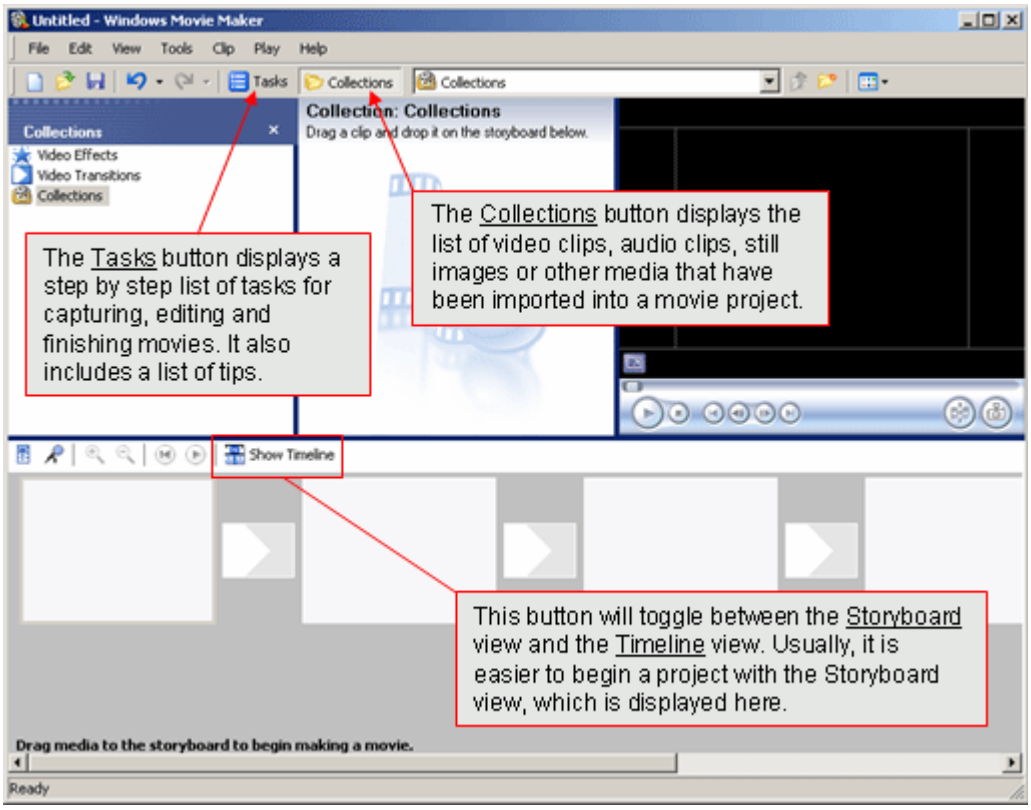
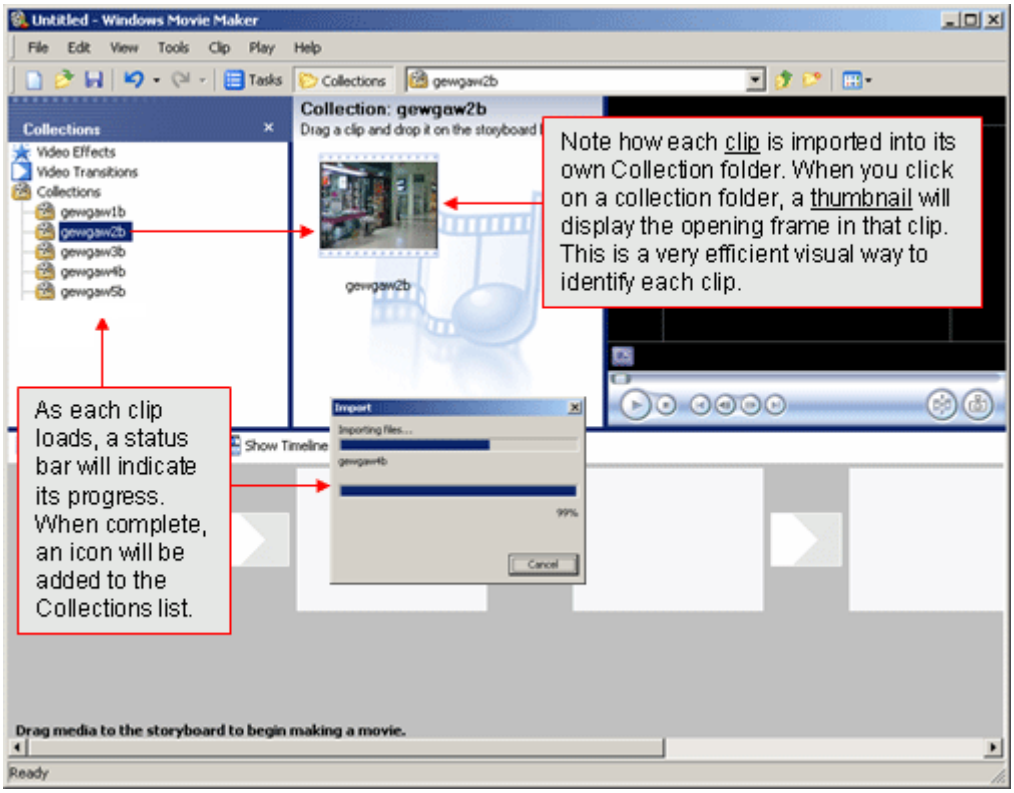
Part I: Importing the clips
The next step is to import the clips into *Movie Maker*. The clips already use the .wmv (Windows Media Video) format, so *Movie Maker* will import them seamleassly.

