

Windows Movie Maker tutorial

Windows Movie Maker is a free video-editing tool included with Microsoft Windows XP (Service Pack 2 and later) and all Windows Vista operating systems. Look for it in your Programs under “Windows Movie Maker.”

With Movie Maker, you can turn your home movies into awesome videos that you can share across the Internet, or burn to a CD or DVD. Movie Maker is fairly easy for everyone to use, so don't be afraid to dive in, even if you're not a computer expert.

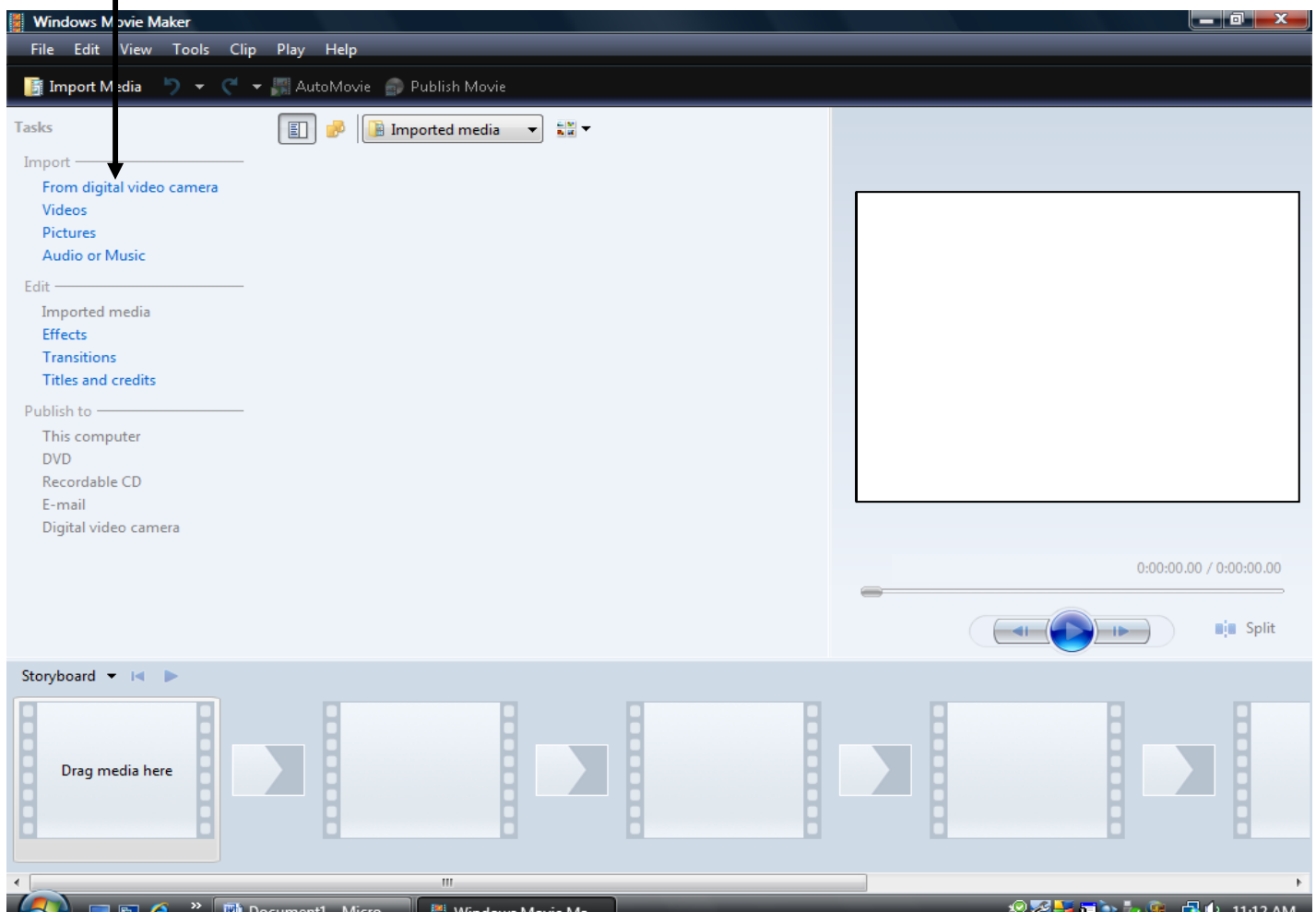
Sound files acceptable to MM include: .wav, .aif, .aiff, .snd, .mp3, .mpa, .mp2, .wma, .au, .asf

