than simply ending one scene and beginning the next, you can use Movie Maker transitions to insert fades,

flips, dissolves, and other dramatic shifts between scenes.

[Special effects](#) change the appearance of a video clip by rotating it, slowing it down or speeding it up, or making it appear like old film footage. Like transitions, you can easily add special effects to your movie by dragging the relevant special effect icon onto your movie timeline.

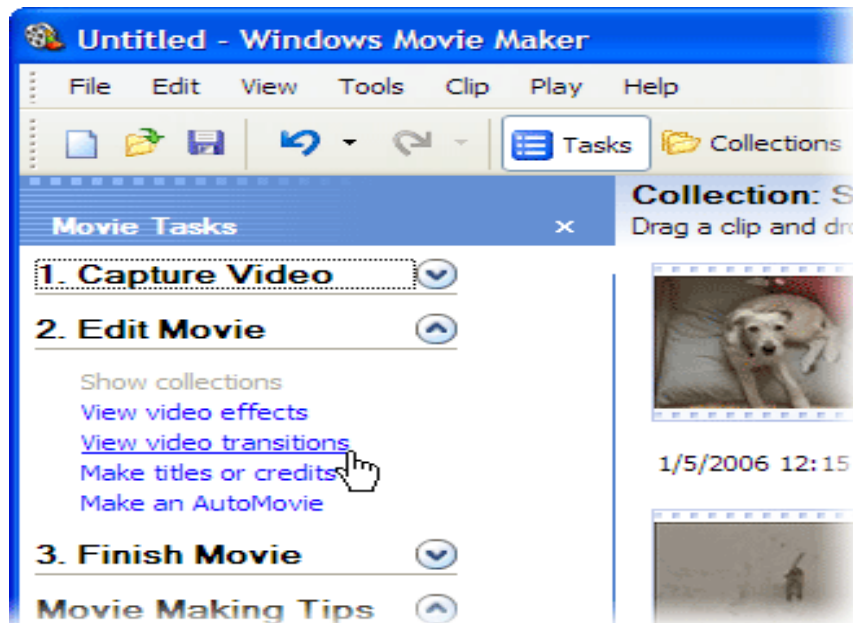
How to add a transition

Transitions do cool things as your movie switches from one scene to the next.

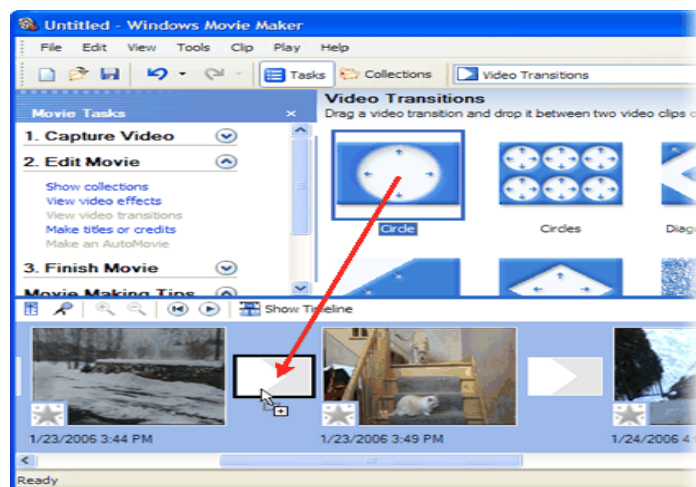
Note: In most movies and TV shows, there are no transitions; scenes simply advance from one to the next. Therefore, for the most professional appearance, don't use any transitions. Home movies are supposed to be fun, though, so use all the crazy transitions you want. However, remember your audience: you might want to use just use a few so you don't overwhelm your viewers.

To add a transition between tow movie clips

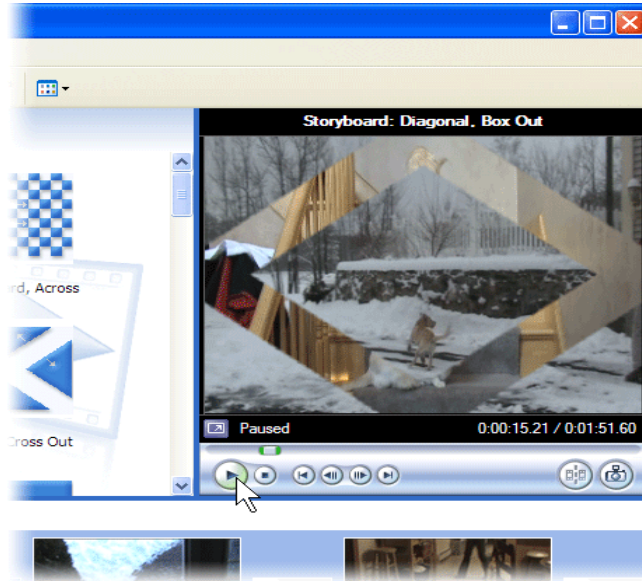
1. Download video from your camera to your computer, and add clips from your collection to your storyboard.
2. In the **Movie Tasks** pane, under **Edit Movie**, click **View video transitions**.



3. Preview transitions by double-clicking them and watching the Preview Monitor. Once you've found a transition you like, drag it from the Video Transitions pane, under Edit Movie pane to the box between two of your clips. This inserts the transition between the two clips.

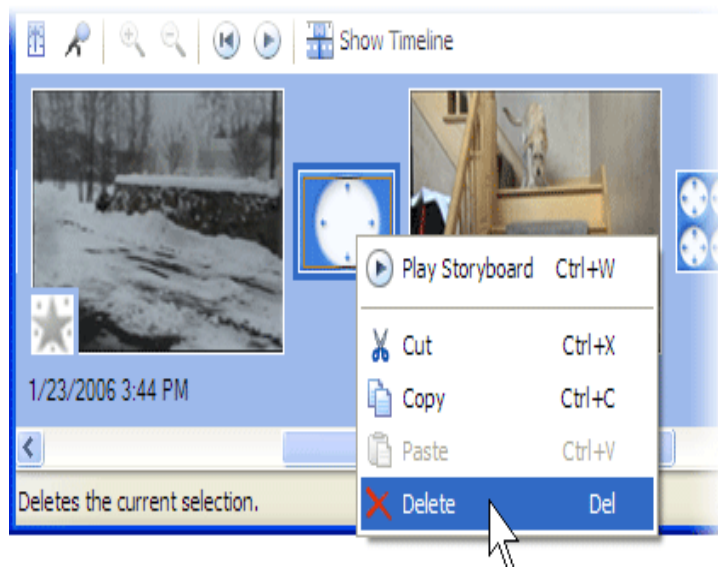


4. In the Preview Monitor, click the **Video Transitions** pane, under **Play** button to watch your transition in action. If you don't like it, just return to the previous step to replace it with a different transition.



If you decide not to use any transition, right-click it on the storyboard, and click Delete.

Transitions cause your video clips to overlap by about one second, which means you won't see all of the first or last second of your clip. So, when you're filming, it's good to start the camera a few seconds before the action starts, and to keep filming for a couple of seconds afterward so that you have time to transition between scenes. This also helps you get a steadier shot. If you don't need the extra time in a clip, you can [trim it from your clip in Movie Maker](#).



How to add a special effect

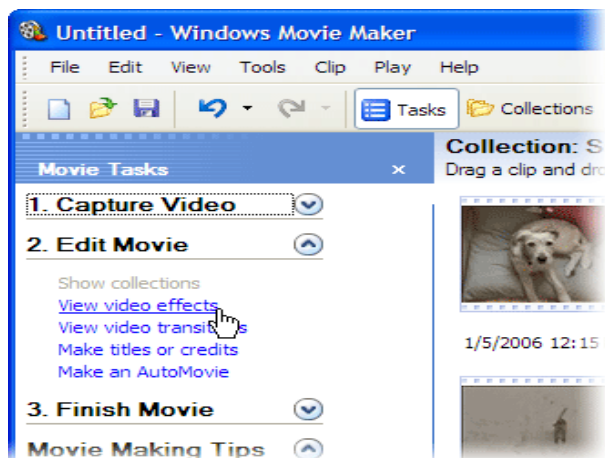
You can use special effects to change how your clips play in several different ways:

- Speed up a clip using Speed Up, Double, or slow down a clip using Slow Down, Half.
- Zoom in using Ease In, or zoom out using Ease Out.
- Make a clip appear older by using Sepia Tone, Film Age, or Grayscale.
- Rotate a clip using one of the Rotate effects (perfect if someone accidentally hold the camera sideways).
- Fade in using one of the Fade In effects, or fade out using one of the Fade Out effects.
- Fix exposure problems using Brightness, Decrease or Brightness, Increase.