1) *Movie Maker* is normally in the Accessories folder, so let's begin by selecting Start / Programs / Accessories / *Windows Movie Maker*

2) After the program loads, click the Collections button on the tool bar. This changes the left hand panel from Task view to Collections view.



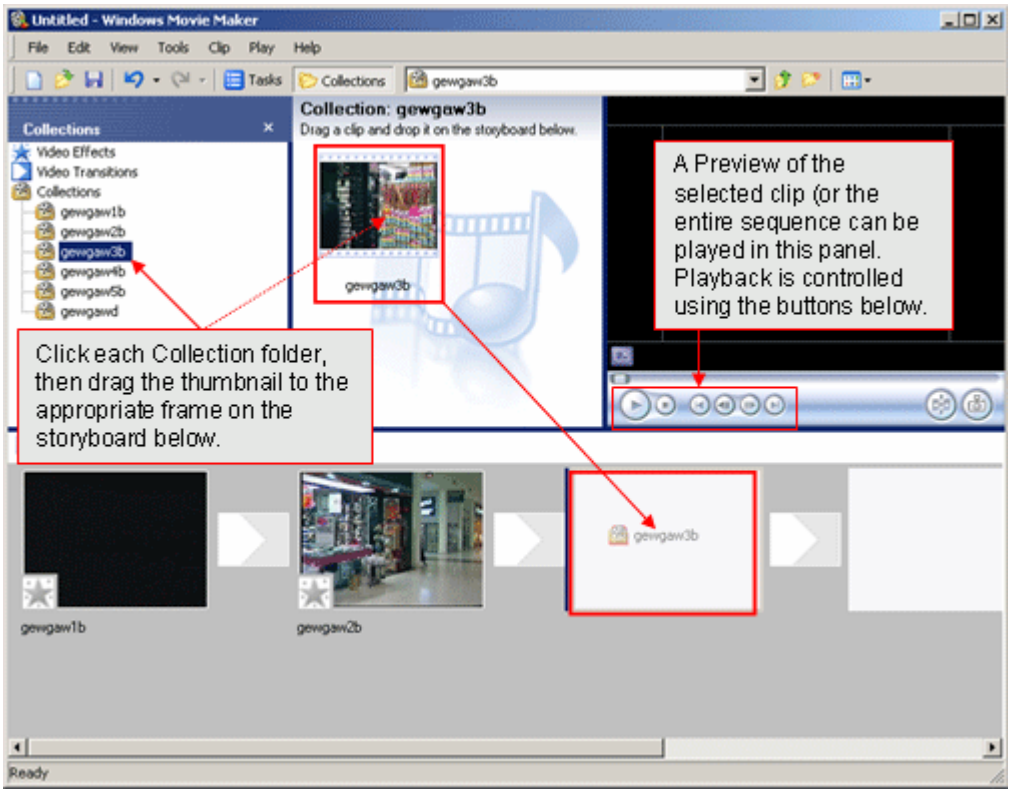
3) Select File / Import Into Collections, and then Browse to wherever you downloaded the gewgaw clips; [Shift]-click all five of the .wmv clips and both .wma clips so that all 7 files are highlighted, then click Import:



Part II: Editing

In this last step, we will place each of the separate clips into a logical sequence so that the movie will flow continuously from one shot to the next. There are two interfaces for accomplishing this, a storyboard - which presents a simple iconic view of the first frame in each clip arranged in sequence, and a timeline - which presents separate tracks for video, audio, transitions and titles, arranged by elapsed time. I like to start editing in the storyboard view, which is easier, and then switch to the timeline later after the clips have sequenced appropriately.

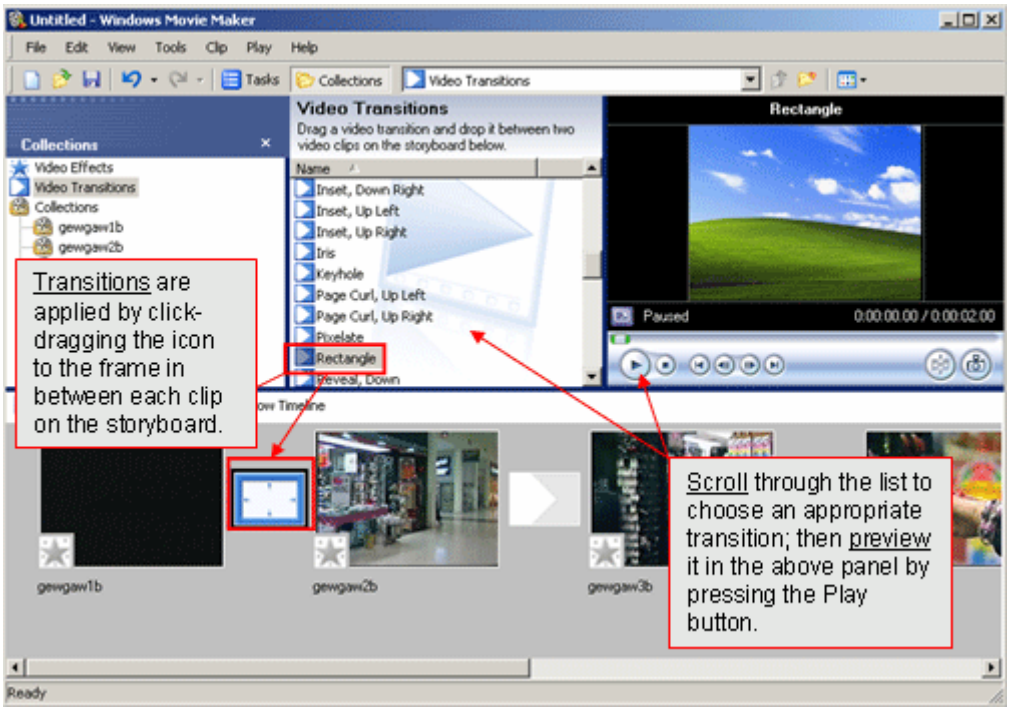
4) Click-Drag each of the 5 clips into a Frame on the storyboard. Position each clip on the storyboard according to the number in its name, 1 to 5 from left to right. This ensures the correct sequence:



5) Click the Play button to preview your movie. Notice how each clip cuts straight to the next clip without any fancy transition. (We'll change that in the next step!)

6) Select Tools / Video Transitions and scroll through the list of available transitions. Click the Play button to preview until you find the transition you want to use. In the screenshot below, I used the "Rectangle" transition.

