Digital Story Telling with Windows Movie Maker
Designed for Learning Workshop
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Getting Started

1. To open Windows moviemaker, go to: **Start > All Programs > Windows Movie Maker**. (Figure 1.1)

Figure 1.1

Please note: You should have your story written and your pictures organized before you start working with moviemaker.

Windows Movie Maker Interface: (Figure 2.1)

a. Tasks/Collection Pane
b. Clips/Pictures/Music (Collections) Pane
c. Location Box
d. Preview Window
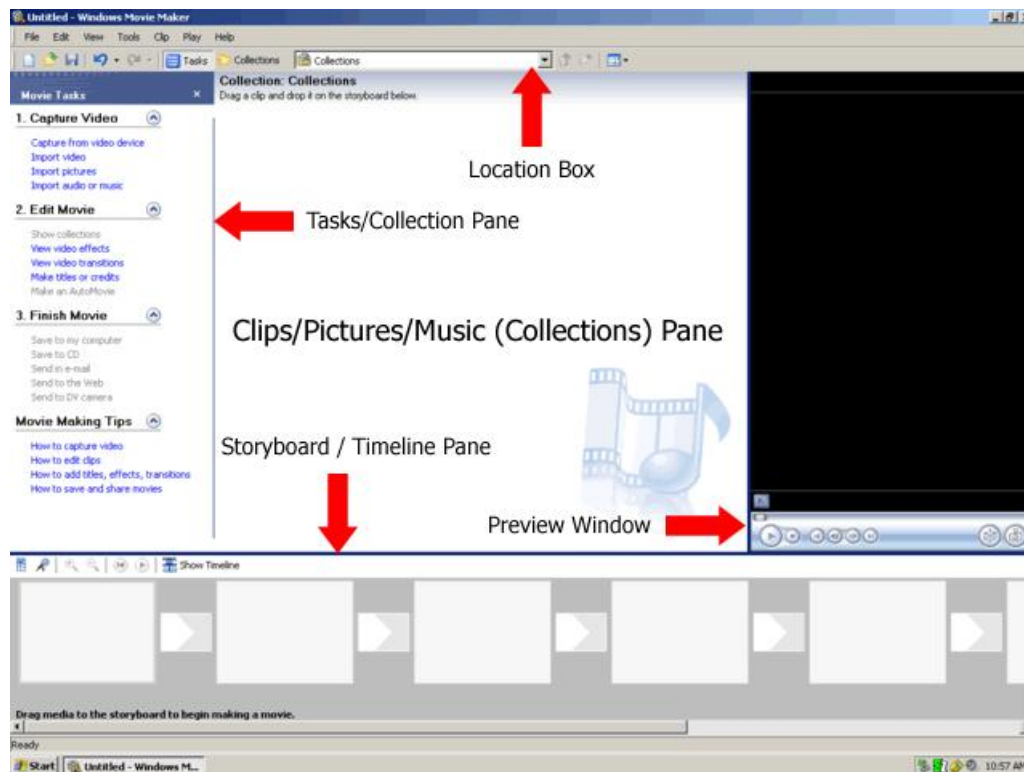e. Storyboard / Timeline Pane

Figure 2.1

Importing Pictures:

1. Go to **File > Import into Collections**. (Figure 3.1)
2. Browse to the folder where you have your pictures saved. (Figure 3.2)
3. Then select the picture and press **Import**. You can also select multiple pictures at the same time.
4. Your pictures should appear in the *Clips/Pictures/Music (Collections) Pane*. (Figure 3.3)
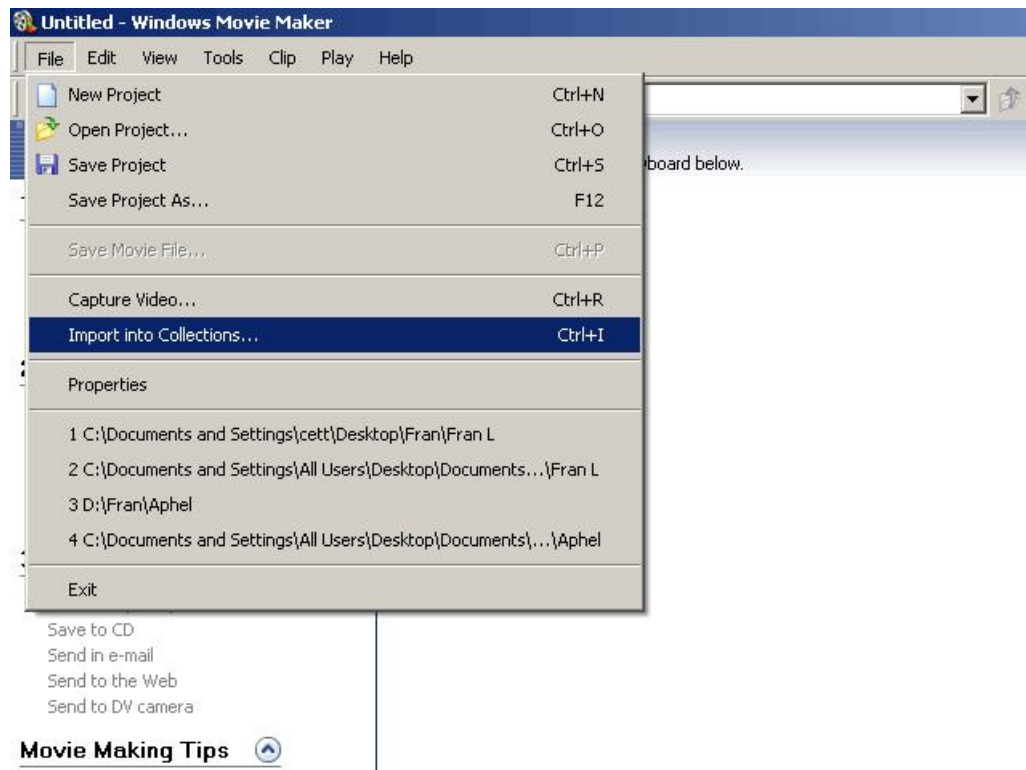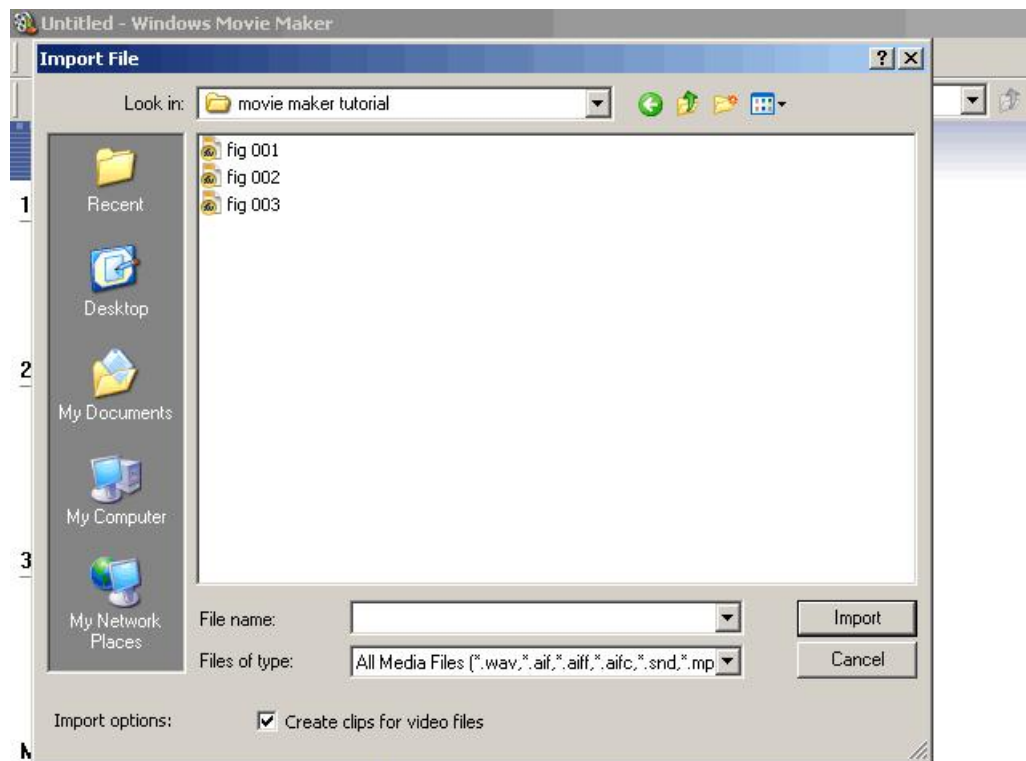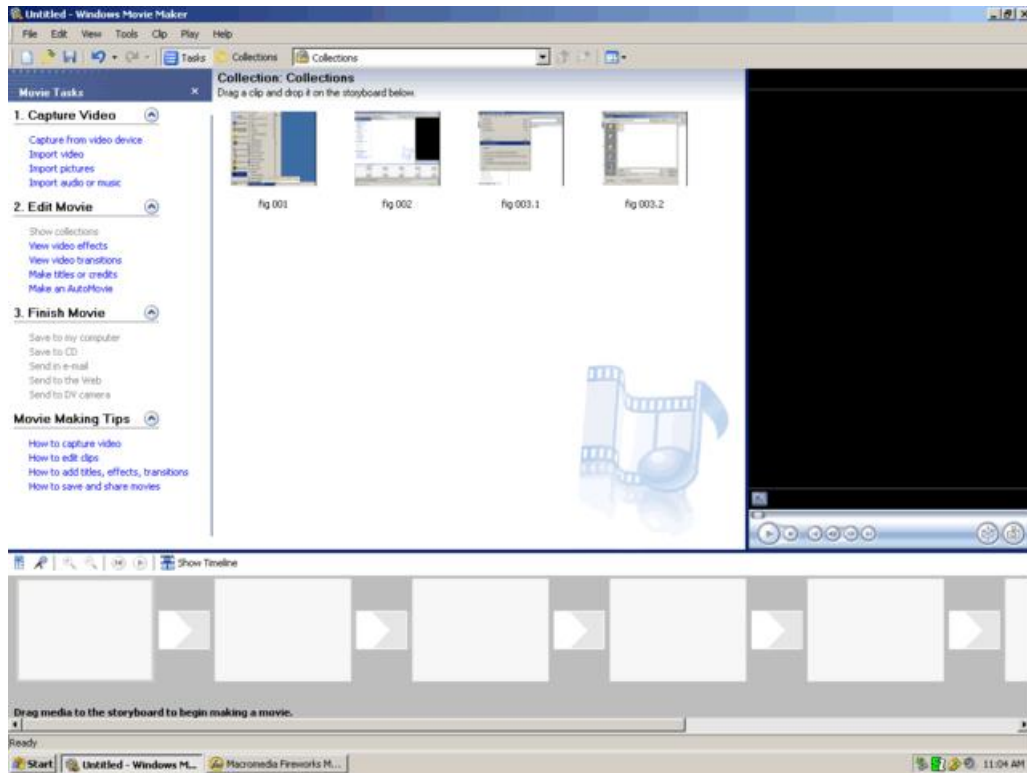
Figure 3.1

Figure 3.2

Figure 3.3

Inserting Images into TimeLine:

1. If you are in storyboard view, click on the **Show Timeline** button to change the interface. (Figure 4.1)
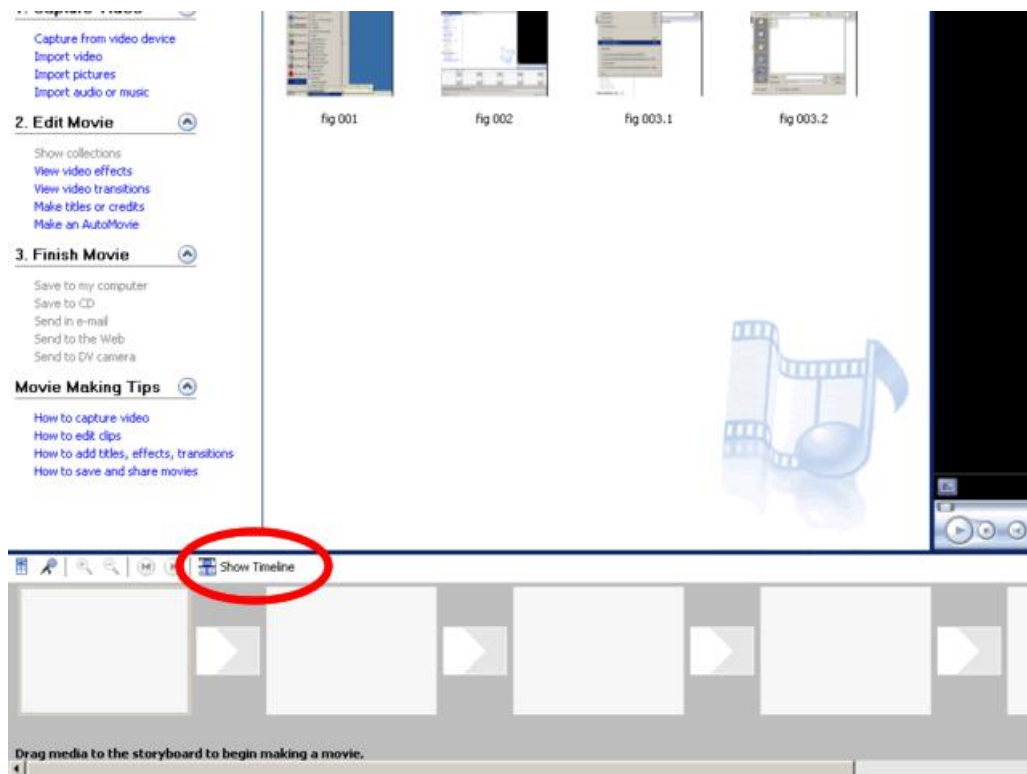