Photo and video files in MM are: .jpg, .jpeg, .jpe, .jff, .gif, .png, .bmp, .dib, .tif, .tiff, .wmf, .emf, .wdp, .avi, .mpg, .mpq, .mp2v, .mpeg, .mpe, .mpvz, .wm, .wmv, .dvr-ms

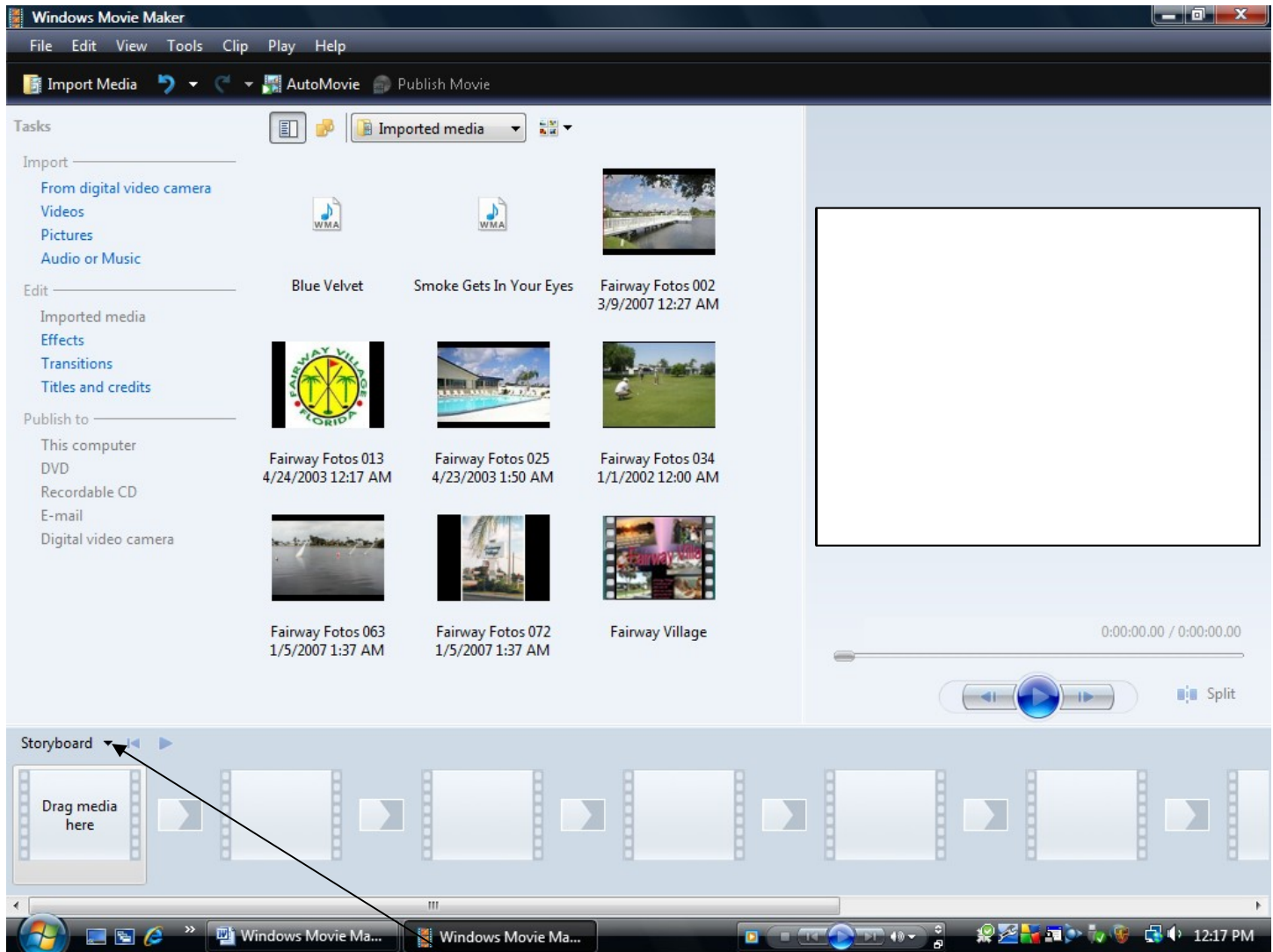
This is your movie making and editing screen in *Windows Vista*:

1. **Import** photos, videos, and music by clicking on the “Import...”

