

Chapter 1



Getting Started

Get Windows Movie Maker 2 installed on your computer and learn your way around the program's main features



Yes you can...

- Understand the main features of Windows Movie Maker 2
- Install Windows Movie Maker 2
- Understand the main terms and controls used in Windows Movie Maker 2

Project time...



35 mins

More Info

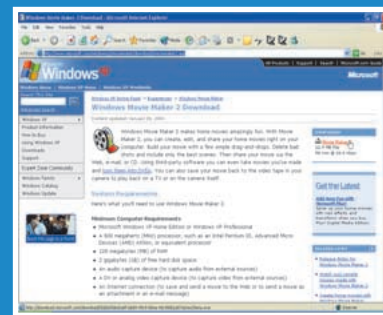


www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/moviemaker

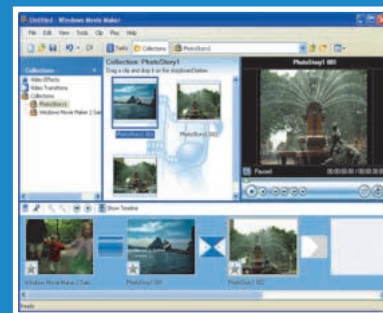
Over the past couple of years the computer has become the central focus of all home media. Even if you don't manage your music and video collections on your computer, you can be certain that the PC has played a major role in developing the CDs, DVDs, videos and television programmes that you enjoy. Digital editing has revolutionised video and audio production, providing fine control and automating repetitive tasks.

Enjoy the Benefits

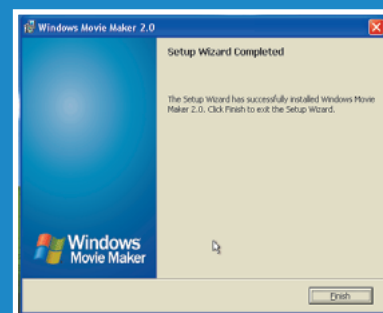
It seems only right that you should enjoy these benefits when you create your home movies, which is why you are interested in Windows Movie Maker 2. It puts control and effects that previously only professional broadcasters and video production companies had into the hands of home users. When home editing used to involve the mastery of a VCR's pause button, you had little control over the length of shots. For a clean edit, you had to take into consideration the time it took for your video recorder's heads to roll up to



Page 12 Find out where you can get Windows Movie Maker 2 and what it does



Page 14 Find out what makes Windows Movie Maker 2 home editing so powerful



Page 15 Install Windows Movie Maker 2 and turn your PC into a video editing suite

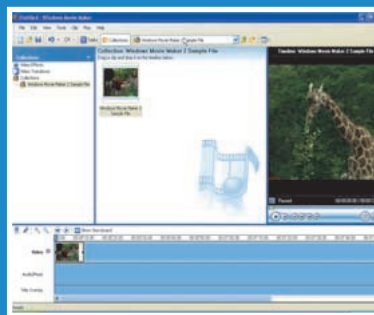


speed. This could take anything up to ten seconds, depending on the machine involved. You also had to let each shot play in real time as you copied it from your camcorder to VCR. This made editing home tapes lengthy, boring and inaccurate. You also ended up with a poor quality tape, which would get worse if you took further copies to give to friends or relatives.

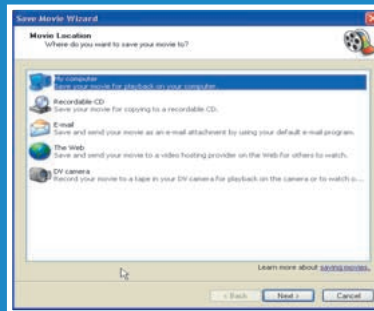
Digital Files

As soon as you've transferred video to your PC, it exists as a digital file. You won't get the generational loss of quality associated with old home videos, you have fine editing control and you don't have to edit in real time. You also have access to a number of effects that VCRs simply don't have.

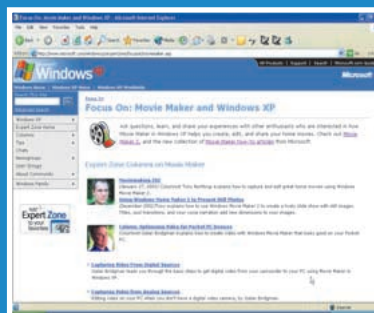
This chapter gives you an overview of Windows Movie Maker 2. You'll learn how easy it is to install. Once it's on your PC, you'll take a trip around the main controls, pick up some of the simple terminology and gain a flavour of what it can do. You'll find out the range of video sources you can use and the numerous ways you can distribute your finished movie. Don't forget you can find more information about Windows XP, including Windows Movie Maker 2, in our sister title, Microsoft Windows XP: The Official Magazine. It's on sale every month – take a look at the website for more about the great tutorials and features on offer. www.windowsxpmagazine.co.uk.