Figure 4.1

2. Click on the picture that you want to include in the story and drag it to the time line. (Figures 4.2 - 4.4)
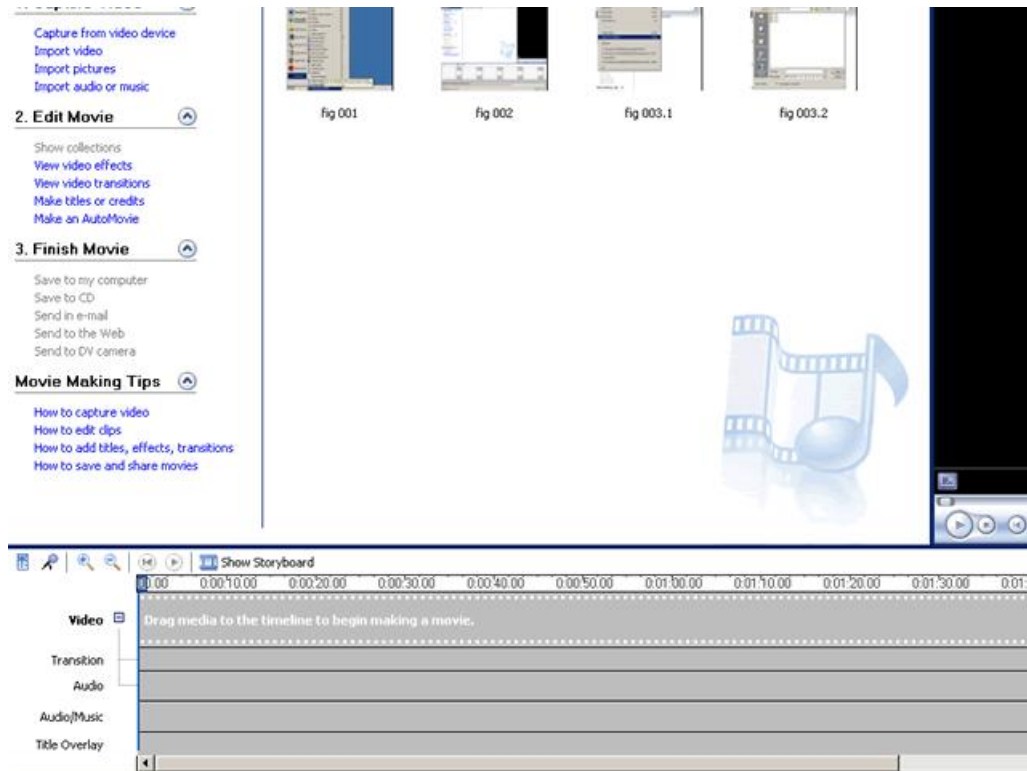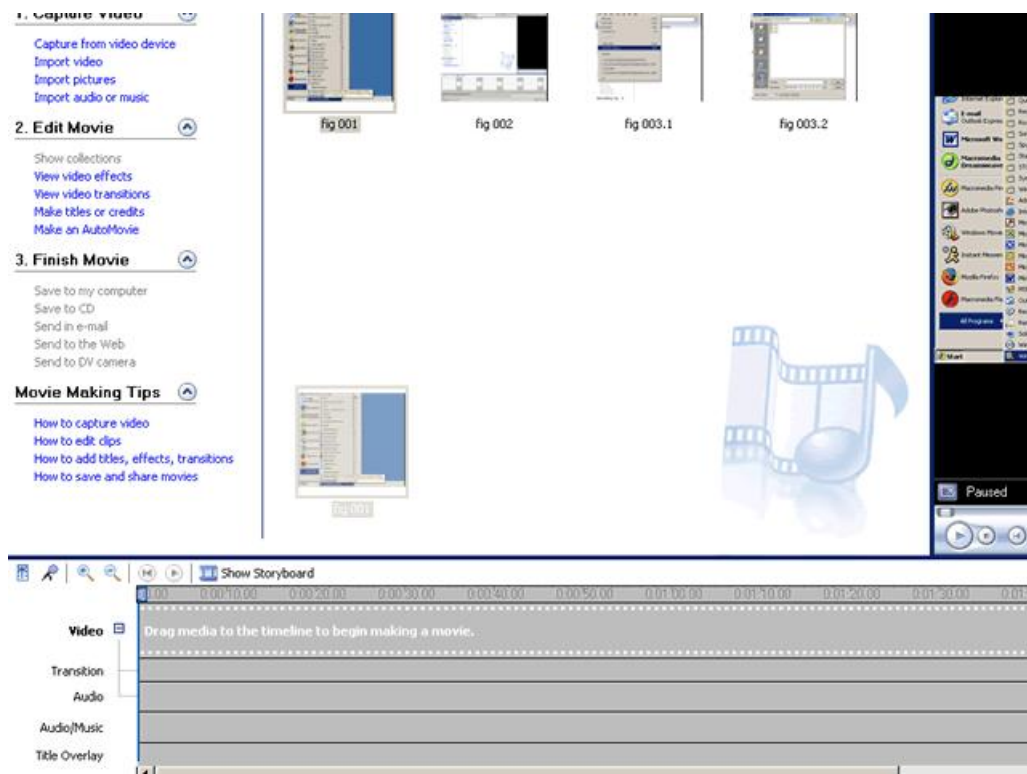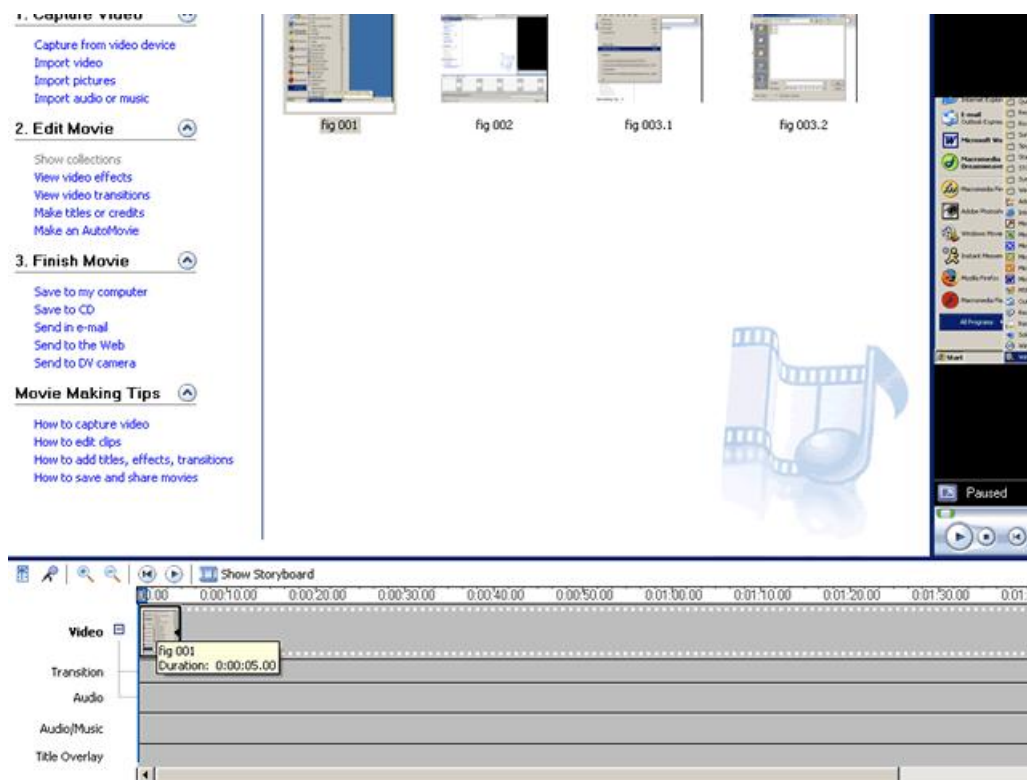

Figure 4.2

Figure 4.3

Figure 4.4

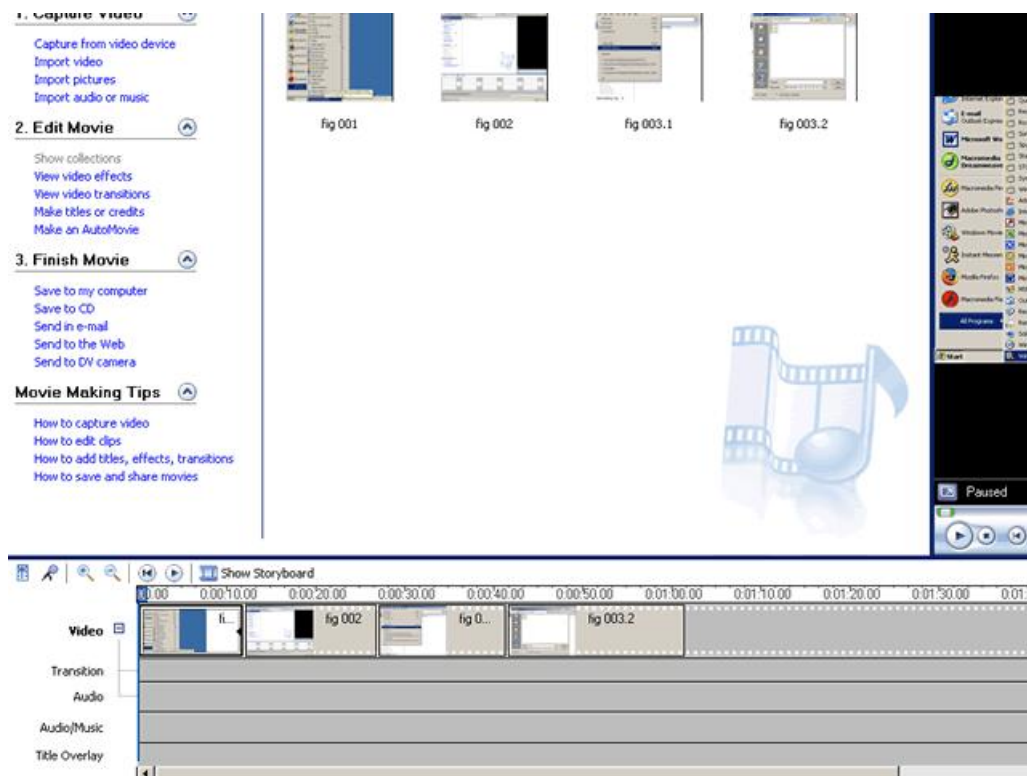2. Do the same for all other pictures. (Figure 4.5)

Figure 4.5

3. If you want to move a picture, select it in the storyboard and drag it to the position where you want it to be. (Figures 4.6 - 4.7)
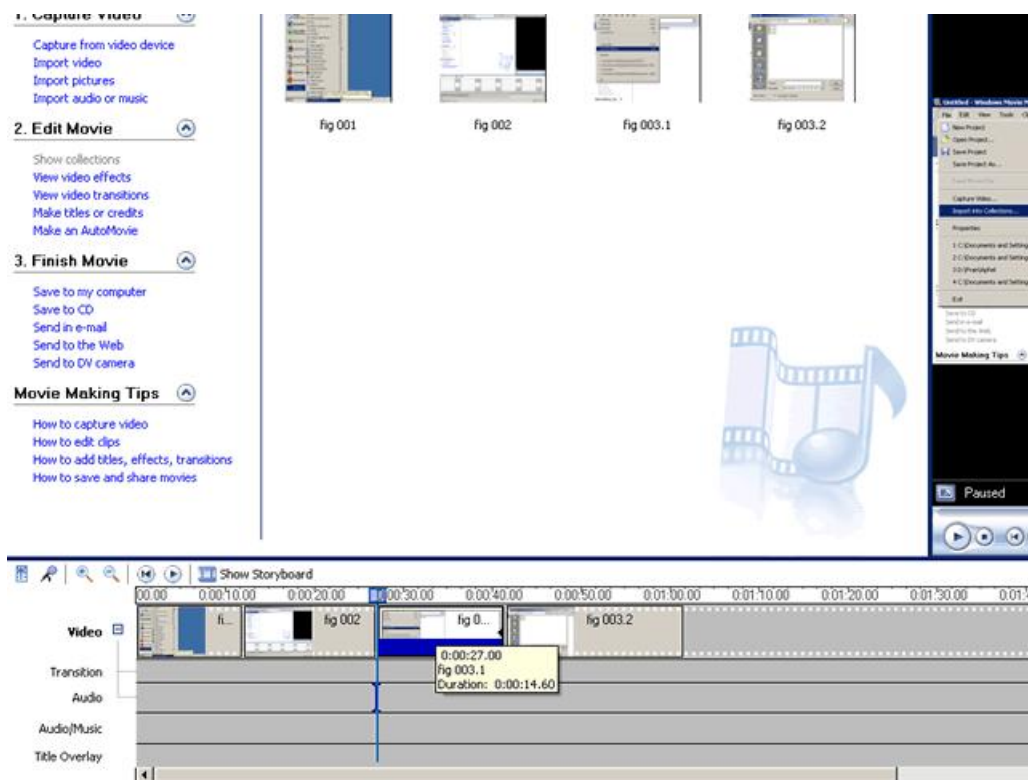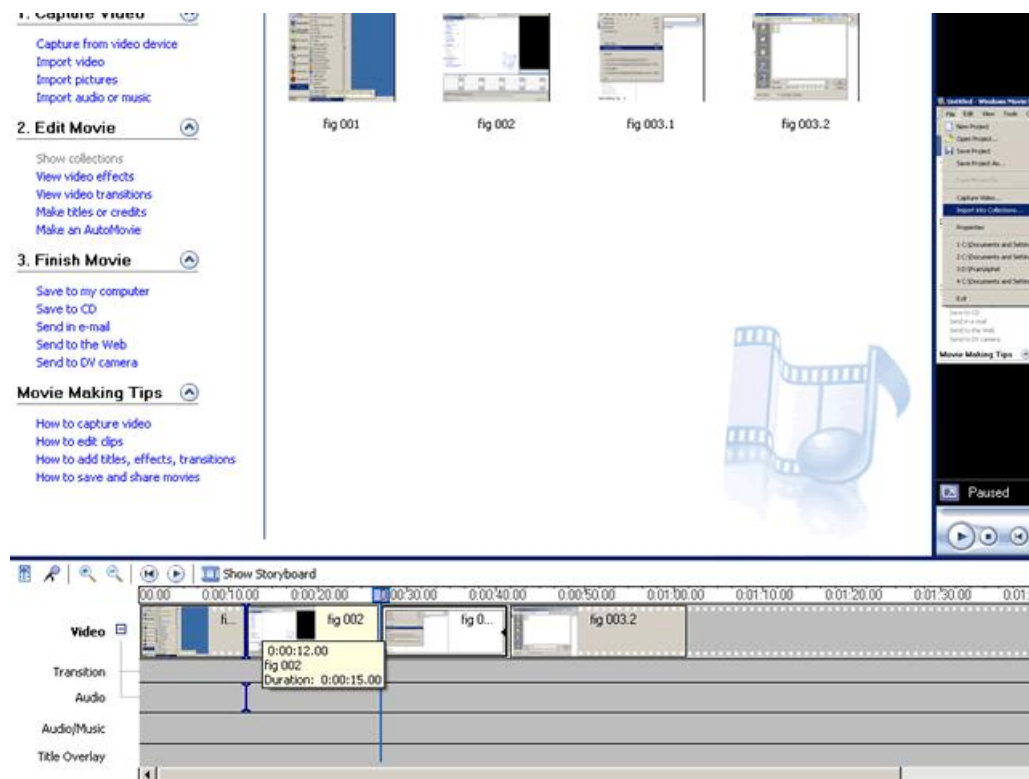
Figure 4.7

Figure 4.7

Adding Transitions:

1. Go to the location bar and click the down arrow to select *Video Transitions*. (Figure 5.1)
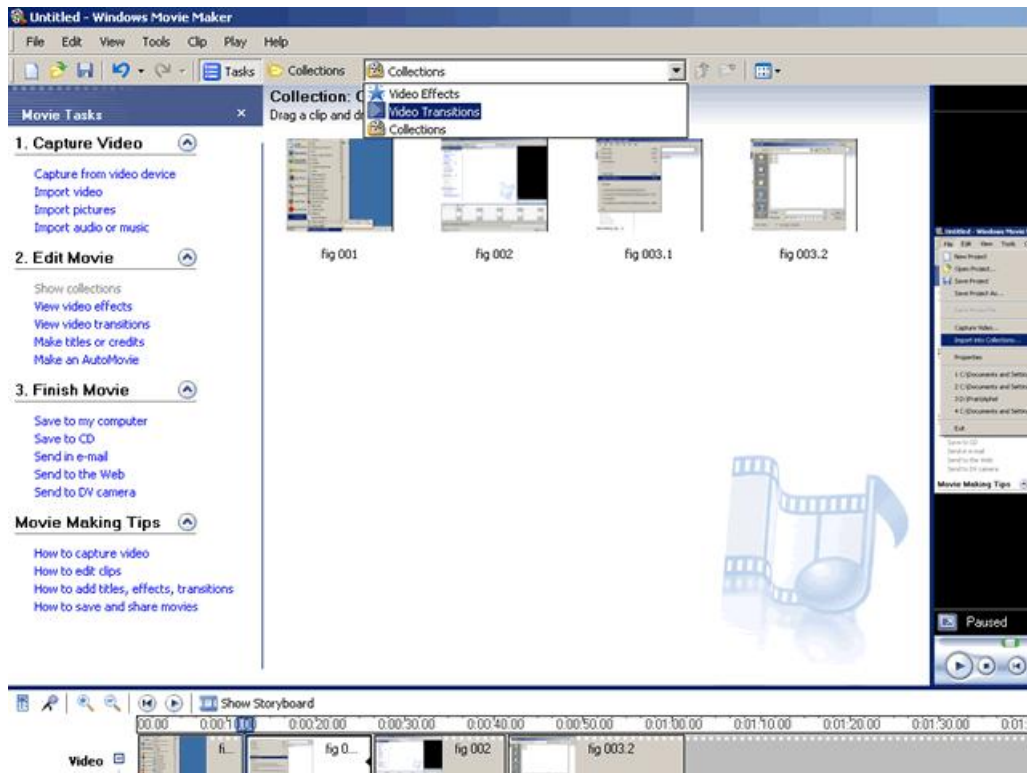
Figure 5.1