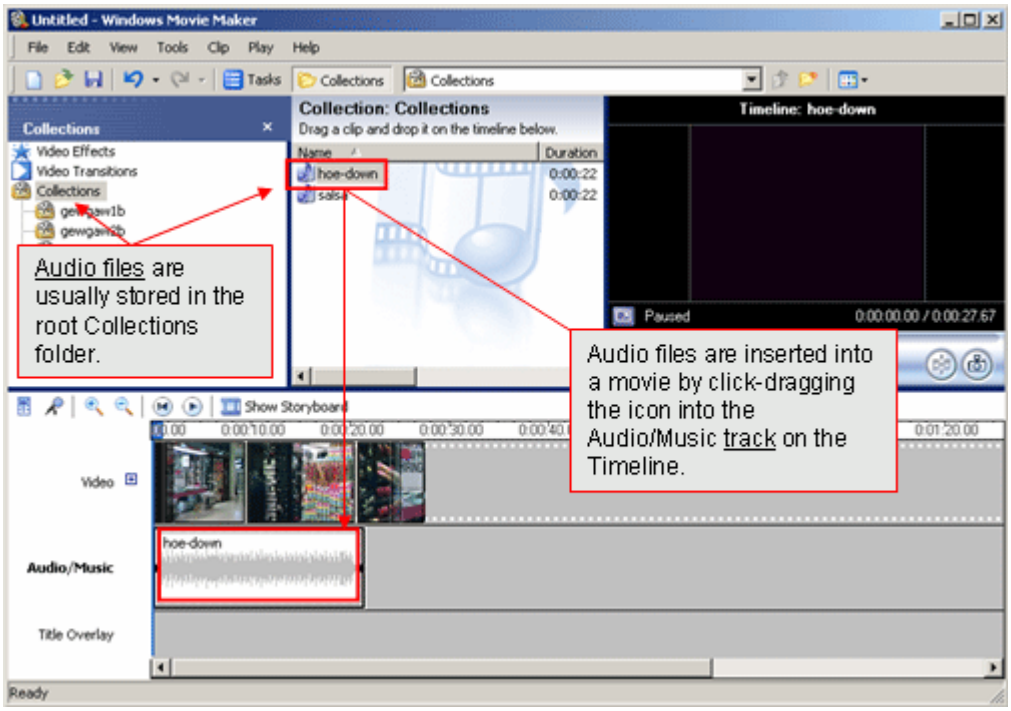
7) Click drag the icon for the transition down to the frame in between clips 1 and 2. Click the Play button to view the transition applied to your movie:



8) Repeat this process to apply another transition between clips 4 and 5. Choose a different transition.

9) Click the Show Timeline button to switch to the Timeline editor and hide the Storyboard view.

