

An Introduction to Video Editing Using iMovie HD

Duncan Whitehurst - ICT Advisory Teacher Pembrokeshire County Council



1. If you have a camera that records to mini DV tape, switch your camera to play and connect the camera to your Mac using a 6 to 4 pin Firewire Cable.



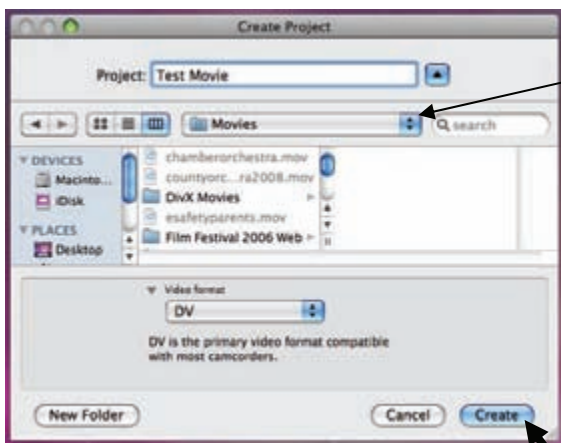
2. Start up iMovie HD by clicking on the icon in the dock. If it is not there you will find it in Macintosh HD in the Applications folder. It is also available as a download from the Apple website if you only have iMovie 08 on your Mac.



3. If iMovie has been used before, the last project worked on may well open. Click on the red circle in the top left corner of the window.

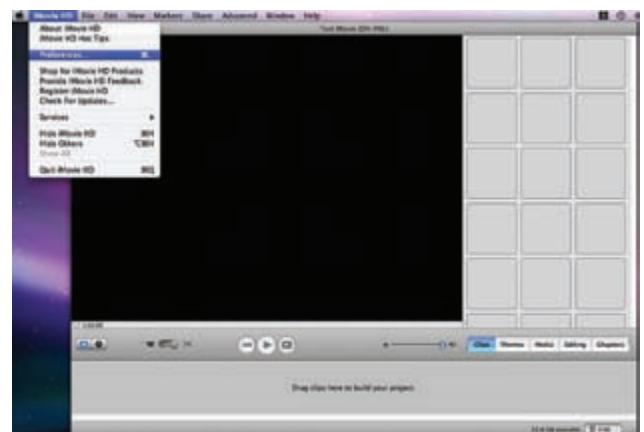


4. Click on Create a New Project.



Choose where to save the movie by clicking here.

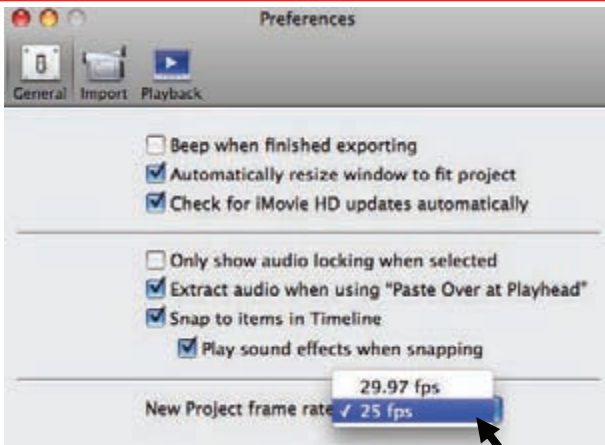
5. Give your project a name, I've called mine Test Movie, and choose to save it in Movies. Make sure that the video format is set to DV, then click on Create.



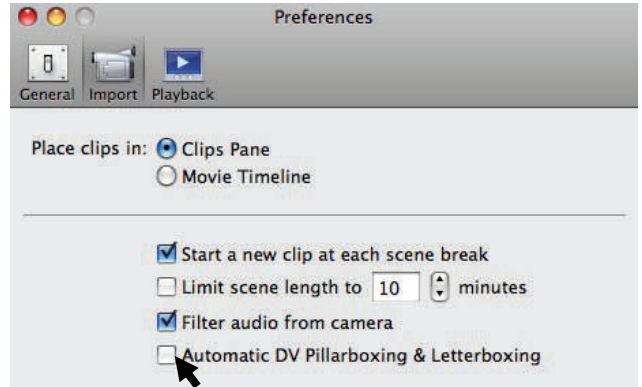
6. The first time you use iMovie it is a good idea to click on iMovie HD on the top bar and click Preferences.

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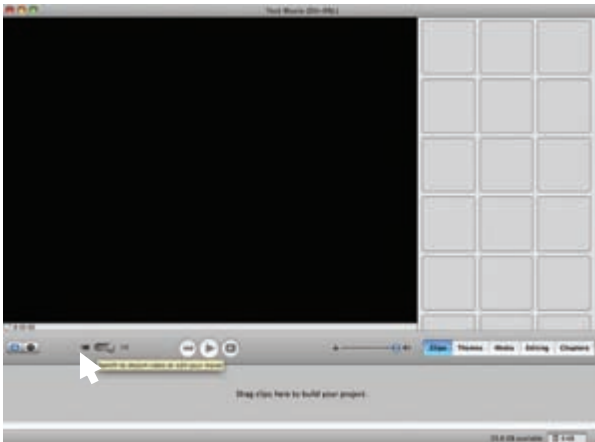
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7. Make sure that the new project frame rate is set to 25 frames per second.



8. Click the Import tab and make sure that Automatic DV Pillarboxing & Letterboxing is not ticked. Both of these actions can save you trouble in the future, and once set, won't have to be done again.



