

Create Your Own Music Videos

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Many language teachers sometimes wish that they had a music video at their disposal to get students' attention and motivate them. There are so many songs and music videos that teachers would like to use in their classes but cannot because of a possibly offensive word or an image that is inappropriate for their students. In this session, you will learn how to create your own music videos and how to edit audio and video songs to fit your needs.

Equipment needed

- Digital camera or camcorder
- Computer
- Microphone (built in or remote microphone)
- Audio music CD

Software needed

- Film editing software:
 - Pinnacle Studio Version 9 and higher (not free)
 - Windows Movie Maker: Standard with Windows XP/ Vista
 - iMOVIE: Standard with all MacBook, iMACs, G4 and G5 MACs
- GoldWave version 5.1. or higher This is a shareware. The software can be downloaded from <http://www.goldwave.com> *)
- Audacity 1.2.5 or higher is a digital audio editor available free of charge at the audacity website: <http://audacity.sourceforge.net> **)
- Lame MP3 encoder to convert any audio files into MP3 format is available from the lame website at: <http://lame.sourceforge.net/download.php>
- Sound effects (available on the Internet or part of video editing software)
- A German search engine, i.e. www.google.de



Other Film Making Software:

Pinnacle Studio 11: <http://www.pinnaclesys.com> (\$49.99 and up) [PC]

PowerDirector by Cyberlink: <http://www.cyberlink.com> (\$79.95 and up)

Ulead VideoStudio 11: <http://www.ulead.com> (\$59.95 and up) [PC]

Roxio VideoWave 8: <http://www.roxio.com> \$49.95 [PC]

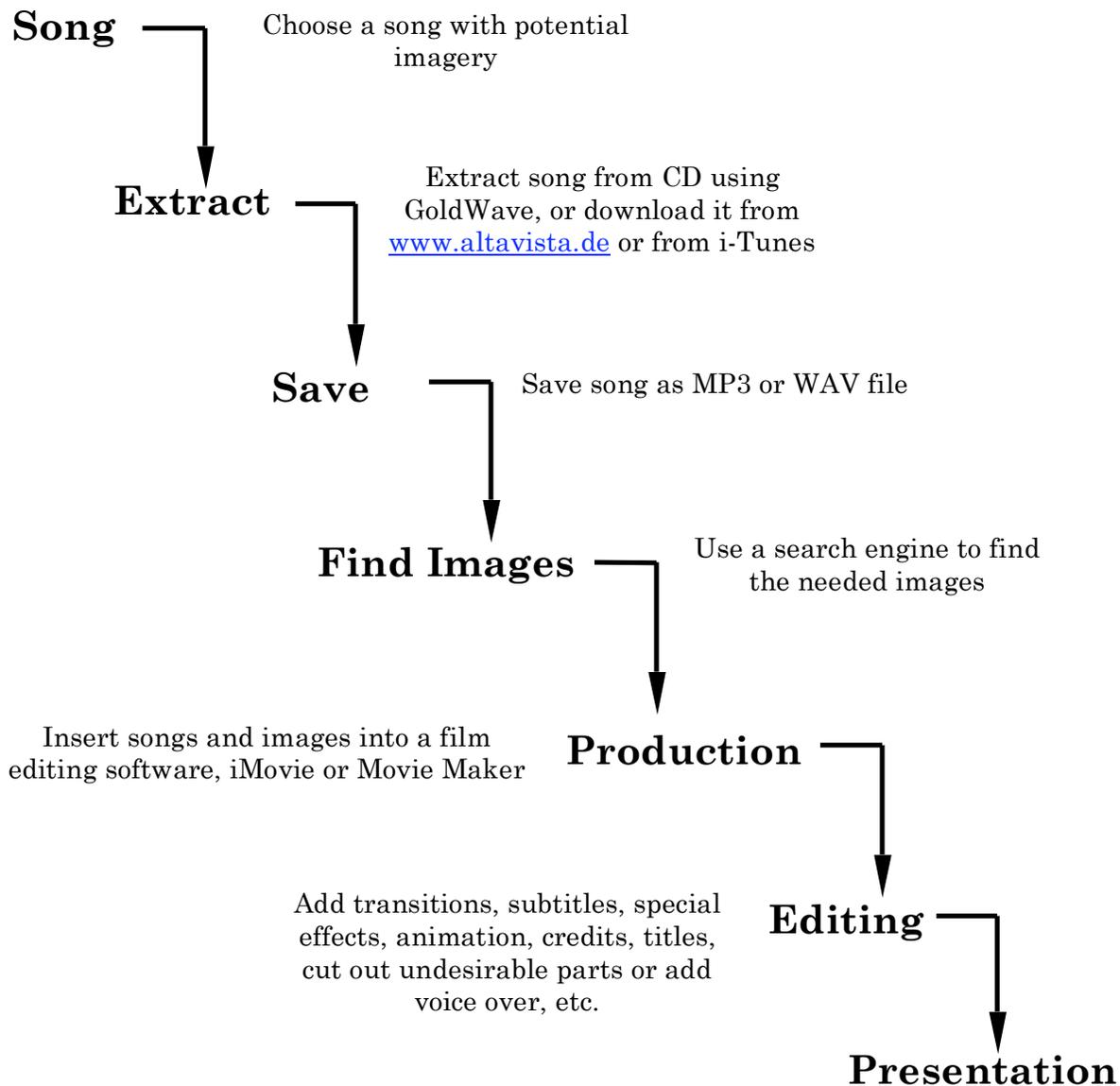
Final Cut Studio 2: <http://www.apple.com/finalcutstudio/finalcutpro/> (\$499) (MAC)

Final Cut Express 4 (a smaller version of Final Cut Pro) (\$69) for Educators)