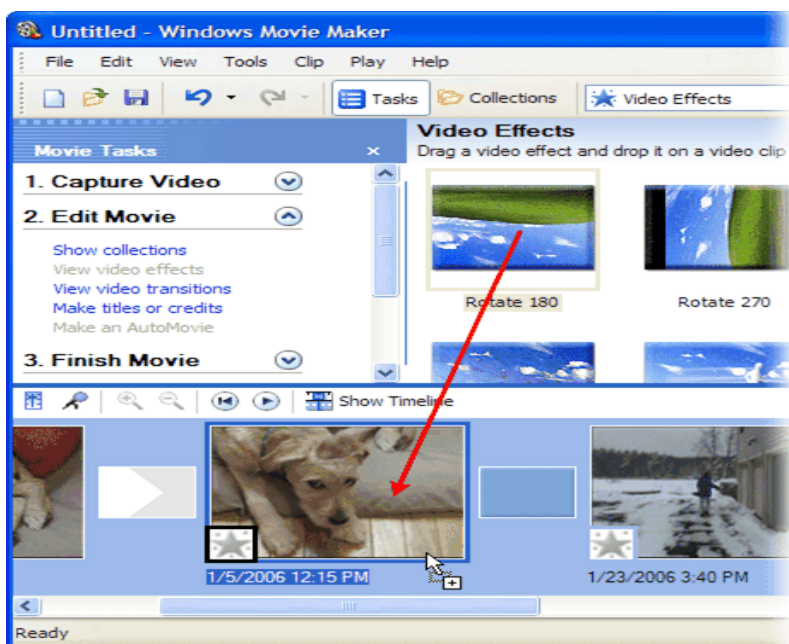
To add a Special Effect

1. Download video from your camera to your computer, and add clips from your collection to your storyboard.

2. In the **Movie Tasks** pane, under **Edit Movie** click **View video effects**.



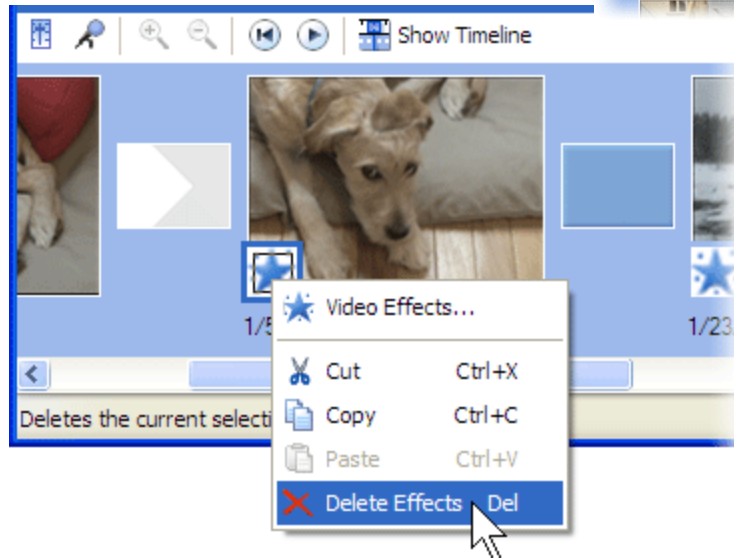
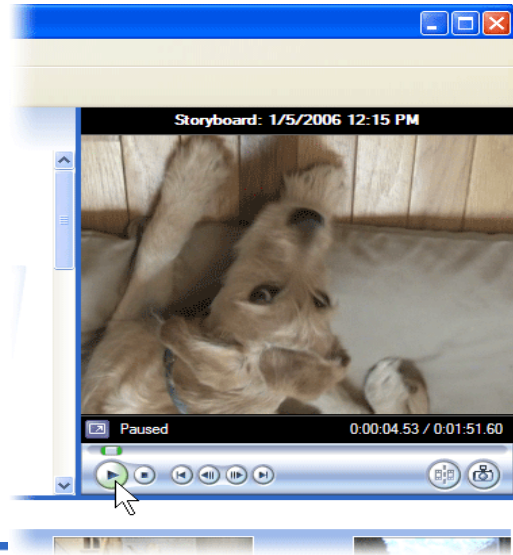
3. Preview effects by double-clicking them and watching the Preview Monitor. Once you've found an effect you like, drag it from the **Video Effects** pane to one of your clips. This adds the effect to the clip, which you can see by looking at the star in the lower-left corner of the clip.



4. In the Preview Monitor, click the **Play** button to watch your effect in action.

You can add more than one effect to a clip. For example, if you want to both brighten a clip and add a zoom effect, you can add **Ease In** and **Brightness, Increase**. You can also add a single effect multiple times to increase the effect. For example, add multiple **Brightness, Increase** effects to brighten a scene even more, or add two **Speed Up Double** effects to quadruple the speed of a clip.

If you don't like the effect, right-click the **star** icon in the lower-left corner of the clip, and click **Delete Effects**.



Add titles and credits

Opening titles introduce your movie to your audience and provide background information about what they're about to watch. For example, a good opening title might be, "Tom's Fourth Birthday Party" or "Hite Family Vacation 2006." You can show a title on a blank background or over your first clip.

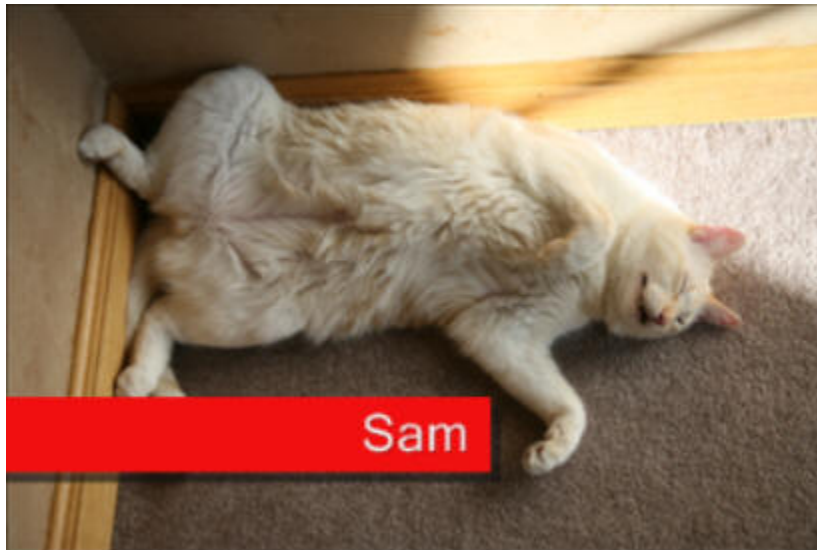
clip.



Credits at the end of your movie provide a more satisfying ending while telling the viewer who was in the movie. This is also a great place to thank the people who helped you make the movie. You can show credits on a blank background or over your last clip. In Movie Maker, credits are considered a special type of title that can comprise many lines.