9. Click on the camera icon to begin importing the video from your camera.

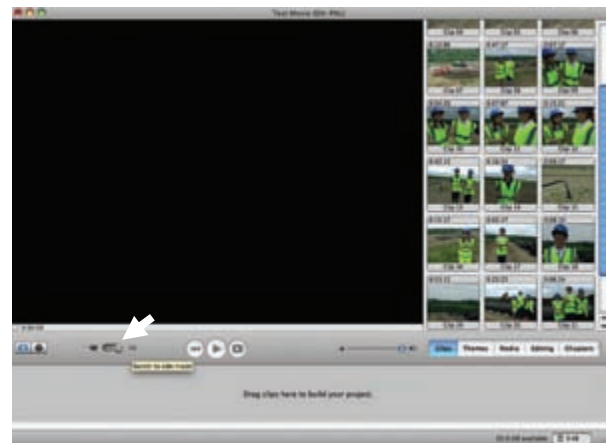


10. Rewind the tape in the camera to the point at which you want to start, then click Import.



Clips pane.

11. As the movie imports from your camera, iMovie detects every time you stopped filming and splits the movie into clips which load into the clips pane. When you have finished importing click on the Stop icon.



12. Click on the scissors icon to switch to edit mode. Now you can start to put your movie together.

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13. Click on a clip in the clips pane and click the Play icon to preview it. To add a clip to your movie drag it down onto the timeline at the bottom of the window.



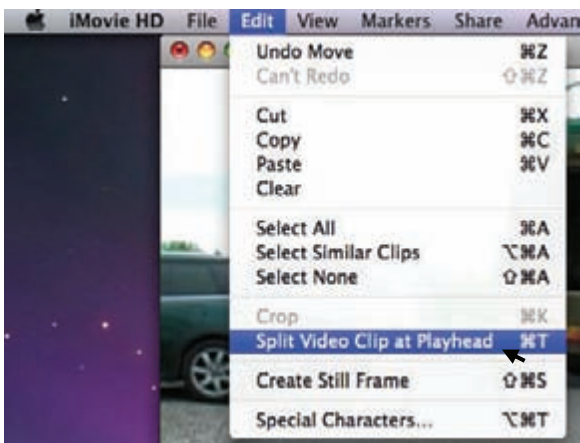
14. Repeat this process, dragging the best clips onto the timeline.



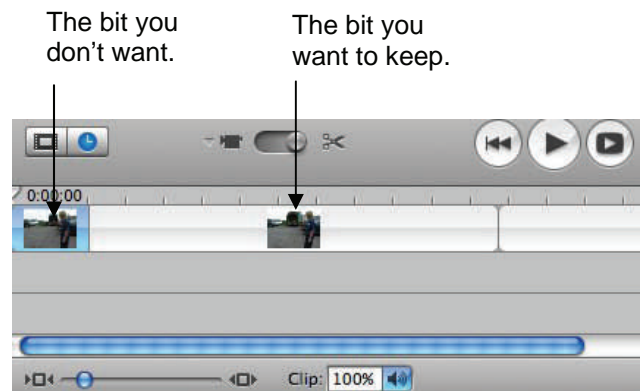
15. To edit each clip you will need to switch from the Storyboard view to the Timeline view by clicking on the clock icon.



16. To trim the front part of a clip, click Play then click Play again to pause the playhead at the point where you want to make a cut.



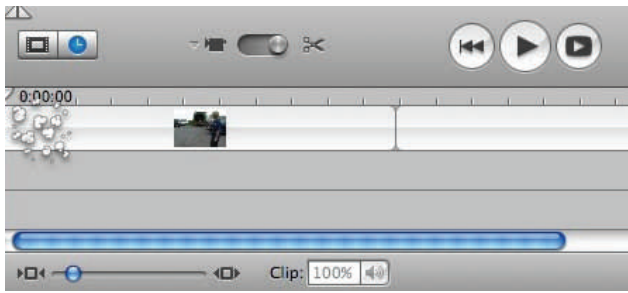
17. Click on Edit, then select Split Video Clip at Playhead.



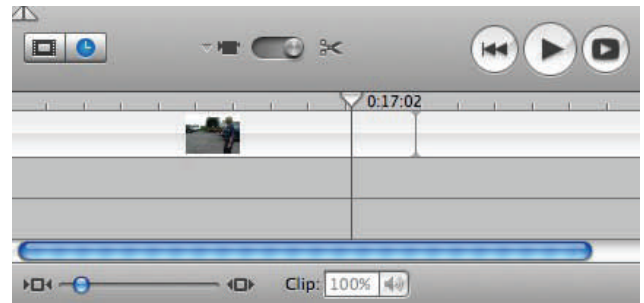
18. The clip is now split in two - the bit you don't want, and the bit you want to keep. Click on the bit you don't want so that it is highlighted.

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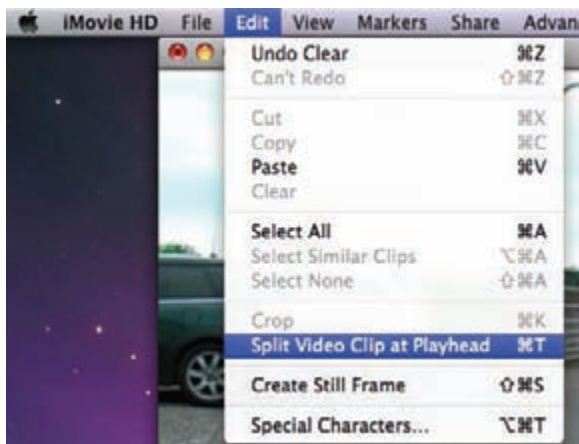
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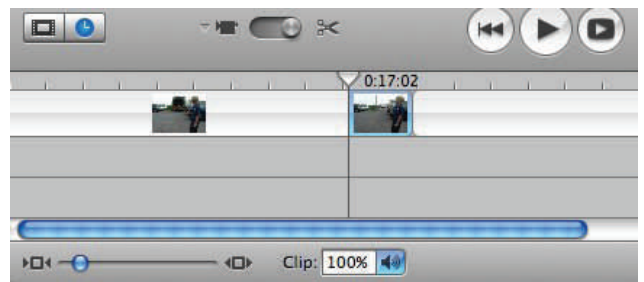
19. Now press the backspace key and the highlighted section disappears in a puff of smoke. If you make a mistake don't worry, you can always click on Edit and Undo - then try again!