*) "GoldWave is a professional digital audio editor. It is one of the most popular and highest rated audio editors for Windows. Use it to play, edit, mix, restore, and analyze audio, or apply special effects, such as fade, equalizer, doppler, mechanize, echo, reverse, time warp, noise reduction, pop/click filtering, and more. It is perfect for voice-over or dictation work, editing music for dance programs, creating podcasts, restoring audio from old vinyl records, or just having fun. New files can be recorded from a cassette deck, turntable, radio, microphone, etc. or digitally copied from an audio CD. Real-time visuals are displayed during playback and recording. See audio in ways you've never seen it before. GoldWave supports MP3, OGG, WAV, WMA, and many more audio formats and performs batch conversions and processing. Version 5.16 added track information and preview to CD Reader; added Previous marker command. Added partial dual core processor support. Added new keyboard shortcuts." (http://www.download.com/GoldWave/3000-2170_4-10601215.html?tag=lst-0-1)

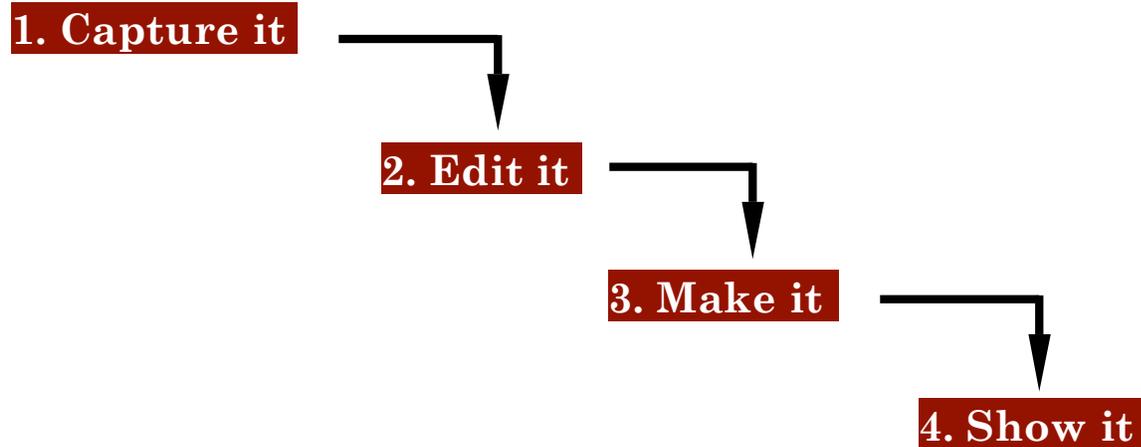
***) "Audacity is a free, easy-to-use audio editor and recorder for Windows, Mac OS X, GNU/Linux, and other operating systems. You can use Audacity to: record live audio, convert tapes and records into digital recordings or CDs, edit Ogg, Vorbis, MP3, and WAV sound files, cut, copy, splice, and mix sounds together, and change the speed or pitch of a recording." (<http://audacity.sourceforge.net/about/>)

Basic steps in music video productions*



*) All movie-making software comes with a HELP tab on top of the screen. There are also on-line manuals and tutorials that will show you step-by-step how to use the software.
Pinnacle Studio: <http://www.pinnaclesys.com/PublicSite/us/PinnacleLife/Content/Tutorials/>
iMovie: http://manuals.info.apple.com/en/iMovie_08_Getting_Started.pdf
Windows Movie Maker: <http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/using/moviemaker/default.msp>

Four steps in digital filmmaking



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1. Capture the scenes from a digital camera or a video recorder, or download images and films from the Internet
 2. Edit the images, captured scenes and arrange them in the order you want. Add transitions, video and sound effects, voice over, background music, images, titles, chapter markers, etc.
 3. Choose the finished movie format you want your film to be:
 - DV Tape to transfer the film to a VHS tape, or to watch it on TV
 - Burn it on DVD
 - Save it as an AVI-film (Audio Video Interleaved: a preset high resolution standard format)
 - Multimedia MPEG-Format (*.MPG): de-facto format for video on the Web or to play on your PC with various setting options for resolutions and file sizes
 - Post it on the web as a streaming video: **Real Video** (*.RM), **Windows Media** (*.WMV), or Apple's **QuickTime Movie** (*.MP4 or *.MOV)
 - Upload it to a website for sharing with others.
 4. Show your film using a VCR or a computer with an LCD Projector.
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Step-by-step instructions: How To Create Your Own Music Videos

I. Collecting data: Image and sound

1. Choose a song with potential imagery
2. On your hard drive, create a folder with name of song, i.e. “Kinder”
3. Use a German search engine (i.e. google.de) to find images. Make sure that you choose images with high resolution (at least 800 pixels). The Google search engine allows you to sort the images according to size.



4. Download image by right clicking on it and saving it onto your hard drive, in the same folder you have created for the song, i.e. “Kinder.” Name the image in a way so that you can easily find it. Use the words from the songs and number them starting with 001, i.e. “001 Kinder” or “002 Hände.”
5. Create a “Works Cited” page for all images.
6. Find the lyrics online. Many music bands offer the lyrics to their songs free of charge. However, sometimes it is complicated to find them. There are many on-line sites listing the lyrics of many songs. I would recommend one of the following:
 - <http://www.ingeb.org/index.html> (best website with more than 20,000 songs)
 - <http://www.golyr.de/>
 - <http://www.lyrics.de/>
 - <http://www.superlyrics.de/>
 - <http://lyrics.songtext.name>
 - <http://www.songtext.net/>