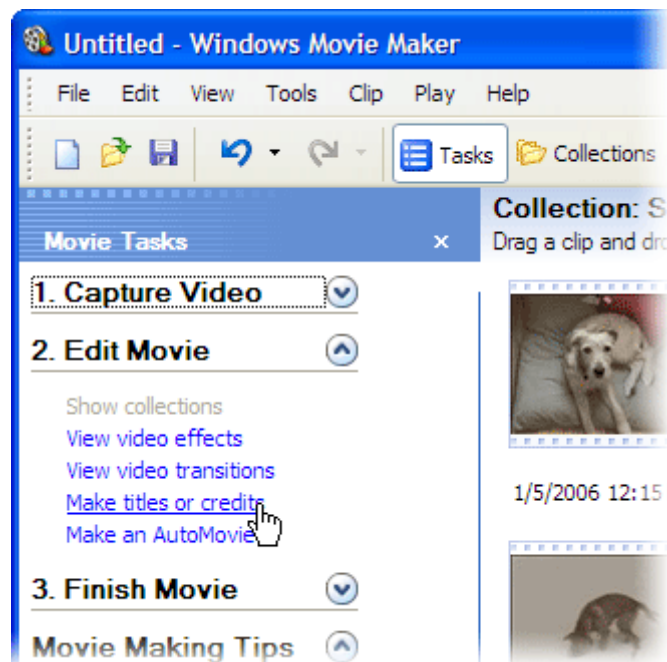


You can also use titles throughout your movie to introduce scenes or describe what is happening on screen. For example, in a vacation movie, you might add a title between scenes that reads, "Day 2: The Water Park". Or you can use titles to introduce people. For example, the first time each of your family members appears on screen, you might display a title over the video that shows their name.

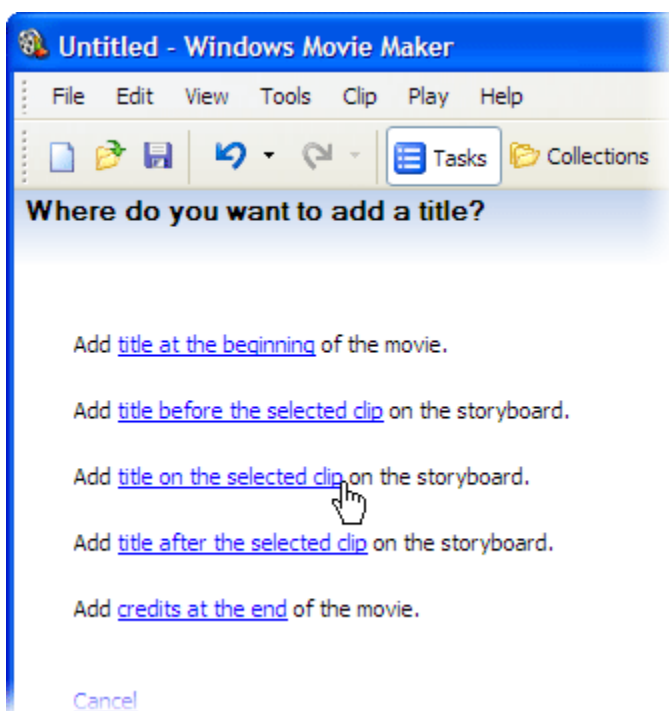


To add a title screen before your movie

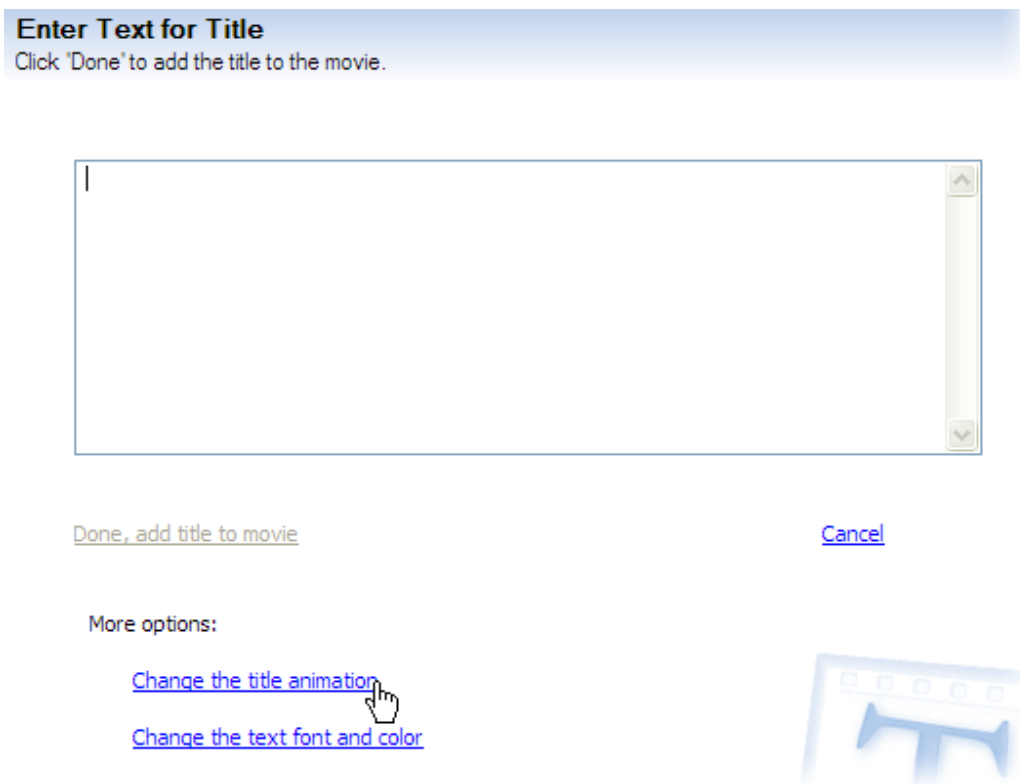
1. Download video from your camera to your computer, and add clips from your collection to your storyboard.
2. If you want to add a title before, after, or on top of a clip, click the clip on the storyboard or timeline.
3. In the Movie Tasks pane, under Edit Movie, Click Make titles or credits.



4. Choose the type of title you want to add.



5. Click **Change the title animation**. Notice that you can choose between one-line titles, two-line titles, and credits, which can be many lines. You can use credits any time you need to display more than two lines of text, not just at the end of your video.



6. On the **Choose the Title Animation** page, browse through the different animations and watch them in the **Preview Monitor** to get an idea of what they'll look like. When you find the animation you want to use, click **Change the text font and color**.

Choose the Title Animation

Click 'Done' to add the title to the movie.

Name	Description
Zoom, Out	Zooms out
Zoom, In	Zooms in
Spin, In	Spins in
Spin, Out	Spins out
News Video, Inset	Video inset with news banner (overlay)
Fade, Slow Zoom	Fades, zooms in slowly
Zoom, Up and In	Zooms up and in
Stretch	Stretches up and in

[Done, add title to movie](#)

[Cancel](#)

More options:

[Edit the title text](#)

[Change the text font and color](#)






7. On the **Select Title Font and Color** page, choose the color and font you want to use. If you're adding the title over a clip, use a dark font color for bright scenes and a light font color for dark scenes. Then click **Edit the title text**.



Select Title Font and Color




Click 'Done' to add the title to the movie.

Font: **B** **I** **U**

Color:  

Transparency: 0% 

Size:  

Position:   

[Done, add title to movie](#)

[Cancel](#)

More options:

[Edit the title text](#)

[Change the title animation](#)



8. On the **Enter Text for Title** page, enter your text. Then click **Done** to add the title to your movie.

Enter Text for Title
Click 'Done' to add the title to the movie.

Sandi the Puppy

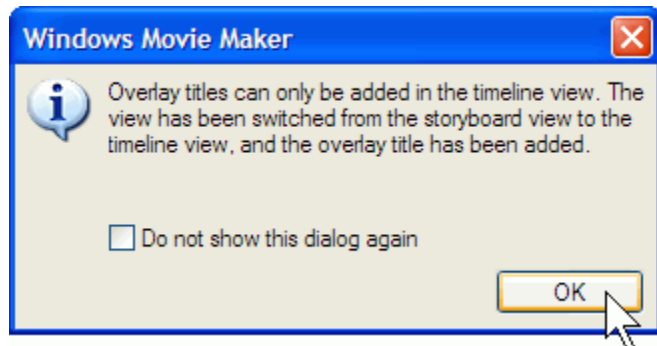
[Done](#) [Cancel](#)

More options:

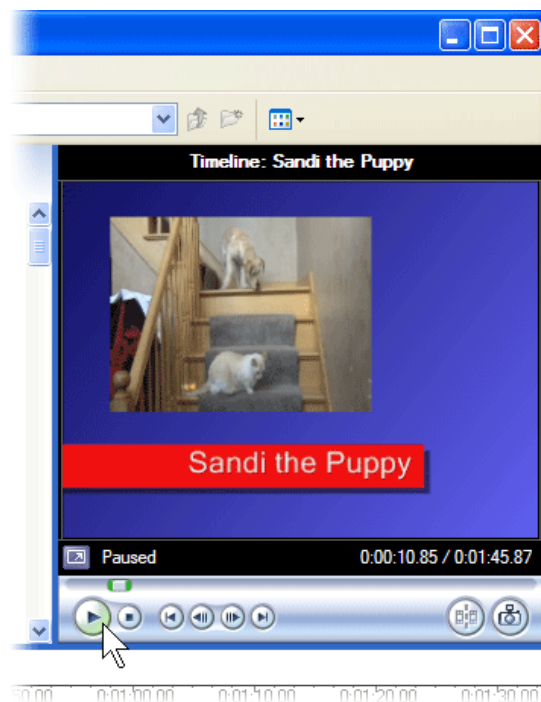
[Change the title animation](#)

[Change the text font and color](#)

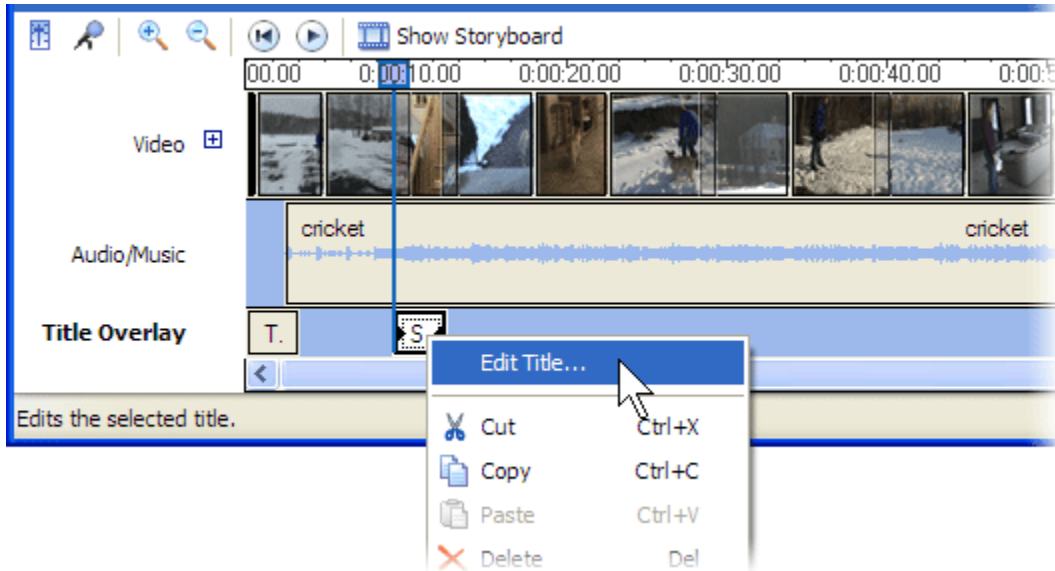
9. If prompted to switch to the timeline view, click **OK**.



10. In the **Preview Monitor**, click the **Play** button to see how your title will look in your video.



11. If you want to change your title (for example, to change the color of the text to make it more readable), right-click the title on the **Title Overlay** row of the timeline, and then click **Edit Title** on the shortcut menu.

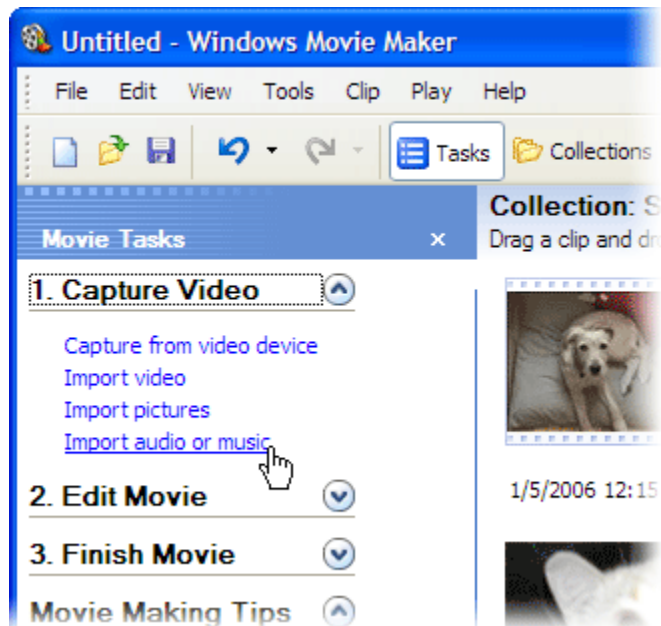


Remember, you can add titles any time you want the viewer to know what you're showing or who someone on the screen is.

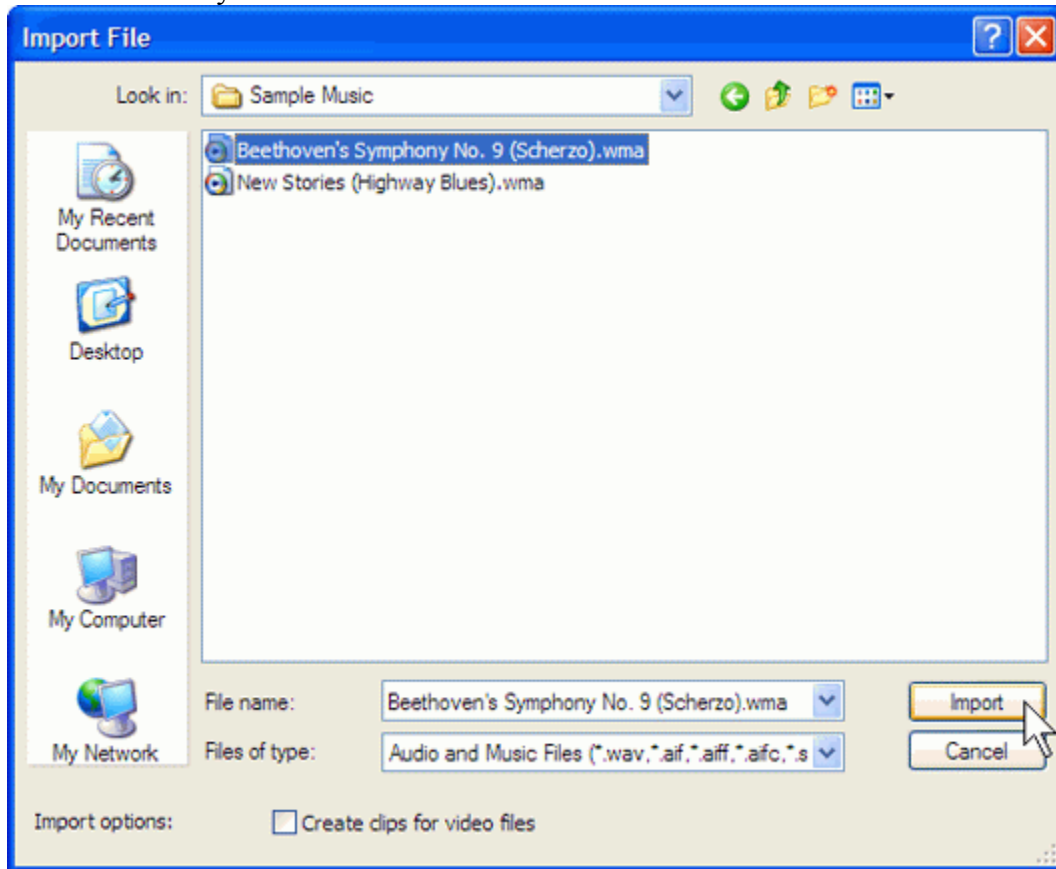
Add Music

To add music to your movie:

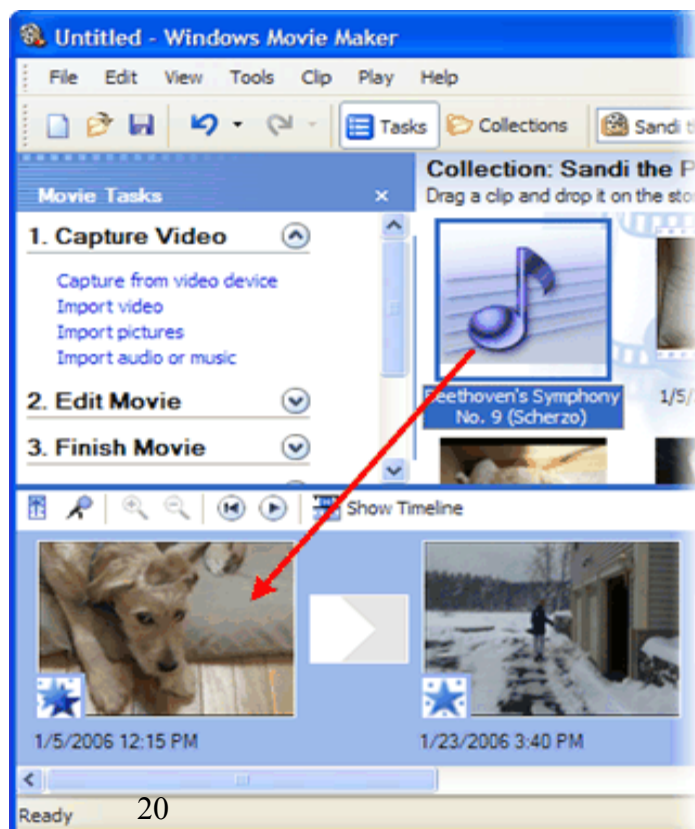
1. Download video from your camera to your computer, and add clips from your collection to your storyboard.
2. In the Movie Tasks pane in Movie Maker, under Capture Video, click Import audio or music.



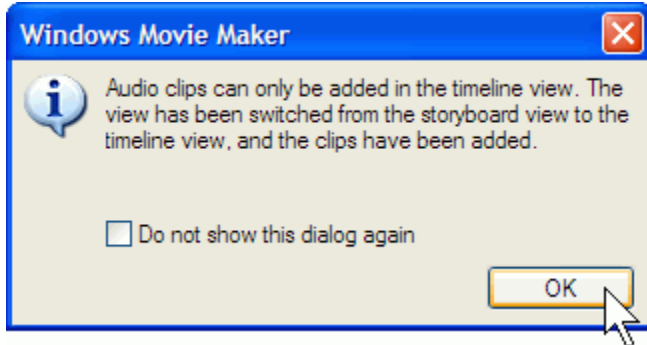
3. In the Import File dialog box, click the name of the song you want to use in the background. Then click Import. This adds your song to your collection but does not add it to your video.



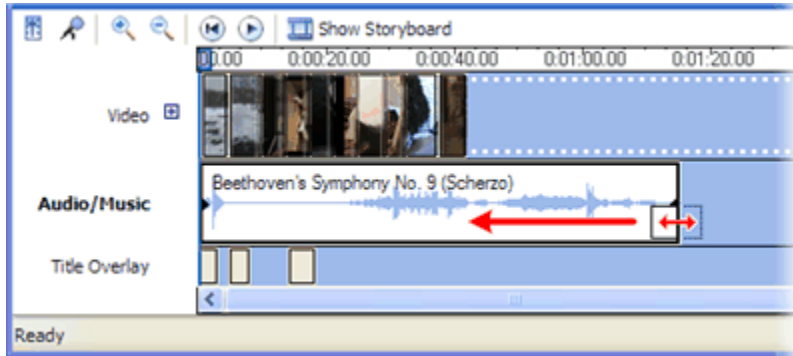
4. Drag the song from the collection to the video clip where you want the music to start playing.



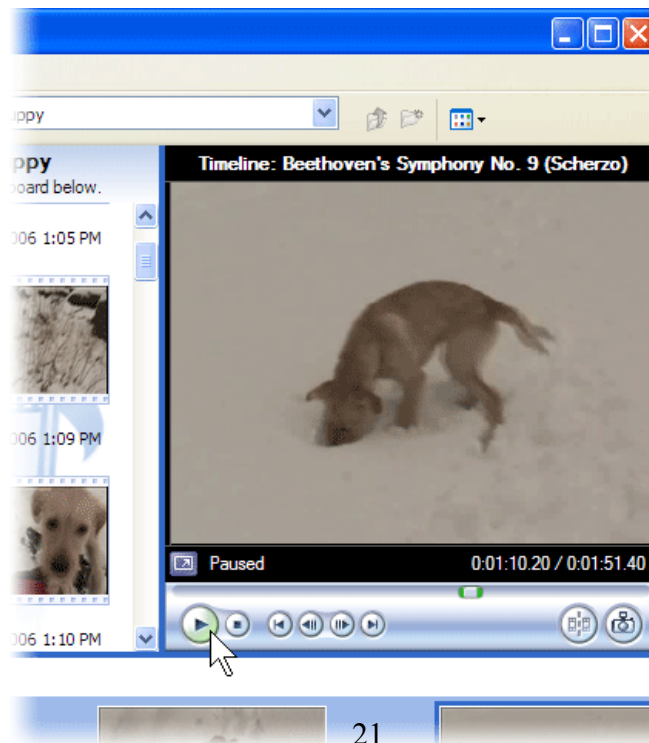
5. If prompted, click OK.



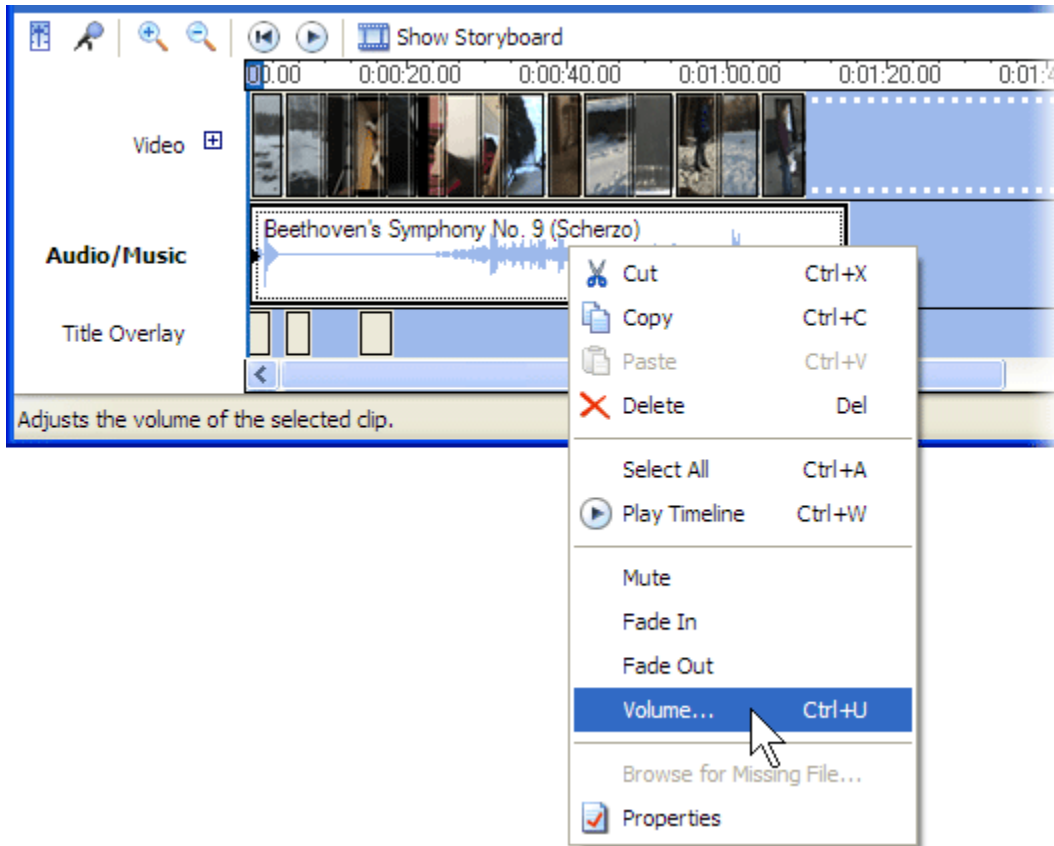
6. Movie Maker shows your song on the timeline. If the song extends beyond the end of the movie, drag the right edge of the song so that it ends at the same time as your movie. Otherwise, the song will keep playing after your movie is done. It's a nice touch to have the music stop during a quiet spot so that it doesn't just stop abruptly.