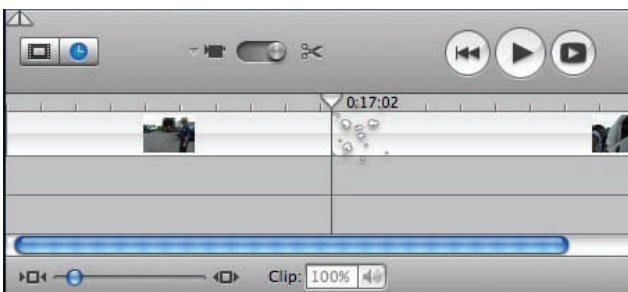
20. To trim the end of the clip, play the clip and pause the playhead at the point where you want to make the cut.



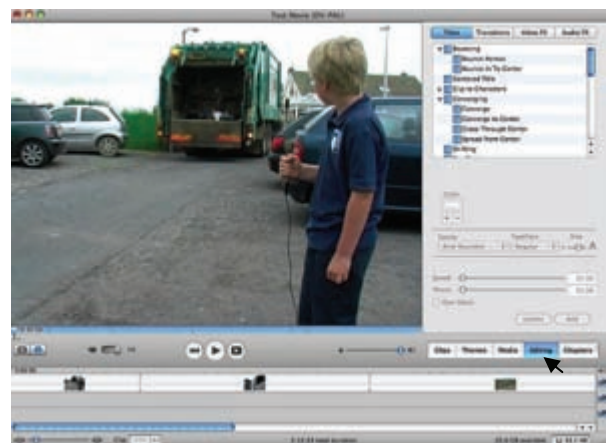
21. Click on Edit and Split Video Clip at Playhead.



22. Click on the bit you don't want so that it is highlighted.



23. Press the backspace key and the section is deleted and disappears in a puff of smoke.



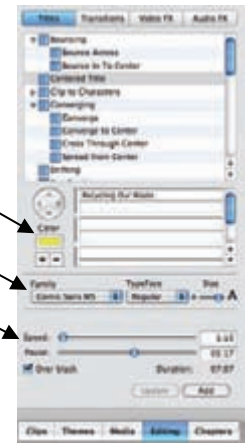
24. When you have trimmed all of your clips try adding a title. Click on Editing at the bottom of the clips pane, then click on Titles at the top.

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Type the title in here.



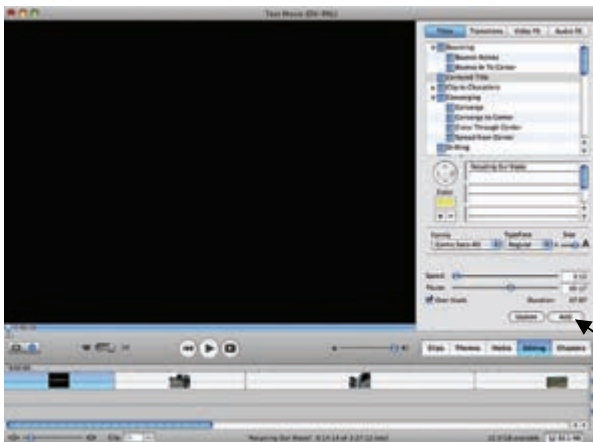
Choose a text colour here.

Choose a font here.

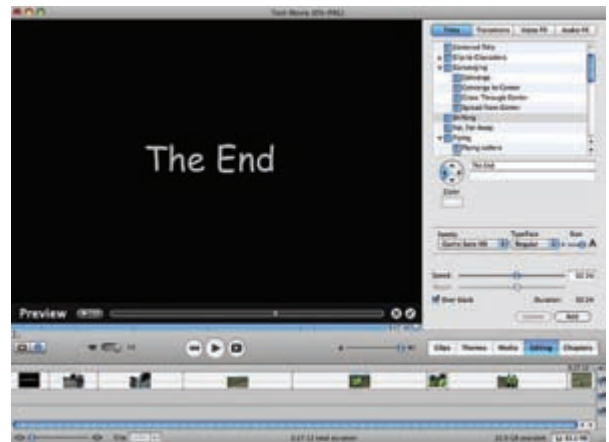
Move these sliders to change the speed of the animation and the time the title stays on the screen.

25. Choose a title from the menu, here I have chosen Centred Title. Type in the title for your movie.

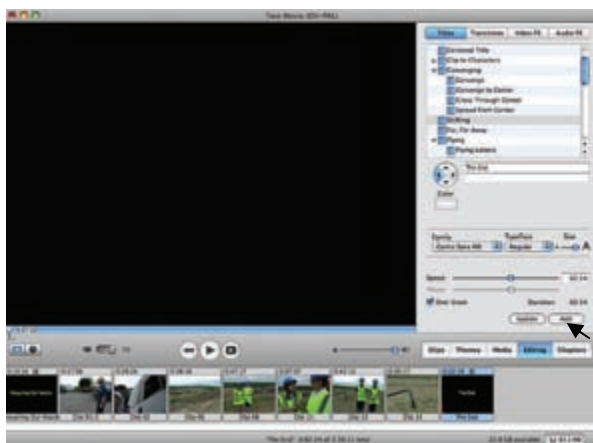
26. Choose a font, colour, size and adjust the length of time for the title. Tick Over Black to make the title appear over a black background. Un-tick this to make the title appear over the clip selected.



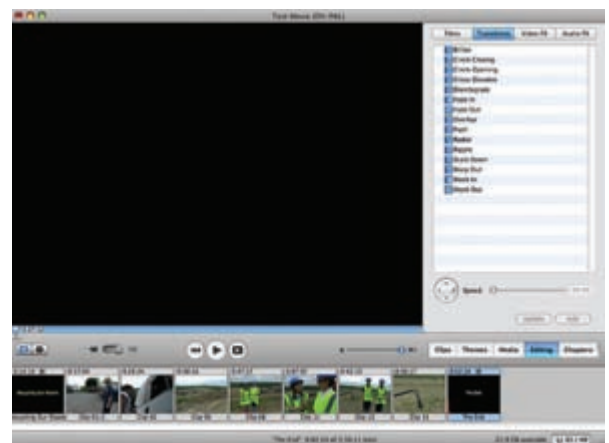
27. Click Add and the title is added at the point where the playhead is positioned - in this case at the start of the movie.



