*A Free PDF Download Tutorial*
by
All Creative Designs

Video Editing Tutorial using Windows Live Movie Maker
in Windows 7

A comprehensive PDF tutorial using the pre-installed Windows Movie Maker software in Microsoft's Windows 7 operating system. Step by step instructions with full color screenshots for the novice user of video editing software and more advanced techniques to build on your knowledge. Learn how to add title frames, music, apply transitions, visual effects, trim, join video clips and more. Duration of this tutorial is approximately 2 to 3 hours, but the project can be saved and completed in stages.
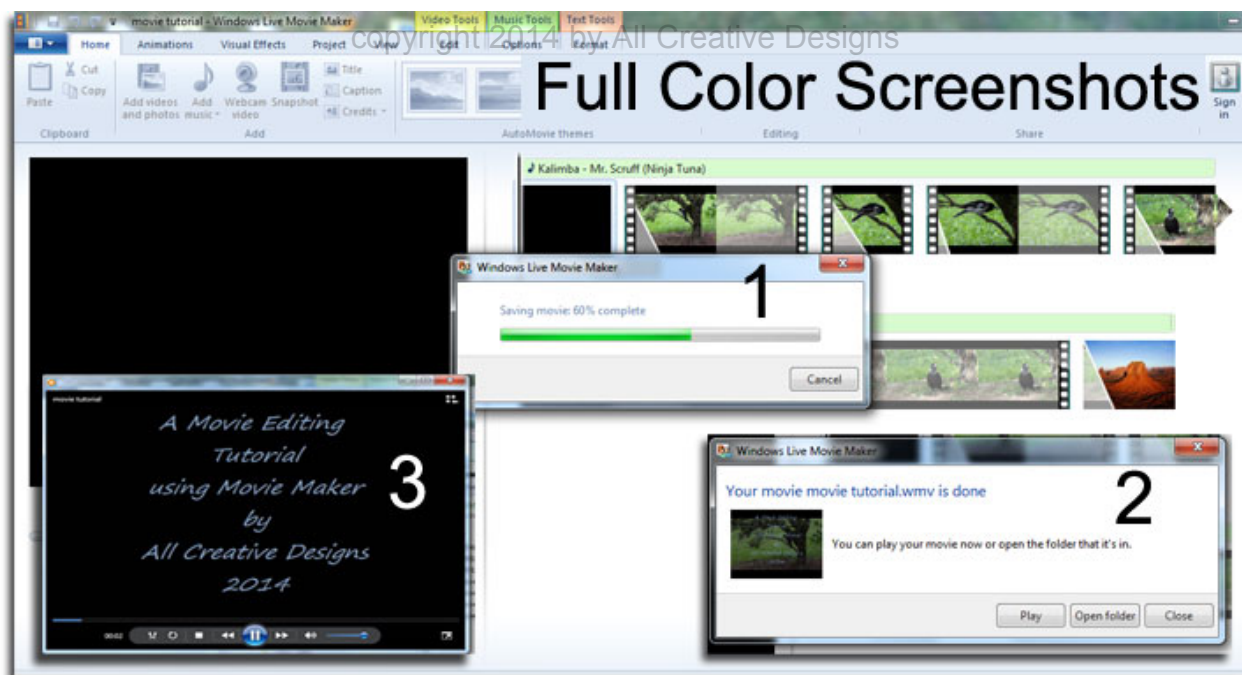
Use the dynamic table of content on the next page to jump to any part of this tutorial.

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Step 1: Locating and creating a desktop icon for Movie Maker

1. Click the 'Start' and then the 'All Programs' button.
2. Locate and right click Windows Live Movie Maker.
3. Select 'Send to'.
4. Click 'Desktop (create shortcut)'.
5. Locate and double click the desktop icon to open Movie Maker.

(See Figure 1)

Figure 1
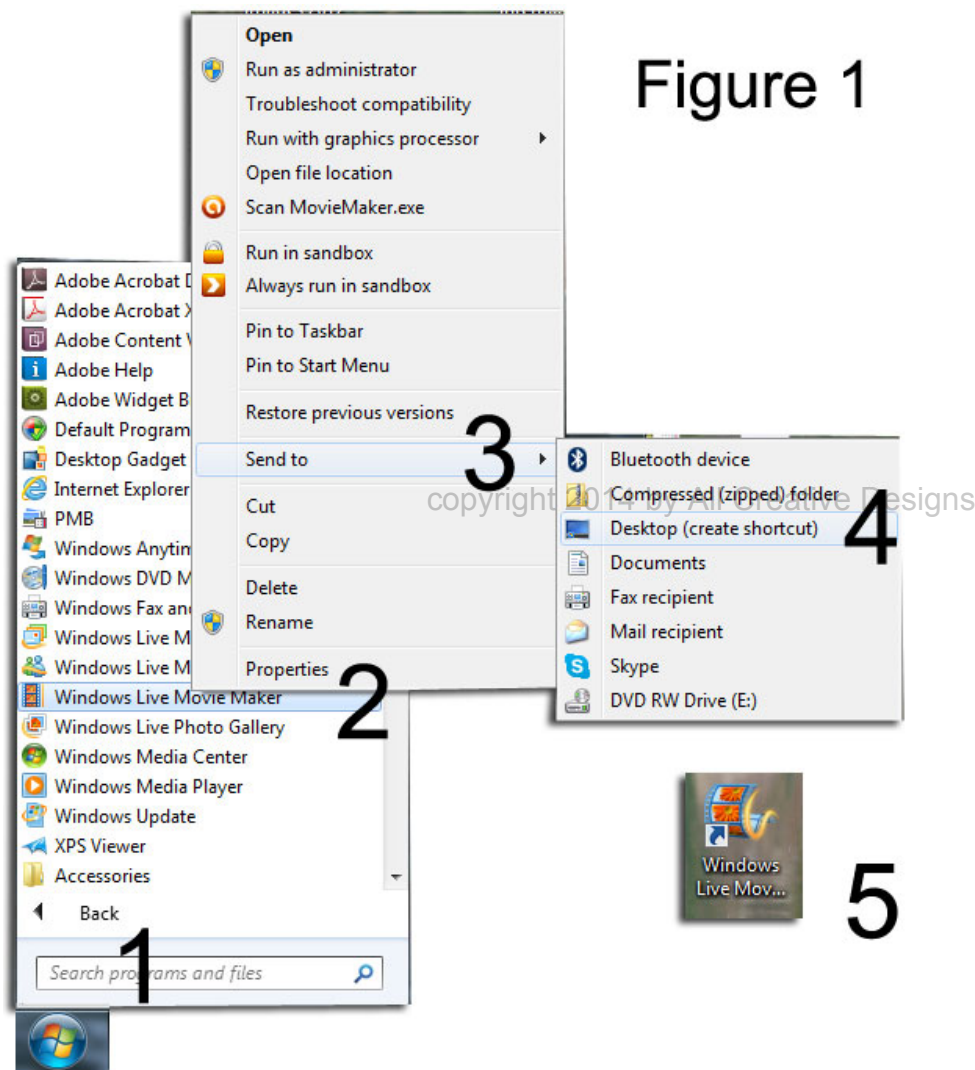
Step 2: Browse and open a video clip in Movie Maker

1. Click the icon in the Movie Maker interface.
2. By default the 'Add Videos and Photos Dialogue' box will open your Windows Video folder. Browse and locate the folder containing the video you would like to edit.
3. Select your video by left clicking once, it is recommended to use a short video of up to a few minutes in viewing length for this tutorial.
4. Click 'Open'.

(See Figure 2)
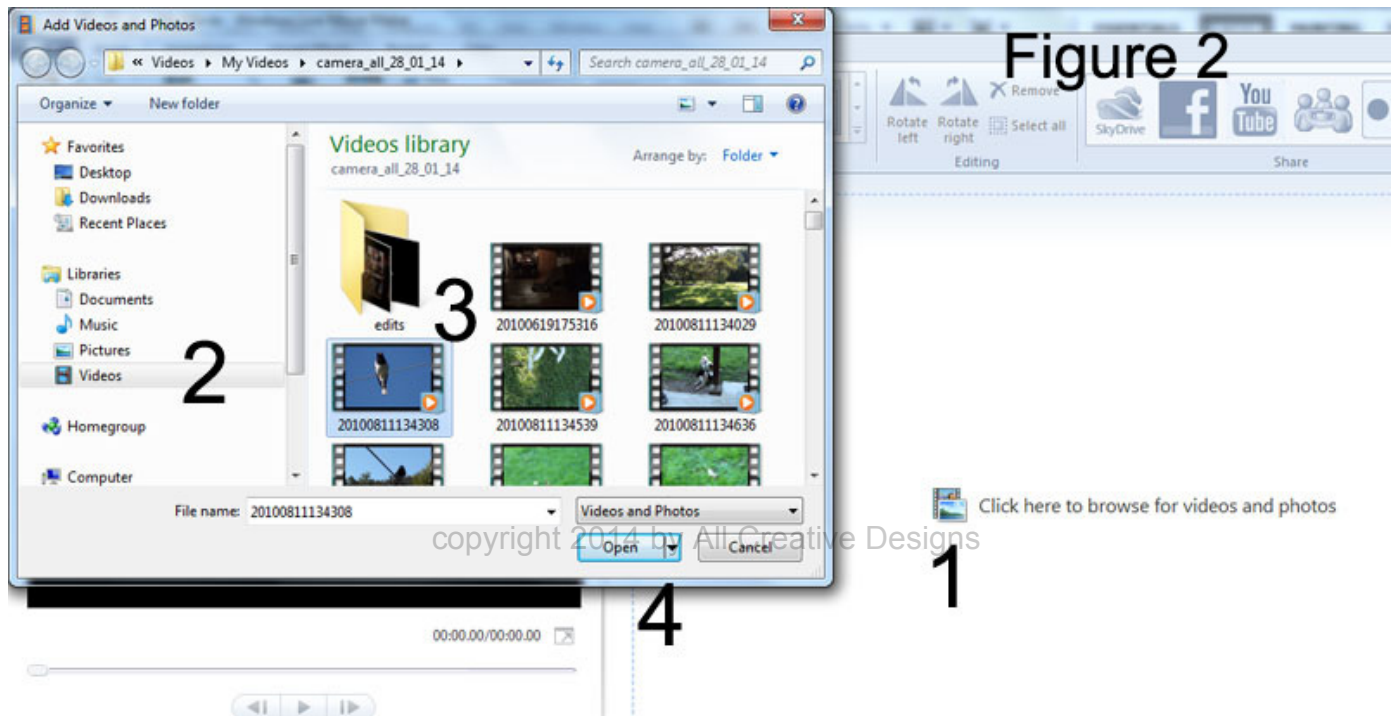
Your selected video will open in Windows Live Movie Maker.

Step 3: Preview your original video clip

1. Under the preview window press play to automatically view your movie. Press Pause
2. Manually drag the **synchronized** time scale slider beneath the preview window and through the time scale (timeline) itself to view scenes and frames of your movie.
3. Hover your mouse pointer over the AutoMovie themes to get a preview only. If you click a theme, it will be applied to your movie. The first window is the default setting i.e. no auto theme applied.
4. Use the slider to zoom in + or out - of the time scale, (shorten or extend it). A longer time scale makes it easier to locate a specific scene or frame in the movie. You might need to zoom out to fit the full time scale (timeline) onto your screen.
5. Use the 'Undo' button (left blue arrow) if you have applied any auto themes, as we will insert a title frame and transitions in step 7. (Right blue arrow is the 'Redo' button)

Notice the duration and time elapsed shown in seconds beneath your Preview window.

