

PROJECT 1: TURNING STILL PHOTOS INTO MACHINIMAS

We will work with live footage later. But to get you to appreciate how helpful editing software is and to ease you into using it, we decided to first have you produce a machinima from still photos. Many people spend inordinate amounts of time shooting and re-shooting scenes because they don't understand how much it is possible to alter footage with editing software.

To get ready for this project, please look at the machinima we made illustrating its steps. Then work through the steps yourself. We have put together a small collection of 16 photos for you to use since taking good photos in visual worlds could be the subject of another whole workshop. If, however, you prefer to work with your own photos, feel free to do so. Our photos are obtainable from:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/e6yrt6nlfhpgt5r/XCktnOUimk>

STEP 1--IMPORT PHOTOS

- A. Open Camtasia and click on "Import Media."
- B. Select the photos you want to work with from your files or our dropbox and click "Open."

STEP 2--ADD YOUR PHOTOS TO A TRACK AND ALTER THE PHOTOS

- A. Drag and drop your still photos from the Clip Bin onto a track.
- B. The first time you drop a photo onto a track, a question box will pop up asking you what size you want your video to be. Choose 1280 x 720.
- C. Stretch your photos to the duration size you want them to be by clicking on their ends and pulling. (For example, you may want some of your photos to be viewed for a long time and other photos to be quickly run through.)
- D. To move many photos at one time, click on the track near the photos you want to move and drag your cursor through all these photos. Then drag the photos together to their new location.
- E. Alter the appearance of the photos you have just put on a track by clicking on each photo one by one on the track and dragging the corners of the photos in your preview screen until they are positioned and re-focused as you like.
- F. Add an animation effect by clicking on a track photo and then clicking on the "Zoom and Pan" tab.

1. Adjust the zoom focus square in the small Zoom and Pan preview screen that appears to show what you want to be looking at when your zoom ends.
2. Increase the length of the time of the zooming by moving the zoom and pan circle on your track closer to the end of the photo and dragging the other end of the zoom and pan icon to the beginning of the photo.

G. Optional:

1. Further slow the clip speed of the zoom and pan by
 - a. Right clicking on the photo on the track.
 - b. Clicking on “Clip Speed” in the pop-up menu that appears.
 - c. Entering a percentage (for example, 50%.)
2. Put multiple zoom and pan focus points in your photos.
 - a. Click on a still photo on your film track wherever you want additional zooming in or out, and click on the “Zoom and Pan” tab.
 - b. Adjust the zoom focus square, the location of the zoom and pan circle on the track, and the zoom and pan length as needed.

H. Repeat until you have altered all the photos in your machinima.

STEP 3--ADD TRANSITIONS

- A. Click on the “Transitions” tab, and choose a transition to drag between each of the photos on your film track.
- B. You may choose to have different transitions between each photo, but it is usually best to restrict yourself to one or two transition types.

STEP 4--ADD NARRATION

- A. On a new track, record any narration or dialog you want by clicking on the “Voice Narration” menu option on the “More” menu in the center of the screen.
- B. Next click on the light blue “Start recording” bar that appears near the top of your screen.

- C. You may cut, add, and move sections of your recording as necessary.

STEP 5--ADD TITLE AND CREDITS

- A. Drag all your photos and narrations as a group away from the beginning of the tracks in order to add a photo you can put your film title on.
- B. Click on the “Call Outs” tab.
- C. Click on “Add Callout.”
- D. Choose the rectangular shape, and resize and re-position it as you like.
- E. Choose “No Fill” and “No Border.”
- F. Also choose the “Fade In” and “Fade Out” times you want.
- G. Select your font type and size, and type in your title.
- H. Do your credits in the same way by stretching the last photo or adding a photo at the end of your film that you can insert a callout in that names the film’s producer, photographer[s], narrator, additional voices, music—title[s] and artist[s], etc.

STEP 6--CHOOSE MUSIC

- A. If you don’t want to use one of the music tracks already in Camtasia, import a music file in the same way you imported your photos.
- B. Select a music file from your clip bin or the Camtasia “Library,” and drag and drop it onto a track.
- C. If your music file is short, drag and drop several copies of it next to each other on your music track.
- D. Click on a music section on your music track and the “Audio” tab to be able to select “Fade In,” “Fade Out,” and “Volume” options for your music.