28. Position the playhead at the end of the movie and repeat the process again to add the final credits.



29. Click Add and the credits drop in at the end of the movie.



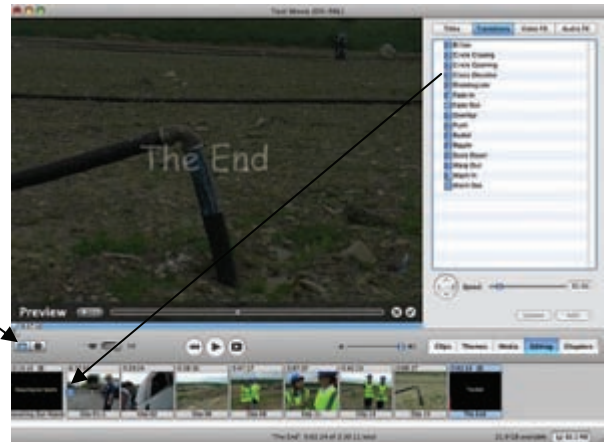
30. Sometimes it is useful to add transitions to show passing of time. Transitions are also a good effect to use between a title and a scene. To add a transition, click on the Transitions tab at the top of the pane.

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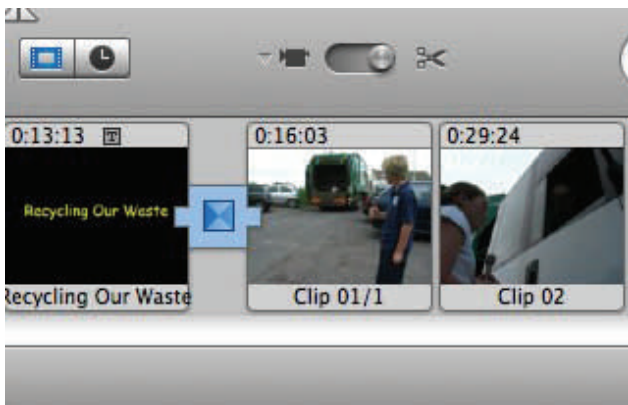


Switch to Storyboard view.



31. Select Cross Dissolve, you can also select the length of the transition using the slider - one second or less is usually ideal.

32. Drag the transition inbetween the title and the first clip to add it to the movie. Notice that I've switched to the Storyboard view - it is easier to drop a transition into place in this view.



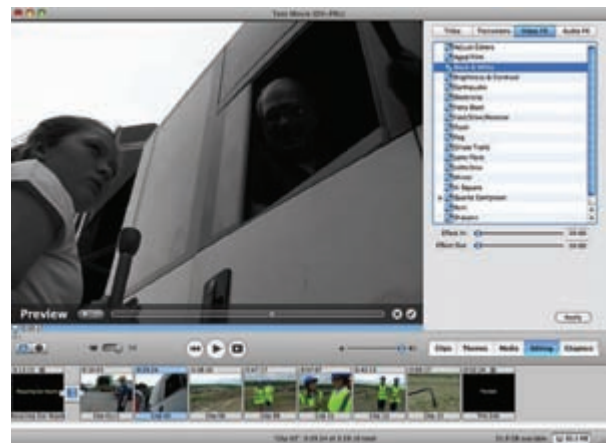
33. The transition is now in the movie.



34. Video FX can be useful at times (but choose their use carefully and wisely!). Here I have selected clip and clicked on the Video FX tab at the top of the pane and selected Fast/Slow/Reverse.



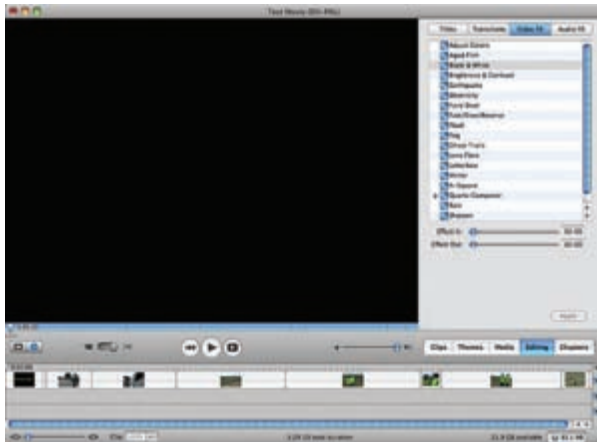
35. I would like to make the clip run in slow motion, so I have moved the slider to Slower. The effect is previewed in the preview pane. Click Apply and the effect is applied to the clip.



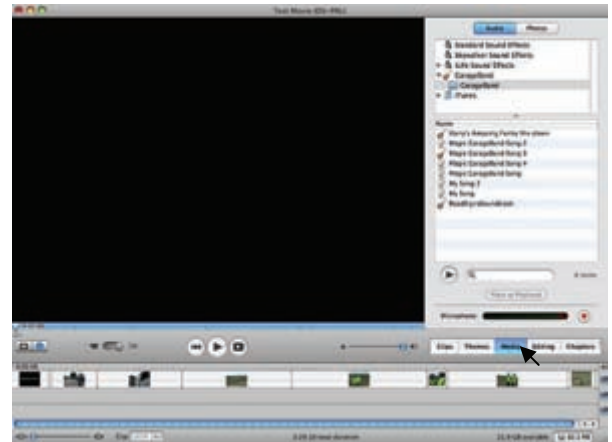
36. Other useful effects are black and white, aged film and brightness and contrast. You can apply more than one effect to a clip.