*Welcome to the Leader in Lieder
mit Midi Melodies*

II. Creating your own music video

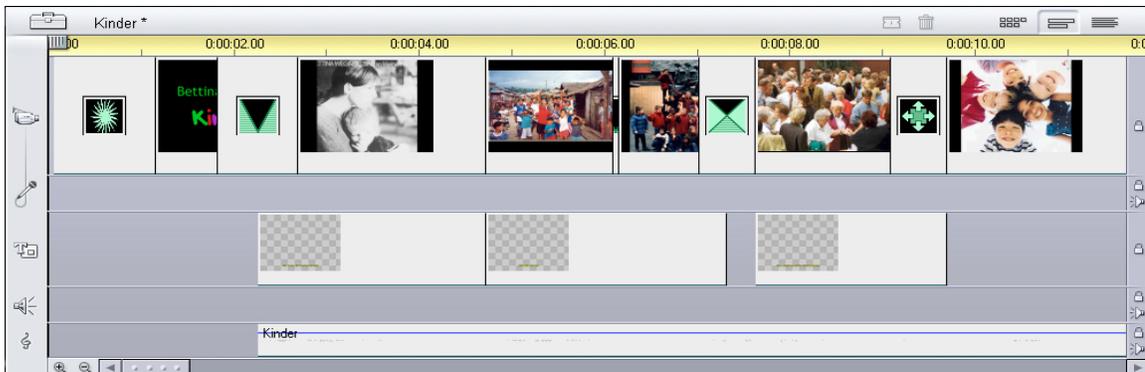
1. Extract song from CD using iTunes, GoldWave, or find it and download it from the Internet, e.g. from www.altavista.de or from i-Tunes
2. Save song as MP3 or WAV file.
3. Open Pinnacle Studio, Windows Movie Maker, i-Movie, etc. Pinnacle Studio Version 11 is easy to use and has many great features. Open Studio 11. On the top left, there are three Movie Tasks: **Capture Video**, **Edit Movie** and **Finish Movie**. On the right is the **Preview Screen** and below that you can choose either the **Storyboard View**, the **Timeline View** or the **Text View**. I always use the timeline view.



Storyboard View is a scene-by-scene view. The images that you see in the Storyboard show are the first frame of the clip. Each image you add is 4 seconds long. If you want to make the images longer, then use the Timeline view. You can add transitions by dragging them into the gap between the various clips.



Timeline View is a more complex approach but it offers you many more options than the Storyboard view. I use this almost all the time. The movie you are making is shown in real time as it is built with 5 tracks: video, audio, titles, sound effects and a music track. The sounds effects will allow you to add bleeps for “F...,” the “Ar...,” or “Sch...” words in German. All tracks can be locked and edited independently of each other.



Text View shows a simple text-based view of the film, scene-by-scene. I never use that.

Name	Trimmed start	Movie duration	Movie start
1			
Video transition: 'Spiral 5 wipe'		0:00:01.03	0:00:00.02
Title		0:00:02.06	0:00:00.02
Video transition: 'Fade in or out'		0:00:00.26	0:00:01.25
2			
Graphic: 'WegnerKinder'		0:00:02.14	0:00:02.08
Title overlay		0:00:02.14	0:00:02.08
Wave audio: 'Kinder'	0:00:00.10	0:02:04.05	0:00:02.08
3			
Graphic: '001 Kinder'		0:00:01.12	0:00:04.22
Title overlay		0:00:02.18	0:00:04.22
Video transition: 'Fade in or out'		0:00:00.02	0:00:06.03
4			
Graphic: '000 Kinder'		0:00:01.06	0:00:06.04
Video transition: 'Dissolve'		0:00:00.18	0:00:07.01
5			
Graphic: '003 Erwachsene'		0:00:02.02	0:00:07.10

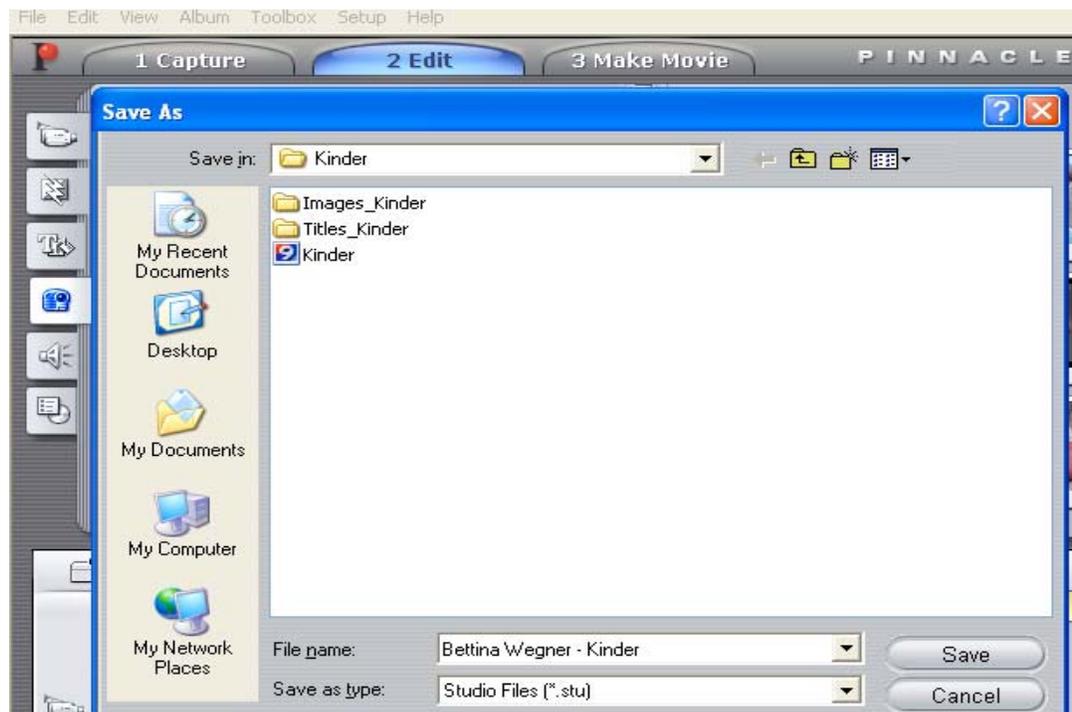
Let me show you now how to create your own music video using the Timeline View

There are six basic and simple steps that you must follow to make a music video. In case you want to know more, then check out the HELP file in the movie making-software. Here are the steps:

1. **Create new project**
2. **Import your song**
3. **Add titles and subtitles** (if you want to do that)
4. **Import the pictures or video**
5. **Add transitions**
6. **Make or finish your video**



Step 1: Create New Project: Your first step after opening the Pinnacle Studio or any other software is to create a file for your music video project. Click on **FILE** > then choose **NEW PROJECT** from the drop down list. Save your new project by clicking on **FILE** again and on **SAVE PROJECT AS** from the drop down list. Give your project the name of the song, i.e. “Bettina Wegner – Kinder.”