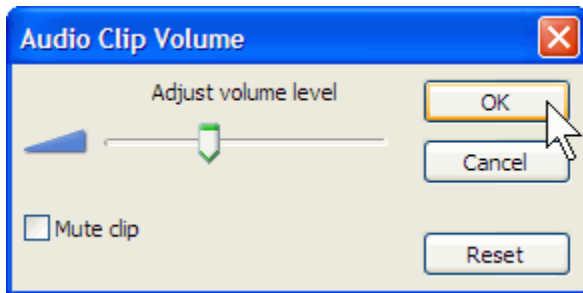
7. Click **Play** in the **Preview Monitor** to watch your movie and listen to the background music.



8. If the background music is too loud or too soft in comparison to the movie, right-click the music on your timeline, and then click **Volume**. If the audio and music sound good, you can skip the next step.



9. In the **Audio Clip Volume** dialog box, move the slider to the left to make the music quieter, or to the right to make it louder. Then click **OK**. Return to [step 7](#) to listen to the audio again and make another adjustment if necessary.



Next time you're filming video, think about the background music. For example, if you're filming a football game, see if you can get a copy of the team's fight song. If you're on vacation, buy a CD of local music so you can add it to your movie.

Add Narration: Record yourself speaking over your movie. This is perfect when you need to describe what's happening on-screen or tell stories that happened off-camera.

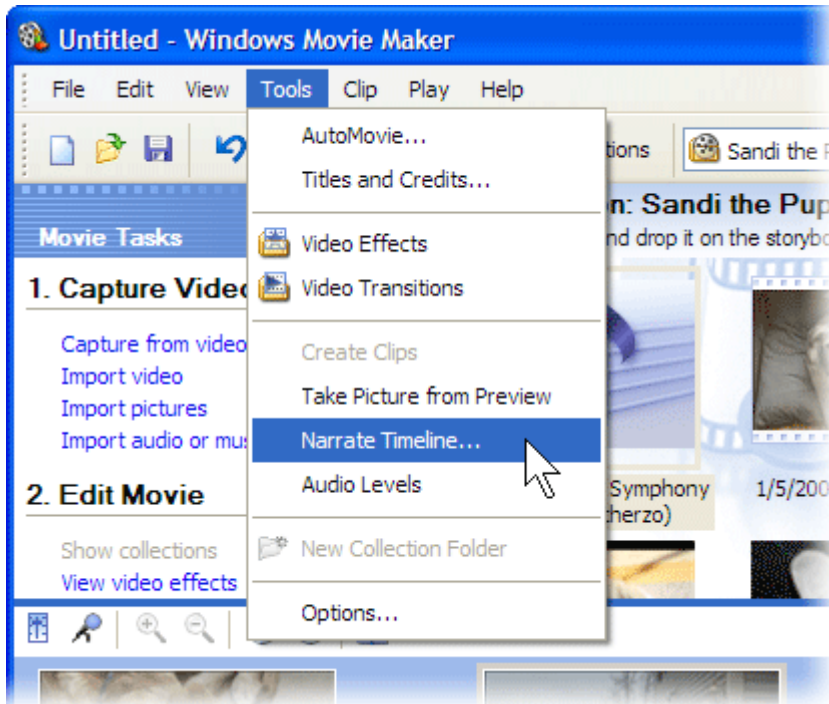
To add narration to your movie

1. If you have a desktop computer, connect a microphone. Microphones are available from most electronics stores. If you have a portable computer, you can use the built-in microphone. However, you will get a better-quality recording if you connect an external microphone.

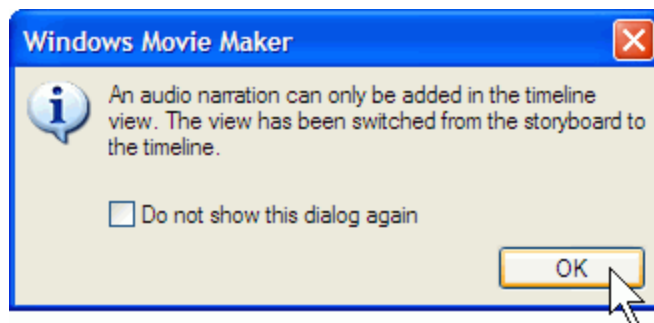


2. [Download video from your camera to your computer](#), and [add clips from your collection to your storyboard](#).

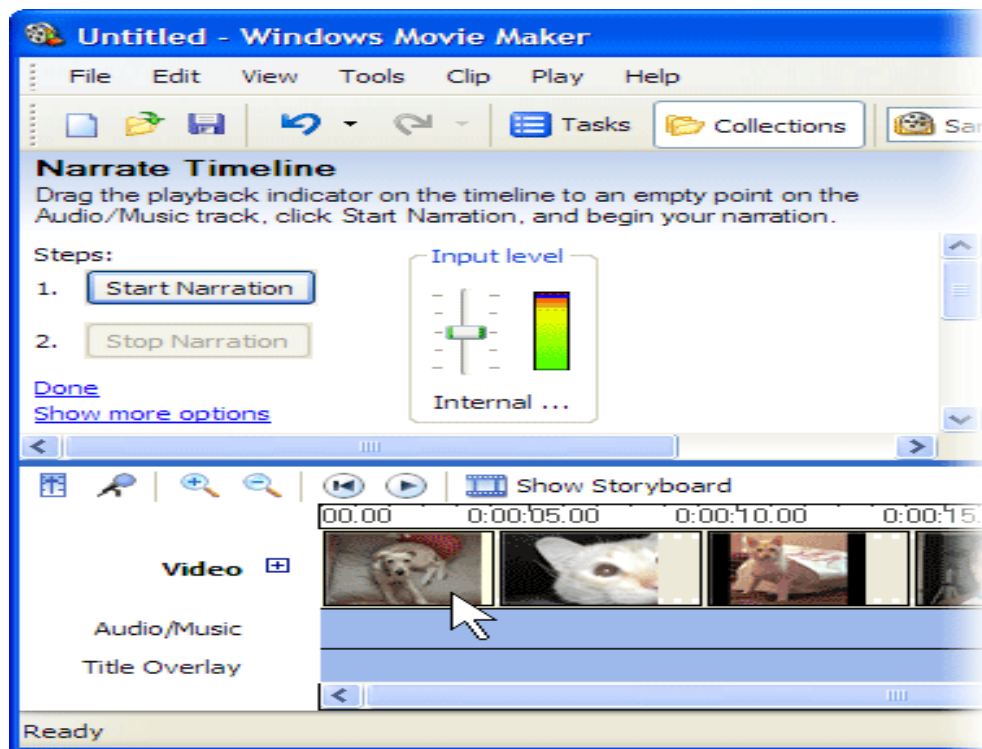
3. In Movie Maker, click the **Tools** menu, and then click **Narrate Timeline**.



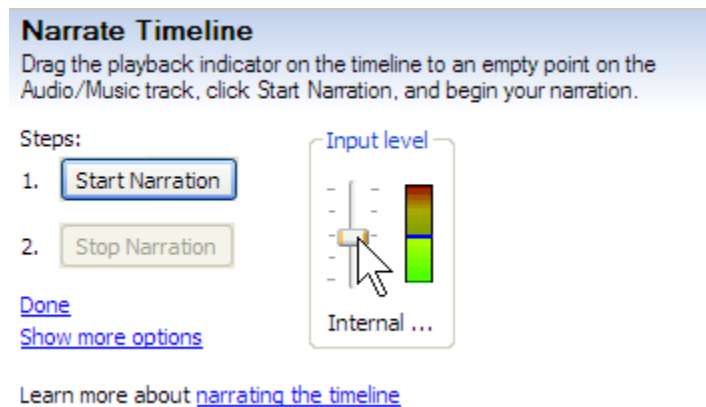
4. If prompted, click OK.