Page 16 Get around the toolbar and different panes of Windows Movie Maker 2



Page 18 See how you can share your movies with friends and relatives



Page 19 Locate the best website for support, information and goodies

Getting Started

What? Where?

What is Windows Movie Maker 2? Rather more than most sequels, we can assure you



We've provided a copy of Windows Movie Maker 2 on the cover disc to save wear and tear on your internet connection. To install it, put the CD into your CD-ROM drive and follow the prompts, or follow the instructions on page 15 of this guide.

The movie world is full of blockbuster sequels that are usually no more than retreads of the earlier film's storyline. However the law of diminishing sequels certainly doesn't apply to Windows Movie Maker. Windows Movie Maker 2 has numerous additional features and is easier and quicker to use than its predecessor.

You can capture video from a digital camcorder, a web camera or any video source and then edit and rearrange the shots as you please. There are numerous transitions that

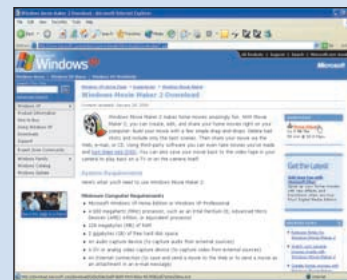
you can use between shots and you can add audio commentary or incidental music to produce a truly professional result. You can record your finished masterpiece onto videotape, CD, or DVD, depending on the hardware you have available. You could even stream your movie onto the web.

Amazingly, this software is provided as a free update to Windows, while comparable packages can cost you hundreds of pounds. Eat your heart out, Steven Spielberg!

Where can I get it?

Windows Movie Maker 2 is free and widely available

You can download Windows Movie Maker 2 for free from the Microsoft website, the address of which we've printed below. You may also find it offered to you as an update to Microsoft Windows XP if you visit the Windows Update site by choosing Start > All Programs > Windows Update. Either way works fine if you have a broadband connection, but if you have a dial-up modem the download could be lengthy. In this case, turn to our CD, where you'll find the program waiting for you, and follow the installation instructions on page 15.



Microsoft Windows XP users already have Windows Movie Maker.

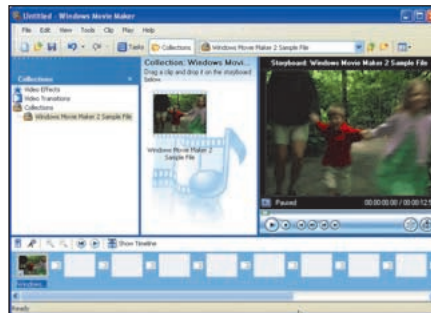
<http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/moviemaker/downloads/moviemaker2.asp>

Key Terms

You'll need to know the terms Windows Movie Maker 2 uses before you get started

When you use Windows Movie Maker 2, you'll be dealing with video at various stages of the editing process and you'll need to be familiar with how Windows Movie Maker 2 names different pieces of audio or video.

Video on your camcorder's tape needs to be transferred to your PC. We call this process 'capture'. Once captured, the file will be split up into different clips, which you'll need to rearrange and edit. The sum of these clips is called a 'collection'. If you need to save your work part way



Video files are called different terms depending on how far through the process they are.

through editing, which is pretty likely, the resulting file is known as a 'project'. Follow our guide below to tell these terms apart.



Don't discard your project files once you've completed a movie. You could always return to them later and rearrange the elements to make a different movie. When you release it, you could call it your director's cut.

- **Collections include** the raw audio and video clips plus any still pictures from which you will build your movie. Think of a collection as a container for the ingredients of your movie.
- **A Project** is the movie you're working on and all its components. If you save a project file, you can reload it and pick up editing the movie from where you left off.
- **Your Movie** is the finished result of your editing. It's your completed masterpiece, ready to play back on your PC or TV.
- **Source files** are the video and audio files that you import to use in your movie. They can come from a variety of places.
- **Capture is** the process of gathering video and/or audio from a device such as a video camera or microphone. It generally happens in real time, for example, as you narrate a passage or import the video played back from a VCR.



Collections appear in the collections pane of Windows Movie Maker 2, which enables you to see each of the clips you have available to use at any one time. You can put these in any order you like.