IMPORTANT: Save your project very often!

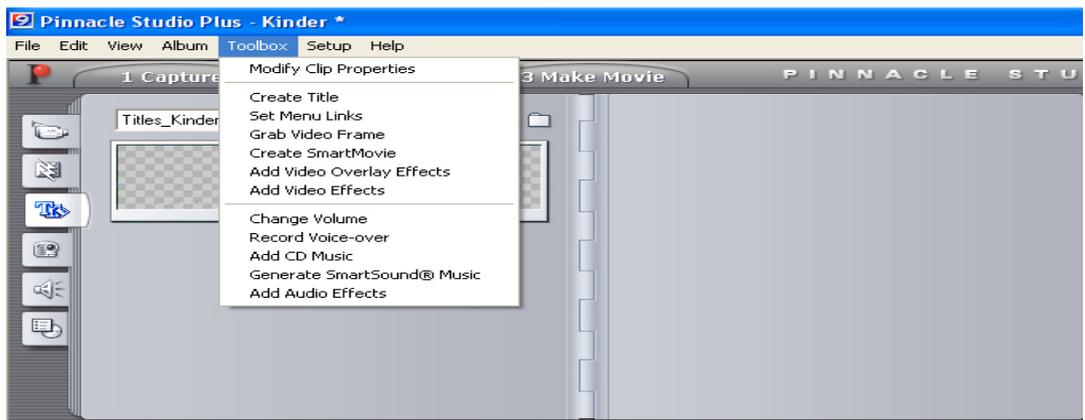
Step 2: Import song: Click on the Edit tab at the top of the screen. On the left-hand side there are 6 tabs: **Show Videos**; **Show Transitions**; **Show Titles**, **Show Photos**; **Show Audio Files** and **Show Menus**. Click on the button for “Show Audio Files” and find the song in the folder you have created for your project. Drag and drop the song into the Music Track (the 5th track) on the bottom of the screen. Lock this track by clicking on the lock on the right hand side of the track. The lock will be highlighted in red. Once a track is locked, it cannot be changed or edited. To unlock and edit the track, just unclick the red lock key.



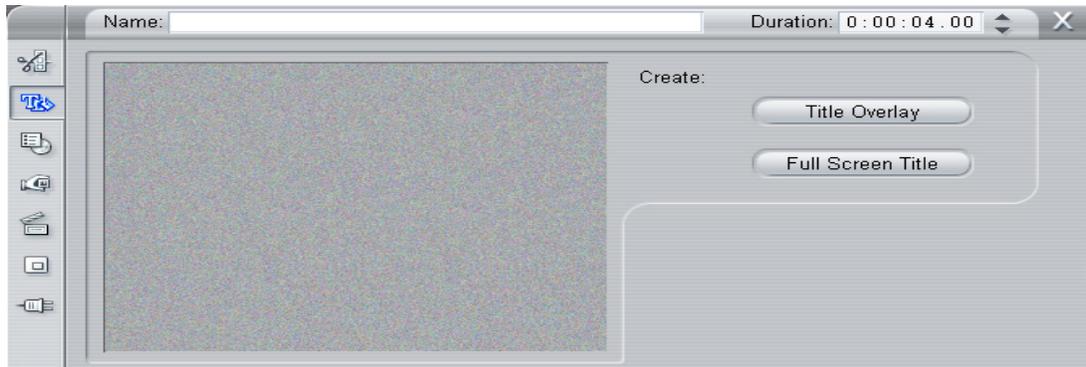
Step 3: Adding titles: There are two kinds of titles that you can add to the movie: **Overlay Titles**, these are titles that will be displayed on top of the images or film frames and **Full Screen Titles** that will be used as images before or after certain frames or images. I use the first kind for subtitles and the second one for opening and end credits. Windows Movie Maker and i-Movie offer a better collection of animated titles. However, Pinnacle is better for adding subtitles. There are some pre-made titles in the Pinnacle Studio. You can use these by clicking on the **Show Titles** button on the left.



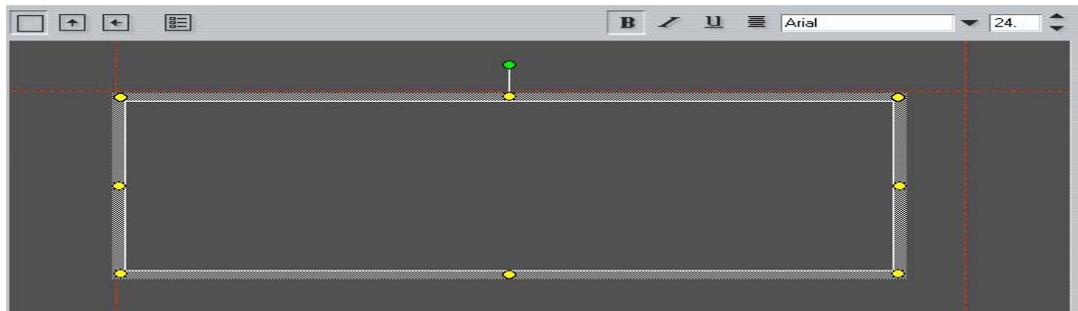
I recommend creating your own template title saving it in your folder and then using that to create all the titles for the film. To create your own title or subtitle, click on **Toolbox** on top of the screen and then choose **Create Title** from the drop down window.