5. On the timeline, click the clip you want to narrate. You can narrate clips one at a time, or you can narrate the entire movie all at once. If you narrate individual clips, you can rearrange them later and keep your narration synchronized.



6. Speak normally into your microphone, and adjust the **Input level** so that the bar is about halfway up when you are speaking.



7. Under **Narrate Timeline** click **Start Narration**.

Narrate Timeline
Drag the playback indicator on the timeline to an empty point on the Audio/Music track, click Start Narration, and begin your narration.

Steps:

1. **Start Narration**
2. **Stop Narration**

[Done](#)
[Show more options](#)

Input level

Internal ...

Learn more about [narrating the timeline](#)

8. Speak into your microphone as Movie Maker plays your movie. You can narrate your entire movie at once or just one clip at a time. When you're done narrating, click **Stop Narration**.

Narrate Timeline
Drag the playback indicator on the timeline to an empty point on the Audio/Music track, click Start Narration, and begin your narration.

Steps:

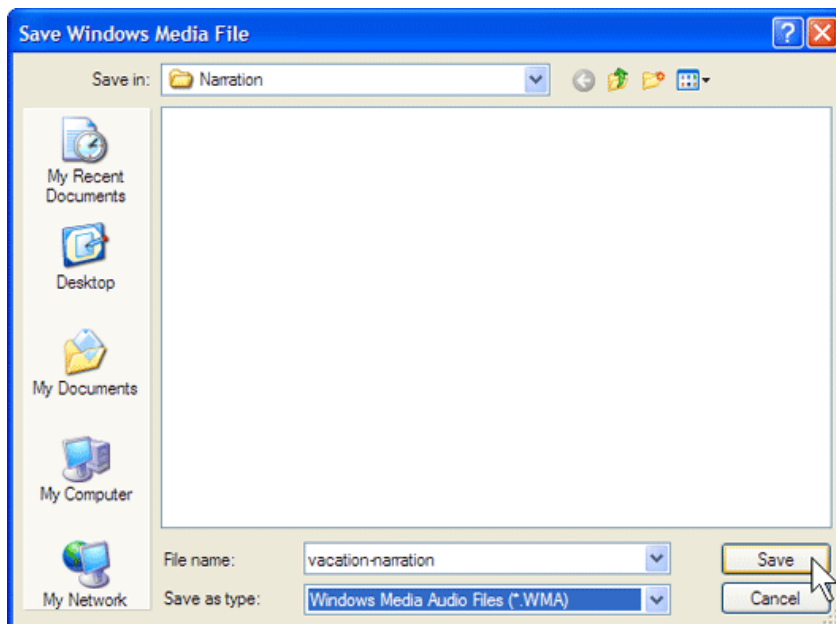
1. **Start Narration**
2. **Stop Narration**

[Done](#)
[Show more options](#)

Input level

Internal ...

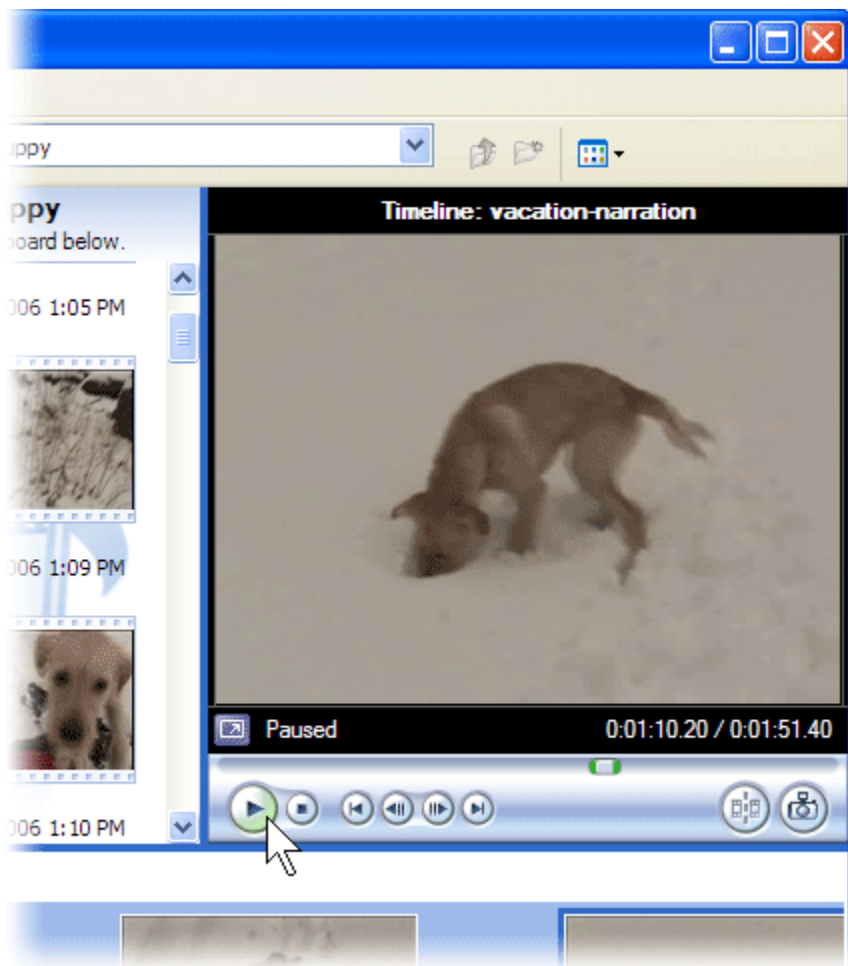
Learn more about [narrating the timeline](#)



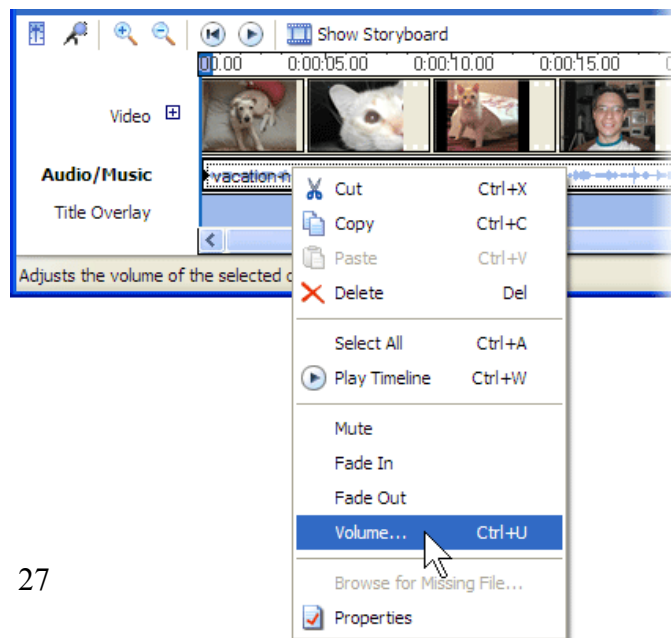
9. Movie Maker will save your narration as a separate file. In the **Save Windows Media File** dialog box, type a name for your narration. Then click **Save**.

10. Movie Maker adds your narration to your video. If you only narrated part of your video and you want to add narration to other clips, return to [step 5](#).

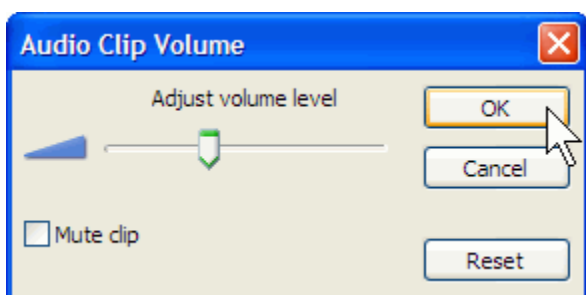
11. Click **Play** in the **Preview Monitor** to watch your movie and listen to the narration.



12. If the narration is too loud or too soft in comparison to the movie, right-click the narration on your timeline, and then click **Volume**. If the audio and narration sound good, you can skip the next step.