2. It will give you a number of available transitions. You can preview the transition by clicking on it and pressing the play button in the preview window. (Figure 5.2)
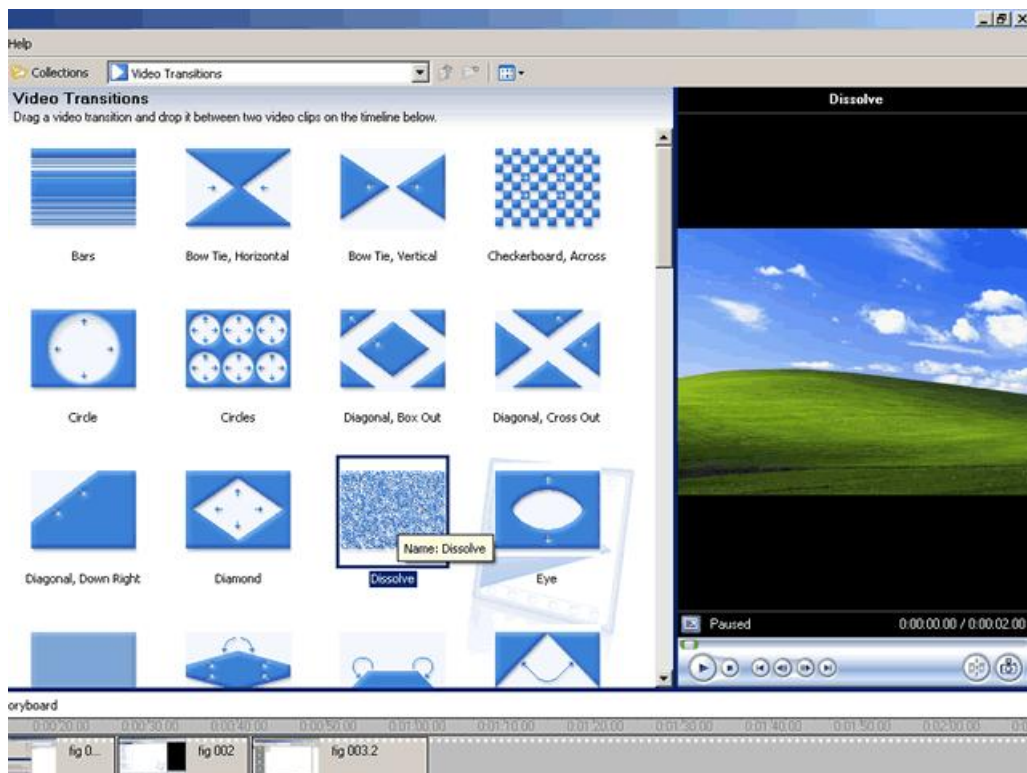

Figure 5.2

3. Once you have decided you can just drag and drop the transition <u>between two pictures</u>. (Figure 5.3)
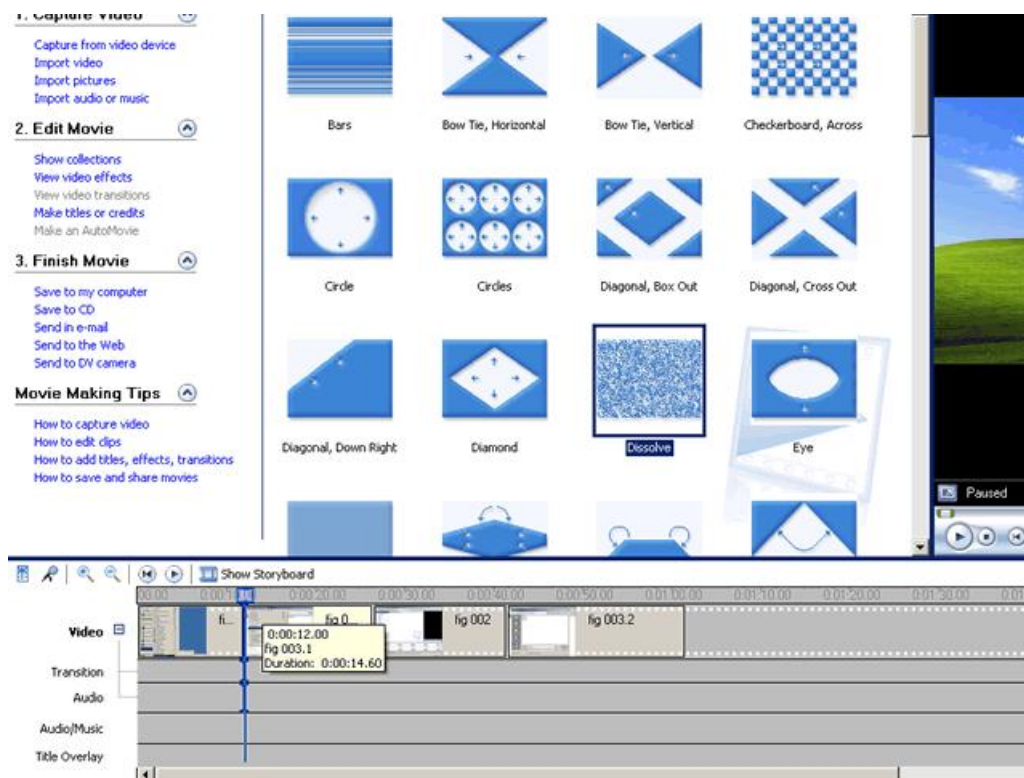
Figure 5.3

4. You will see the transition in a layer under the pictures. (Figure 5.4)
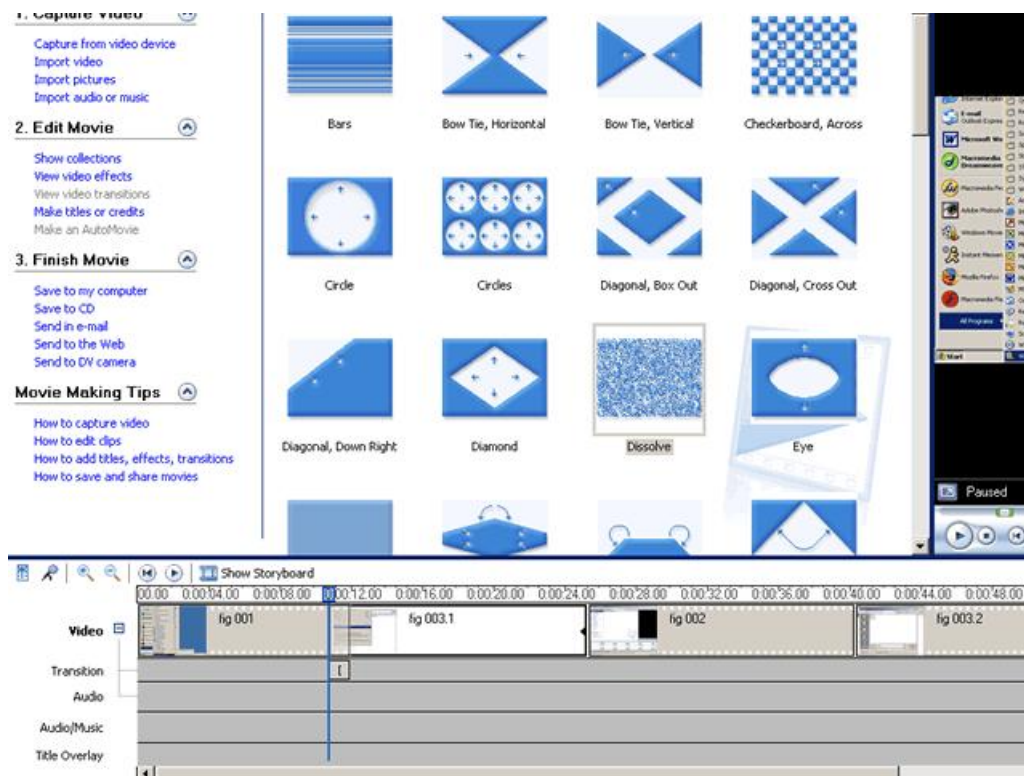

Figure 5.4

Adding Effects:

1. Go to the location bar and click the down arrow to select *Video Effects*. (Figure 6.1)
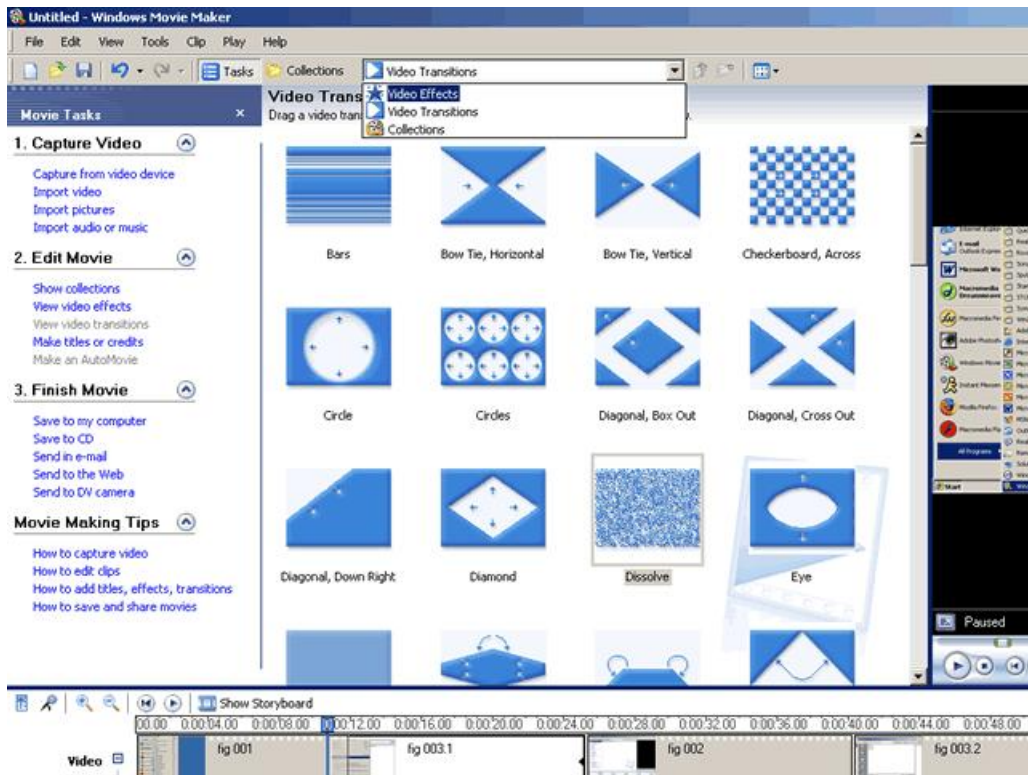
Figure 6.1

2. It will again give you a number of available effects. You can preview the effect by clicking on it and pressing the play button in the preview window. (Figure 6.2)
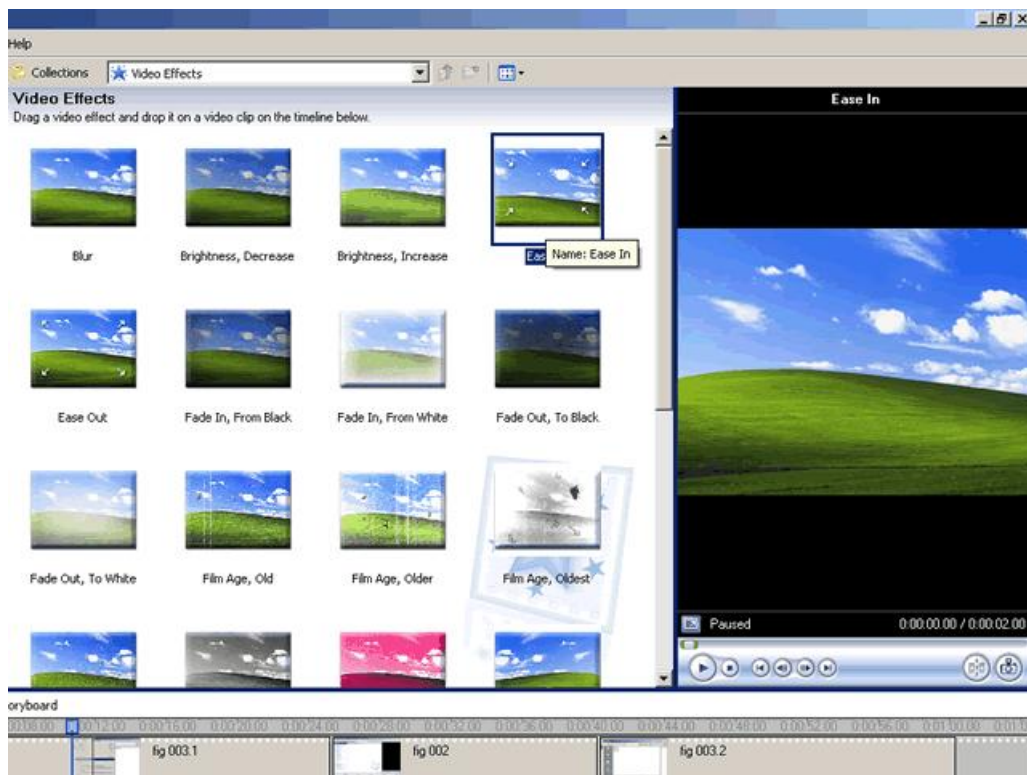