Key Features

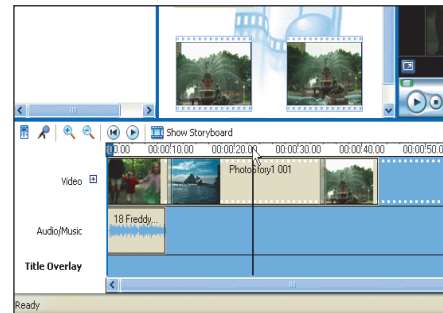
Find out why Windows Movie Maker 2 puts some professional editing suites to shame



Use the storyboard to get your shots in order and then switch to the timeline to trim them. You get detailed running times by hovering the mouse over the times above your clips.

Computers have taken video editing by storm over the last few years, yet many home videos have still been limited by the pause button on a VCR. Windows Movie Maker has changed all that and in its second edition has taken home editing closer than ever to professional broadcast video.

Windows Movie Maker 2 gives you fine control over the length and order of each shot in your movie, whilst offering state-of-the-art transitions and audio dubbing. You can pack shots in, with several per



The timeline gives you fine-editing control down to a fraction of a second.

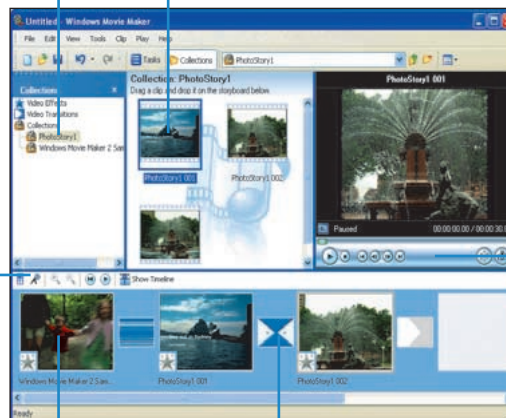
second, and apply effects to make your video look like 1920s film or a moving watercolour painting. You'll be a hit in Hollywood in no time!

Fantastic Features

Use the collections pane to switch between different collections or to view the many snazzy video effects available to use.

Add narration and background music using the sophisticated audio controls – having great sound can transform a picture.

The storyboard shows the clips and effects in order. Switch to the timeline to see how long each one lasts.



Drag the individual clips from a collection onto the storyboard to put them in the order you want.

Preview your video by playing it back in this pane. This enables you to see the results of a bit of editing immediately.

Drag video transitions onto the storyboard to make the change between clips look stylish and professional.

Installation

Before you can become a famous director, you need to install Windows Movie Maker 2

Windows Movie Maker 2 takes just a few minutes to install, as you don't need to make any major decisions about the program's configuration during installation. You don't even need to supply an install location, because it simply replaces the previous version of Windows Movie Maker, which came as part of Windows XP.

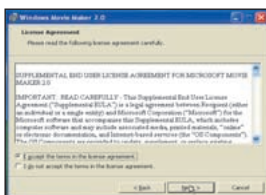
You can install Windows Movie Maker 2 via Windows Update, where it's listed as an optional update to Windows XP. Windows Update will handle the installation for you, once

you've accepted the End User License Agreement. Alternatively, download it from www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/moviemaker/downloads/moviemaker2.asp and launch the mm20enu.cab file.

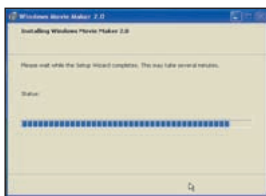
If you don't want to download 12MB of data, the quick and easy alternative is to pop our cover disc into your CD/DVD drive and follow the prompts. As long as you agree to the license terms and conditions and follow the Setup Wizard, you'll install Windows Movie Maker 2 in the time it takes to make a cuppa.



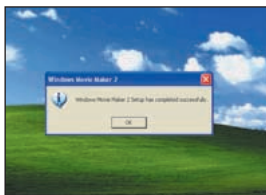
It's important to accept the terms of the End User License Agreement; you won't be able to install Windows Movie Maker 2 without doing so. It shows you accept that Microsoft has put many development resources into the application. You agree not to modify or distribute the software yourself. It's not much to ask in exchange for a free program.



- 1** Launch the installation file. If you downloaded Windows Movie Maker 2, this is called mm20enu; if you use the cover disc, it's labelled. The installation files extract and you are presented with the End User License Agreement. Read it carefully and agree.



- 2** Click Next and press the Install button to start the installation process. The Setup Wizard can take several minutes as the Windows Movie Maker files are extracted and installed. You'll see a progress indicator to show you how much time remains.



- 3** Once all new files are in place and the backup ones have been removed, the Setup Wizard tells you that installation is complete. Click Finish to quit the wizard. You can now launch Windows Movie Maker 2 from the Start menu.