(See Figure 3)
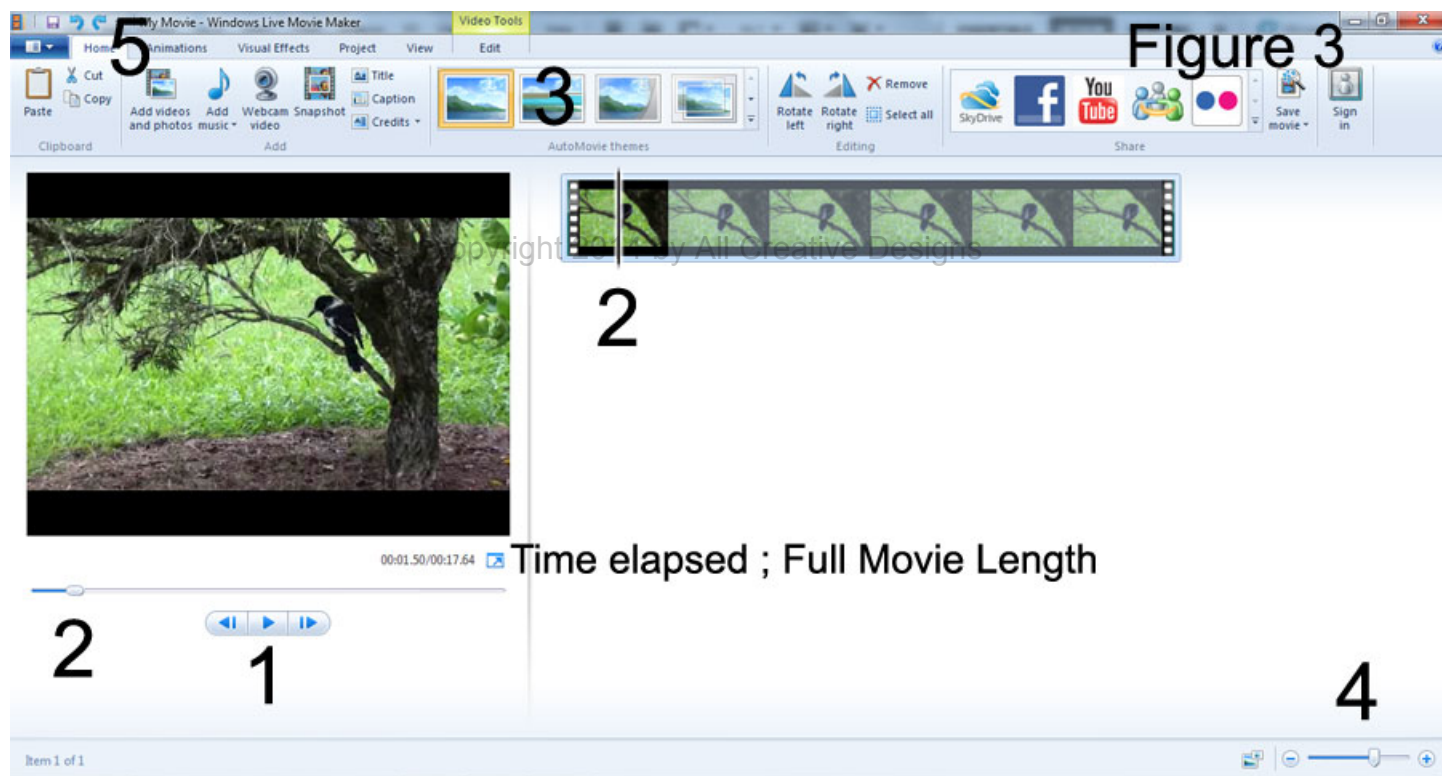
Step 4: Saving your movie project for the first time

Note: Opening a video clip in Movie Maker will not alter your original, but creates a project file we will save in this step

1. Use the drop-down arrow to view the Movie Maker menu or use the save button above
2. Click 'Save project'
3. In the 'Save project' dialogue box navigate to a folder you want to save the project in. Here we created a new folder called video edits for that purpose.
4. Under 'File name' type a name for your project.
5. Click 'Save'

(See Figure 4)
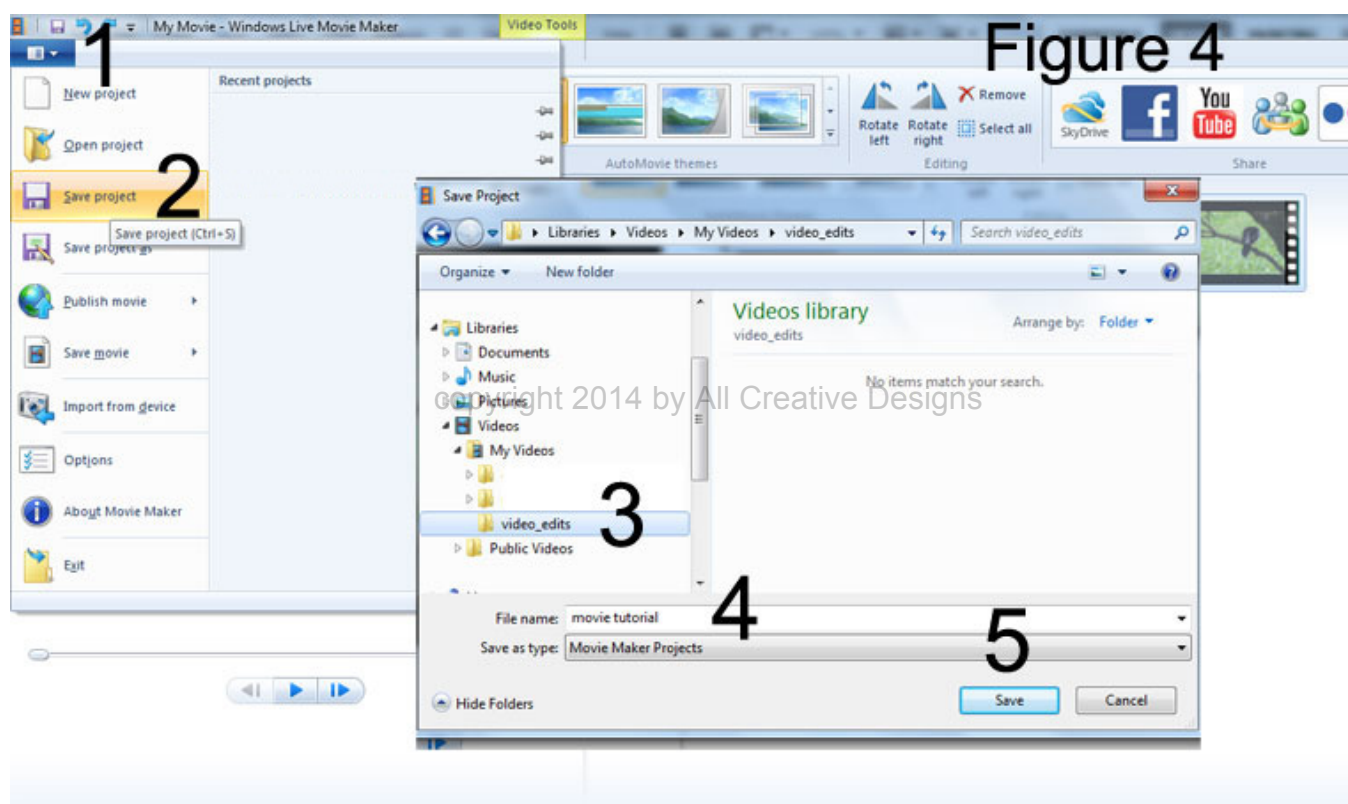
Note: In this step we only saved the movie project file (.wlmp), see step 10 on how to save the completed movie project as a Windows Media Audio/video file in different resolutions onto your computer.

To reopen a project file: Open Movie Maker from your desktop icon, if not running. Then use the drop-down arrow (1) to view the Movie Maker menu and click 'Open project' or locate and click the file under 'Recent projects' to the right.

Step 5: Trim your movie

This step will explain how to trim unwanted scenes from of your movie, if trimming is not necessary proceed to the next step.

Step 5.1: Trimming unwanted scenes from the beginning of your movie
1. Click the Video Tools/Edit button
2. Click and drag the time scale slider to the frame you want the movie to start
3. Click the 'Set start point' button to trim
(See Figure 5)
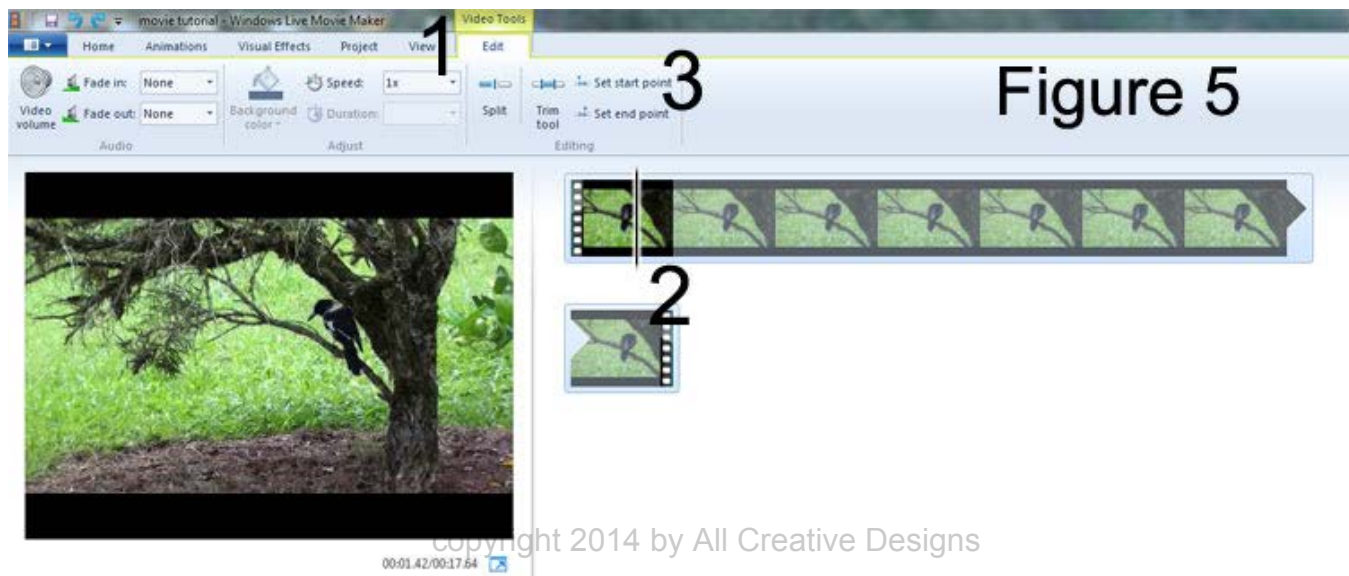
Figure 5

Step 5.2: Trimming unwanted scenes from the end of your movie
1. Click and drag the time scale slider to the frame you want the movie to end
2. Click the 'Set end point' button to trim
(See Figure 6)