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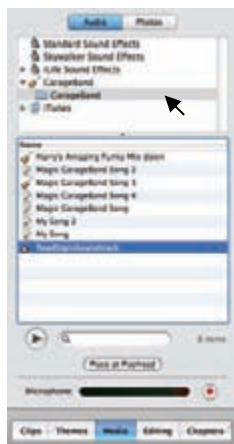
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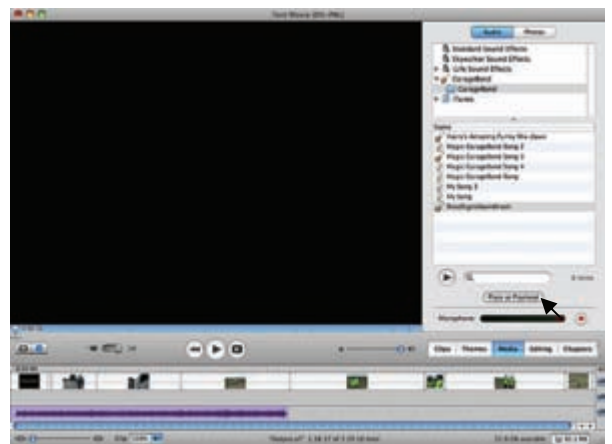
37. Now that I have added effects it's time to add some music to the title of my movie. Drag the playhead to the place where you want the music to start.



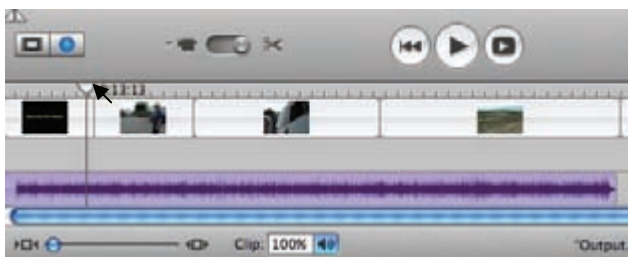
38. Click on Media at the bottom of the pane, then select the Audio tab at the top. From here you can choose sound effects or music to add to your movie.



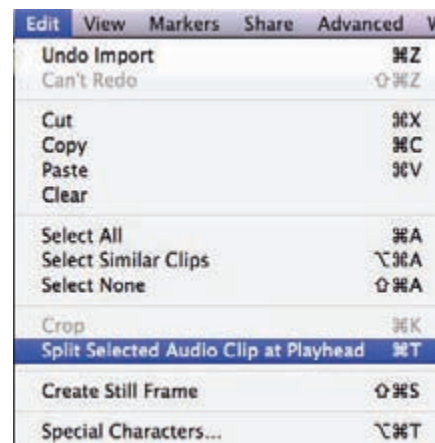
39. It is best to compose your own music in Garage Band (it's easy to do) so that you have a copyright free soundtrack for your movie. Click on Garage Band, then choose a piece of music from the 'ones you have prepared earlier'. You could add any music you have in iTunes, but this may not be copyright free and could cause you problems if you plan to distribute your movie in the future.



40. Click on Place at Playhead and the music drops in to the audio track on the timeline.



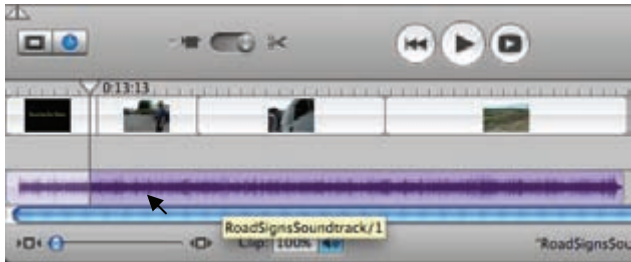
41. This music is too long, I only want it to play for the title, so I need to trim it. Place the playhead where you want to make the cut.



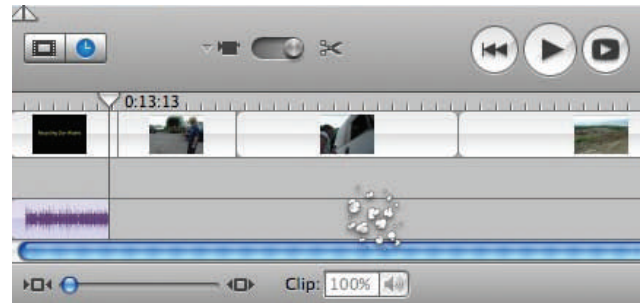
42. Click Edit and Split Selected Audio Clip at Playhead.

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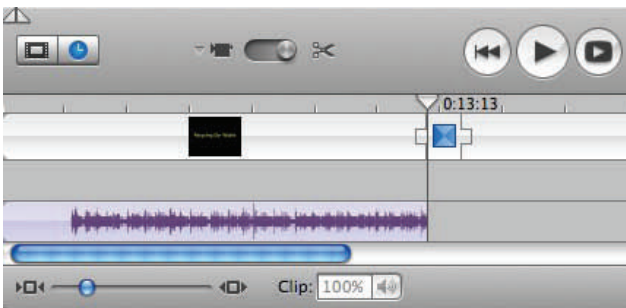
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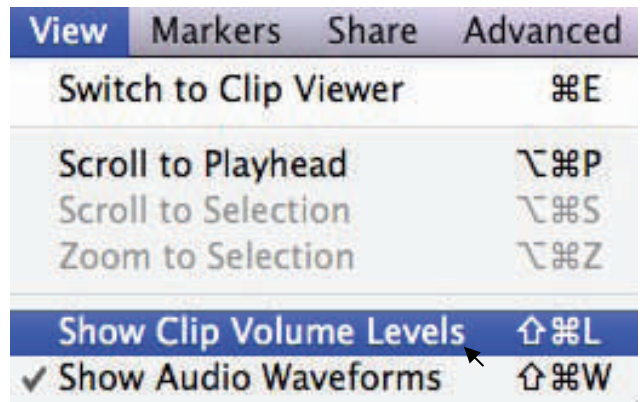
43. The audio track is now split into the bit you want and the bit you don't want. Click on the bit you want to delete so that it is highlighted.



