

## Movie Making Made Easy by Don Butt

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Remember when making a “movie” with iMovie from your pictures in another location, such as iPhoto or Aperture, you are only creating links to these pictures. This process saves huge disk space. Your pictures must remain accessible to iMovie, which means you cannot move a “project” to another computer without moving all the pictures too. The way to save your movie as a separate or stand-alone entity is to go to the top menu in iMovie select Share, and choose one of the options such as iDVD, Export Movie, or one of the other several options, even publishing to You Tube or to your website.

### Slideshows

1. Take photos and download them into iPhoto.
2. Process with whatever your preferred picture editor is and place them in a separated album in iPhoto (to make this album, click on the + sign at the bottom of the left hand column, and give it a name).
3. Open iMovie and create a new project by clicking on the top menu File>New Project. Name your project.
4. In the middle right side of the iMovie window find the block of icons, with the musical notes, camera, T, etc and click on the camera icon, find your album under iPhoto, click on it to open it then drag the album into the space to the left that says “Drag media here...” Voila, your pictures are there.
5. Adjust your timing by going to the top menu, File>Project Properties, and select Aspect Ratio option. (I choose the option to match that of the slides, otherwise there will be some distortion.) Then choose the way you want to display your project with “Themes”, (I usually chose None), and automatically add the option of Cross Dissolve as it’s the least distracting). Then go to the top and select “Timing”, and with this you can adjust time of slide transition, (I usually choose about 1 to 2 seconds), how long the slides will be displayed with Photo Duration, ( I usually choose about 6 seconds), and finally in Initial Photo Placement whether or not you want the “Ken Burns” effect. I most often choose this as it gives a movie effect to your slides. All these settings can be adjusted for individual slides by subsequently choosing “Applies when added to project” in the Timing window (2/3 of the way down). I would choose the default Crop for Initial Video Placement. Then press OK.
6. To add text titles, select T from the box of icons, next to the camera icon, and various options will be available. The placement and movement of the text is fixed in each of the options. To place text, first select one of the slides in your show (in your slides in the project window). Drag your selection of Text into that picture and in the right window, type in whatever you want your title to say. You will have limitations in some of the options as to how much text. If you don’t like



the default, go to the top menu, select Text>Show Fonts (Command T) and choose to your hearts content and when you're happy, press Done. This creates a blue strip with your chosen text above the photo in the project window that you can drag either end, either way to lengthen or shorten your title time. You can also adjust the fade in and out by making it active and selecting i in the box of icons to the left of the box of icons above, depending on which one you choose. You can add text titles to any of the slides by selecting one. You can drag the title over several slides.



7. Select a slide and then select the crop icon in the box just discussed, and you can adjust the Ken Burns effect on any selected slide but selecting in the "working window" the green box (where it starts) and the red box (where it finishes). Adjust the corners, or in the middle allows you to move the whole box. This takes a bit of practice to know what will work best.
8. Add music. Select the icon with music notes from the first box of icons above, and your iMusic library will appear. Choose whatever song you want, and drag into the project window. Dragging it onto a picture will allow playing the music through its length and you can add more music after as you wish. Dragging it into the general project window will fill the whole project with music and a green background, but dragging it into a picture will create a green bar below the pictures for its duration, and this can be added to, shortened, and fade in and out by the same way the titles can be faded in and out. Look at the total time of the slideshow once it's been finished before adding music, and if you want one song only, find one in your music library that matches the length, then fine tune by adjusting the time of display of some of the slides.
9. Voice can be added if you wish by selecting the microphone icon, and the window with controls comes up. Of course you will need a mic for this, either built in or an external one, and make sure in the computer's system preferences that your sound input is chosen correctly. Personally I don't add voice, rather just enjoy the slides and the music.

## Movies

1. Download the movie (automatically into iMovie) from the camera, or if already on the desktop, import it into iMovie File>Import
2. Name the clip or movie
3. Go to File>New Project and give it a name, then drag the movie clips into it. Or make a selection of the clips you want to show and drag them into the slideshow you just created above in a location of your choosing.
4. There are several ways you can alter your movie clip. Select it then click on the tiny icon in the left lower corner and select Clip Adjustments. One cool feature in here is the stabilization feature - click on the check box and the computer will eliminate the jerkiness inherent in hand-held cameras. There are some interesting video effects to choose from that will add an artistic touch to the movie - try some.

5. Just as in the slideshows, you can add sound effects and titles. For sound effects choose the iTunes icon and at the top will be some interesting pre-loaded sound effects. I chose the surf sound, dragged it onto the the surf clip, and it's pretty realistic. To prevent the sound from abruptly stopping, chose that sound clip in the project, click on the i for Inspector, click audio, then choose the fade in and fade out times, clicking on "manual" to the left first. Titles are done in the same way as in the slideshow.

### **A Few of Tips**

Remember that movies have a huge appetite for disk space, so be frugal and be prepared to consider external drives to store and access movies.

In spite of the temptation to use all the bells and whistles, try to resist and keep things simple. Bells and whistles serve to distract from the magnificent artwork you have naturally created.

iMovie iDVD 09, The Missing Manual, Pogue Press is an excellent resource.