Figure 6
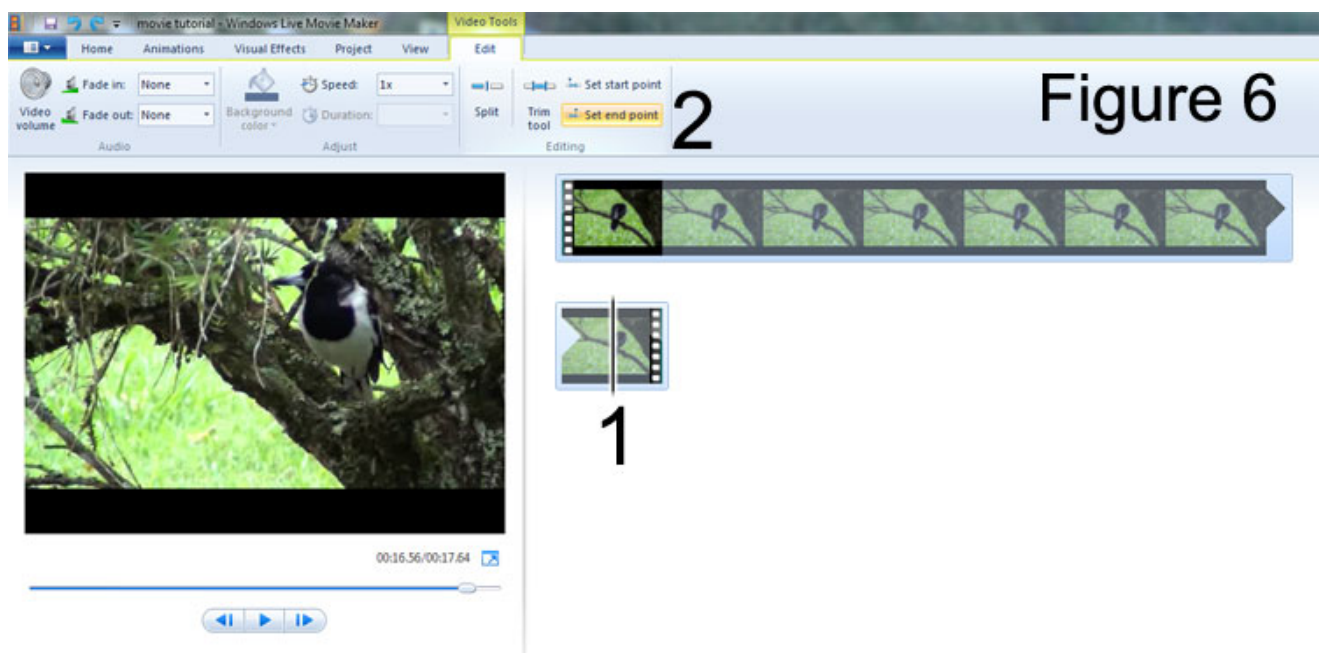
Step 5.3: Trimming unwanted scene(s) from within your movie

1. Advance the slider to the beginning of the scene to be cut.
2. Under the Video/Edit toolbar click 'Split'.
3. Move the slider to the end of the unwanted scene.
4. Click 'Split' again.
5. Select the unwanted scene by clicking on it (blue border appears).

Repeat the process to cut multiple scenes.
In step 7 we will add titles and transitions between segments of a movie.

(See Figure 7)

Figure 7
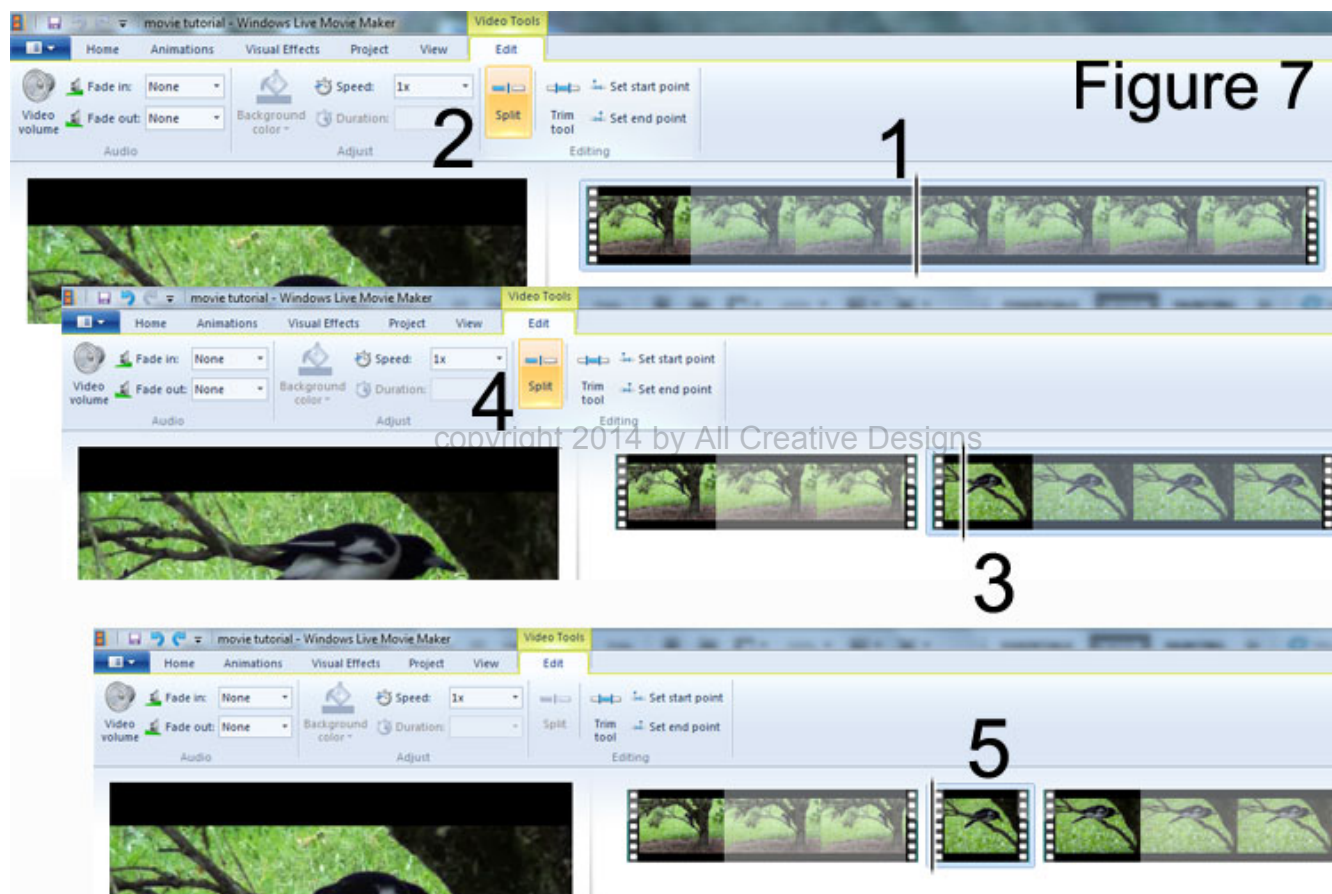
Use the 'Undo' button if you made mistakes.
You might want to save your movie again by clicking the 'Save Icon', top left beside the 'Undo' arrow.

Step 5.4: More accurate trimming using the Trim tool

1. Under Video Tools/Edit menu click on the Trim tool.
2. Set the start point in seconds, click the 'Set start point' button to the left to apply.
3. Set the end point in seconds and apply.
4. Alternatively use (click and drag) the left light blue handle to adjust the starting point.
5. Use the right handle to adjust the end point.
6. Click 'Save trim' to apply or select Cancel to return to the Video Tools/Edit menu.

(See Figure 8)

Figure 8
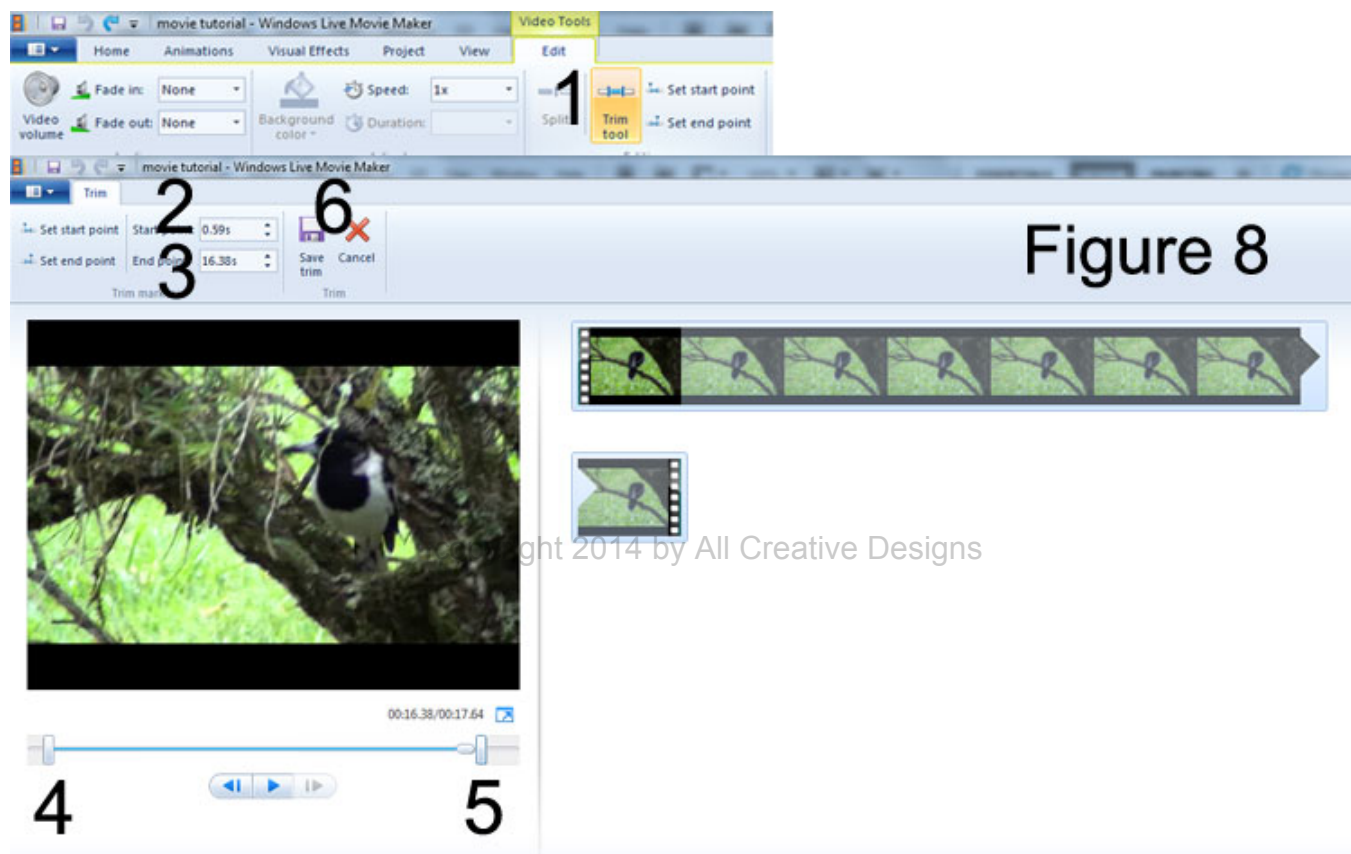
You can at any time advance to step 10 and save the movie project as a Windows Media Audio/video file in different resolutions onto your computer.

Step 6: Adding to the project

Step 6.1: Adding another video clip to the project

In this step will select another video from your library and add it to the end of the existing project i.e. stitching two or more separate videos together.

1. Move the time scale slider to the end of the movie.
2. Under the Home toolbar click 'Add videos and photos'.
3. By default Movie Maker will open on your Videos folder, locate the folder containing the video clip you like to add.
4. Select your video clip
5. Click 'Open'.

