



TITLES AND HEADLINES

1. INTRODUCTION

In this tutorial VE will show you how to make titles, texture and credits using simple and easy-to-learn techniques. All editing software comes with this functionality one way or the other, but the basic principles remain the same. And of course, a catchy title or introduction to your movie is important – just to set the mood.....

2. PREPERATIONS

As always, it's a good thing to think through how you want to display the texture within your movie. In normal motion pictures there's not much of this, but in your home movie it's always nice to let your audience know what the chapter is called, add explanations or simply names of places. You also want to keep in mind how you want the texture to appear – flashy, modest, cool, hard etc. And of course, you need to have installed the proper fonts (see www.videoediting.no/other_resources for links).

3. GETTING STARTED

In this tutorial, VE uses Microsoft Movie Maker 2, which in VE's opinion is strongly underestimated. Even though it's not professional editing software, it comes with plenty of nice features and covers the basics and a bit more. And if you like, you can of course just edit your titles in Movie Maker and then export it to your other project.

Some basic points to remember:

- fonts (one font during the movie or a variety, make sure the fonts are installed)
- colour (what colour do you want to use, is it a match with your movie?)
- size (which size do you want to use and how will it look on the screen)
- animation (you can attach animations/transitions/exit/ in your project, Movie Maker lets you do it directly if you like)



Fig. 1

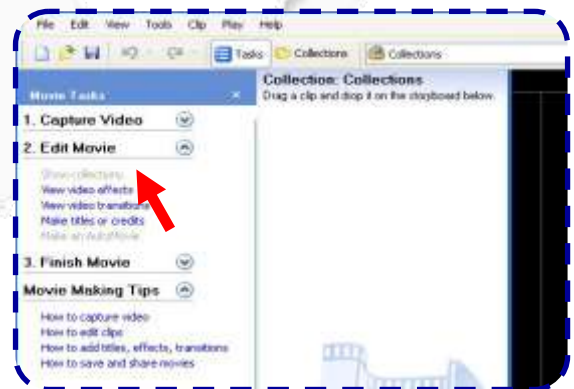


Fig. 2

But enough of the talk, let's get down to business. VE has started Movie maker and created a new project (remember to save!) (Fig. 1). From the drop-down list you select "Make Title Or Credit" since this is what you want to do now (marked by the red arrow). And as you also can see, Movie Maker offers you a whole range of other options.



4. MAKING THE TITLE

After you have selected the title option, you will be met with Fig. 3. Several options made to suit exactly what you want. Most options will give you the same menu with some varieties. For this tutorial VE has chosen “Add Title At The Beginning”. After you have made your choice, Fig. 4 will appear offering you some simple steps.



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

And it is as simple as it looks, just type what your text and you have made your title. But you have some more options you should consider. By choosing “Edit The Title Text”, you can apply some more options and customize you text (Fig. 4 - red arrow).

As you can see from Fig. 5, this is normal Microsoft Word options, setting font, colour, size, bold/normal/italic, alignment along with transparency.

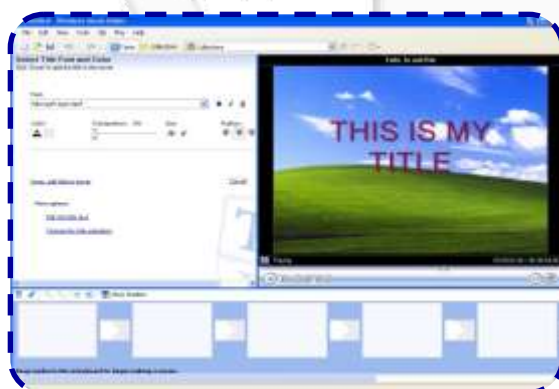


Fig. 5



Fig. 6

You can of course go back and alter your text later, or you can proceed and make an animation for your title. As mentioned, this might as well be accomplished in your project window – especially if you are using different software for the editing process. The exception is if you are creating rolling credits – than should be made on this stage. (A tutorial explaining this more thoroughly is in the making).

Movie Maker gives you the opportunity however, and you have to decide. If you are using Movie Maker, you can go back and change it, but if you have exported the title, you can not change the file directly – you have to go back and remake it or do some other tricks.



In Fig. 7 VE has brought up the options for animation. Just check and see if any is to your liking. If you have a film clip in your timeline, this will show and not “Windows” as here. That will of course help you get the title right compared to the clip.



Fig. 7

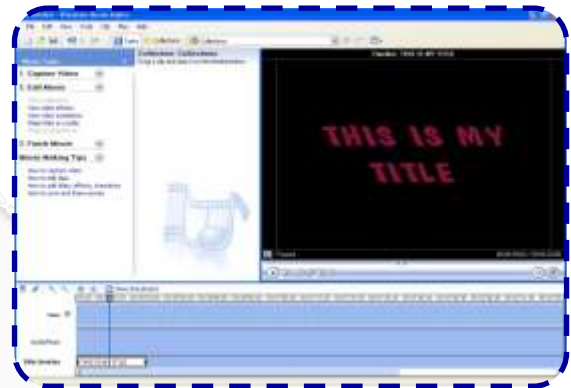


Fig. 8

5. FINISHING

When you made the title just as you want with the right font, size, animation and so forth it's just a matter of click “Done, Add Title To Movie” – it can't be much easier!?! And as you can see from Fig. 8, the title is added to the timeline in the title track. From here you can export your title suiting your desires. Movie Maker let's you export to most known formats.

6. CONCLUSION

Adding text is almost a must – either you have a lot or not. When playing your intro you should at least have some text as well as running credits at the end. Other than that, well – that's up to you. Hopefully, you have picked up some hints going through this tutorial. Play around with it, and you learn more. ■■