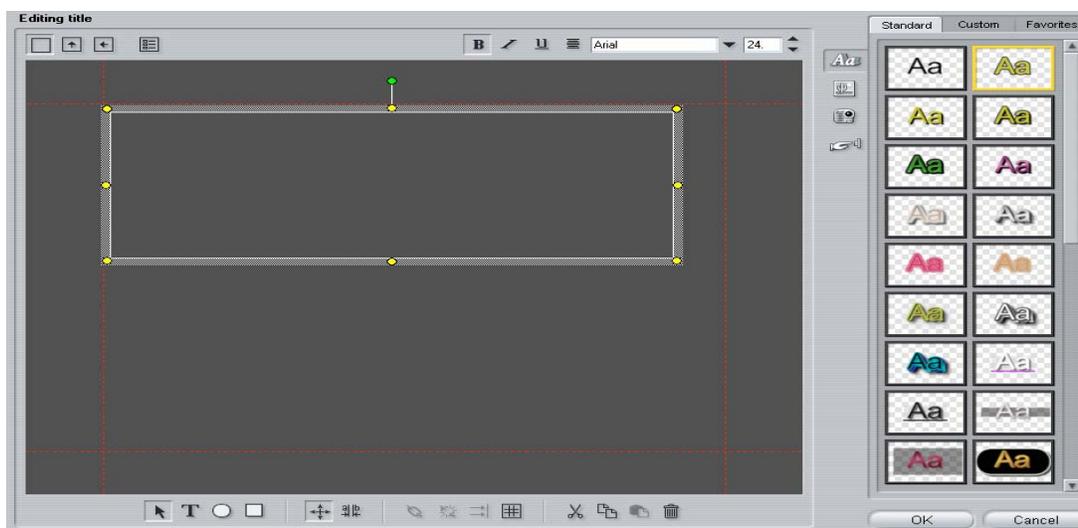
Depending on what you want to do, choose either Title Overlay for subtitles or Full Screen Title for opening or end credits, etc. The title will be an image by itself. You can, of course, add background images or background color to the titles.



A new window opens. You will see 4 red lines. Point the mouse to the left-hand corner of the big red square in the middle. Using the left-hand knob of the mouse, drag the mouse to the right to create a text box.



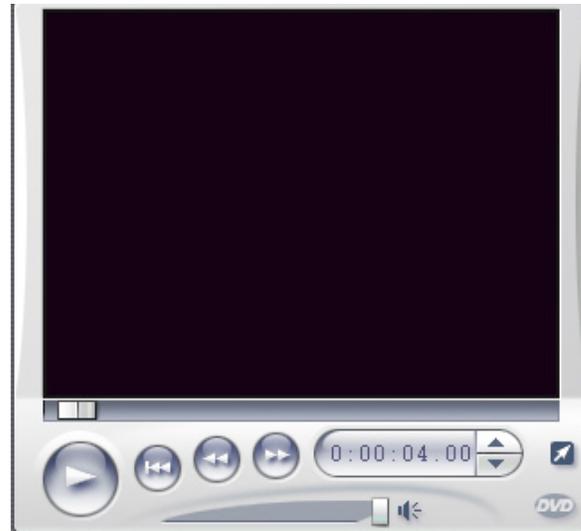
Click inside the box to write or paste your text. You can change the font, the size and color of the text. You can add background color or a background image. Look at the right hand side of the screen where you can see all of these. If you have the lyrics as a text file, then open it and minimize your Pinnacle window. You can copy and paste the text, line by line into the title page you want to create. I would not recommend having more than 2 lines per subtitle. This will make it easier for you to find them.



Now you must save your first title. Click on **File > Save title as**. Create all of your titles at once and save them separately into the same folder you have created at the beginning. Name the titles chronologically, i.e. “001 Kinder,” etc.



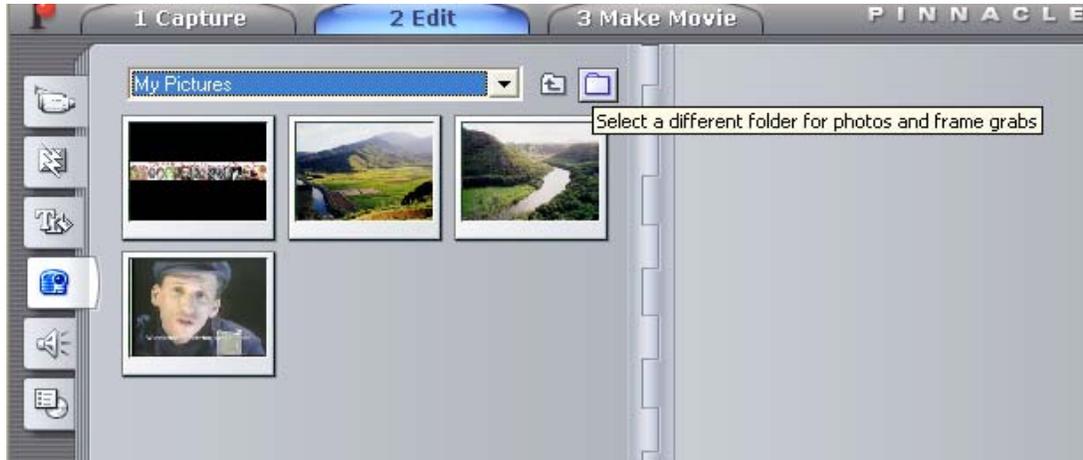
Add all titles to the film by dragging and dropping them into the **Title track**. Adjust their length by clicking on the title once in the Title Track. The title will be then highlighted in blue. When you point the mouse to the edge of the title, you will see an arrow. Click on the edge and drag the title to the right to lengthen it or to the left to shorten it. After finishing this task, save your project. To **preview** your project and make sure that everything is synchronized, move the film cursor above the play button on the Preview Screen on the top right-hand side of the Pinnacle Studio screen all the way to the left and then hit play. You will hear the song and see the titles on the screen to the right.