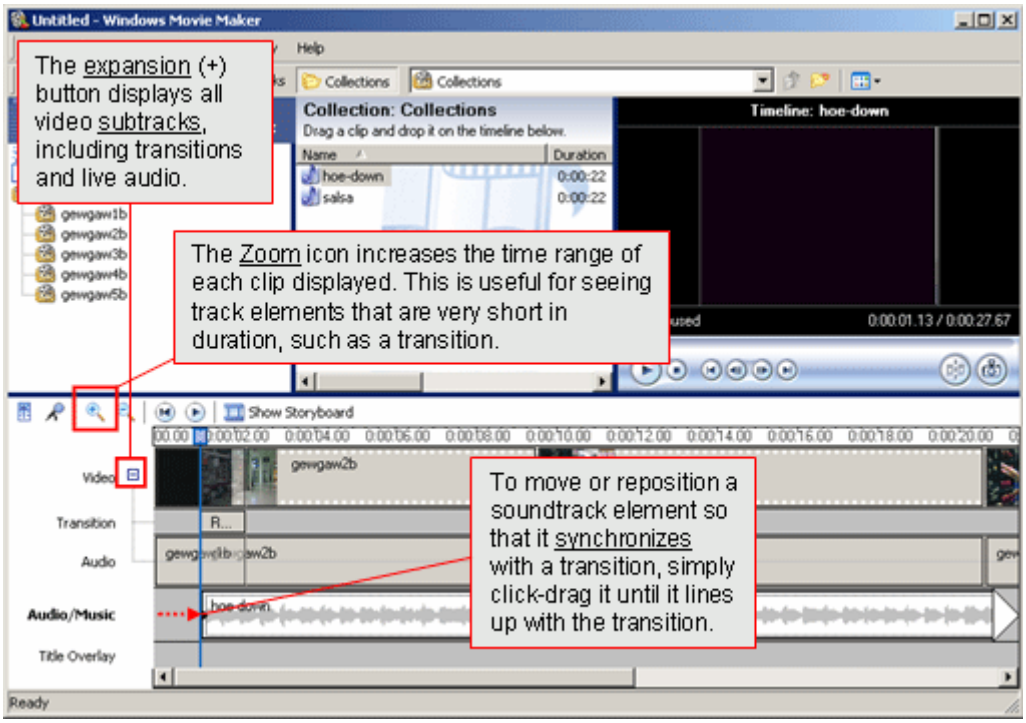
10) Click the Collections folder icon and drag a sound file (either Hoe Down or Salsa) to the Audio/Music Track in the Timeline:



Now it's time to synchronize the audio track with the other movie elements. Without going in to too much cinematographic detail, one common convention is to synch audio effects with transition effects. Currently in the movie above, the audio file, Hoe-down, starts as soon as the introductory clip is played. I would argue that this is distracting to a viewer trying to read the definition of the word. Consequently, we need to schedule the audio track play "later" than the first clip. This is easy to do.

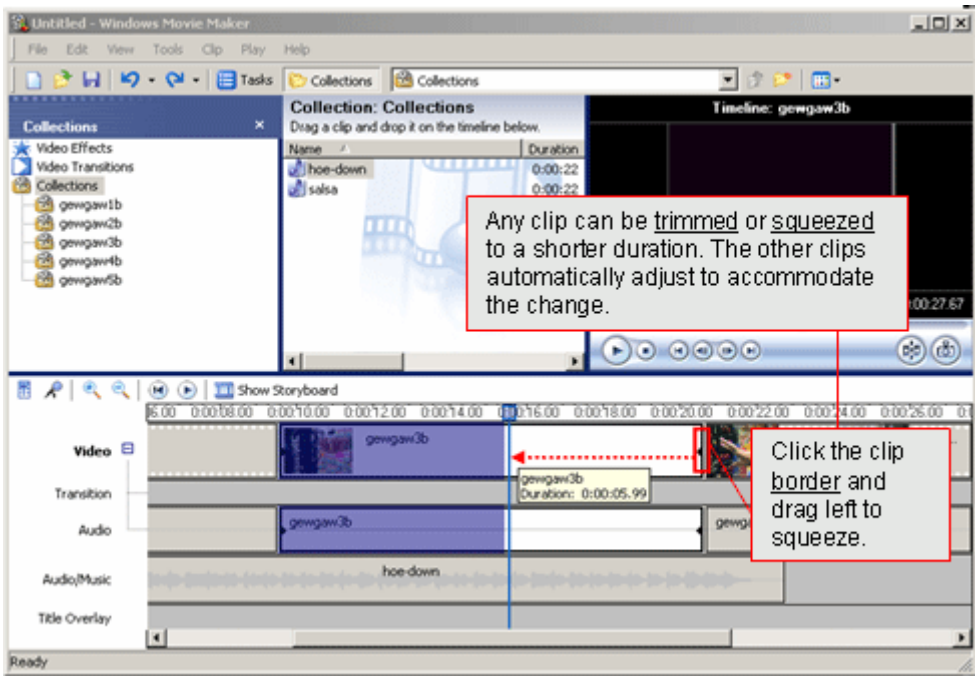
11) Click the + expansion button on the Video track on the Timeline. This expands the Video track so that we can see all of it's subtracks, including the the Transition track and the primary Audio track. Note that there are now two audio tracks, one live audio captured with the video (which is often muted, as is the case in this movie) and one background audio for music or narration.