You can enhance Windows Movie Maker 2 by downloading the Windows Movie Maker Creativity Fun Pack, which includes a number of extra effects and resources. You can find this at the address given here, and there's also a copy on your cover CD to save you downloading it.

www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/moviemaker

Toolbar Controls

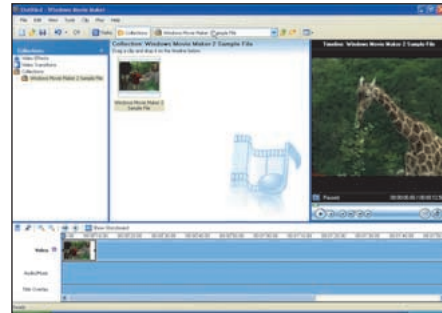
Find your way around and learn some key Windows Movie Maker controls



You can choose what appears at the bottom of the Windows Movie Maker window. Switch between the timeline and storyboard by pressing the Show Storyboard/Show Timeline button. It depends on what you're doing as to which is best.

You don't want to worry about where to find the controls when you're sorting out the content of your movie, so let's take a trip around the Windows Movie Maker 2 interface. Below the title bar, you'll find the usual collection of menus, which provide access to all movie making features. Below these is the toolbar, which provides icon buttons for the most frequently used tools. We've labelled the most useful tools in our annotation.

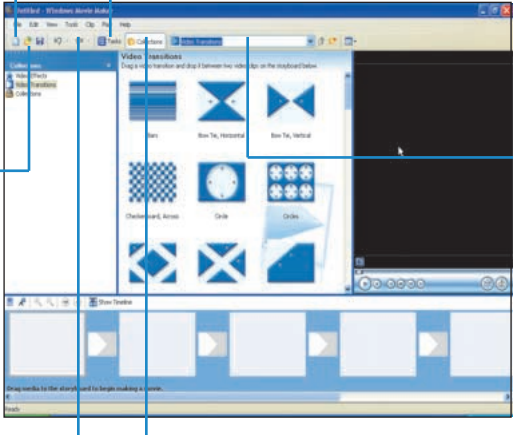
Three panes sit below the toolbar. To the left sits a pane that can be



It doesn't take long to find your way around the main Windows Movie Maker 2 interface.

occupied by tasks or collections; in the centre sits the content currently being worked on, and on the right sits the preview monitor.

The Toolbar



Start a new project by clicking the New Project icon or by selecting File > New Project. Alternatively, press [Ctrl]+[N].

Open an existing project by clicking the folder icon or by pressing [Ctrl]+[O]. Save by clicking the disk icon or pressing [Ctrl]+[S].

Undo or redo the last editing action using these arrow icons or by pressing [Ctrl]+[Z] or [Ctrl]+[Y] respectively.

The Tasks button toggles to show or hide the tasks pane, which provides easy access to most common movie making tasks.

Use this drop-down list to select what's shown in the contents pane, whether it's video effects, transitions or clip collections.

The Collections button toggles the collection pane in and out of existence. The pane provides access to all your collections of clips.

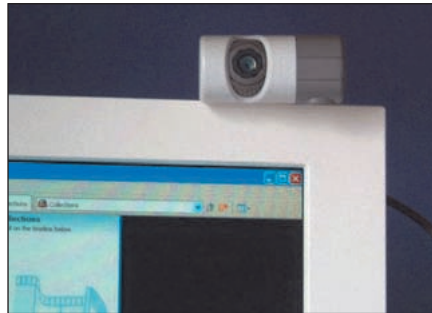
Video Sources

Windows Movie Maker 2 can take video from a wide variety of sources

You don't have to have a digital video camera to enjoy Windows Movie Maker 2.

Obviously, it will provide you with high quality pictures, but there are lots of other ways to transfer video to your PC. Older, analogue camcorders are just fine, as long as you have a video capture device. This comes either as a card installed in your PC or as a USB device.

It's still possible to get video onto your PC even if you don't have a video capture device. Webcams produce usable pictures, or



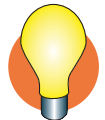
Even a webcam will provide video suitable for editing with Windows Movie Maker 2.

alternatively, you can always use a friend's PC to capture the video and pop it on a CD for you to edit on your own PC.



Windows Movie Maker 2 comes with a sample file, which you can find in the My Videos folder. Use this to practise on if you don't have any other video to play with.