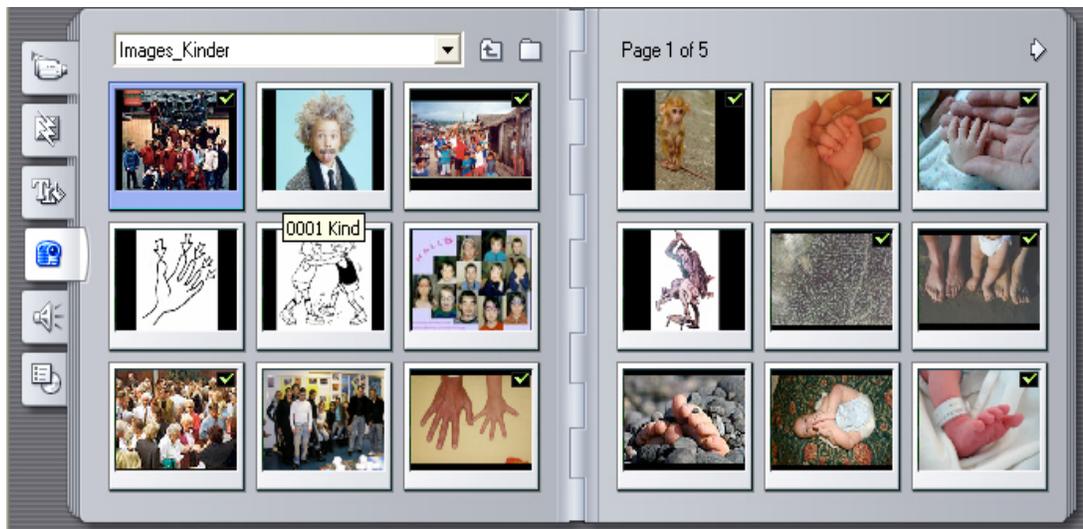
When you are finished with this and your titles are synchronized with the song, then lock the title track by clicking on the lock key on the right-hand side of the track. This will ensure that the titles and audio track will not move or shift when you insert your images and transitions.



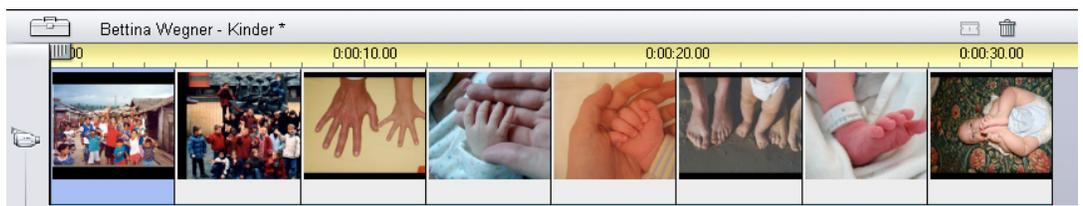
Step 4: Import Pictures: Click on the button on the left-hand side “Show Photos and Frame Grabs.” Locate the images in the folder you have created. To do so, you must change the default pictures folder (it is either the My Pictures or the Pinnacle folder) by clicking on the folder icon next to the window for MY Pictures or Pinnacle Studio Folder



After opening the folder with the images you have downloaded from the Internet or you have taken yourself, just click on any image in that folder and you will see all images displayed in the two image panels on the left-hand side of the screen next to the Preview Window.

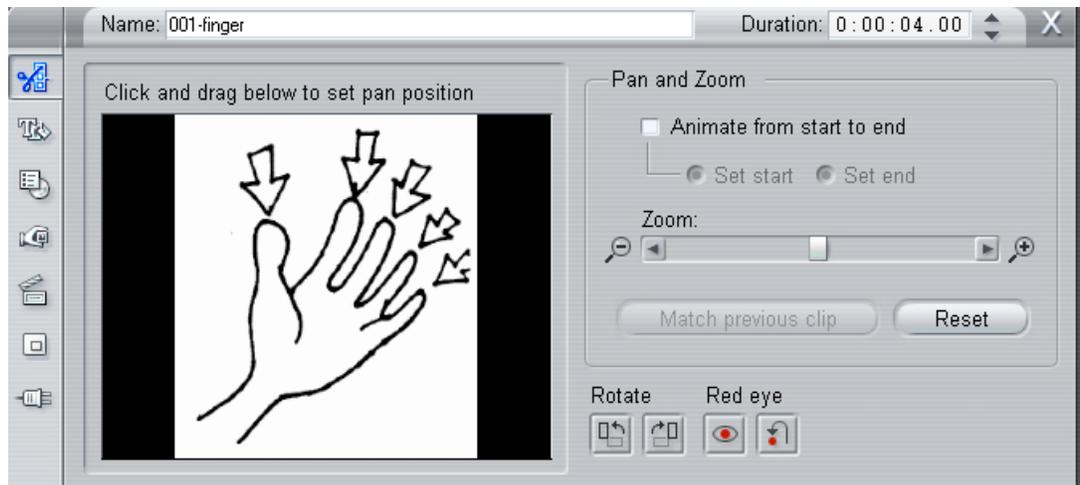


Drag and drop the pictures into the first track (Video Track) at the bottom of the screen.



If you have downloaded GIF-images, then you will not see them in the open folder. You have to save them as JPG using either Photoshop or any other photo editing software.

Changing image duration: When dragging images into the Video Track, they automatically will be given 4 seconds duration, i.e. how long the image is seen in the video. However, you can change the duration of the images either by double clicking on them and a new window will open where you can shorten or lengthen the duration, or by clicking on the image once in the Video Track.