- “From digital video camera” (from camera connected to your computer or card reader/memory card connected to your computer)
- “Videos” (from files already on your computer),
- “Pictures” (photos already on your computer or from memory card)
- “Audio or Music” (from files previously recorded on your computer).

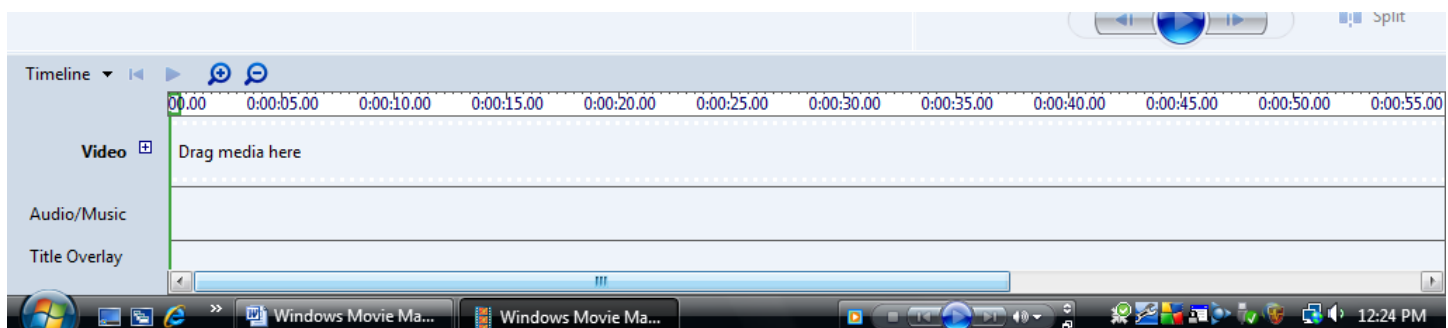


After you have imported a music file or two (use Windows Media Player to “rip” songs from CDs you or friends own), imported a photo or two (from your “Pictures” or “My Pictures” files, and imported a video or two (from your “Videos” or “My Videos” files), your workspace will look like this:

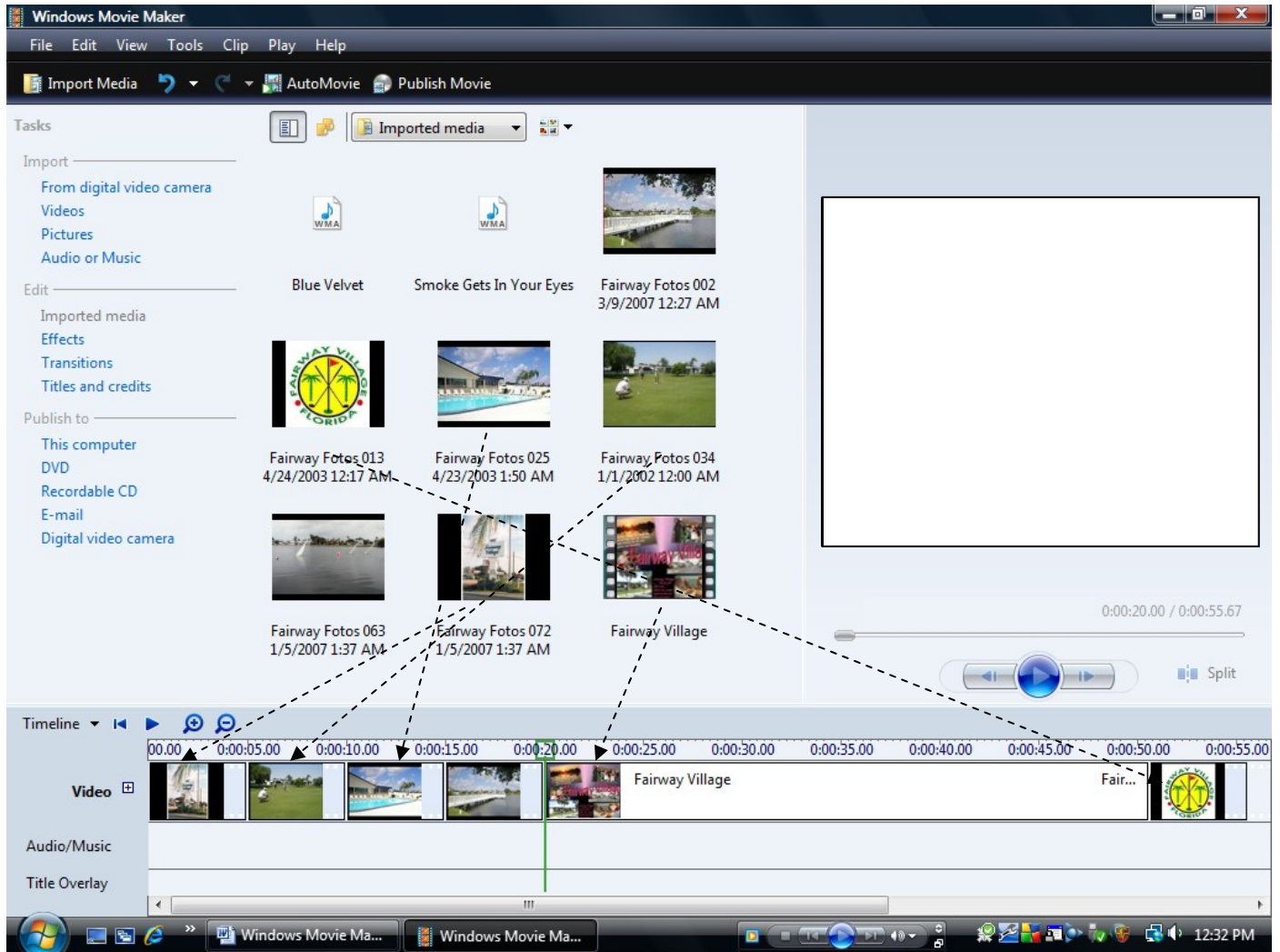


2. Next, switch to “Timeline” view
 1. (use “Storyboard” drop down arrow in Vista)
 2. Or use “View” menu, choose “Timeline” in XP

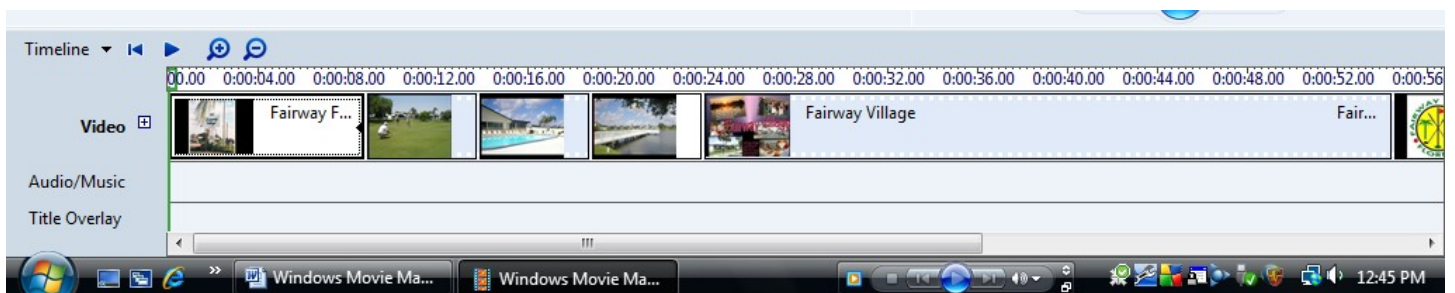
Now the bottom of your work area looks like this:



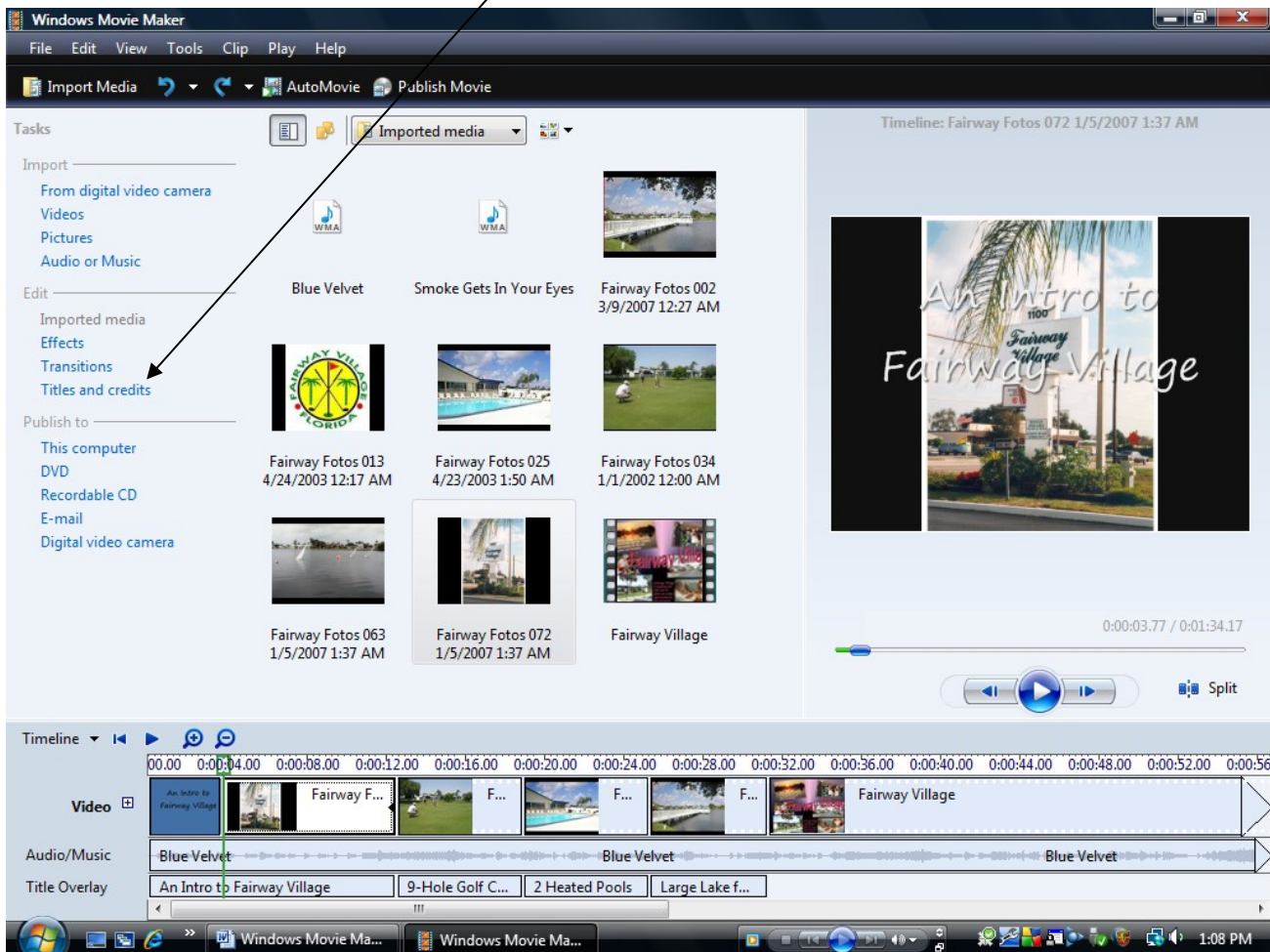
- Start dragging photos and videos onto the timeline, using your mouse to click and drag from imported items at the top of your work area down onto the timeline. Notice that the video takes a longer space on the timeline.



- You can also drag on the right-hand side of any photo to make it display for a longer time on your movie. Here, I've dragged on the first photo to make it last for 8 seconds instead of the default 5 seconds.