(See Figure 9)

Figure 9
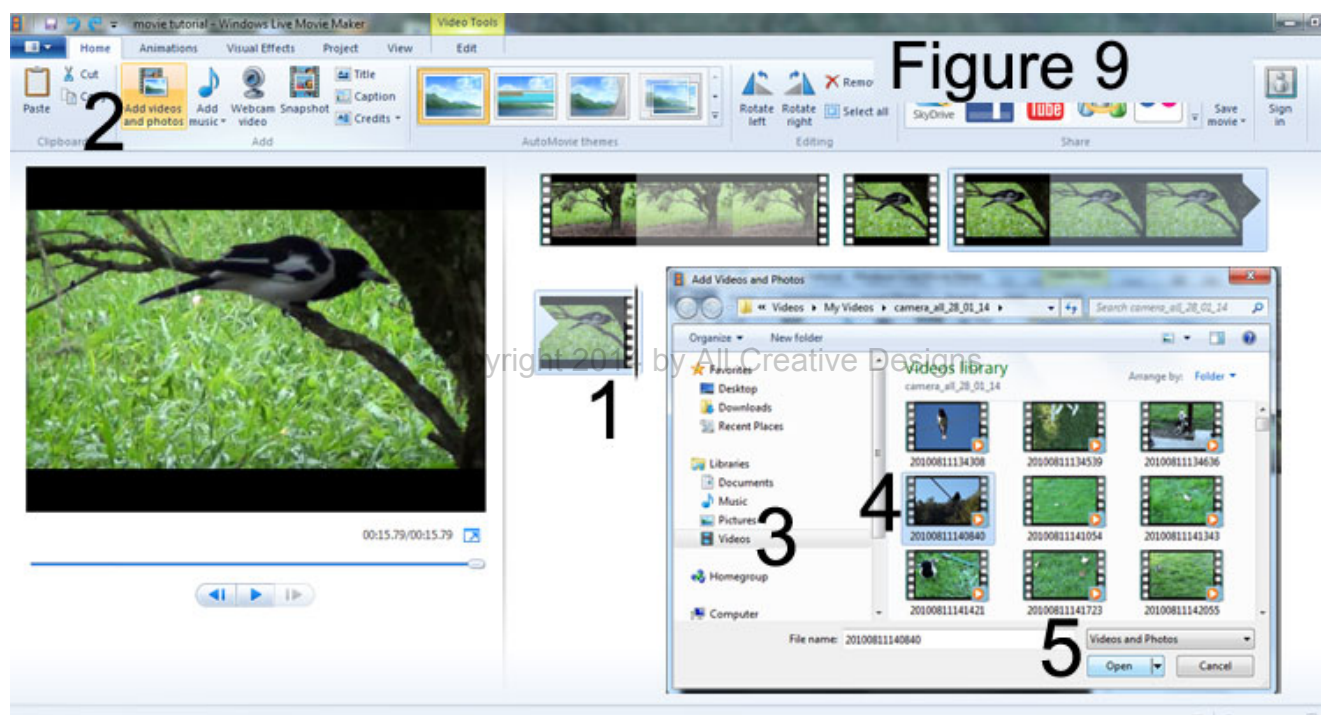
Repeat the process if you like to add more video footage.

Transitions between different sections will be applied in step 7.

You might want to save your movie project again by clicking the 'Save Icon', top left beside the 'Undo' arrow.

See step 10 to save the completed movie project as a Windows Media Audio/video file in different resolutions onto your computer.

Step 6.2: Adding a photo to the project
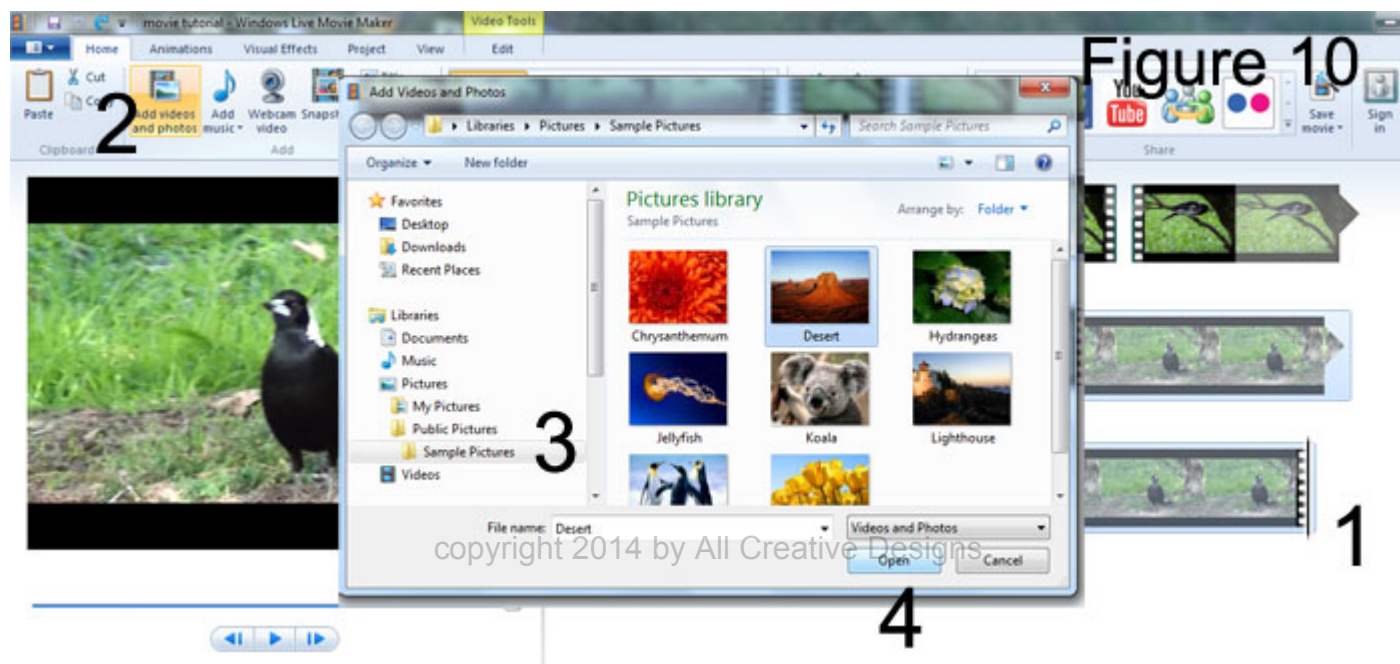
1. Select a segment of your movie by clicking on it or by advancing your slider to the end of it.
2. Click 'Add videos and photos'.
3. Navigate to your Pictures folder and select a photo.
4. Click 'Open'.
Photos are always inserted behind the selected segment.

(See Figure 10)

You can insert the same or different still images in between any segments of your movie.
See step 5.3 on how to split your movie to insert a photo. Use a high resolution photo, if you want to save your project later as a high-definition file. There is an option to take snapshot of any movie frame, but the resolution is rather low and the picture is going to pixelate as a high-definition Windows Media Audio/video file.
The instructions on the next page explain how to set the duration (in seconds) for the photo to be shown.

You might want to save your movie project again.

Step 6.3: Set duration of the photo

1. Select your photo, which by default shows for 7 seconds
2. Go to the Video Tools/Edit toolbar.
3. Use the drop down arrow to change the time period.
(See Figure 11)

Figure 11

Step 6.4: Cut, Copy and Paste
1. Right click your image and select Cut or Copy from the menu.
2. Select the scene for the photo to be inserted by right clicking it, then click Paste.
3. Alternatively you can use buttons under the Home toolbar.
(See Figure 12)

Figure 12
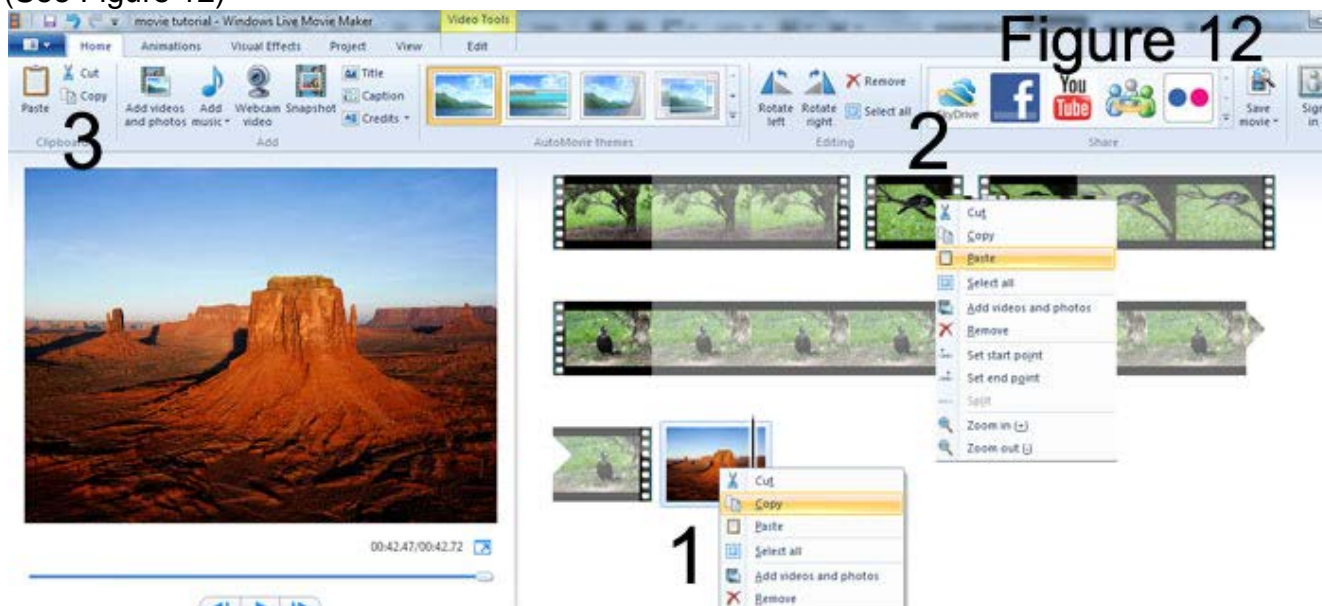
You can also cut /copy and paste any movie segments in this way.

Step 7: Adding title, transitions, credits and captions

If you like to manually add titles, credits and transitions go to step 8.

Step 7.1: AutoMovie options explained

By default (options 2 to 7) the text in the title frame shows your project file name, which we will change in the following steps.