The image will then be highlighted in blue. When you point the mouse to the edge of the image, you will see an arrow. Click on the edge and drag the image to the right to lengthen it or to the left to shorten it.

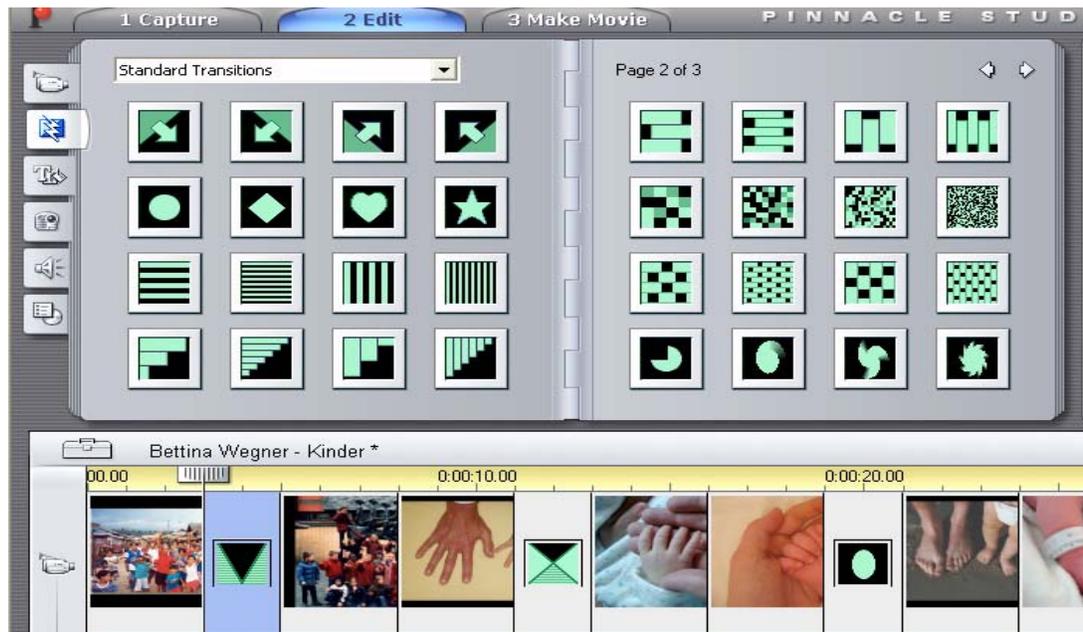


Step 5: Adding transitions. You can add transitions between the frames or the images. This will make the transition from one image to the other smoother, and it will look more professional.

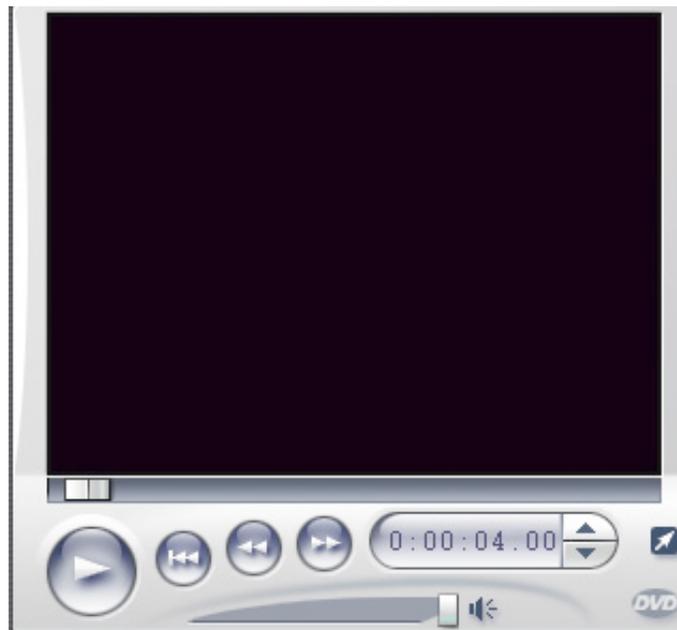
There are various kinds of transitions. Pinnacle Studio comes with many different transitions. I use the first three: Standard Transitions, Alpha Magic, or Hollywood FX for Studio. All other transitions cost extra and they are for more savvy users.

To add transitions, just drag and drop the transition you like between the images or frames. You can decide how long a transition will last by extending or shortening the transition. Just click on the transition. It will be highlighted in blue. Place the mouse on the left or right edge of the transition and drag the

arrow to right or left. (Note: When using the Storyboard view, you cannot set and see the length of the transition.)



Step 6: Making your film: Before you finish and make the film, you have to save your project in the folder you have created. You should preview your project before making the film. To preview your project, move the film cursor above the play button on the Preview Screen on the top right-hand side of the Pinnacle Studio screen all the way to the left and then hit play.