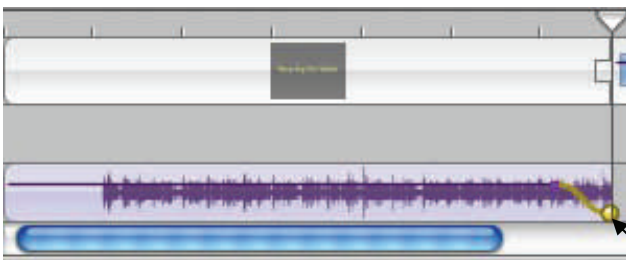
44. Press the backspace key and it will disappear in a puff of smoke. If you make a mistake don't worry - you can always click on Edit and Undo and try again.



45. Here's the music clip positioned under the title in the timeline. The problem now is that it ends suddenly because I trimmed it. Let's make it fade out at the end.



46. To do this, click View and Show Clip Volume Levels.



47. This displays a line on the audio track indicating the volume level. Click on the end of the piece of music and pull the line down to make the audio fade out.



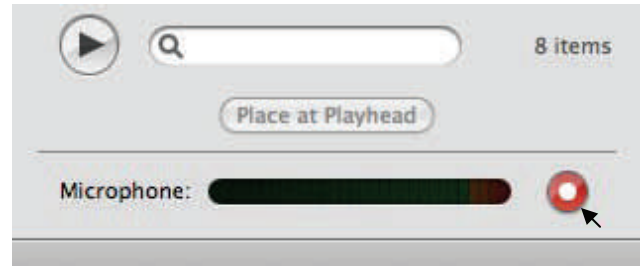
48. Now I would like to add a voiceover to a scene. This can be done with the microphone built into your Mac. Place the playhead at the point where you want to start and click on the red record button.

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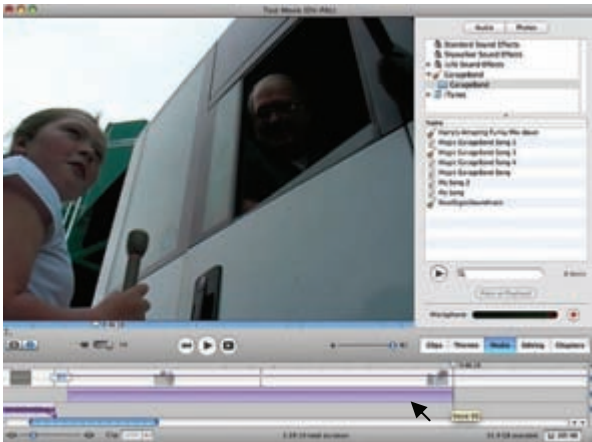
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49. Your voiceover is added to a second audio track on the timeline.



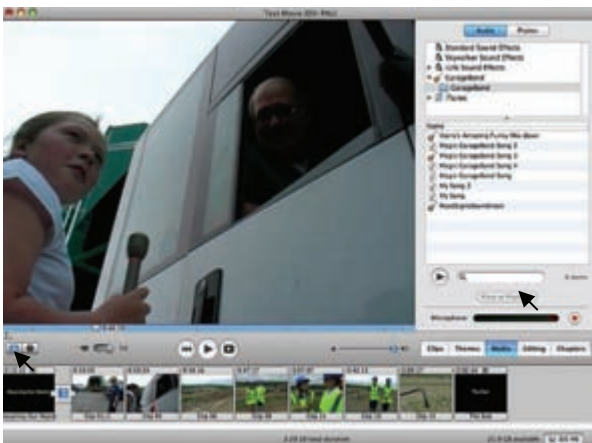
50. To stop recording, click on the record button again. You may need a few tries at this. Click Edit and Undo each time and try again until you are happy with your voiceover.



51. When you have finished the voiceover, you can trim it using the same method as before and you can move it on the timeline if you need to by dragging it around to place it the exact position you want.



52. It's a good idea to get rid of the volume levels bar after you have finished using it by clicking on View and Show Clip Volume Levels - this deselects the feature.



53. Next I would like to add a photograph to my movie. This can be useful for a background for a title (other than over black) or for a photo story. The easiest way to add a picture is to switch to the Storyboard View.



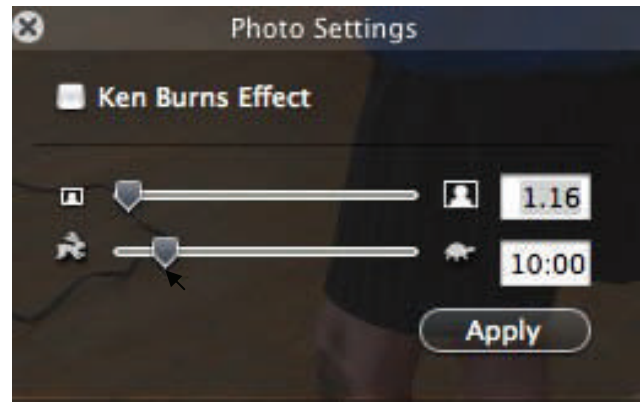
54. Next, click on the Photo button at the top of the right hand pane. Click on iPhoto which will open the collection of photos in iPhoto on your Mac. Click on the photo you want to add.

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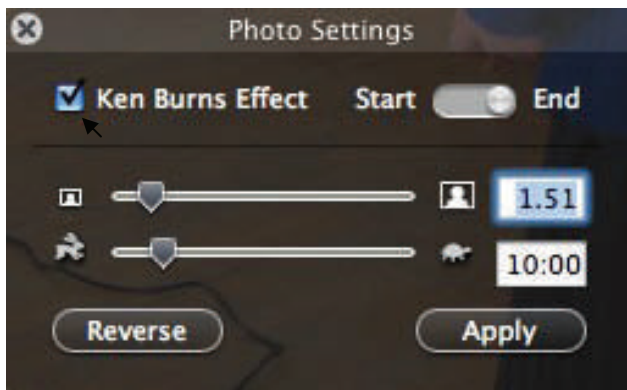
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55. The Photo Settings box will appear. If it doesn't you will need to click Show Photo Settings in the Photo Pane.