Figure 6.2

3. Once you have decided you can drag and drop the effect <u>on the picture</u> which you wish to show. (Figure 6.3)
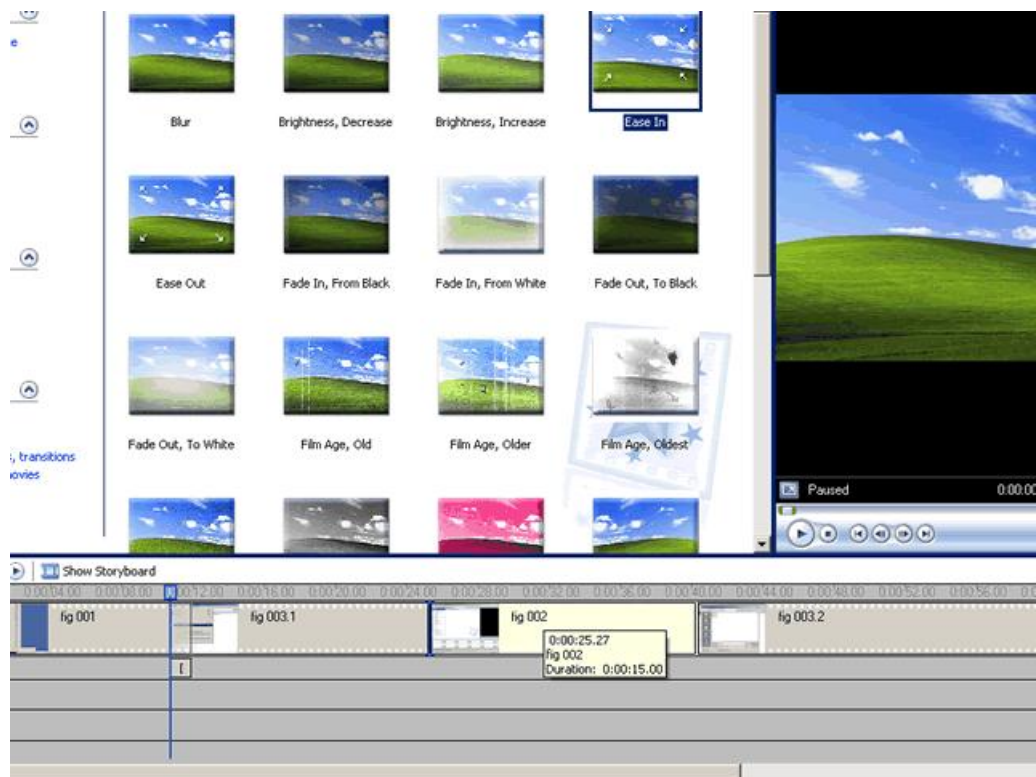
Figure 6.3

4. A star will appear on the image which you have just applied an effect. (Figure 6.4)
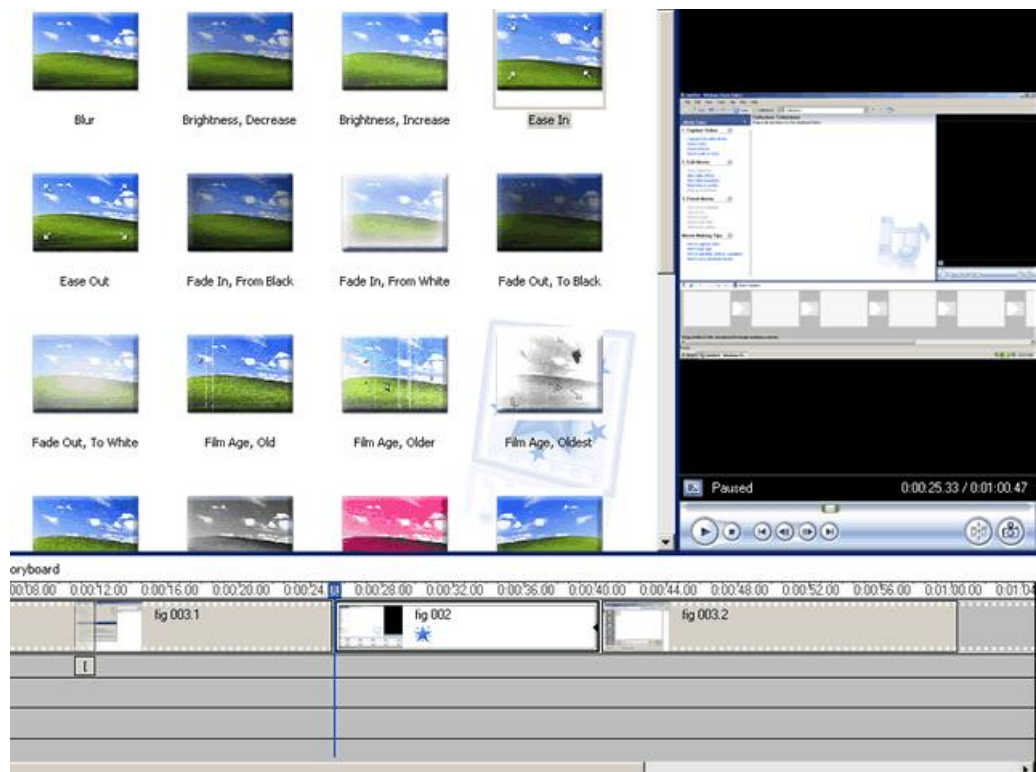

Figure 6.4

Recording Narration:

To record narration you must have a microphone available. The quality of the narration will be affected by the environment you record in and how good your microphone is. Once you are ready:

1. Click on the microphone icon right above the timeline. (Figure 7.1)
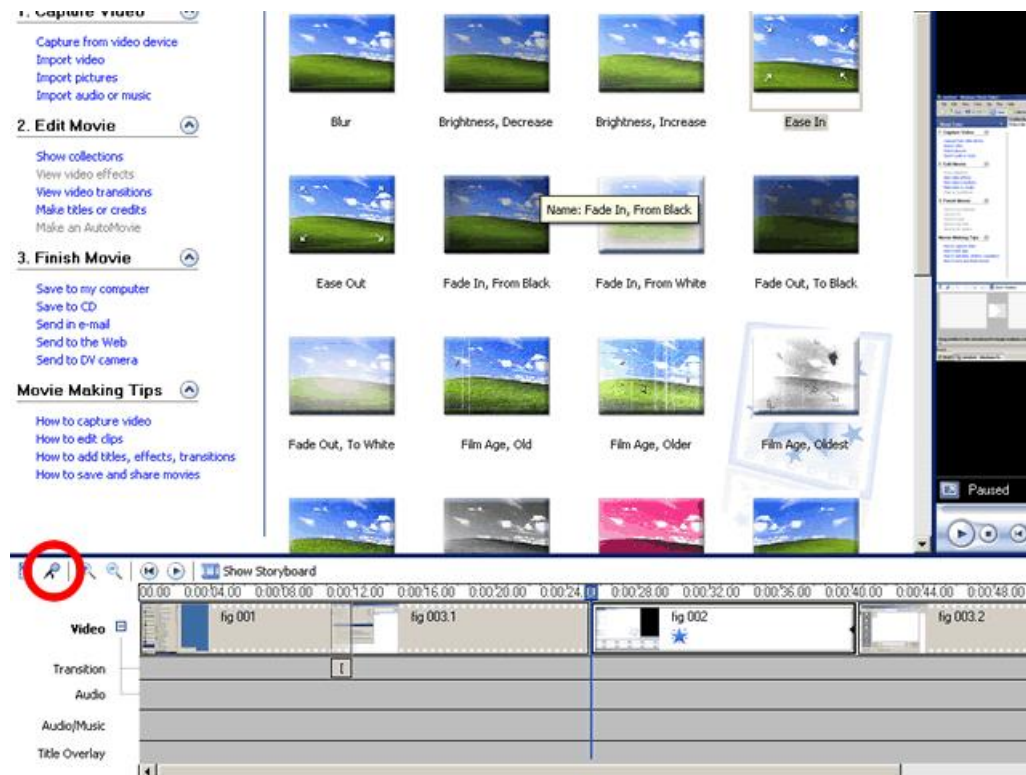

Figure 7.1

2. You will notice the *Tasks/Collection Pane* change to a *Recording Pane*. (Figure 7.2)
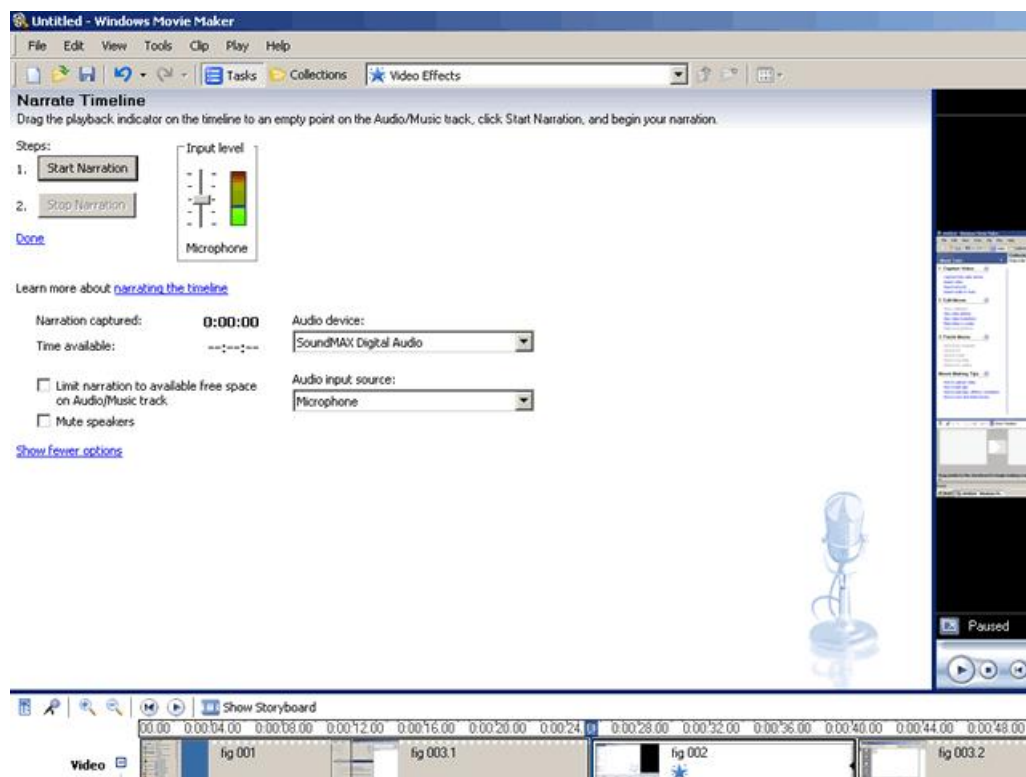

Figure 7.2

3. Press **Start Narration** to start recording your voice. (Figure 7.3)
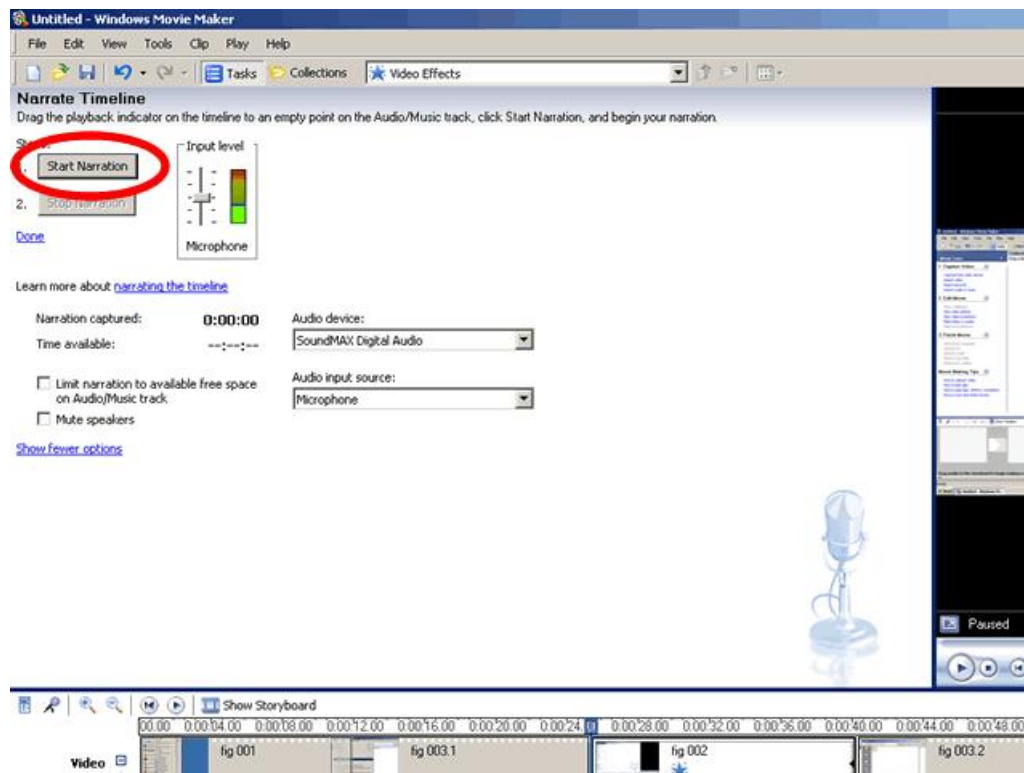
Figure 7.3

4. After you have finished narrating, press **Stop Narration**. (Figure 7.4)
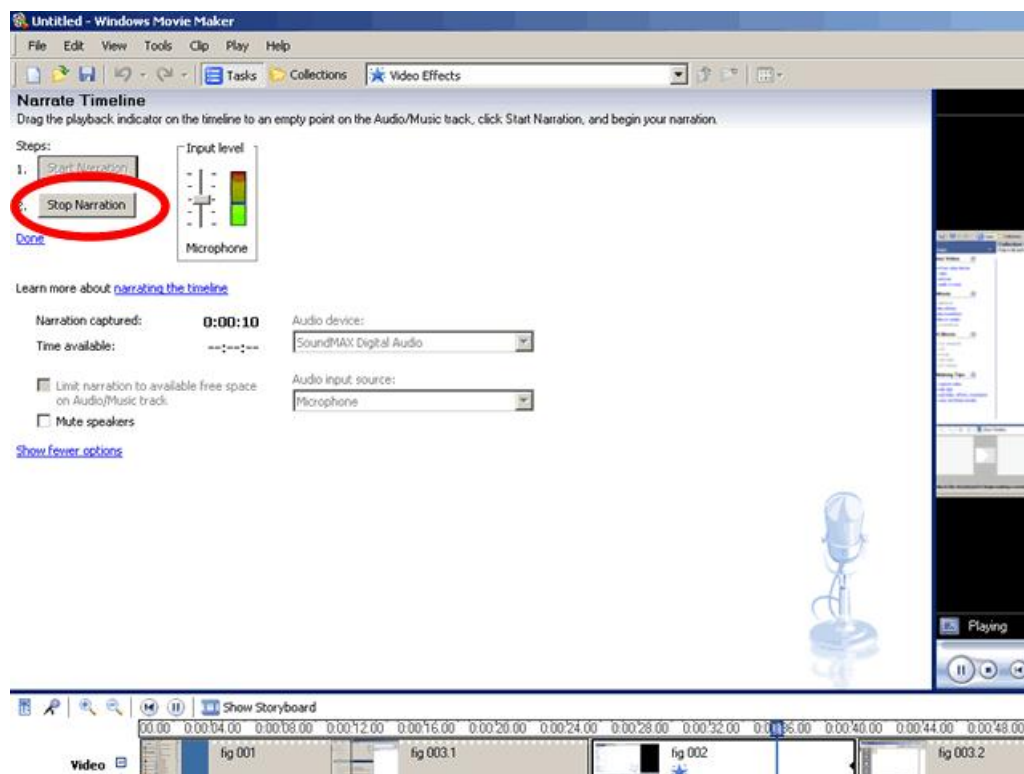

Figure 7.4

5. You will get another window asking you to save the recorded audio file. You must save it in order to use it in your story. (Figure 7.5)
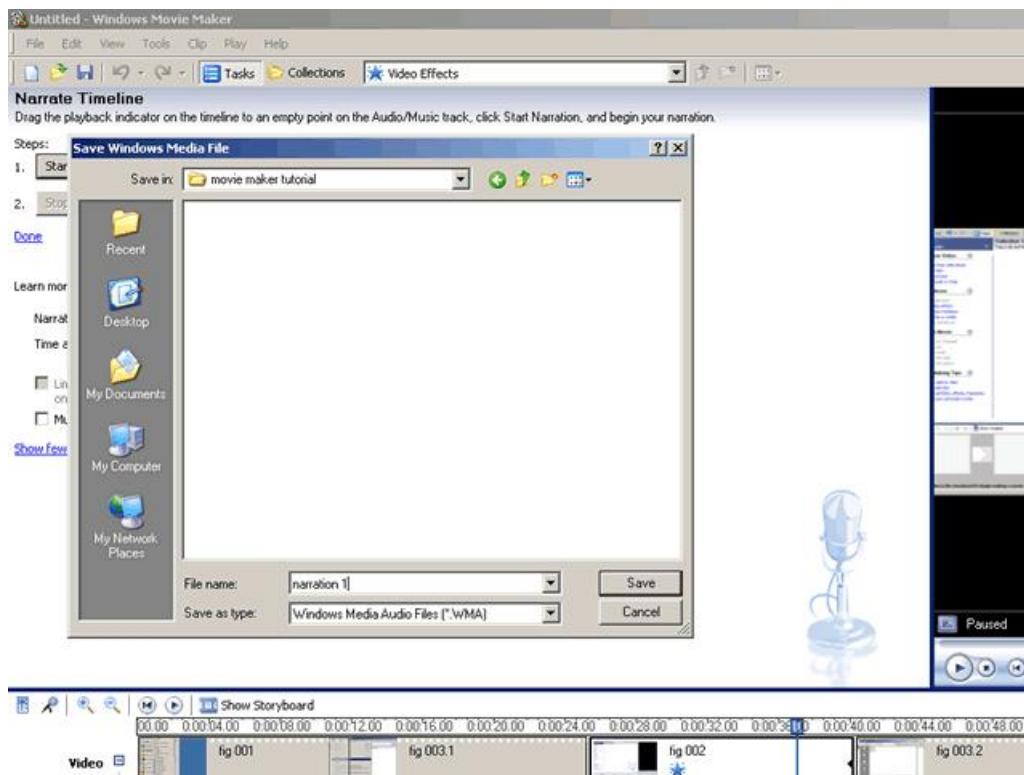
Figure 7.5

