

## HOW TO PREPARE A BASIC SLIDESHOW – FOR FREE

### Introduction

All versions of Windows come with a movie maker facility which may come pre-loaded with your machine or may be downloaded free from Microsoft.

In Vista it can be found under Windows Utilities and in Windows 7 it comes with Windows Live which can be downloaded. Each version has a different appearance but has similar functions. I will be using Windows Live Movie Maker with Windows 7.

The methods I describe below work for me but you may choose a different approach which is, of course, what creative photography is all about.

### Preparation

- 1 Create a separate folder on your hard drive which will contain all files relating to your slideshow.
- 2 Copy in the photos (jpg) and music (WMA or MP3) you will use.
- 3 Prepare your photos. The files shouldn't be large as the slide show may not run smoothly. In this example, I have used 1024 x 764 (for a 4-3 format) and put a white border around each one.
- 4 Rename your photos in the sequence you want them to show. The order can be changed within movie maker but best start with a thought-out structure.

### Movie Maker

Open Movie Maker.

Click "Add videos and photos" Navigate to your folder, select all and click "Open"

Click "Add music". Find your music file, highlight and click "Open"

### Automovie

Click "AutoMovie" (Choice of four themes)

Click "Play"

### Create Movie Manually

#### Titles

- 1 Click on the first slide.
- 2 Click on "Title"
- 2 Change the text to what you want.
- 3 Optionally, change the font and size and position of the text, background colour etc
- 4 Do the same for the closing "Credits" slide.

#### Transitions

- 1 Click "Animations"
- 2 Select Transition (and, if you want, "Apply to All")
- 3 Try choosing a different transition for the opening and closing slides.
- 4 Try different "Pan and Zoom" effects for different slides.
- 5 Under "Visual Effects" you can change the appearance of each slide (ie monochrome or sepia) but ...
- 6 There are plenty of other tweaks etc to play around with.

### Output

Under the "Home" tab you can save the movie as a computer file (at different ratios), to a DVD or, for the youngsters, to You Tube.