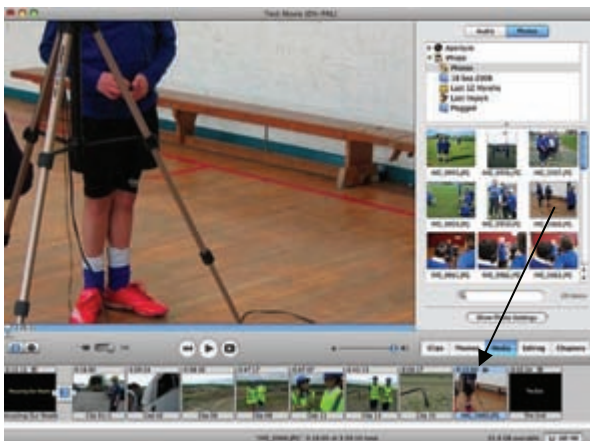
56. On first use it's important to set up the length of time you want your photo to stay on the screen by moving the lower of the two sliders. Always choose longer than you may need (you can edit it later).



57. You can also add a Ken Burns Effect to your photo. This zooms or pans around your photo to make it look more interesting on screen. You can adjust the effect by moving the top slider.



58. By clicking Reverse, you can change the Ken Burns Effect further. You can see the results of your fiddling with the effect in the preview pane.



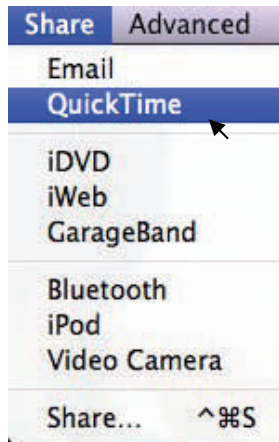
59. Drag your photo and place it on the timeline.



60. You can view a clip or the whole movie at any time by clicking the Play button. You can view it full screen by clicking the button to the right of the Play button.

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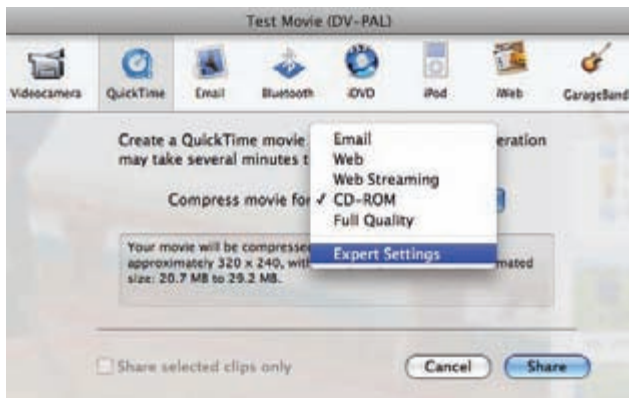
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61. Now the movie is finished I need to export it as a movie file so I can put it on a memory stick, a CD or the web to share with other people. To do this click Share and select Quick Time.



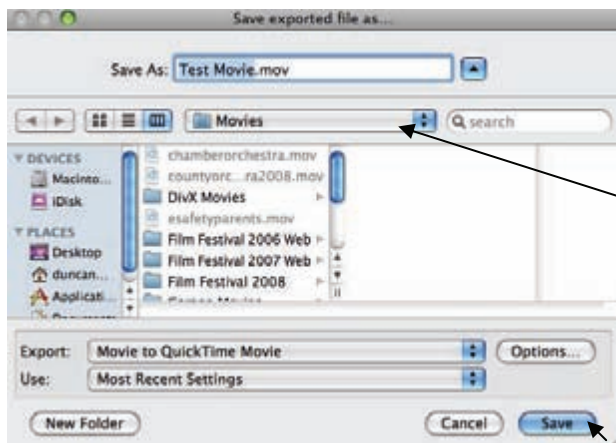
62. The automatic setting that first appears is Compress Movie For CD Rom. This is fine for a lower quality film but if you would like a different setting click on the arrows to the right of CD ROM.



63. This opens a set of presets showing different movie qualities. I'd like to show you a setting I use that gives a high quality movie that doesn't take up too much memory on your computer - click Expert Settings.



64. Click Share.



Choose where to save your movie here.

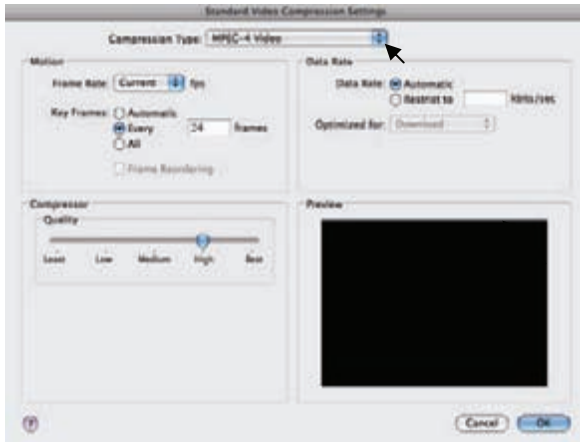
65. In the Save As box give your movie a name. Choose to save it in Movies and click Save.