6. Your narration will appear in the Timeline. You can listen to your recording by clicking on it and pressing the play button in the preview window. Note: If your narration stops automatically before you stop it manually, you might need to extend the length of picture in the timeline. You can do so by clicking on a picture in the timeline and pulling the right end to an extended point. You can do the same for all your pictures. (Figure 7.6)
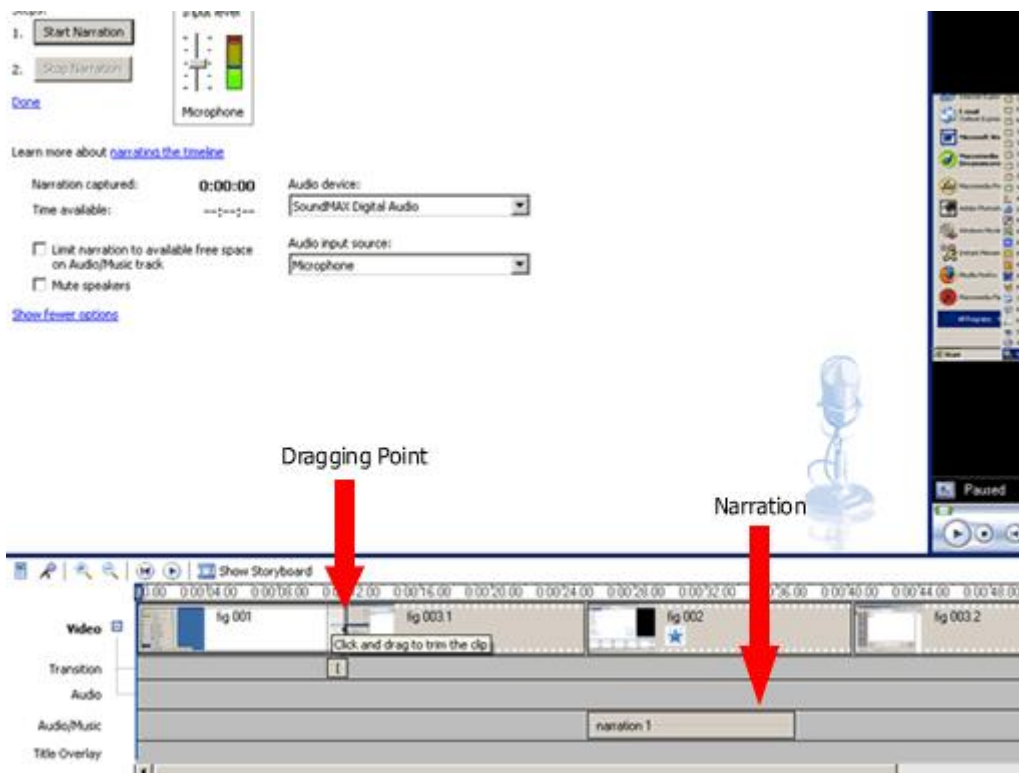

Figure 7.6

7. Once you are satisfied with your narration, click **Done**. Do the same for all your narrations, if you have recorded them separately. (Figure 7.7) You can adjust the length of the picture to match the length of the narration by clicking and moving the right end of a picture to the precise position at the end of the narration.
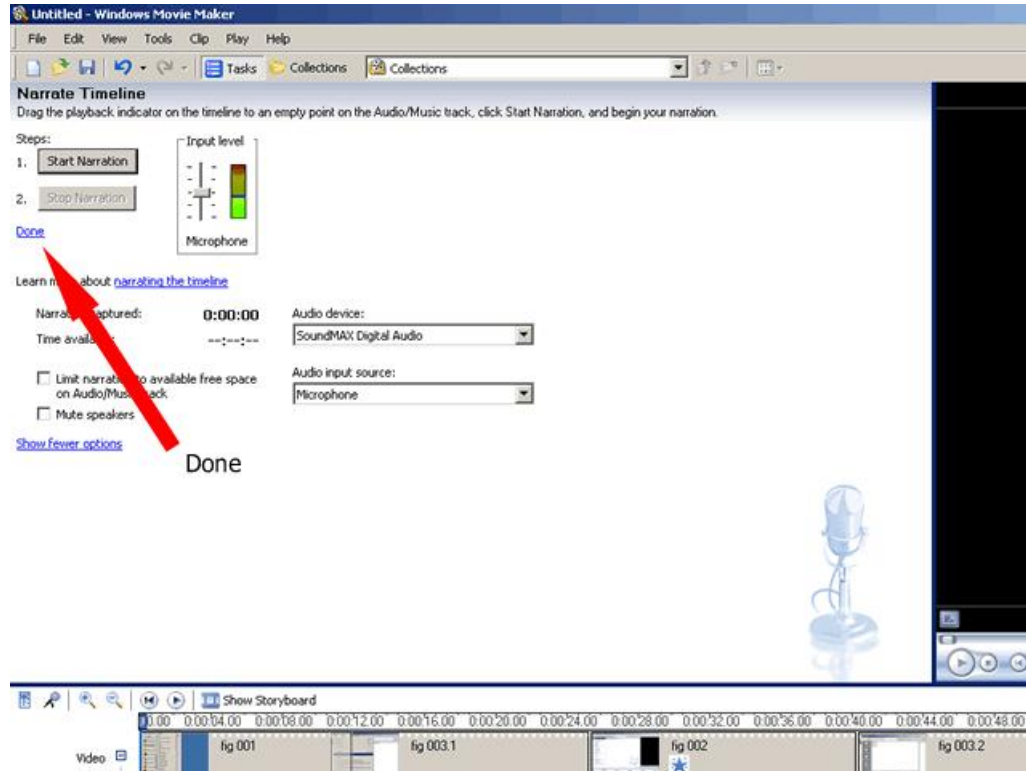

Figure 7.7

Adding Titles/Credits/Captions:

1. You can add title/credits to your digital story or captions to your pictures. Click on **Tasks** button if your *Tasks/Collection Pane* is not active. Select **Add Titles or Credits** from the **Edit Movie** menu. (Figure 8.1)
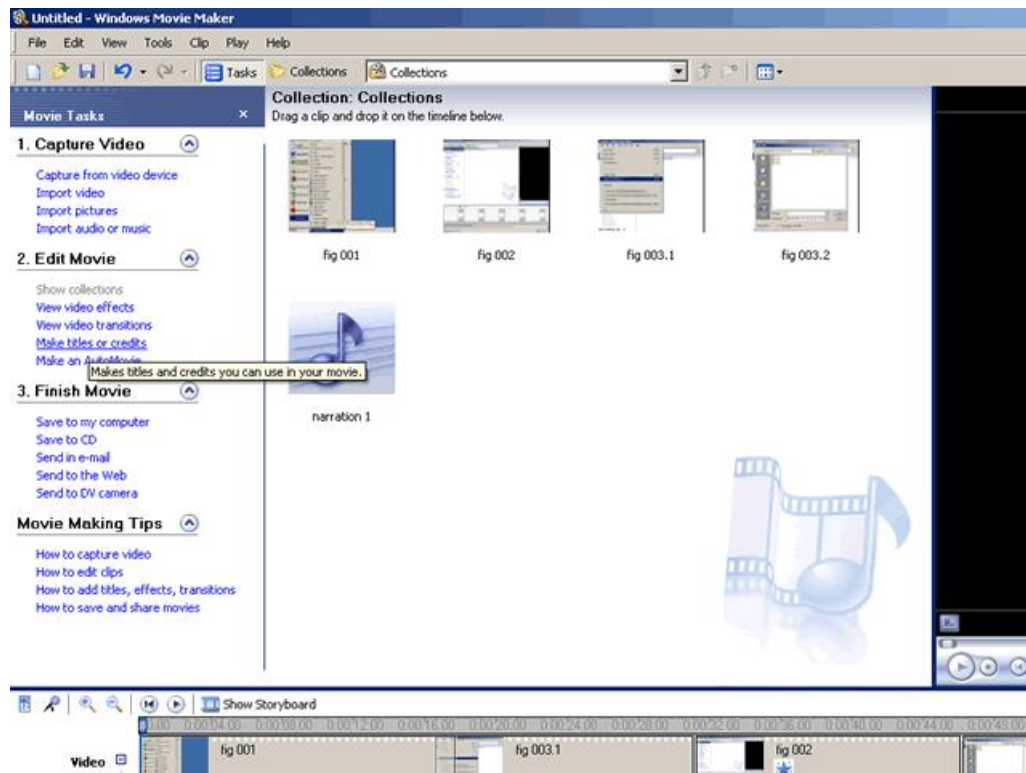

Figure 8.1

2. It will give you more options on what exactly you want to add. Depending on your choice, select the appropriate option. (Figure 8.2)
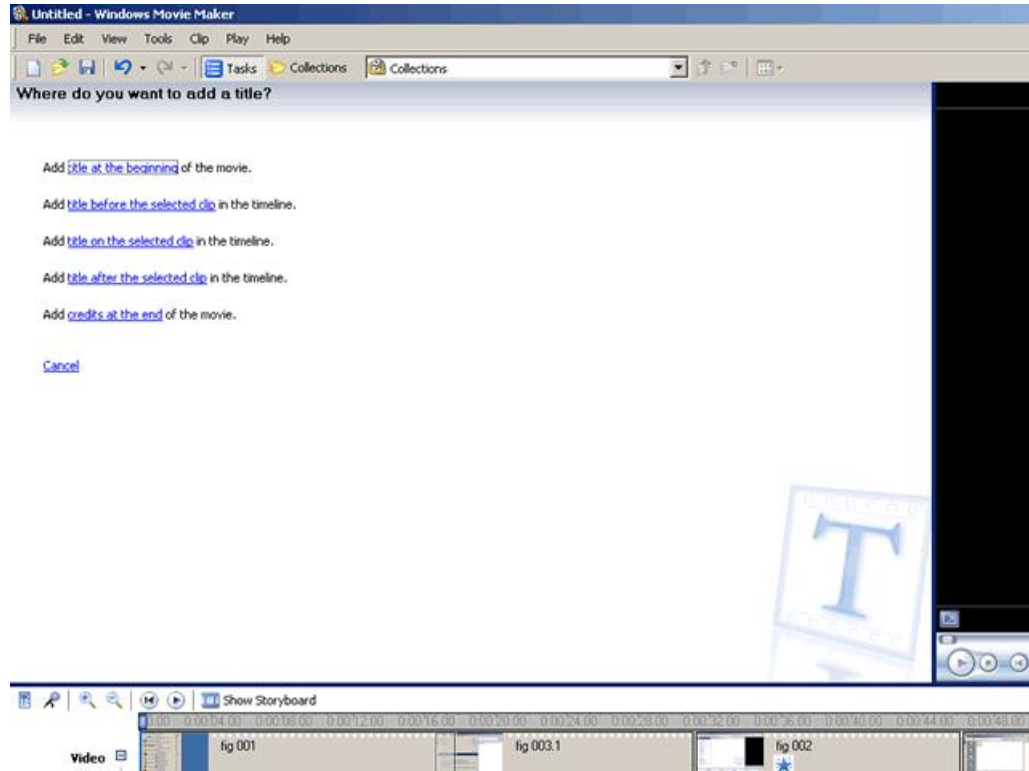

Figure 8.2

3. You will see another window to input text for your *Title, Caption or Credits*. You can choose the animation and also the font & color. When you are done, select **Done, add title/credit to the movie.** (Figure 8.3)
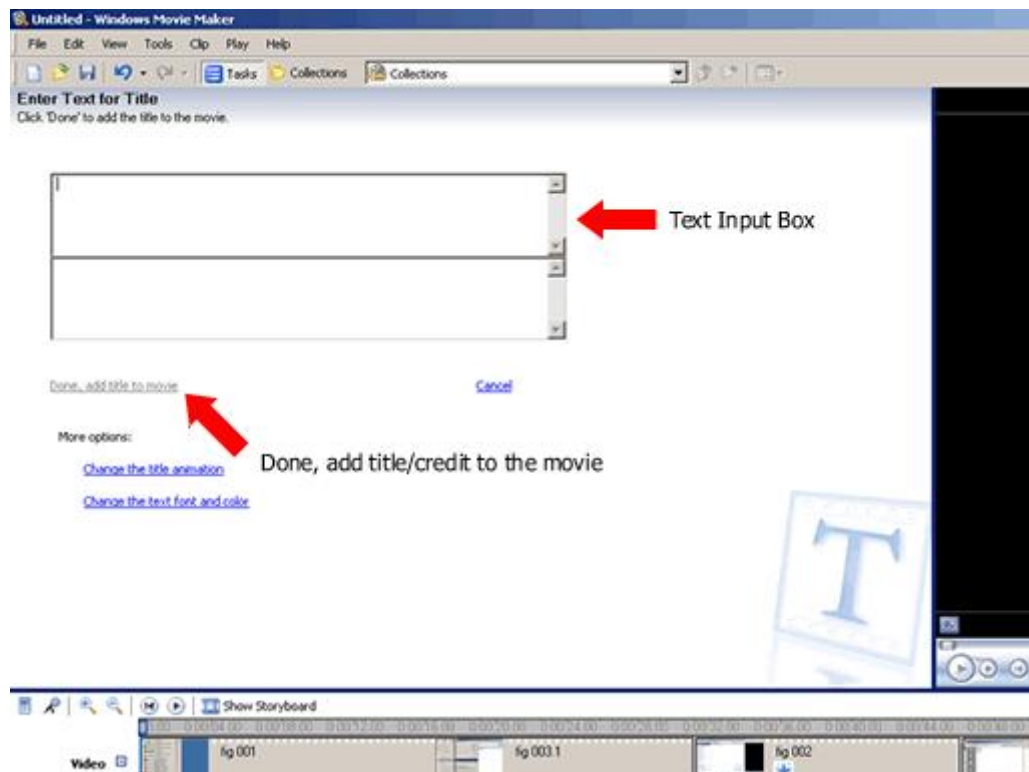