1. Default: No themes are applied.
2. Contemporary: Inserts a title with a sliding banner at the beginning and 3 credit frames at end of movie. Transitions have different effects for segments. If any still photo was inserted into the time scale it will automatically used as the background for title and credit frames.
3. Cinematic: Uses the first segment of your movie as an opening and then shows the title frame. Any still photo is used as a background for the different credit frames.
4. Fade: A fade in title frame, 3 credits frames with black background and cross fade transitions are used.
5. Pan and Zoom: A basic Pan and Zoom effect on black background is used for the title frame, 3 credits frames with black background and cross fade transitions are used.
6. Black and White: As above in black and white
7. Sepia: As 5, in sepia tones

(See Figure 13)
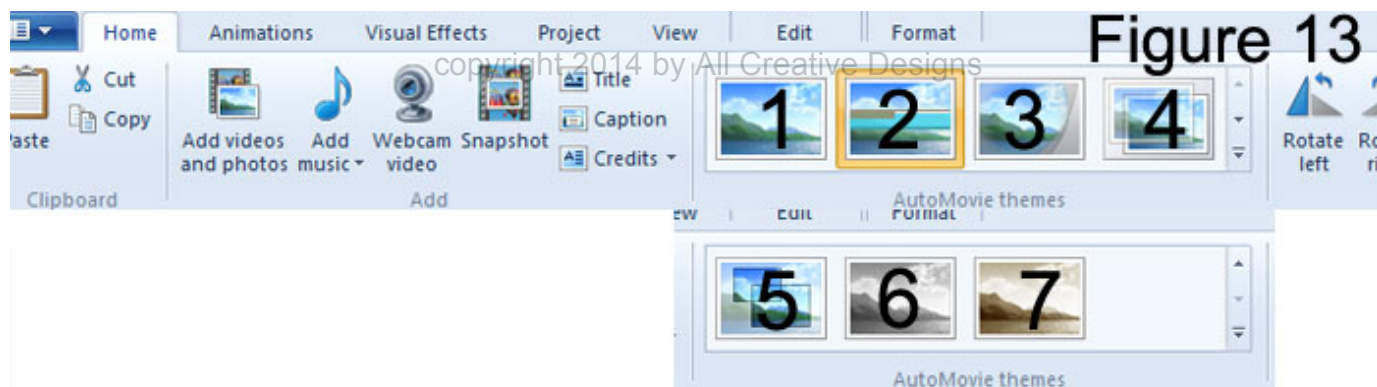
Step 7.2: Automatically add titles, transitions and credits using AutoMovie themes

Under the Home toolbar, hover your mouse pointer over the auto themes to get a preview.

1. Apply one of the different auto themes by clicking on it. Here we choose the contemporary option, which will use the photo inserted as a background image for title and credit frames.
2. Click the small down arrow to view or apply the 'Pan and Zoom', Black and White and Sepia options.
3. Click no to add music, which is covered in step 9 of the tutorial.

(See Figure 14 on next page)

Figure 14
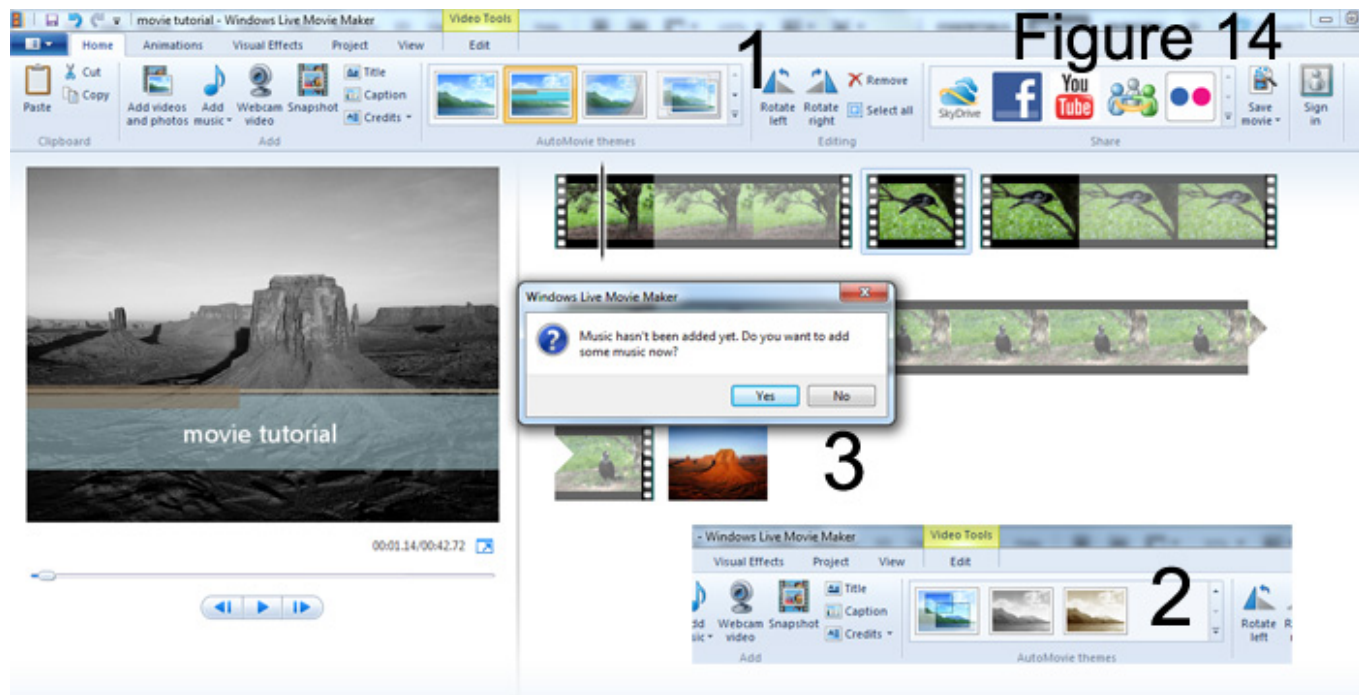
Use the Undo button to revert, and then change to a different theme.

Step 7.3: Customize the title frame

1. Select the title frame in the time scale (blue border appears).
2. Notice the Text Tools button.
3. Click in the Preview window and a text box appears, hover your mouse over a corner and drag handles to the required size. Hover over the outline to see the cross bars and drag box to any position. Select, alter and add text.

Please note: Movie Maker is limited to only one font size or font face for all of your text.

4. Choose a font face and size.
5. Set the duration of the title frame to be shown in seconds.
6. Preview and apply a different effect.

(See Figure 15)

Figure 15
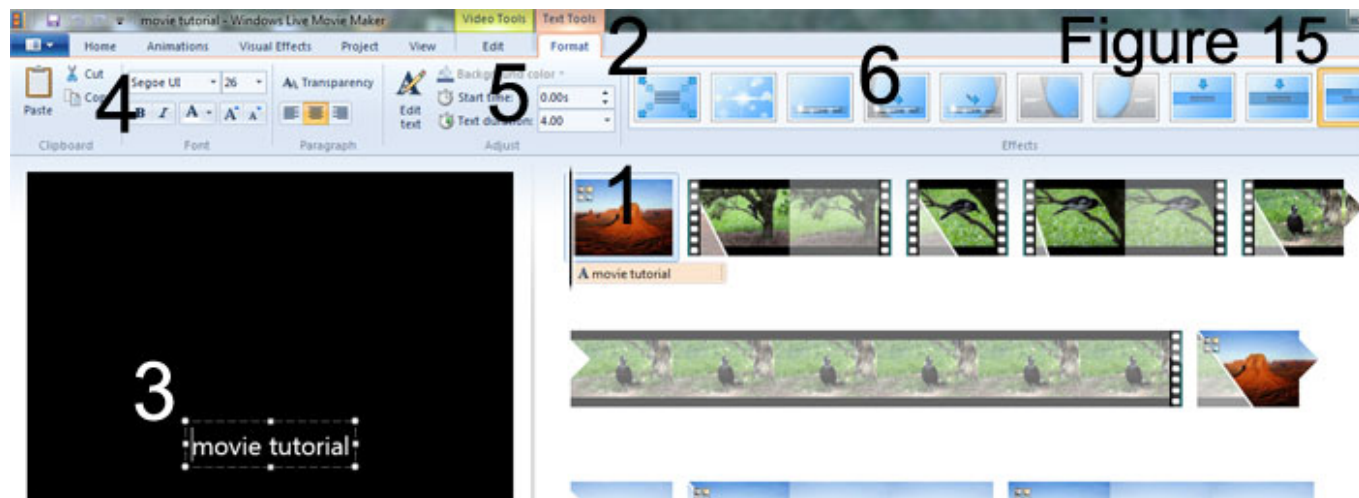
Step 7.4: Customize credits frames

1. In this example we deleted two of the different credits frames.
2. Select credits frames and click 'Remove' (under Home toolbar), or press delete on your keyboard.
3. Click on the credits.
4. Alter and add text as described in step 7.3

(See Figure 16)

You might want to save your movie project again.

See step 10 to save the movie project as a Windows Media Audio/video file in different resolutions onto your computer.

Step 7.5: Add captions

1. Drag the time scale slider to the desired starting point of the caption.
2. Click Caption (under Home toolbar).
3. Enter your text
4. Choose a font face and size.
5. Set the duration of the caption to be shown in seconds.
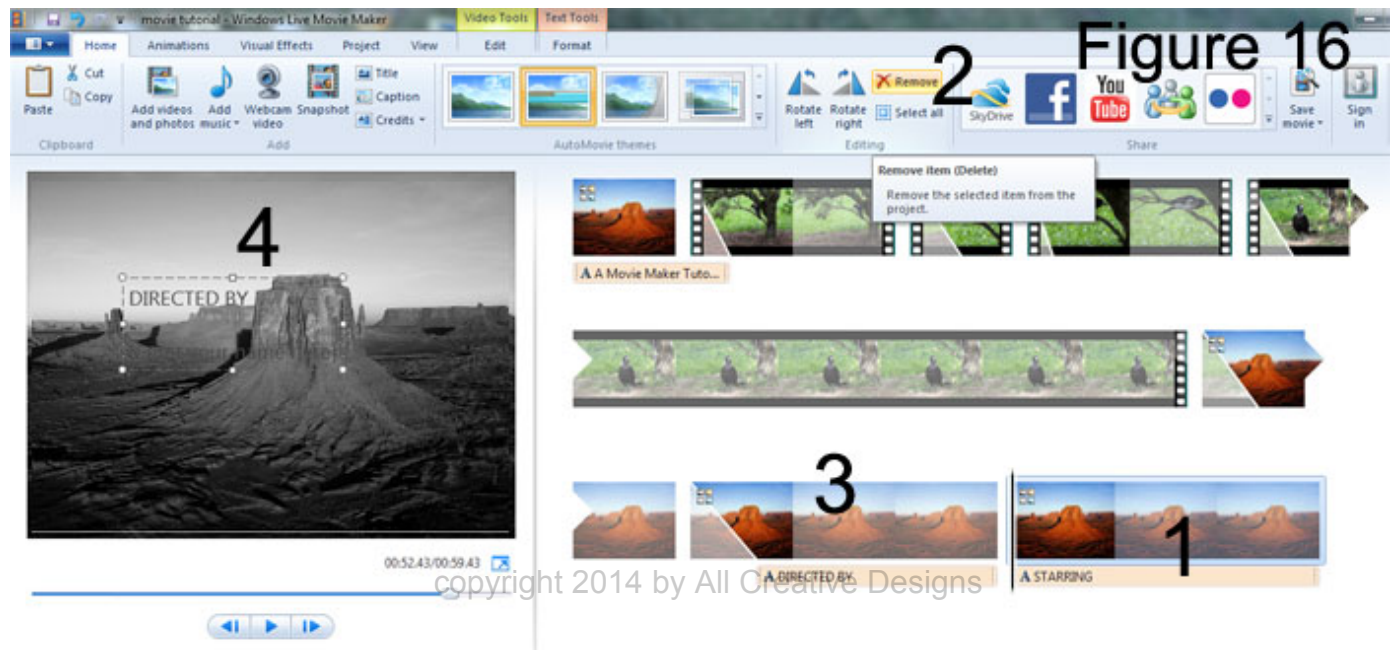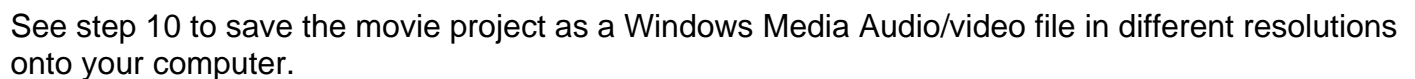6. Preview and apply a different effect.

(See Figure 17)

Figure 17

You might want to save your movie project again.