66. Click Settings in the Movie Settings box that appears.

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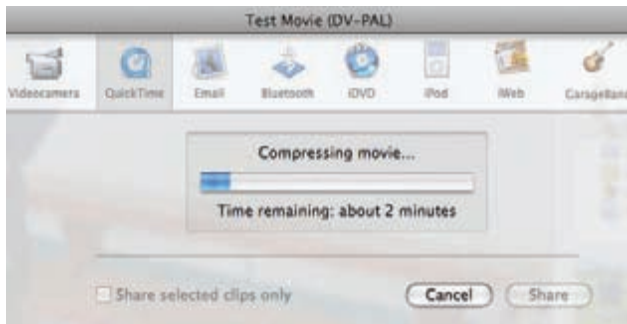
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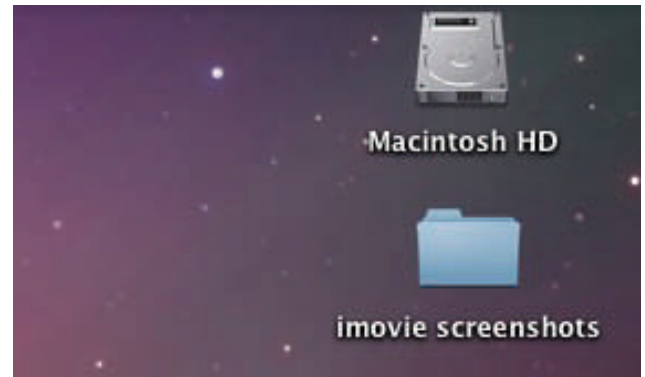
67. Choose MPEG-4 Video from the selection of offered in the Compression Type box. Fill in the other settings as in the picture above. Click OK.



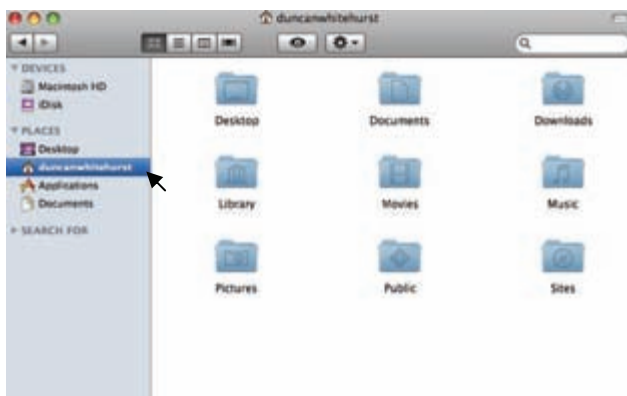
68. Click OK again.



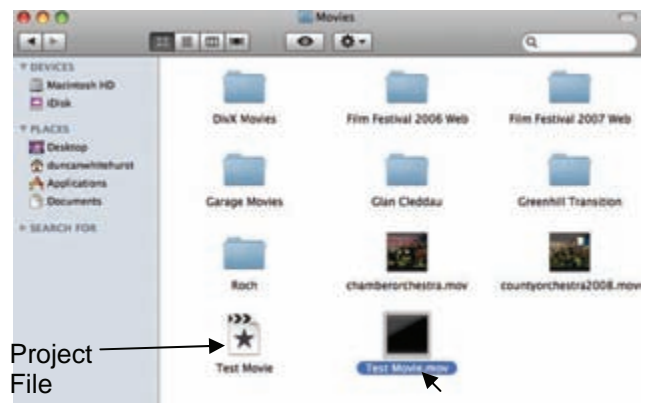
69. The movie now saves as high quality movie that doesn't take up too much memory. It is saved to the Movies folder.



70. After it has saved, you can find the movie by clicking on Macintosh HD on the desktop of your computer.



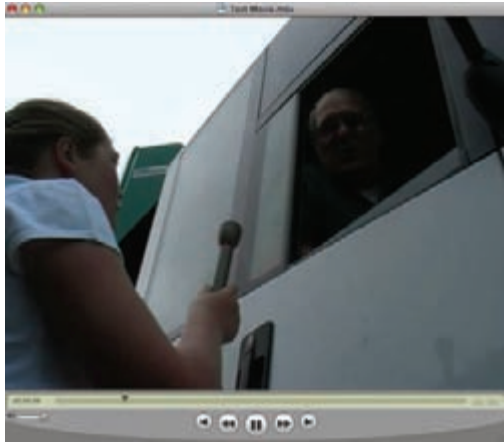
71. Click on the user name to the left of the window and click on the Movies folder.



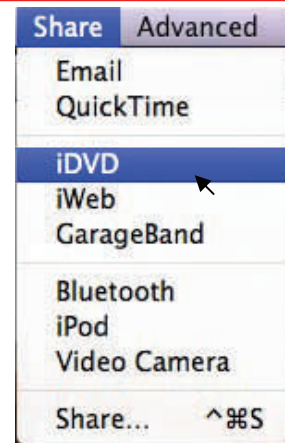
72. Click on the movie to play it. The finished movie will have .mov after its name. The other file (with a star on a clapper board) is the movie's project file.

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73. The movie will play in Quick Time player.



74. To save your movie to DVD, put a blank DVD in the drive then in iMovie click on Share and select iDVD.



75. Click Share.



76. Wait for iDVD to load.



77. Choose a design from the right hand pane. You can change the text on screen by clicking on it and typing in the box.



78. I've changed the text from Test Movie to the instruction Play My Movie. You can change the title text above it in the same way.

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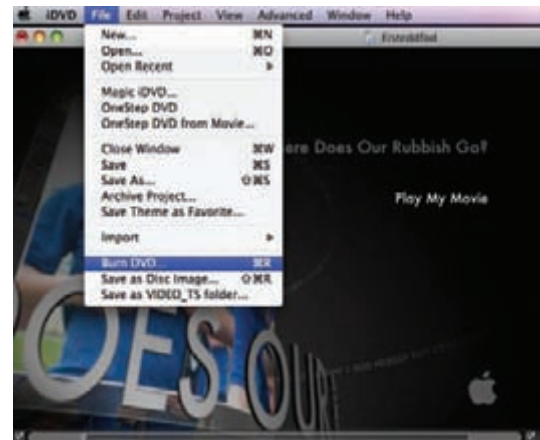
79. Click on the title to change it, you can also change the font and font size too.



80. Add a photo to your menu by clicking on the Photos button in the right hand pane.



81. Choose a photo from iPhoto and drag it into the drop zone in the Preview window. You can preview your DVD menu by clicking the play icon.



82. put a blank DVD into the DVD drive and click File and Burn DVD. Your movie is saved onto a DVD with a professional looking menu to impress your friends!