Figure 8.3

Saving Movie Project:

1. Like every project, you need to save your digital story project if you want come back and edit it in the future. Even if you don't need to edit, it's better to save it to be on the safe side. To save the project, go to: **File > Save Project**. (Figure 9.1)
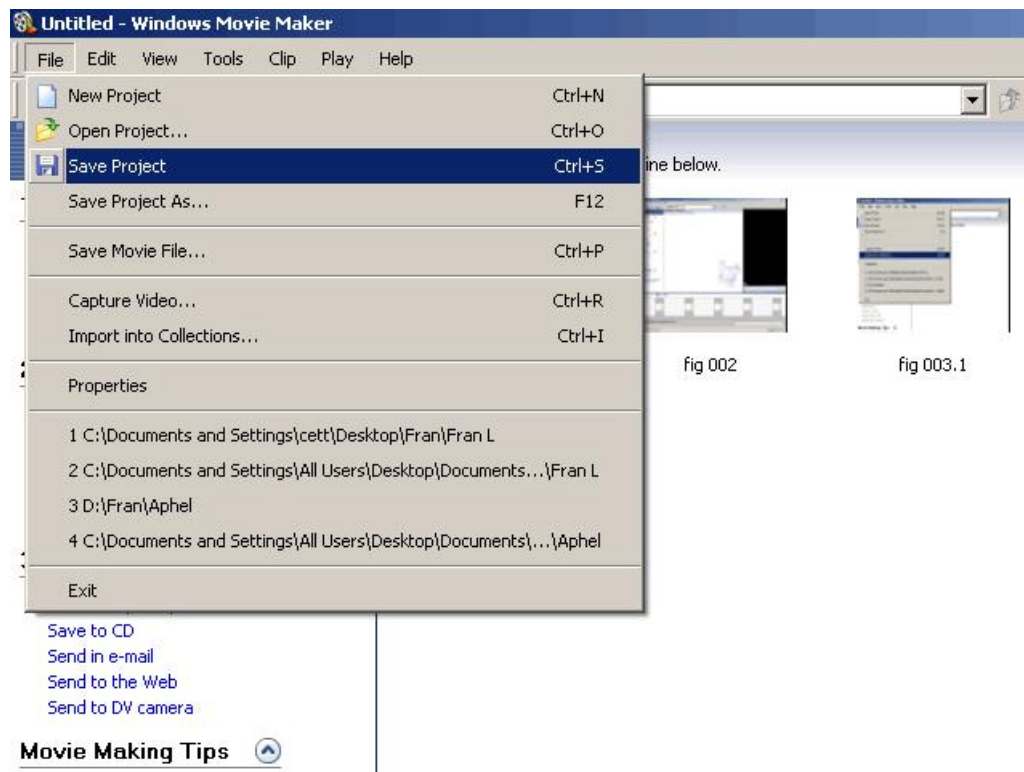

Figure 9.1

2. You will be prompted with a window asking you where to save. Choose your location and press **Save**. (Figure 9.2)

Tip: It is recommended that you save your project as well as all your images and music in the same folder. It will save your time and energy if you need to work on the project on a different computer.
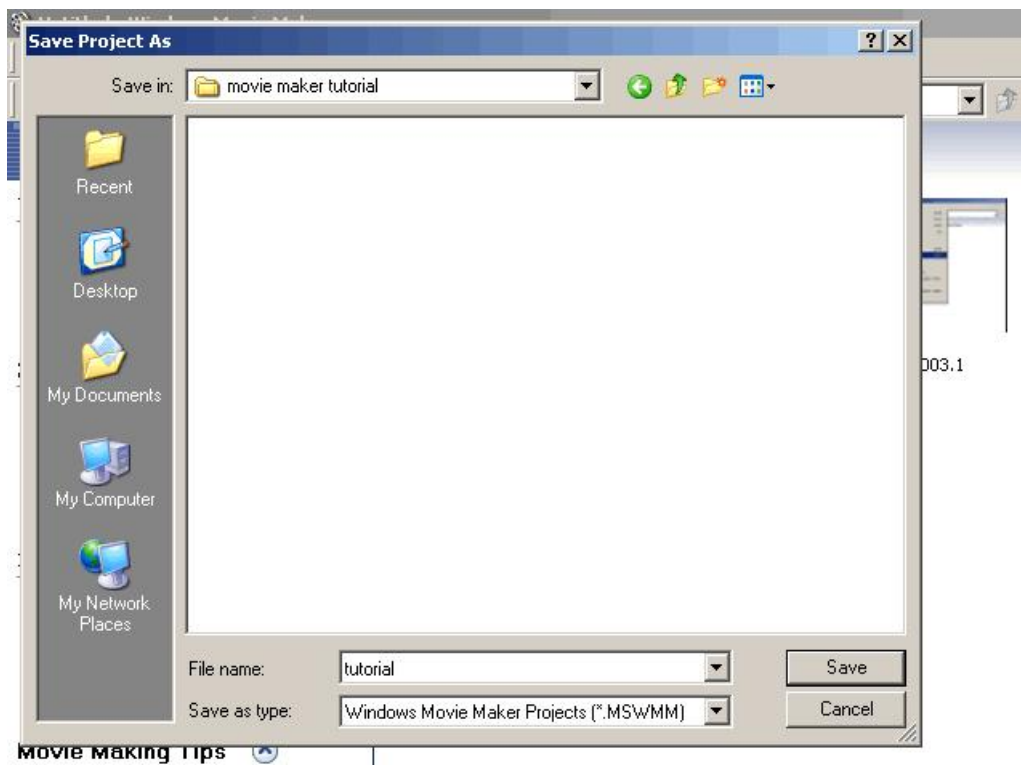
Figure 9.2

Exporting Movie File:

1. After you have completed your story in the timeline, you now are ready to export your story as a movie file. To do so, go to: **File > Save Movie File**. (Figure 10.1)
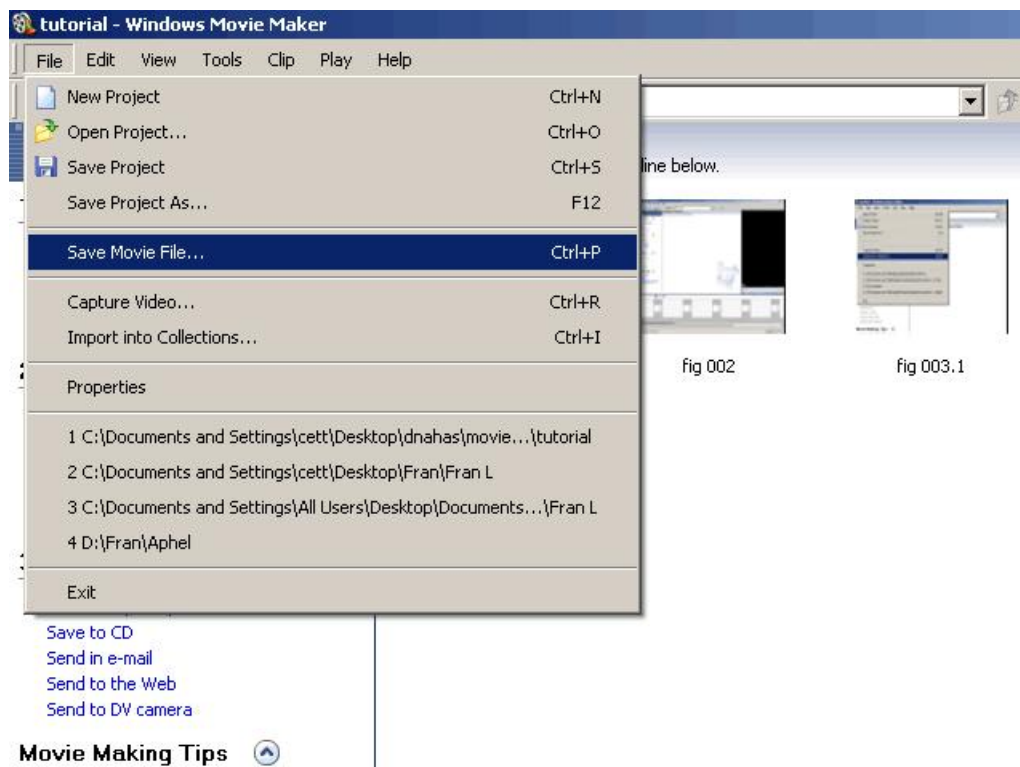

Figure 10.1

2. You will be asked to select *Movie Location*. Choose *My Computer* and press **Next**. (Figure 10.2)
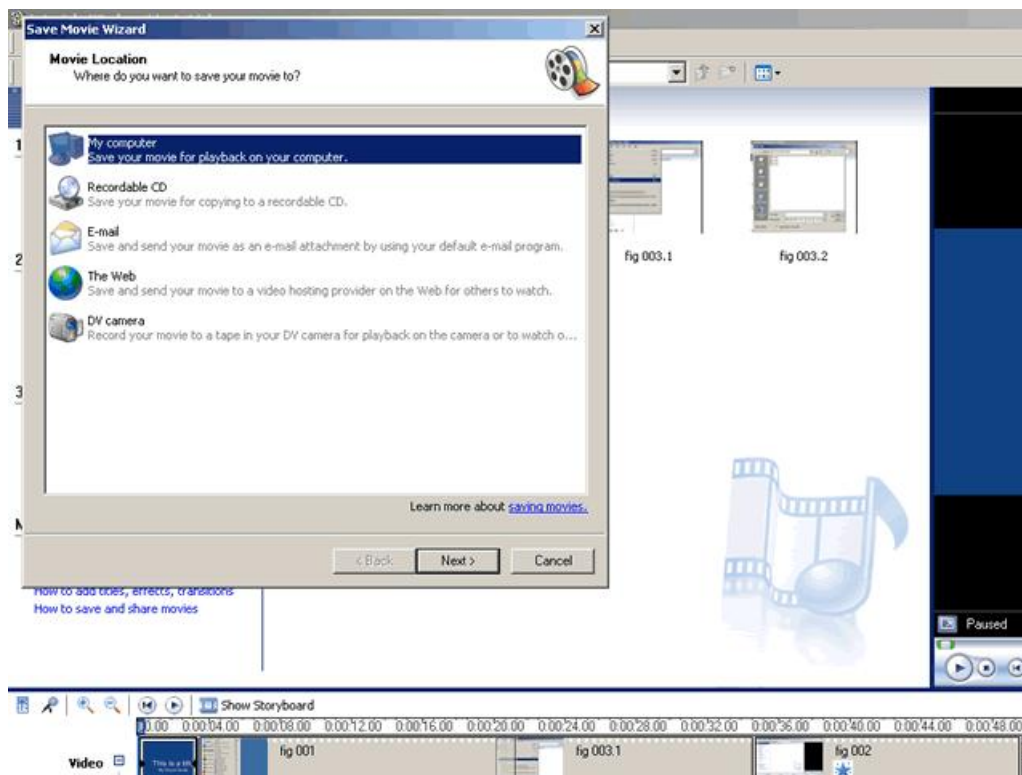
Figure 10.2

3. You will now be asked to enter the file name and to choose a folder to save the movie. Press **Next** once you're ready. (Figure 10.3)
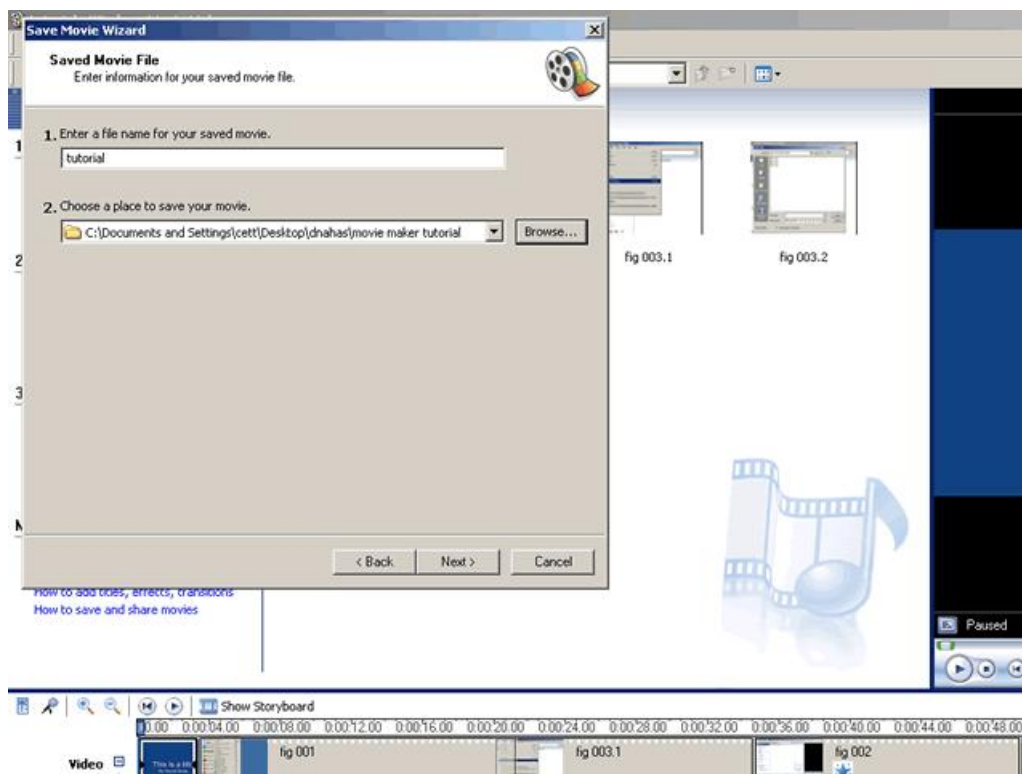