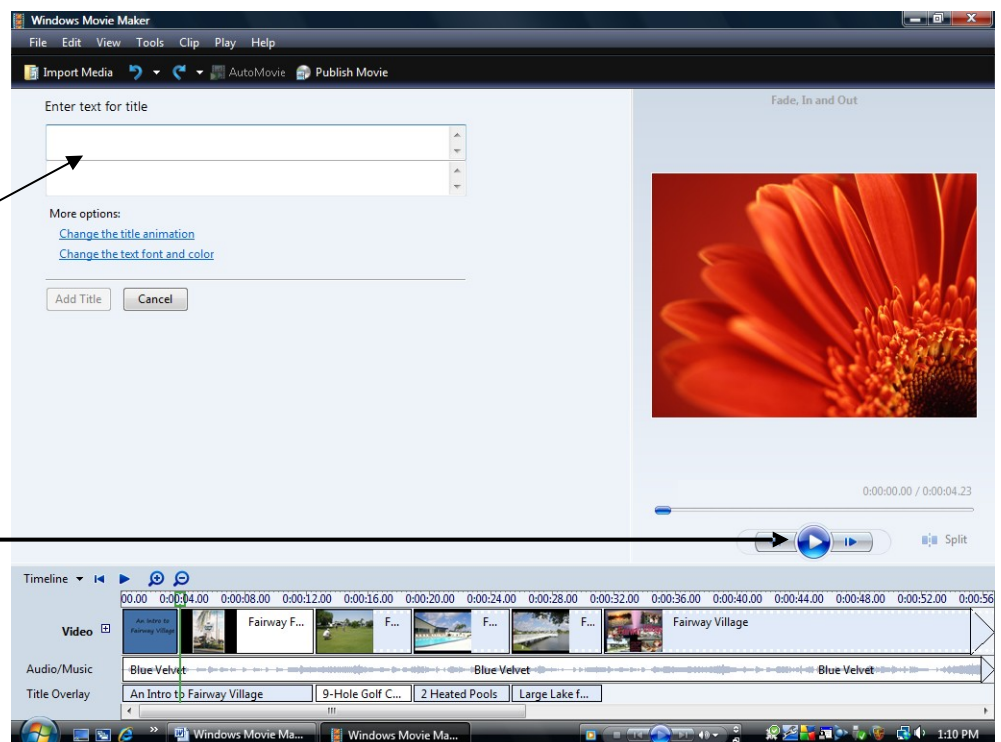
5. Add titles on photos and videos as desired. Click on the photo/video on the timeline, then click on “Edit...Titles and Credits” on the task pane. Choose whether the title is to appear *before* the photo/video or *on* it.



When you choose to put a title on a photo/video, you get a screen like this:

Type in the title words you want. (Ignore the red daisy; your words will be on *your* photo/video).