- **Import video** from a digital camcorder. These usually connect to your computer via a USB or USB 2.0 port.
- **If your PC** has a video capture card, you can pick up footage from an analogue camcorder, perhaps to edit your holiday videos. You don't need to put that job off any longer.
- **Digital video** files from CD or on your hard disk take seconds to import into Windows Movie Maker 2. You can then edit them as you like.
- **Webcams produce** low quality streaming video. You can use this output in Windows Movie Maker 2. The quality won't be great, but it's fine for a video that will show over the web.
- **Perhaps you** have old home cine movies. If you do, why not set up a projector and film them with a camcorder or webcam, so you can import them into Windows Movie Maker 2?



Once the video has been captured as a computer file, you can transfer it to another PC. You can always capture the video on one computer, record it on a CD and transfer it to another PC for editing.

Output Types

What you do with your movie is up to you – Windows Movie Maker 2 gives you options



Windows Movie Maker 2 helps you to prepare your video file for publishing on a website. It reduces the size of the file by lowering the quality of the video. This enables people using dial-up modems to enjoy your work without waiting forever to download the file.

Once you've created a movie, it's only natural to want to share it with others. After all, there's not a lot of point in expressing yourself creatively if no one will see the results of all your efforts. In the days of analogue video, your options were quite limited; you could arrange a viewing in your house on your TV or perhaps lend out the tape so friends and relatives could do the same on their own television sets.

When you work with digital video, you have much more freedom. Not

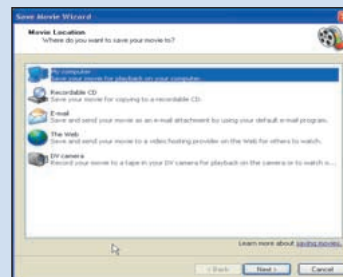
only do you have unprecedented control over all the elements of your picture, but you also gain the ability to distribute your film in numerous ways; you can play it back on your PC's monitor or use a digital projector to produce the full cinematic experience.

For friends who can't be at your premiere, why not record your movie onto a CD? Alternatively, send it via email, the size of your video file and your respective internet connections permitting. You could even publish it on the web.

Distribute Your Picture

How Windows Movie Maker 2 can save your movie file

The simplest way to save your video is as a file for playback on your computer. This creates a Windows Media Video file, which you can view using Windows Media Player 9 Series. The second option is saving the file to recordable CD. You'll need a CD-RW drive for this method. You can easily send CDs through the post to friends and relatives and it doesn't cost the earth. Electronic alternatives to the post include sending your movie by email or publishing it on the web. If you miss watching home movies on your television set, you can output to a digital camcorder.



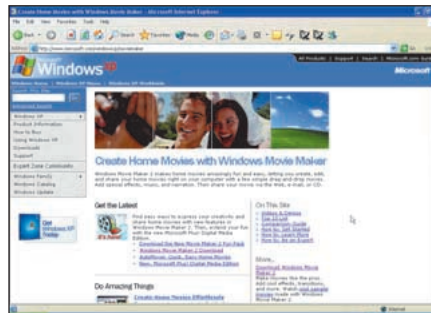
Choose from five main ways to save your finished video file.

On the Web

Ideas, extras and tips abound on the Windows Movie Maker 2 website

Being able to produce videos that are as quick and slick as those made by professionals is exciting, but it can be daunting too. It's hard to narrow down your choices when your opportunities are so diverse. Thankfully, Microsoft has provided helpful support on the Windows Movie Maker 2 website, which you'll find at www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/moviemaker.

Here you'll find tutorials, advice and resources to help you, and if you have specific queries, there's a link to a newsgroup frequented by



The Windows Movie Maker 2 website contains lots of resources and advice.

experts recognised by Microsoft for their troubleshooting skills. You'll also find goodies, related products, help topics and competitions.



If you have an expert query, go directly to the Expert Zone on Windows Movie Maker. Here you'll find articles written by digital video experts that give detailed advice on technical matters.

- **Download Windows** Movie Maker 2 and watch sample movies that demonstrate the power of this exciting application.
- **Learn by** example. Watch some finished movies and read how the directors used Windows Movie Maker 2 to create them.
- **Read tutorials** that cover topics from getting started with Windows Movie Maker 2 to editing video like the professionals.
- **Download the** Windows Movie Maker 2 Creativity Fun Pack. This contains titles, music tracks and transitions as well as a range of sound effects. These additions will lend further professional gloss to your work. You'll also find a copy on your cover CD.
- **Learn about** related products such as Microsoft Plus! Digital Media Edition, which provides a number of exciting features, including one which builds upon Windows Movie Maker 2 to enable you to transform your digital photos into a multimedia presentation.



Video and computer equipment varies widely according to the manufacturer and its age. When looking for solutions that relate to specific items of equipment, your first port of call should be the hardware manufacturer's website, which you should find in the documentation that came with the equipment.