See step 10 to save the movie project as a Windows Media Audio/video file in different resolutions onto your computer.

Step 8: Manually add title, credits and transitions

Step 8.1: Add a title segment

1. Select the first segment of your movie by clicking on it or by using the time scale slider.
2. Under the Home toolbar click Title.
3. Click in the Preview window and a text box appears, hover your mouse over a corner and drag handles to the required size. Hover over the outline to see the cross bars and drag box to any position. Select, alter and add text. Please note: Movie Maker is limited to only one font size or font face for all of your text in the title frame.
4. Choose a font face and size.
5. Set the text duration* and select a different background color.
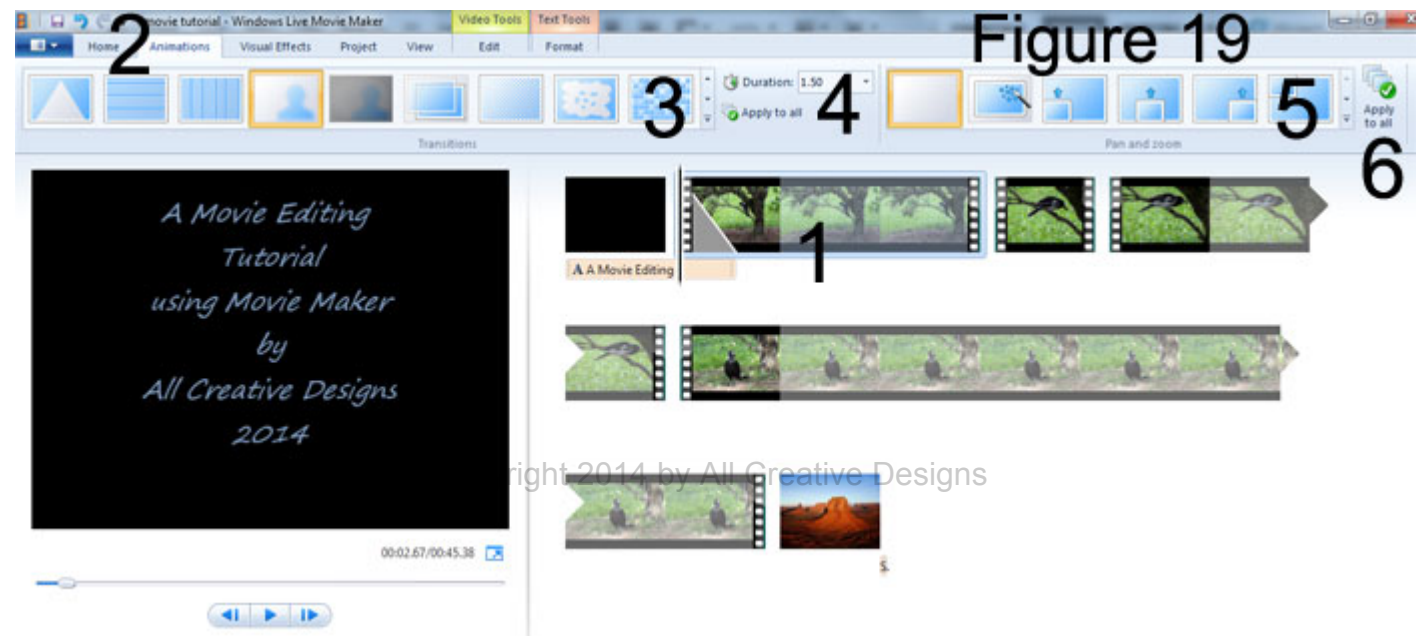6. Preview and apply an effect.

(See Figure 18)

Figure 18
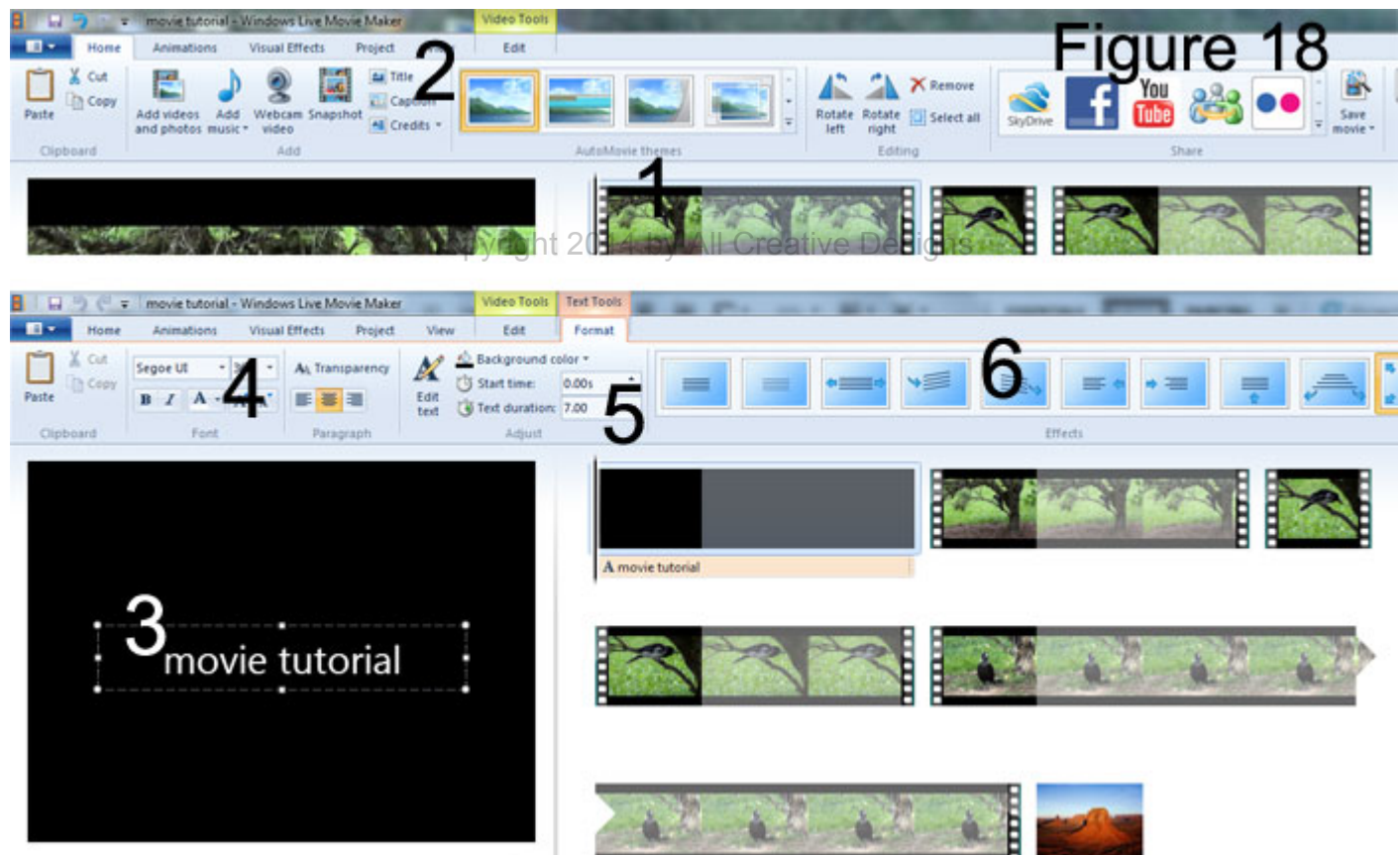
*Note: To set the duration of the title frame itself, click on the Video Tools button and set the duration there.

Step 8.2: Add transitions to your movie segments

1. Select the first segment of your movie in the time scale (blue border appears).
2. Select the Animations Toolbar.
3. Hover your mouse pointer over the different transition effects. Use the small drop-down arrows to view all choices. Click on your choice to apply. Use Undo arrow (top left) to revert your choice.
4. Set the duration of the transition and tick 'Apply to all', if you want consistent effects or you can manually apply different effects to each segment of your movie.
5. View and apply a "Pan and zoom" effect. Use the small drop-down arrows to view all choices.
6. Tick "Apply to all' or apply effects individually.

(See Figure 19)

You might want to save your movie project again.

See step 10 to save the movie project as a Windows Media Audio/video file in different resolutions onto your computer.

Step 8.3: Add credits

1. Select the last segment of your movie.
2. Under the Home toolbar click on captions, use the drop-down arrow to select a specific one.
3. Click in the Preview window, alter and add text (Same as step 8.1)
4. Format your text.
5. Set text duration and background color.
6. Preview and apply an effect.
7. To set the duration of the credit frame itself, click on the Video Tools button and set the duration there.

(See Figure 20)
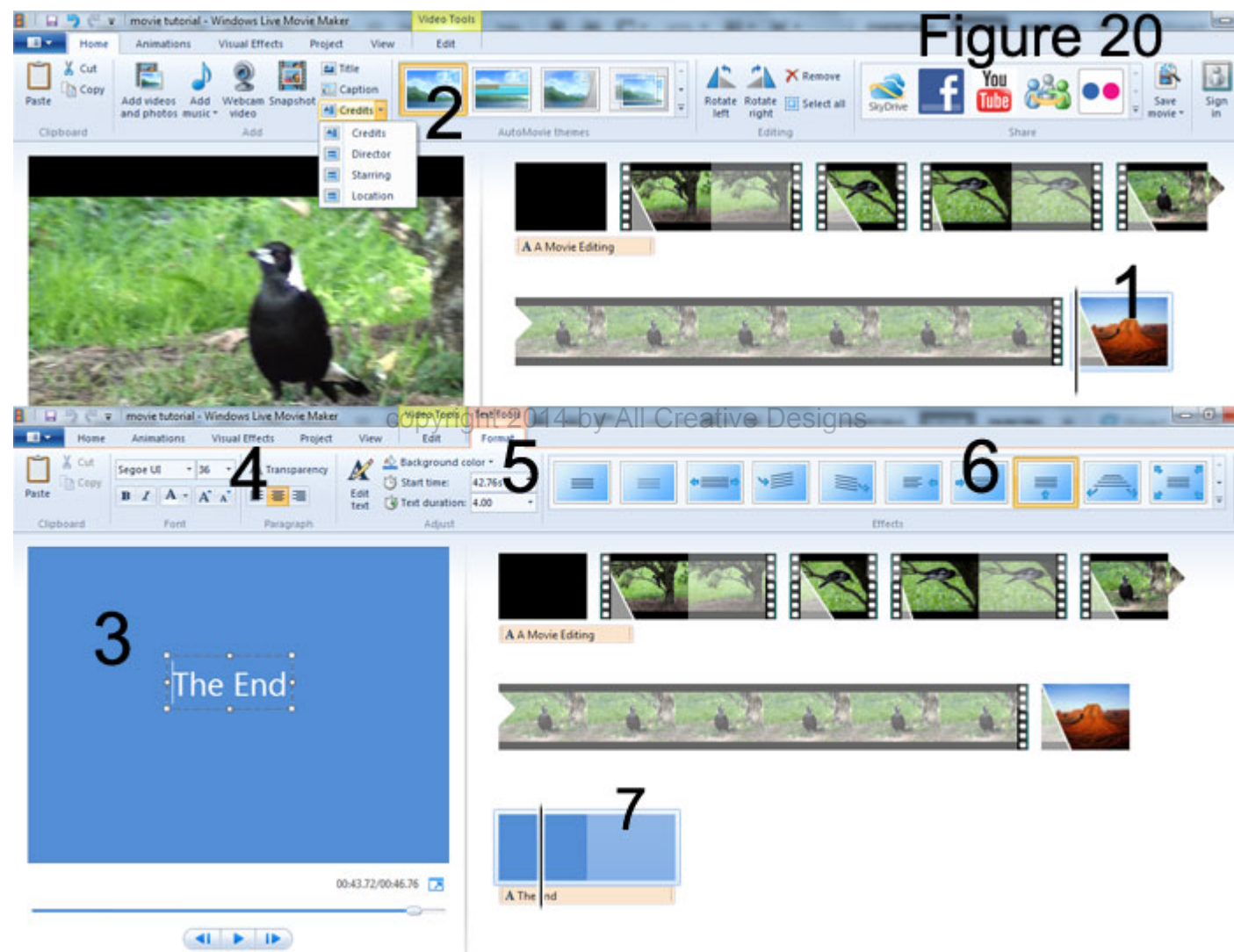
To remove any unwanted credits segments: Select credits frame and click 'Remove' (under Home toolbar), or press delete on your keyboard.