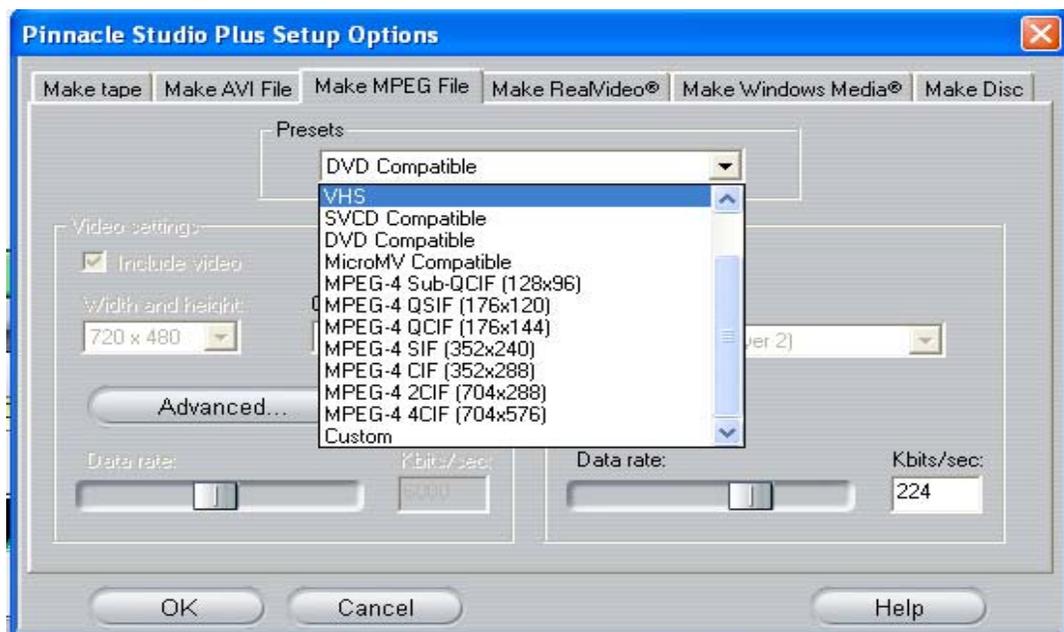


After you have previewed and synchronized your project, you are ready to make your film. Click on the **Make Movie** button. On the left-hand side you

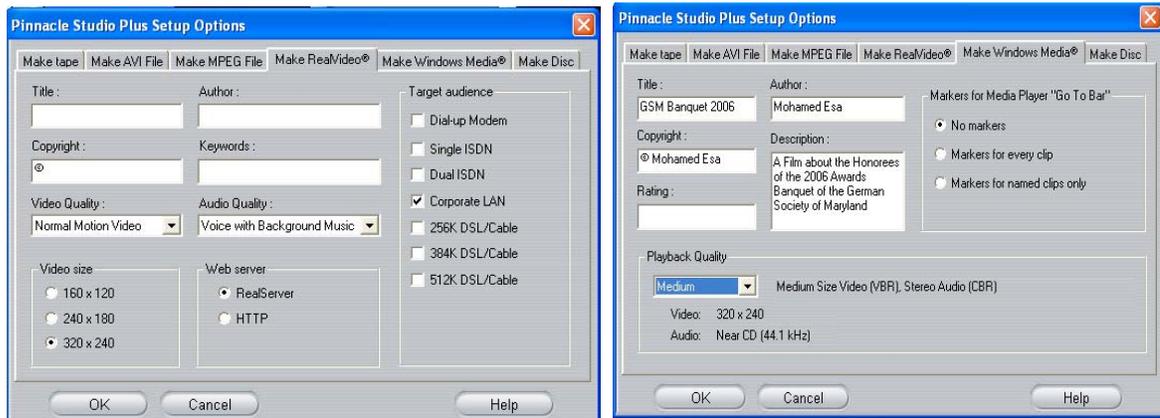
see 6 output options: **Tape**, **AVI**, **MPEG**, **Stream**, **Share** and **Disc**. I recommend using the MPEG, Stream or Disc option:



1. DV Tape to transfer the film to a VHS tape, or to watch it on TV
2. Save it as an AVI-film (Audio Video Interleaved: a preset high resolution standard format)
3. Multimedia MPEG-Format (*.MPG): de-facto format for video on the Web or to play on your PC with various setting options for resolutions and file sizes



4. Post it on the web as a streaming video: **Real Video (*.RM)**, **Windows Media (*.WMV)**, or Apple's **QuickTime Movie (*.QT or *.MOV)**



5. Upload it to a website for sharing with others, e.g. YouTube
 6. Burn it on CD (VCD or S-VCD) or on full quality DVD



Hurray! My music video is done.
Good Luck and HAVE FUN!

CONCLUSIONS

The following are some reflections on the use of self-produced videos in the foreign language classroom:

- ⊙ **Creativity**: Teachers and students can be creative and use their own imagination.
- ⊙ **Motivation** and a boost for **self-confidence**: This is a highly motivational method, especially for linguistically weak and unmotivated, or shy and quiet students.
- ⊙ **Articulation** and **self-expression**: Film is art and a way to articulate and express yourself.
- ⊙ **Practice**: Students can practice what they have learned so far. This enhances the listening, writing, speaking and reading skills.
- ⊙ **Freedom of choice**: The students can choose their own songs and in this way they can concentrate on their own interests.
- ⊙ **Repetition and application** of grammar structures, vocabulary, proverbs and idioms, almost everything they studied in class. Students will have to understand the song correctly to be able to create a cohesive music video. They will have to read the lyrics and understand them.
- ⊙ **Alternative method of assessment**. Students are not under stress. They can take their time to create the music video. They gain self-confidence. They use their language skills without fear and inhibition.
- ⊙ **Multi sensory** learning environment with a gradual skill development technique
- ⊙ This method contributes to the enhancement of **cooperative learning** and **group dynamics**, in case two or more students work on a single project.
- ⊙ What they produce is **unforgettable** and can change their lives. One good example is Michael, a former student of mine, who dubbed one part of Star Wars into German. He came to the college to be a Business Major and eventually to take over his mom's business after graduation. After his video project, he decided to become a communications major with a concentration in film making. For his senior project, he produced a 60-minute feature film.
- ⊙ Film making is a good educational experience for students with different **learning styles**:
 - The “readers” and “writers” can research the topic and write the script.
 - The “hands-on learners” can operate equipment and create sets.
 - The “oral expressers” can be performers.
- ⊙ **“Kosher”**: The music videos can be used as a recruitment tool of other students. It is legal (your own production) and above all “kosher,” with no profanity, nudity, etc. They are rated “PG13” ☺ and not “R” ☹
- ⊙ Students gain a sense of an “overall **sense of accomplishment**” and **success**.
- ⊙ Students learn **a new technical skill** that might be beneficial in the future.
- ⊙ Finally and above all, it is **fun**. It is an “**enjoyable experience**.” ☺ Film production is not dry. It is never boring. It is easy to implement and **instills student confidence**.