Figure 10.3

4. It will now ask you to choose *Movie Settings*. It is recommended that you choose *Best Quality for playback on My Computer*. Press **Next** and Movie Maker will start exporting your story as a movie file in the location you have chosen. After it is done exporting, Press **Finish**. You can now open your folder and open the movie. (Figures 10.4 – 10.5)
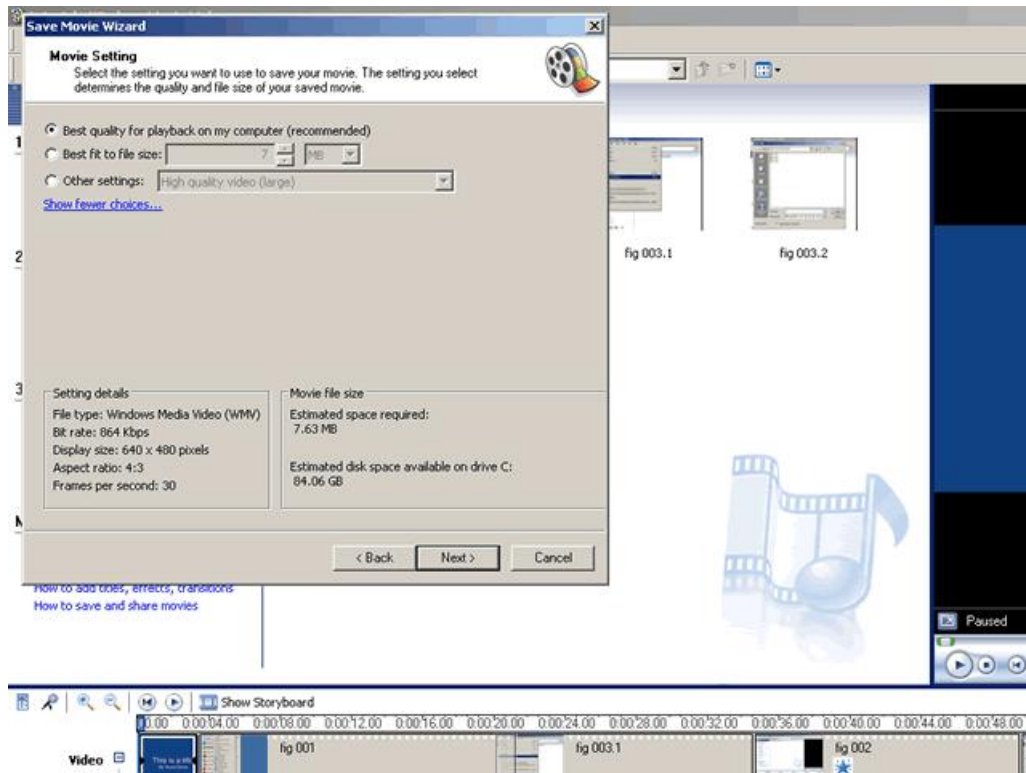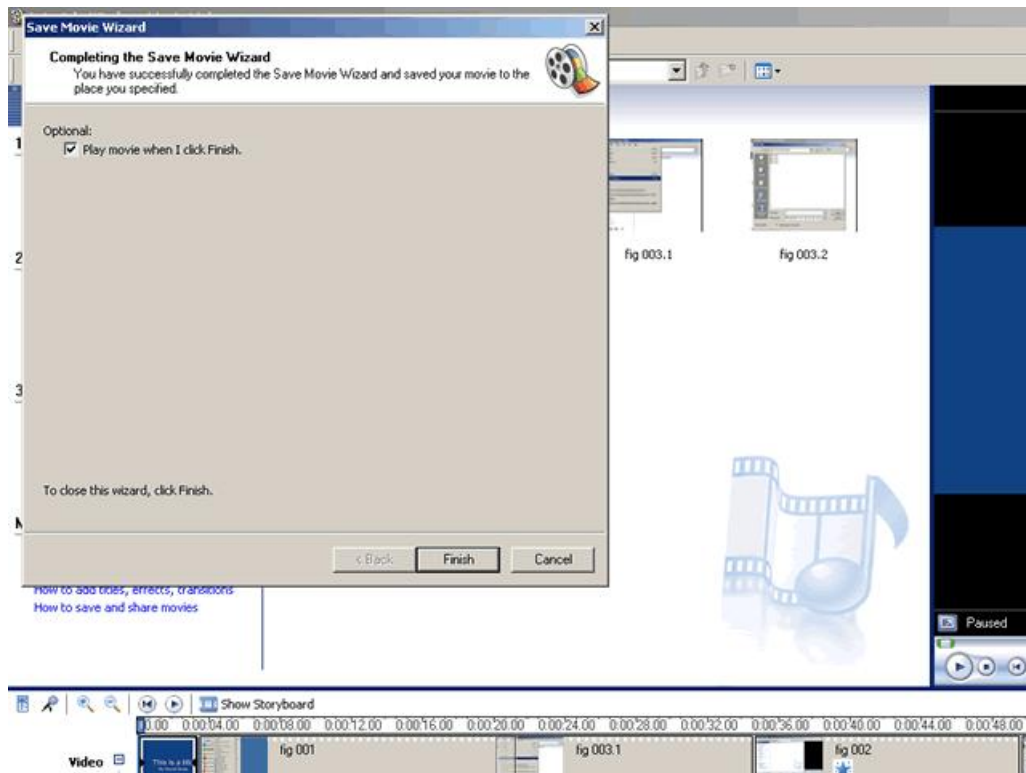
Figure 10.4

Figure 10.5

Adding Background Music:

If you want, you can also add background music to your story. Note that it will require extra steps and some extra time. To add background music to your story –

1. Open a new Movie Maker Project by going to: **File > New Project**. (Figure 11.1)
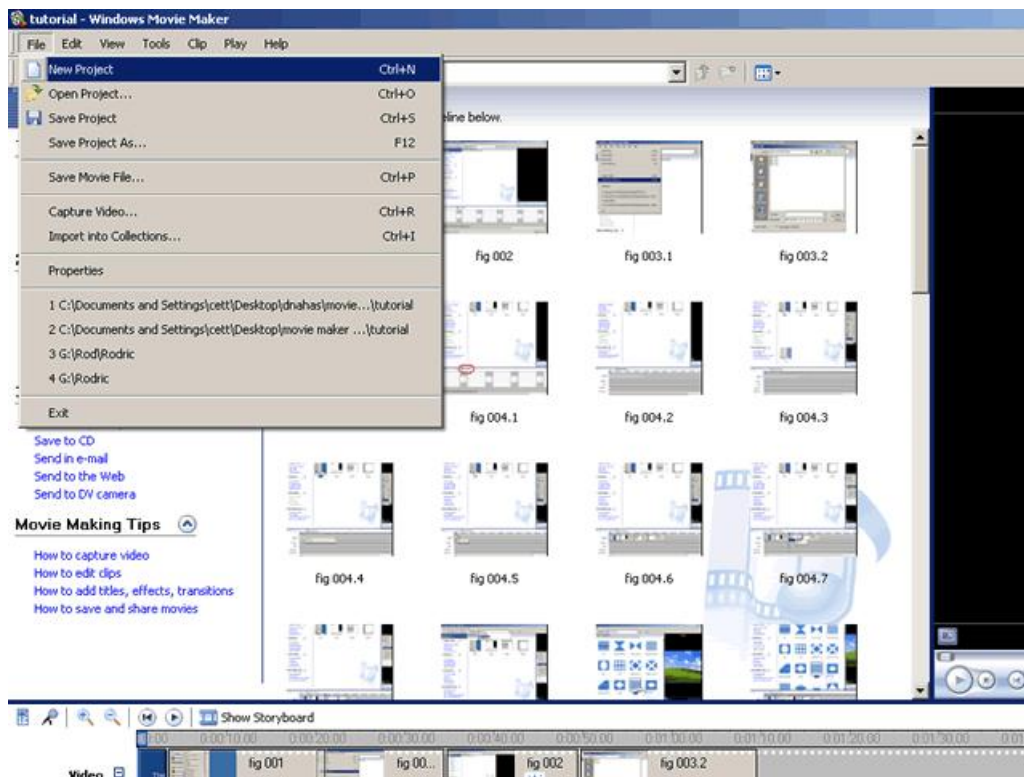
Figure 11.1

2. Again, go to **File > Import into Collections**. Browse to the folder and choose the movie you have just exported. (Figure11.2)
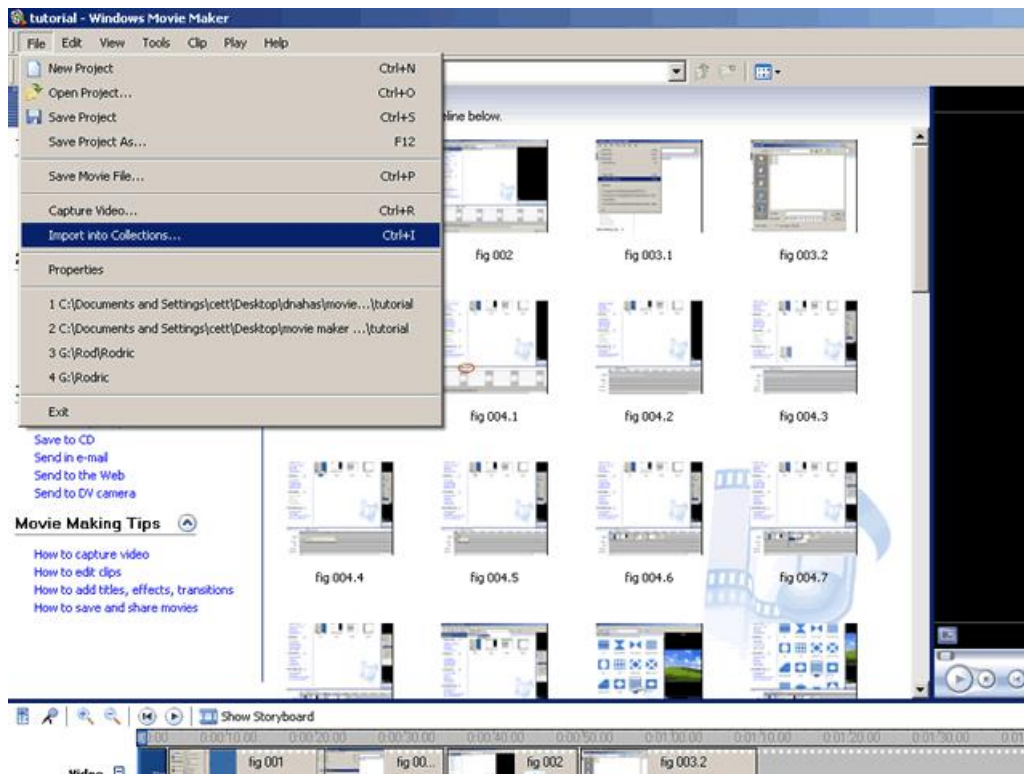

Figure 11.2

3. It will appear in the *Clips/Pictures/Music (Collections) Pane*. It might appear as small clips instead of a whole movie. You need to drag and drop the movie or the clips in the time line in the order the movie/clips should appear. (Figures 11.3 – 11.4)
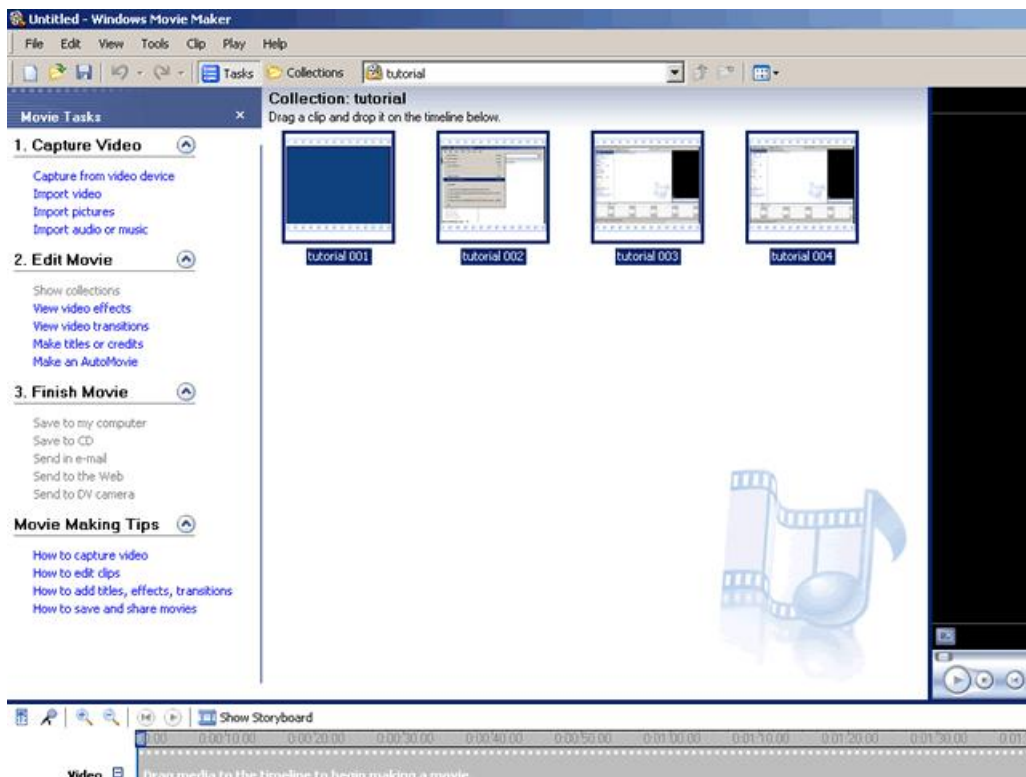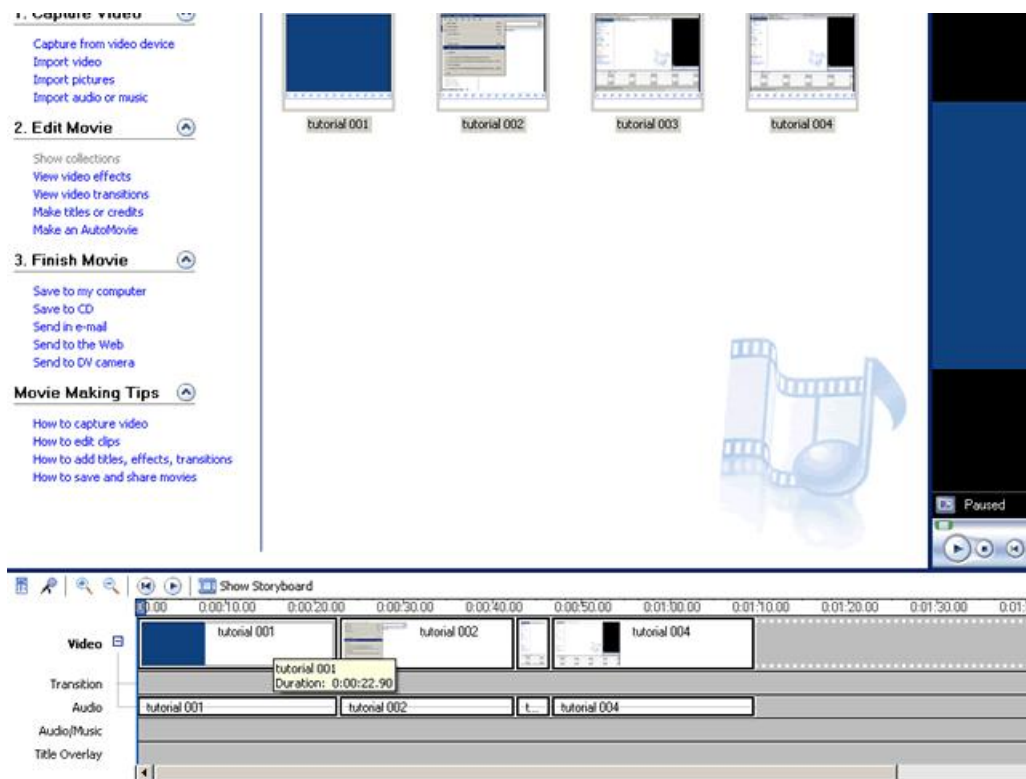
Figure 11.3