See step 7.5 to add any captions to your movie.

Step 9: Add music and adjust sound

These instructions explain how to add a MP3 music track to your video. To create a proper sound track for your movie the use of a music editing program, such as Audacity (Free download) would be necessary.

Step 9.1: Adding music

1. Select the title segment of your movie.
2. Toggle to the Home toolbar.
3. Click 'Add music', if you want music to start at a certain point, advance slider and use the drop-down arrow on the side to select 'Add music at the current point'. (This can also be adjusted in the next step).
4. Navigate to your music folder.
5. Select an MP3 music track.
6. Click 'Open'.

(See Figure 21)

Figure 21
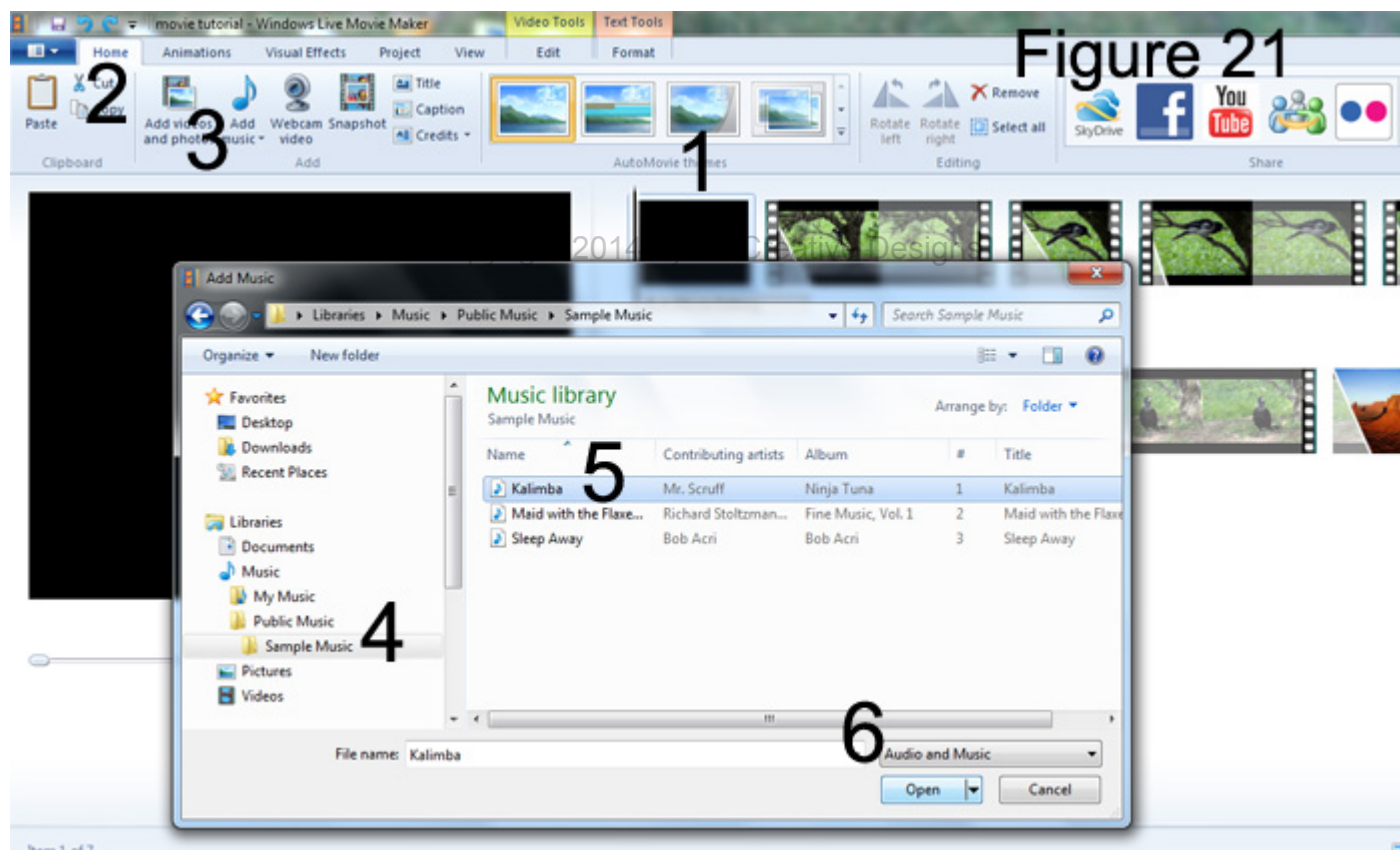
If you like to change your music choice, click the 'Undo' arrow and try again.

Step 9.2: Adjust music and original sound

1. Make sure the Music toolbar is showing.
2. Select the beginning of the sound time scale.
3. Adjust the music volume.
4. Choose to fade music in or out at slow, medium or fast speed.
5. Set the Start time, if you like the music to begin a different point.
6. Adjust the original sound of your movie by clicking on Video tools and adjust Video volume.

(See Figure 22)

Figure 22
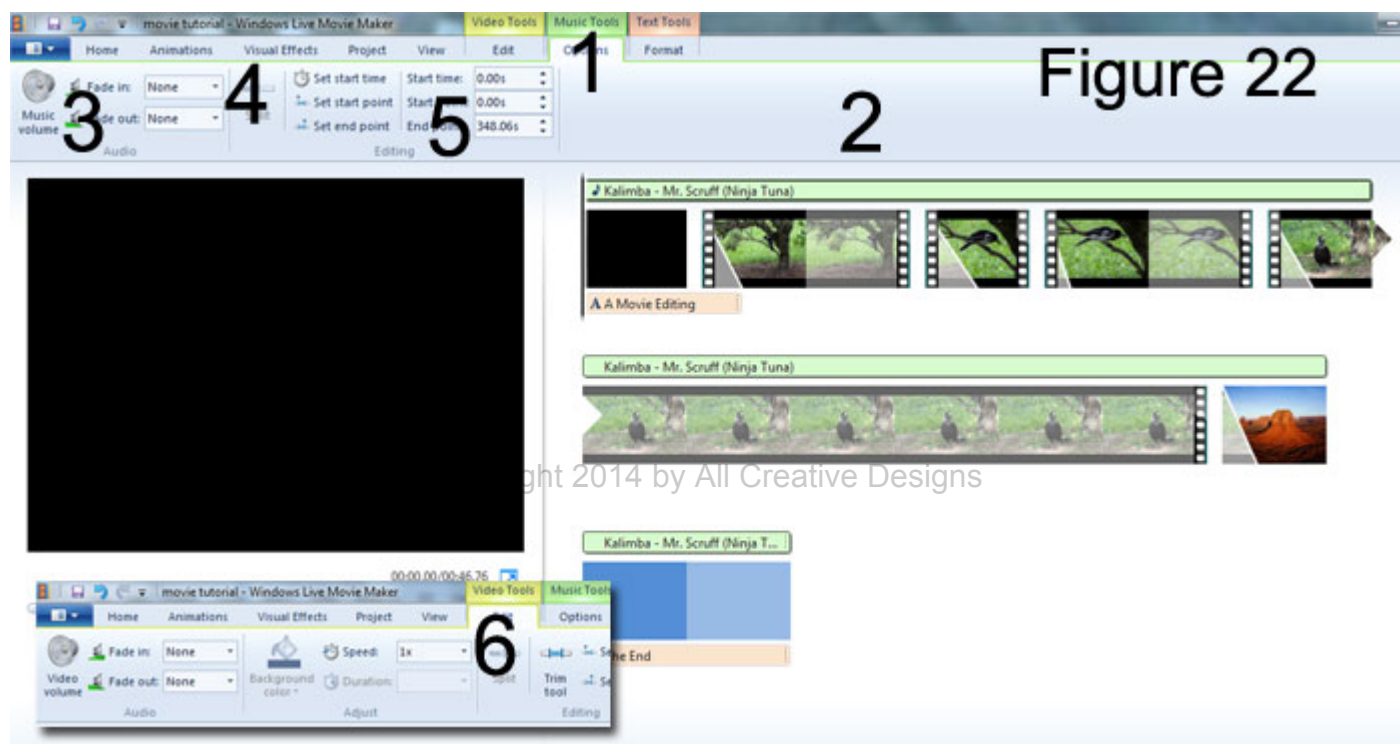
Please save your movie project again.

See next step to save the movie project as a Windows Media Audio/video file in different resolutions onto your computer.

Step 10: Saving your movie as Windows Media Audio/video file

1. Click the Save movie button
2. Choose a format to save your movie. Your movie project can be saved again in a different resolution. Hover over options to display resolution in pixels and estimated file size. Click your choice.
3. Navigate to the folder you want to save your movie.
4. By default the same name than your movie project file is shown. You might like to add a reference, such as email size or other.
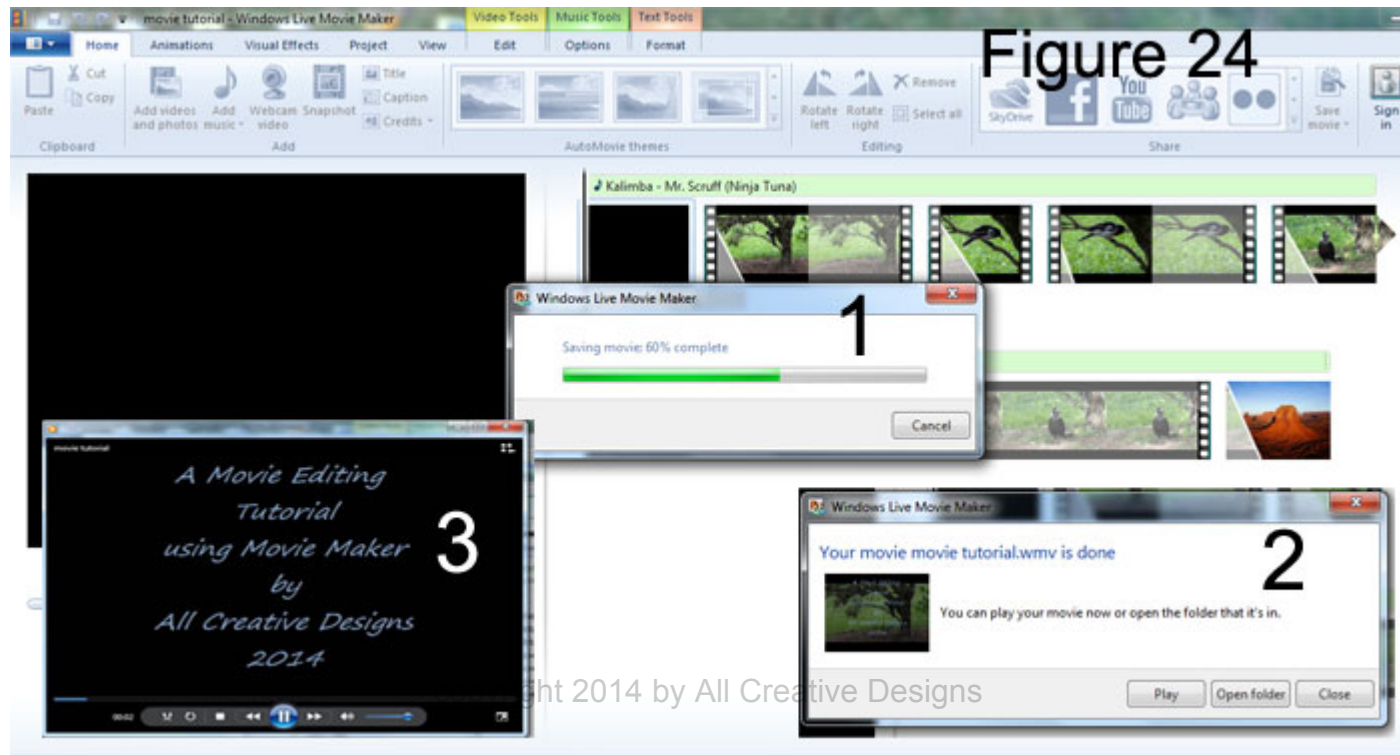5. Click Save.