12) Drag the hoe-down audio clip to the right to synchronize its beginning with the transition between clip 1 and 2:



Click the Play button to preview your movie and note how the soundtrack ends before the movie does. We can fix this by trimming (also called squeezing) some of the clips down to a smaller duration in the Timeline.

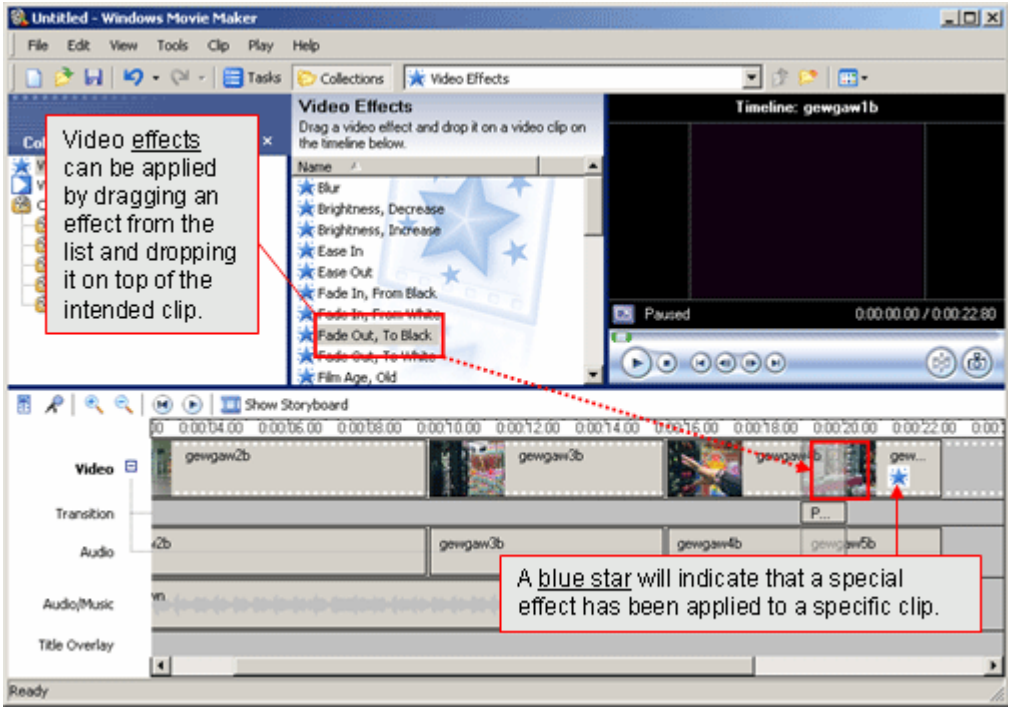
13) Click the end border of clip 3 and drag to the left to shorten the clip to about 6 seconds:



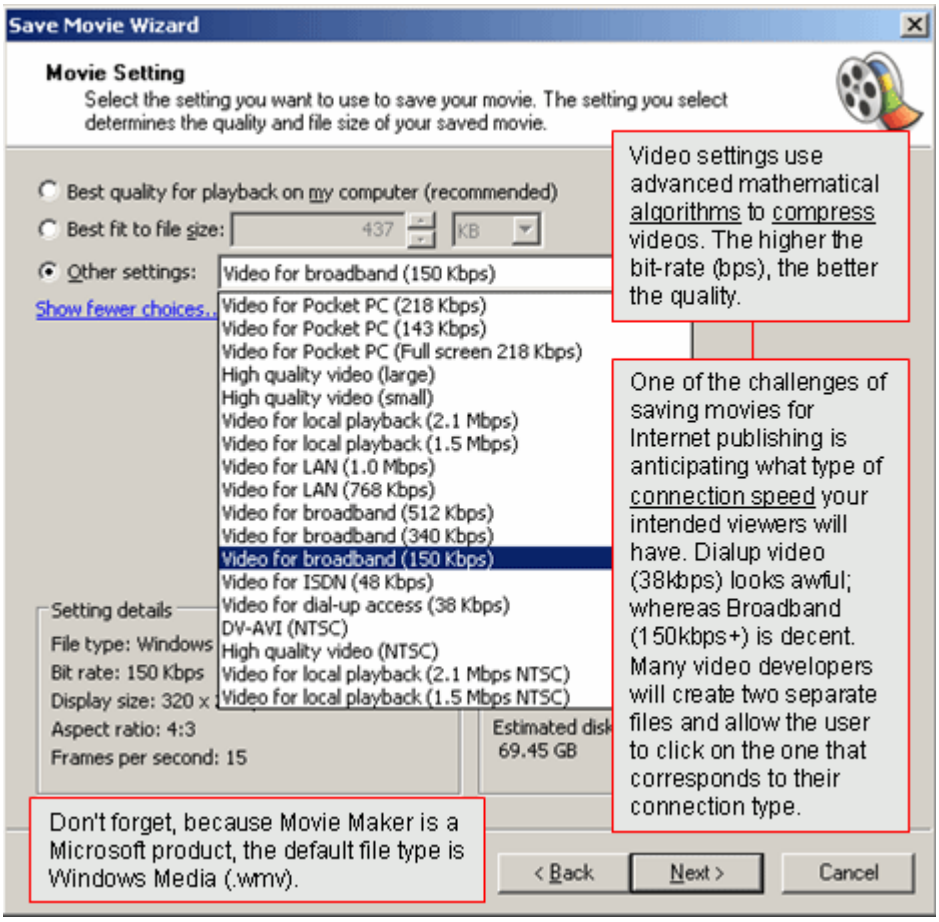
Now our soundtrack and movie end at roughly the same time. Go ahead and play the entire movie once again. Our final task will be to apply a special effect to the last clip so that it fades

to black to match the audio fade as the music dies. This fade-matching is a common convention for ending videos.

14) Select Tools / Video Effects and drag the Fade to Black effect on top of the last clip (5):



15) OK, last step! Select File / Save Movie File and use the wizard to save the movie file to your local computer, perhaps your hard drive or USB key drive (or wherever). Select Video for Broadband (150kbs) as the movie setting to ensure decent quality. Note that there are lots of settings available, however, for other uses:


Save Movie Wizard
Movie Setting
Select the setting you want to use to save your movie. The setting you select determines the quality and file size of your saved movie.
Best quality for playback on my computer (recommended)
Best fit to file size:
437
KB
Other settings:
Video for broadband (150 Kbps)
Show fewer choices...
Video for Pocket PC (218 Kbps)
Video for Pocket PC (143 Kbps)
Video for Pocket PC (Full screen 218 Kbps)
High quality video (large)
High quality video (small)
Video for local playback (2.1 Mbps)
Video for local playback (1.5 Mbps)
Video for LAN (1.0 Mbps)
Video for LAN (768 Kbps)
Video for broadband (512 Kbps)
Video for broadband (340 Kbps)
Video for broadband (150 Kbps)
Video for ISDN (48 Kbps)
Video for dial-up access (38 Kbps)
DV-AVI (NTSC)
High quality video (NTSC)
Video for local playback (2.1 Mbps NTSC)
Video for local playback (1.5 Mbps NTSC)
Setting details
File type: Windows
Bit rate: 150 Kbps
Display size: 320 x
Aspect ratio: 4:3
Frames per second: 15
Estimated disk
69.45 GB
< Back
Next >
Cancel
Video settings use advanced mathematical algorithms to compress videos. The higher the bit-rate (bps), the better the quality.
One of the challenges of saving movies for Internet publishing is anticipating what type of connection speed your intended viewers will have. Dialup video (38kbps) looks awful; whereas Broadband (150kbps+) is decent. Many video developers will create two separate files and allow the user to click on the one that corresponds to their connection type.
Don't forget, because Movie Maker is a Microsoft product, the default file type is Windows Media (.wmv).