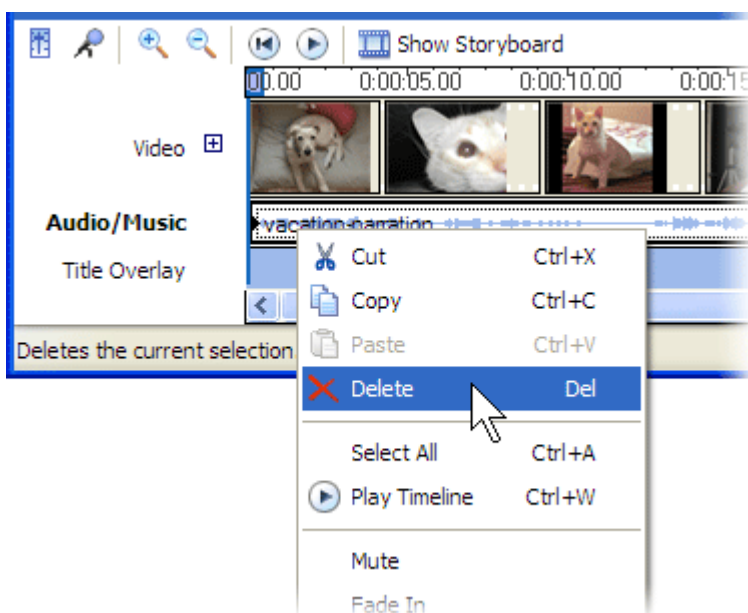


13. In the **Audio Clip Volume** dialog box, move the slider to the left to make the narration quieter, or move it to the right to make it louder. Then click **OK**. Return to [step 11](#) to listen to the narration again, and make another adjustment if necessary.

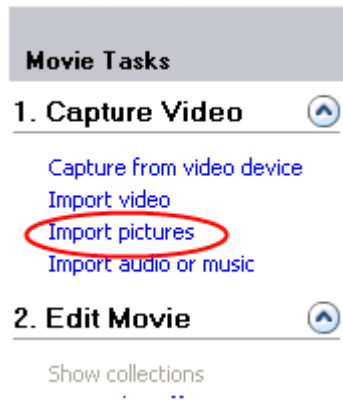


If you don't like the way your narration sounds, don't worry—nobody likes to hear their own voice. Just relax and speak in a normal tone, as if you were telling a friend on the phone about your movie. It may take you a few tries to get the timing right so that your narration doesn't go on longer than your movie. If you misspeak often, it might help to write a script that you can read during the narration.

To delete narration so that you can re-record it, right-click the narration on the timeline, and then click **Delete**. You should also [delete the narration from the collection](#).



Import Pictures into Windows Movie Maker



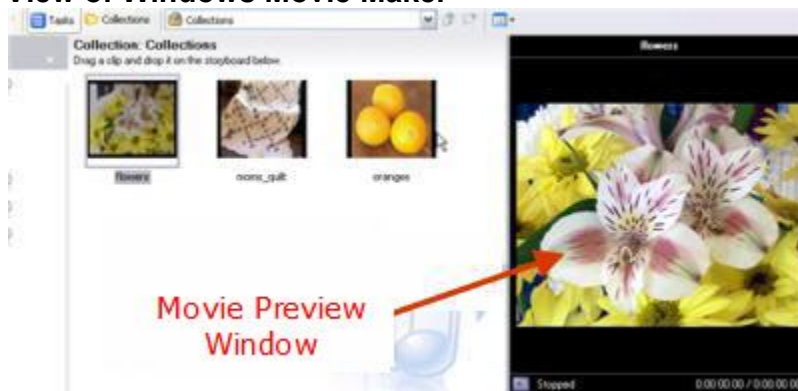
Steps to Import Pictures

1. Click on the **Capture Video** link to open the list of options. In this example we will be using still pictures and music to create our movie.
2. Click on **Import pictures** and locate the folder containing your pictures.
3. Select the picture files you wish to import.

Tip - To select several picture files which are listed consecutively, click the first filename in the list, and then while holding the *Shift* key, click on the last filename in the list. This will select all the files at once to import.

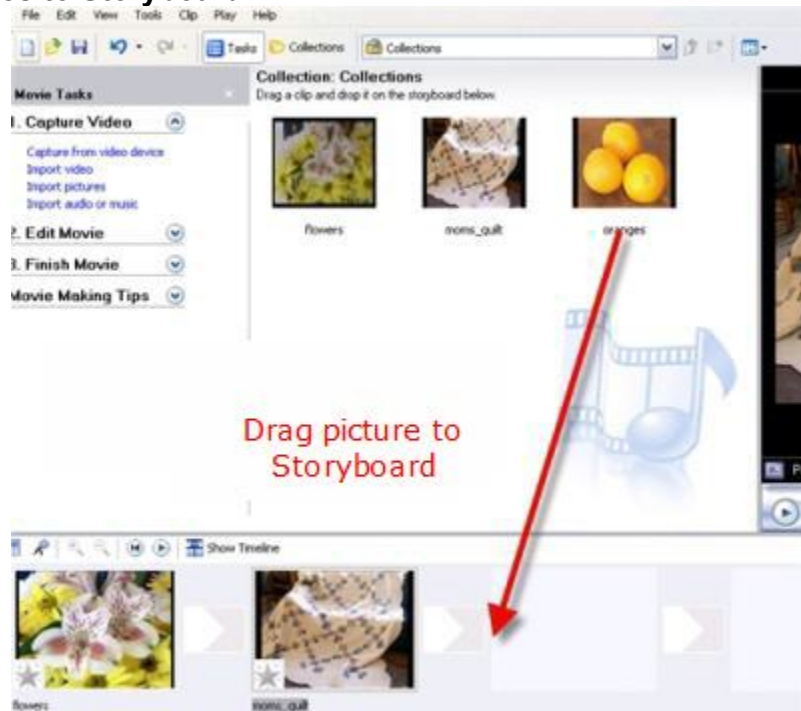
Similarly, to select several files that are not in consecutive order, hold the *Ctrl* key rather than the Shift key and then click on the different filenames you wish to import.

Collections View of Windows Movie Maker



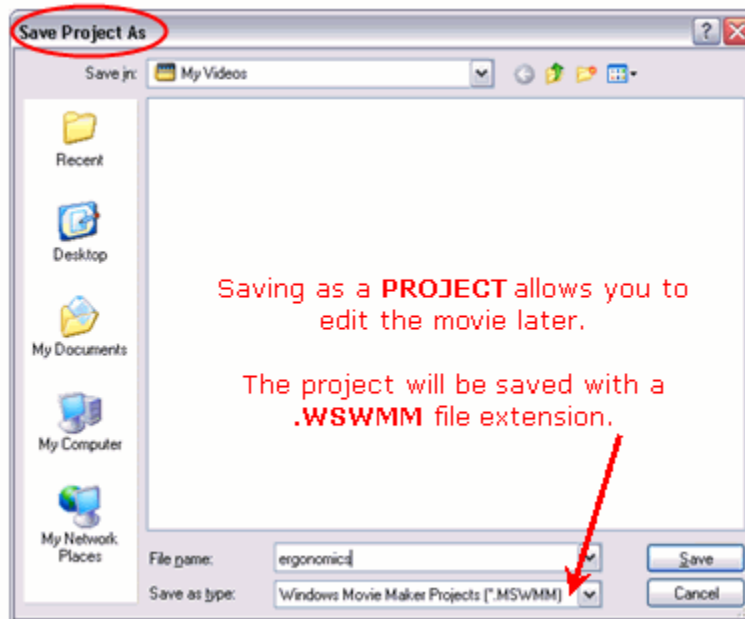
Your pictures should now appear in the **Collections** view. Click on the different pictures to see them in the preview window.

Drag Pictures to Storyboard



Drag your pictures to the **Storyboard** area of the window. The Storyboard is where you will build your movie. Notice that after you drag your picture to the Storyboard, it still remains in the Collections view. You can use the same object many times in your movie if you wish.

Save Your Windows Movie Maker Project



Before you proceed any further, you should save your project. It is a good idea to do this frequently throughout the movie making process. From the main menu, choose **File > Save Project**.

Windows Movie Maker saves the project in the file format .MSWMM which allows for editing at a later time. When your movie is complete, you have additional options for saving the file, so that it may be played in a webpage or emailed, for example. These other options do not allow editing, so it is important to save your working file in the Movie Maker project format.