Figure 11.4

4. You should already have your music in a digital format. Windows moviemaker accepts the following audio formats: wav, mp3, and wma. To import music, go to: **File > Import into Collections**. Browse to the folder where you have your music. Then select the file and press **Import**. (Figure 11.5)
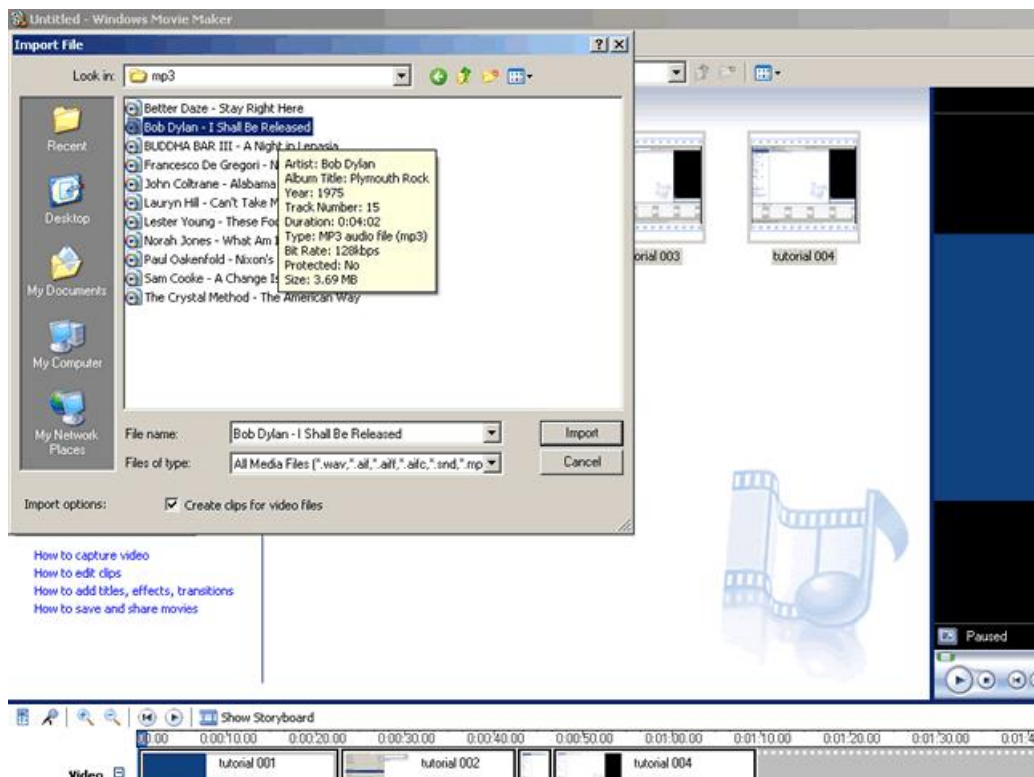
Figure 11.5

5. Your music file will also appear in the *Clips/Pictures/Music (Collections) Pane*. You can preview it by clicking on the file and pressing the play button in the Preview Window. (Figure 11.6)
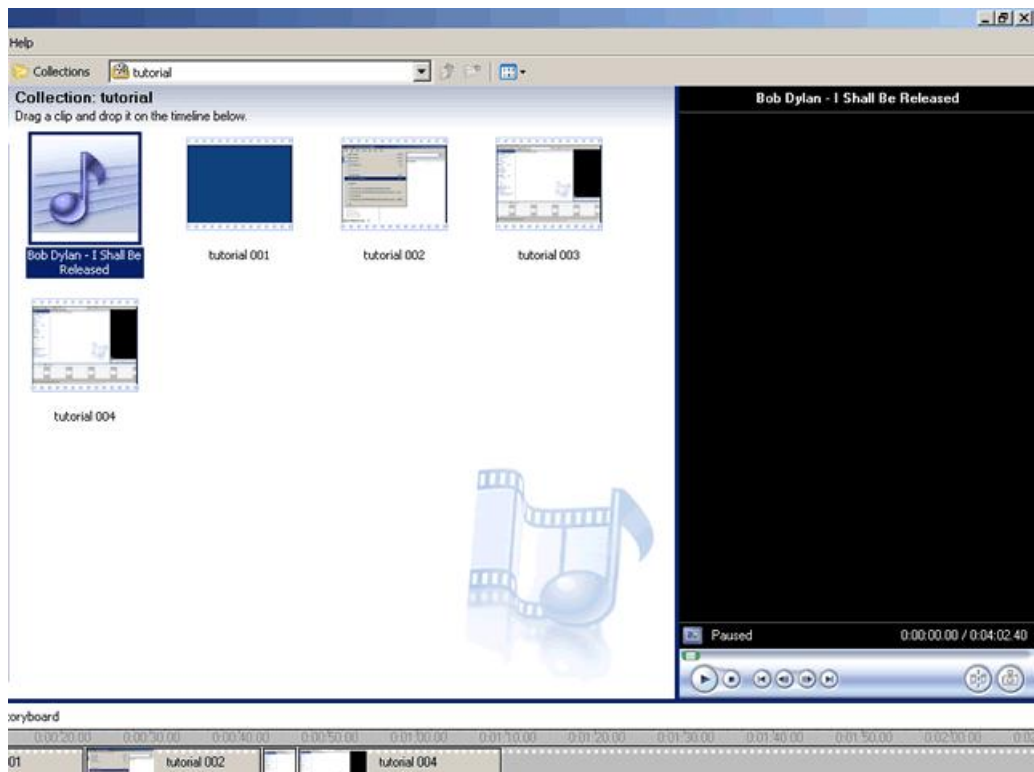

Figure 11.6

6. Drag and drop the music file the same way you dragged pictures and/or the movie before. You will notice that the music file appears under the movie file. (Figure 11.7)
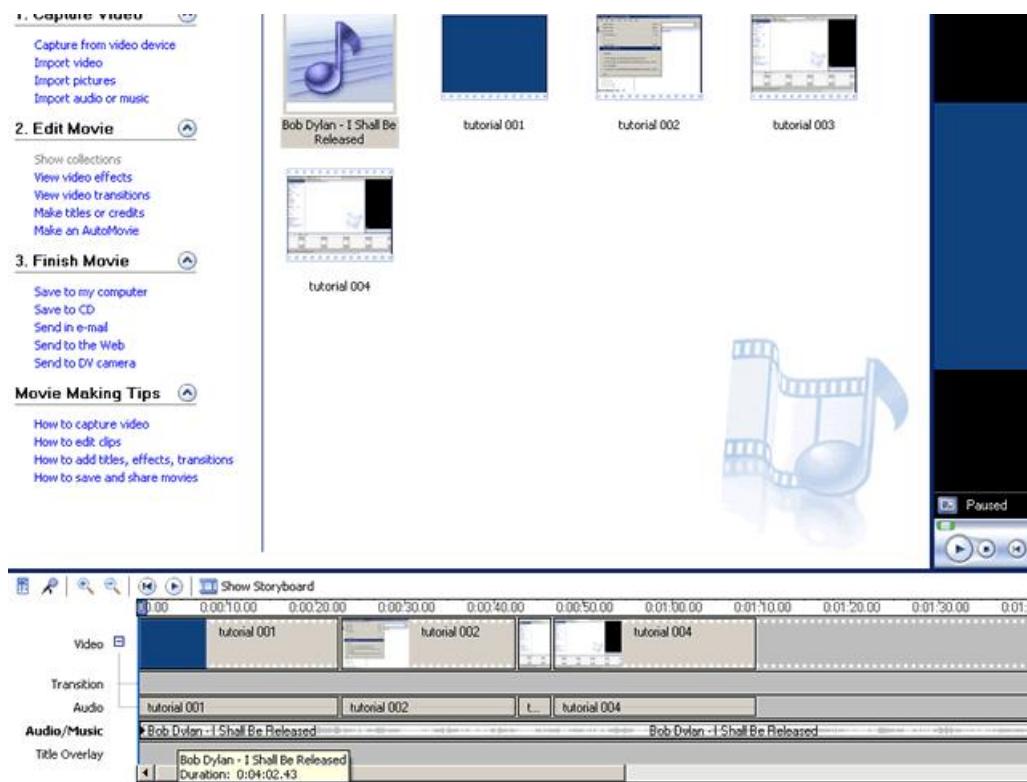
Figure 11.7

7. You can adjust the length of the music file by clicking on it and dragging the right edge closer to the end of the pictures in the timeline. (Figure 11.8)
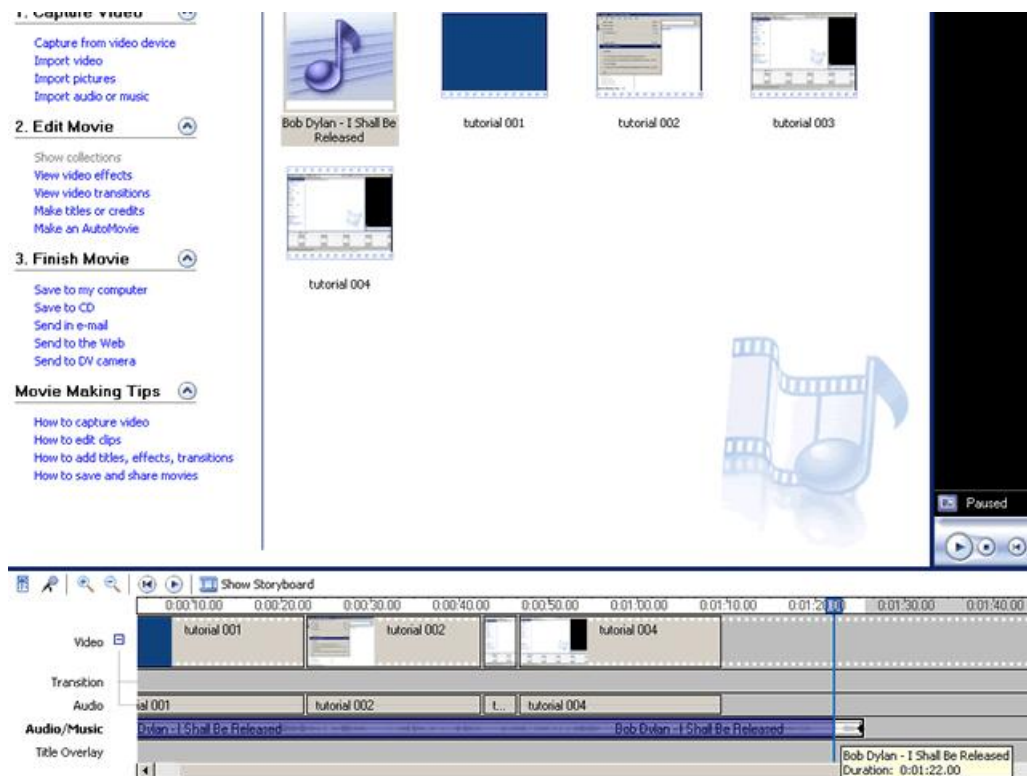

Figure 11.8

8. You can adjust the volume of the music by right clicking on the music file in the timeline and selecting volume from the menu. Important: The background music must be lower in volume than your narration. Otherwise people will not be able to understand what you are saying in the story. You can always preview your movie to

make sure the voice narration is clearly audible. by pressing the play button on the Preview Window. (Figure 11.9)
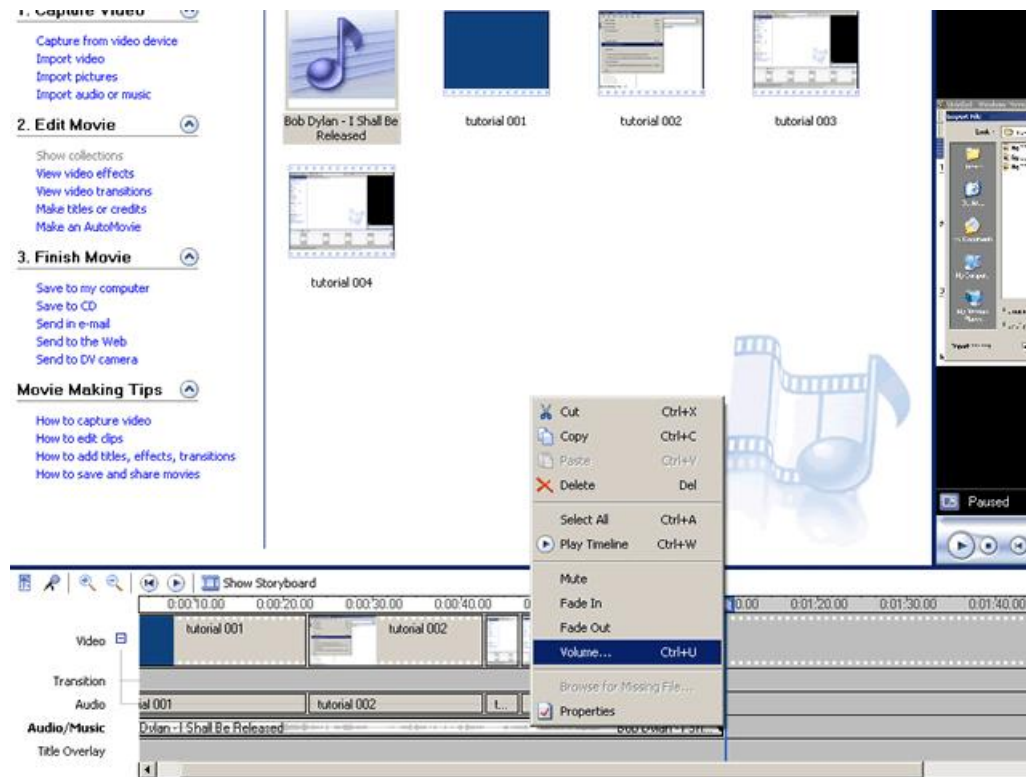

Figure 11.9

9. The Fade in and Fade out effect may dramatize your final movie and make it look more professional. (Figure 11.10)
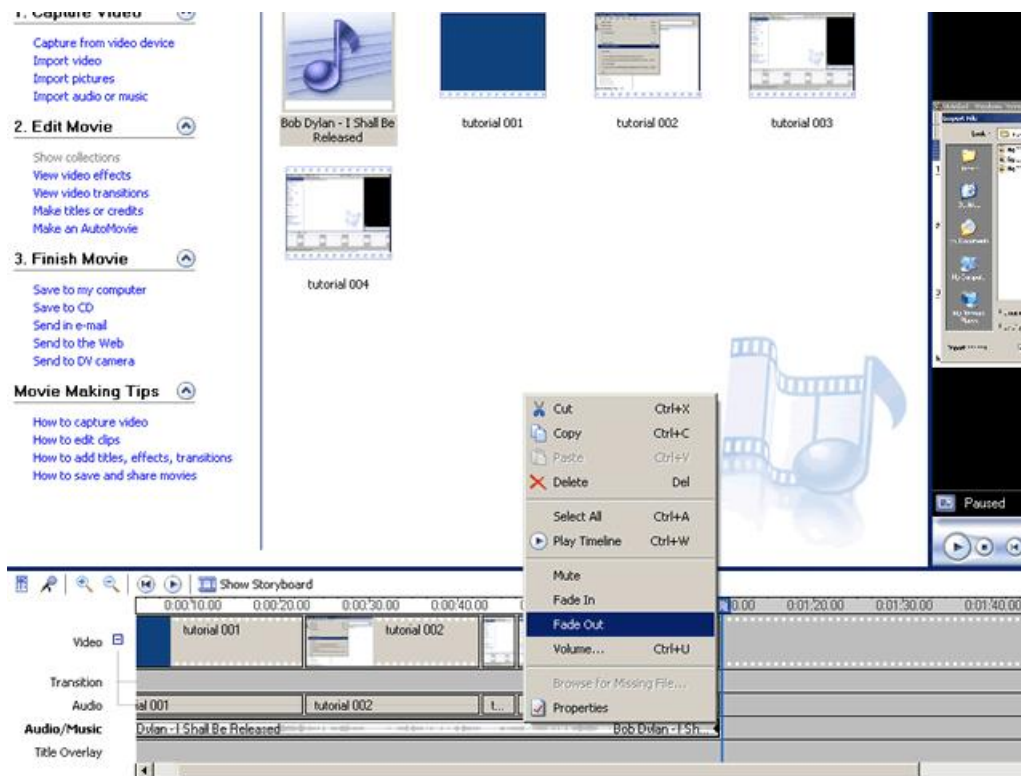

Figure 11.10

You are now ready to save your new project with background music and export it as a finalized digital story. ☺