(See Figure 23)
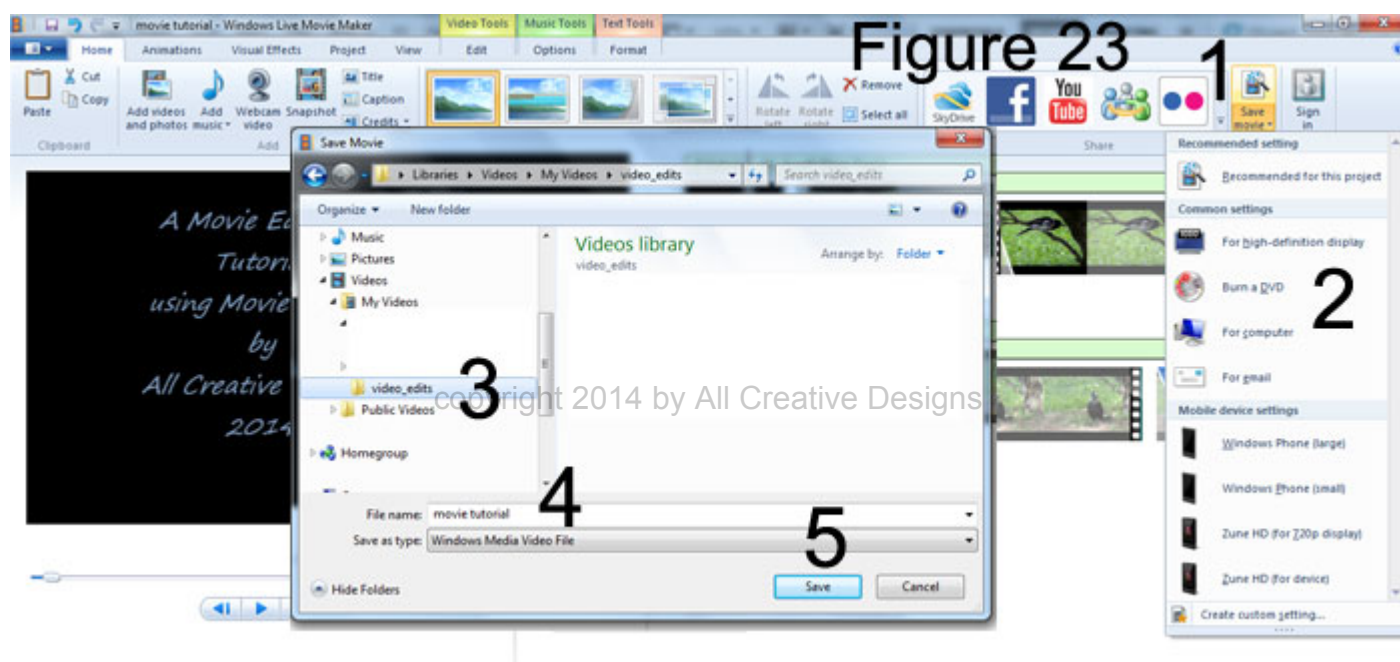
Please continue on next page.

1. Depending on the resolution selected and the processing power of the computer you are using saving can take a while. (High-definition display takes the longest)
2. Your 'movie is done notice' will appear, when the process is finished. Press Play.
3. Your movie is opening in Windows Media player.

(See Figure 24)

To open and view the video: Navigate to the folder where you saved your movie clip and double left click it.
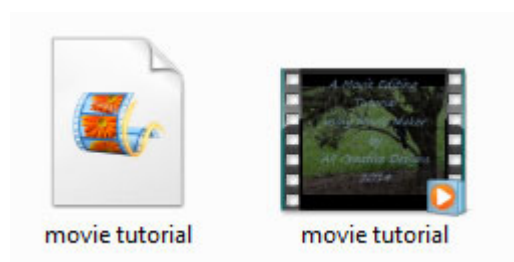

The Window Live Movie Maker project file to the left and your Windows Media Audio/video file just saved to the right.

Step 11: Apply visual effects

1. Select the first scene of your movie.
2. Toggle to the Visual Effects toolbar. Preview and apply an effect by clicking on it.
3. Tick Apply to all, if you want the effect to show for the whole movie length, otherwise it will be applied to the segment selected only.


(See Figure 25)

Figure 25
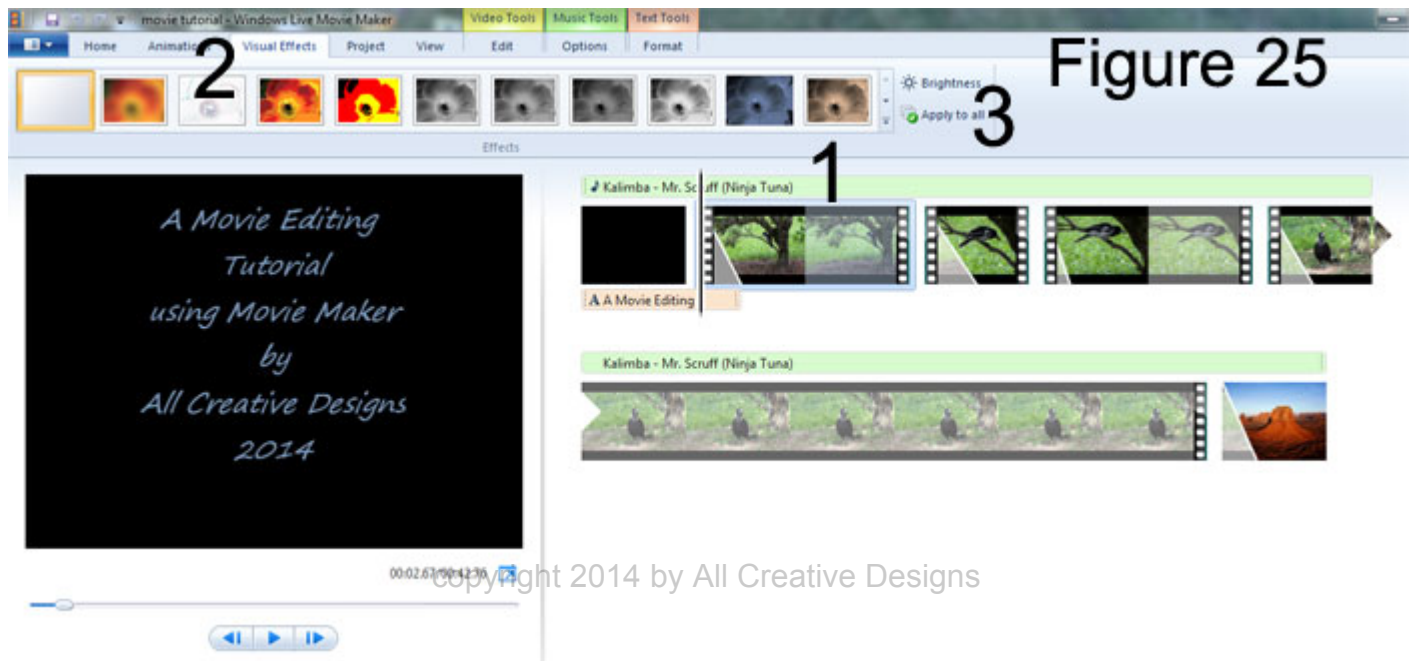
You might like to save the result as a copy to keep your original movie project file unaltered. Use the Movie Maker file menu and select 'Save as'.

See step 10 to save the movie project with visual effect added as a Windows Media Audio/video file in different resolutions onto your computer.

Step 12: Uploading your video to social networks

1. Select an upload destination.
2. Choose the resolution of your video clip and click.
3. You will need a Windows Live Id to proceed.
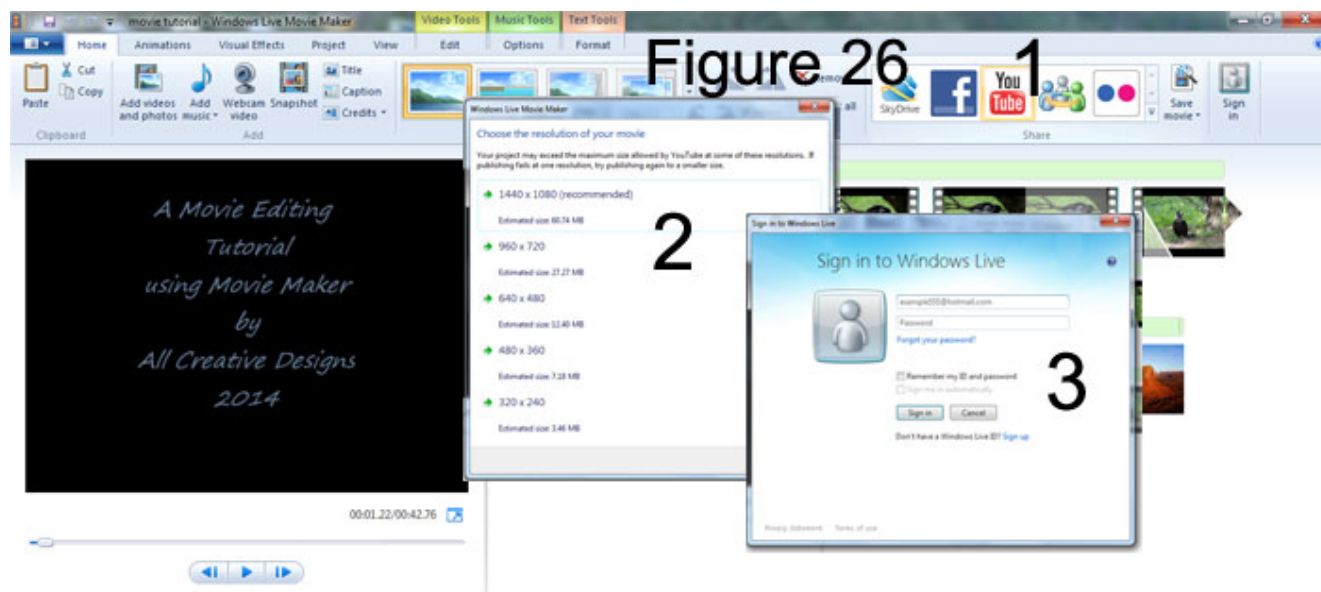
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