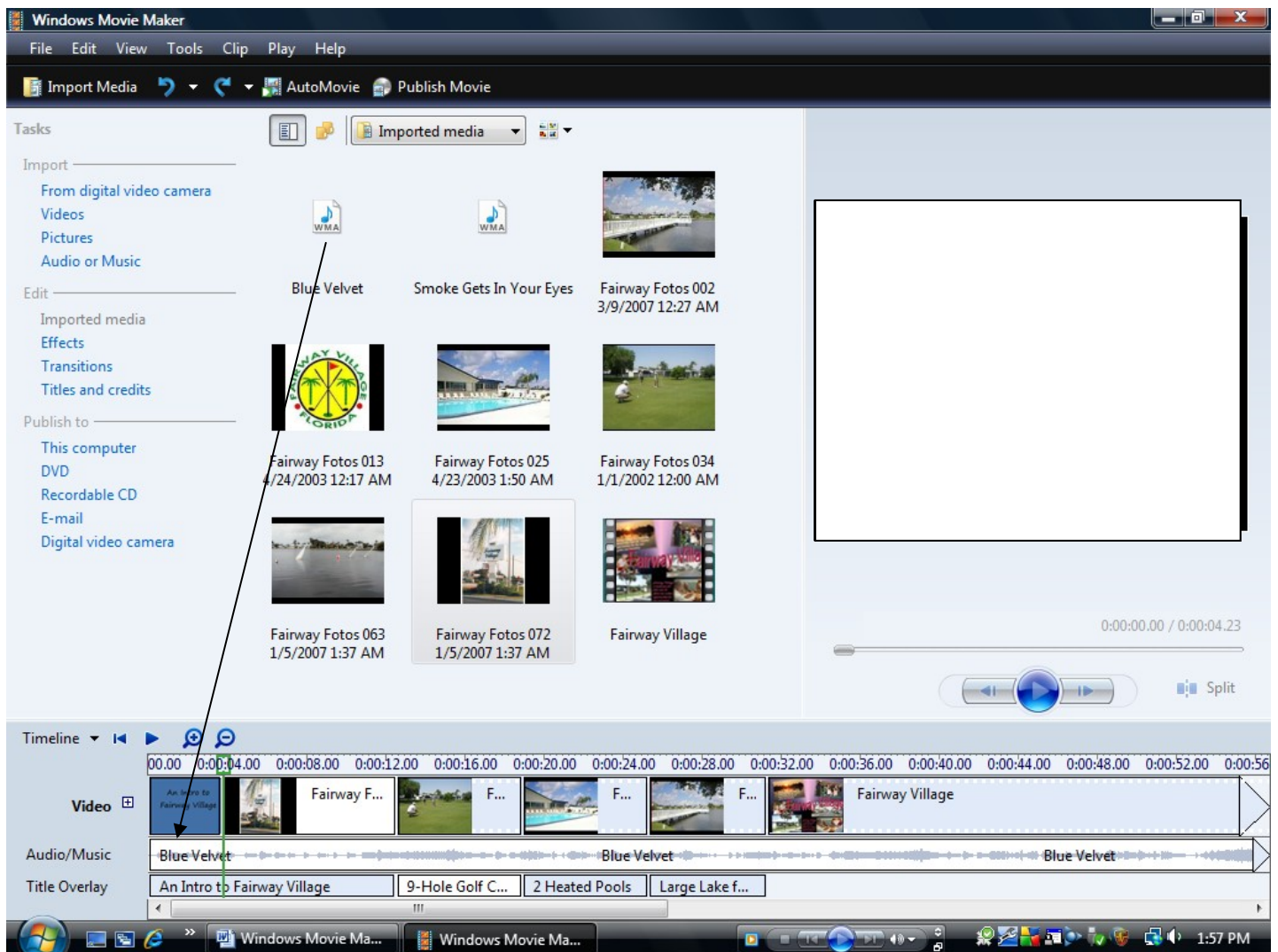
Preview at any time by clicking on the white arrow in the blue circle.



6. **To add music:** Click on the photo or video where you want the music to start. Drag a music selection down to the “Audio/Music” bar on the timeline.

You can lengthen or shorten a music selection by dragging on the right-hand side of the music on the timeline.

The sound bar shows when the music gets louder or softer. Obviously, choose a soft tonal spot to end your music selection. Or you can drag backward on the music tonal bar to actually shorten/edit a music file.



7. Add narration to your movie

You can make your movie more personal by describing in your own words what happens in your movie. The following steps describe how to add narration to your movie.

1. If the Storyboard view is visible, click “View” menu, and then click “Timeline.”
2. Move the playback indicator, which appears as a square with a vertical line below it, to a point on the timeline where the Audio/Music track is empty, and where you want to begin your narration.
3. Click “Tools” menu, and then click “Narrate Timeline.”
4. If “Show options” is visible, click it.
5. To prevent any audio from playing over your speakers while you record your narration, select the Mute speakers check box. This helps to keep unwanted audio or echoes out of your narration.
6. Under “Audio device,” click the audio capture device that you want to use. This option is available only for analog devices, and the audio device will usually be the name of the sound card that is installed on your computer.
7. To adjust the recording level of your narration, speak into your recording device and move the Input level slider to a place on the meter that registers your voice at the volume you want. You'll probably want the slider toward the upper part of the meter, but below the red-colored area.
8. Click “Start Narration” and begin to narrate the contents of the timeline.
9. When you finish your narration, click “Stop Narration.”
10. In the “File name” box, type a file name for your narration, and then click “Save.”
11. Click “Close.”

Windows Movie Maker automatically imports your narration into the current collection and puts it on the timeline at the point on the Audio/Music track where you first began to narrate. Windows Movie Maker saves the file with a .wma (Windows Media Audio) file name extension to the folder you choose.

9. To Publish (Finalize) Your Movie:

Click on “Publish” in Vista. Or find “Finalize” in XP.

Choose to Publish the movie to your computer. Or to burn the movie on a DVD or a CD. Or to email it or put it on your camera memory card.

