

Welcome to the California State University, Long Beach Tech Tips Podcast episode 10, using free software to make movies on a PC that will play on an iPod, or in the QuickTime Player.

It's possible to use video shot on your camcorder to make movies using the free Windows Movie Maker application that comes as part of the Windows XP and Windows Vista operating systems.

Movie maker will let you pull video in from the camcorder, trim out unwanted footage, add still pictures, music, narration and titles and then save the project as a completed video that can be sent out to a blank tape on your camcorder or saved as a computer video file in any number of file formats.

However, none of these formats is suitable for iTunes, the QuickTime Player or playing on a Video iPod.

Today's episode will help you get around this limitation, using only free software that runs on a PC.

Go to the PC Start menu and choose Windows Movie Maker.

Movie maker has provisions for importing video and other elements (still pictures, narration and music) you might want to include in the finished product.

Instructions on how to do all of this are available in Movie Maker's extensive help menu and on line in tutorials available from Microsoft at:

<http://www.microsoft.com/windows/using/moviemaker/default.aspx>

They also have a tutorial that is specific to the VISTA version of Movie Maker. The location of that tutorial is listed in the transcript of this podcast that you can view as the lyrics of the MP3 audio file or in the separate PDF text file included with today's episode.

<http://windowshelp.microsoft.com/Windows/en-US/help/ec3fff68-e53c-4168-ae74-8557325e57e21033.aspx>

For some excellent little video tutorials on how to use Windows Movie Maker, go to Atomic Learning at:

<http://www.atomiclearning.com/moviemaker2>

In Windows Movie Maker, when you have finished making all the edits and adjustments, go to the top menu and select File, Save Movie File. This will open the Save Movie Wizard.

The Wizard starts with location. Select My Computer, then click NEXT.

Enter a file name and select the folder that will hold that file. Make sure you take note of both filename and location to make it easy to find this file afterwards.

Then click NEXT.

When you see the Movie Settings screen, select Best Quality and click on the link that says Show More Choices.

Select Other Settings and from the drop down list, choose DV-AVI (NTSC).

Click the NEXT button.

You will see a progress bar and when Movie Maker is done creating your file, you can click FINISH and view the movie in the Windows Media Player.

Now you can close Windows Movie Maker and the Media Player.

Right now we have an avi file which, besides being a very large file, can't be played in QuickTime or on a video iPod.

However, the Videora iPod converter is a free application that will convert the avi file to the requisite MPEG four file with H264 compression. Sounds complicated but Videora takes care of these nasty little details for us.

To download a free copy of Videora, go to <http://www.videora.com/en-us/Converter/iPod/>

Follow their download and installation instructions. Once the software is installed, it will show up in your PC's Start menu. Go to Start, All Programs, Red Kawa, Video iPod Converter to launch the program.

Once Video Converter is launched, go to the top of the window and click on the CONVERT button, then on Start the Video Wizard.

In the video wizard, click on the Select File button, located at the bottom of the window.

Navigate to the avi file you created with Movie Maker, select it and click OPEN.

Now you will see a set of sliders that let you pick video and audio quality. As you make choices, a bar graph at the bottom of the page indicates how quickly the conversion will take place, how good the picture quality will be and the estimated size of the resulting video file.

The iPod files tend to be pretty small and for most of my work I usually choose the New Video format, the iPod Video Size, the Best Video and Audio Quality and I usually switch on the slider called Enhance Quality.

After making your choices, click on NEXT and then at the bottom of the window, click on START CONVERTING.

This will take some time. While conversion is taking place, you will see a large progress bar at the top of the window.

When the conversion is complete, Videora will launch your iTunes software and you will see your new video listed in iTunes under MOVIES.

To play your video right in iTunes, double click on the icon for you movie and it will start to play. To locate the file on your hard drive, in iTunes, right click on the icon for your video and then select SHOW IN WINDOWS EXPLORER. The folder containing the file will open. Most likely, you will find the file in My Documents\Converted Video\iPod\H264. Once you locate it, you can right click the file and select OPEN WITH QUICKTIME PLAYER to see the video play in QuickTime.

And, the next time you synchronize your Video iPod with your iTunes software, the new video will be available for viewing on the iPod in the list of movies.

My thanks to Donna Eyestone for the resources used in today's podcast. For the California State University, Long Beach I'm Walter Gajewski. Thanks for listening.