

Getting Started With Microsoft Photo Story 3



jpearce@pipeline.com.au

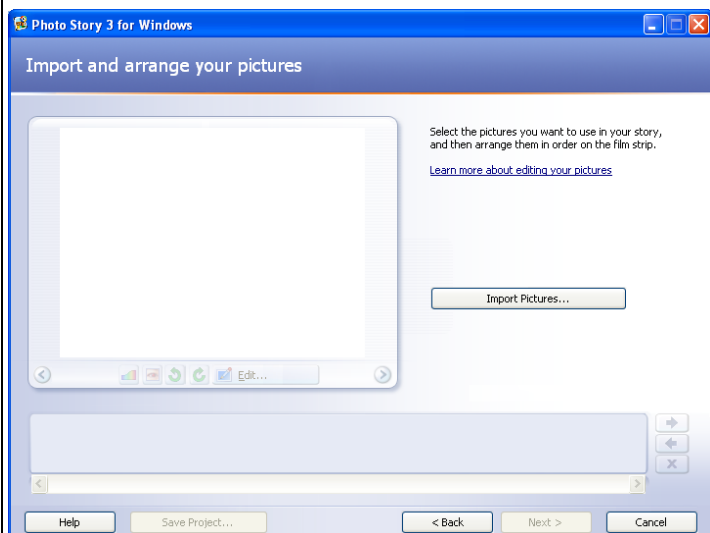
<http://johnp.wordpress.com>

When you open Photo Story 3 the welcome screen will display. To **Begin a new story** click on the **Next** button.

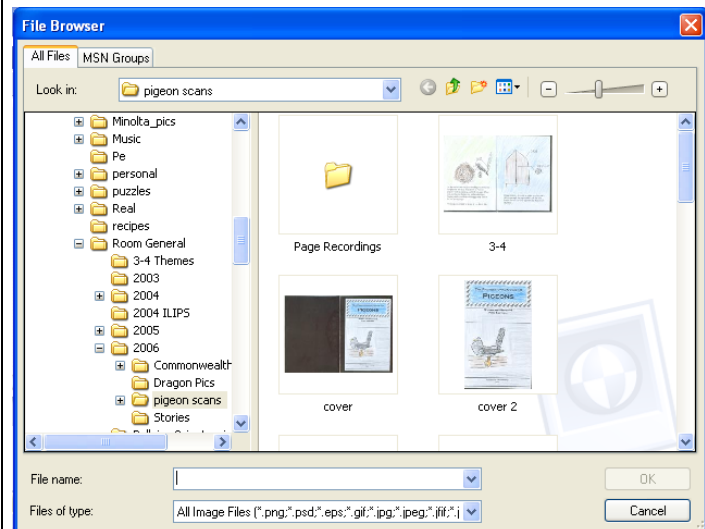


The first thing you need to do is to Import Pictures. These can come from any number of sources and be in a range of the normal picture formats. Photo Story is set up to use pictures that are in a 4:3 aspect ratio but don't be too worried if your pictures are not in that ratio.

Note if you wish to use a plain slide on which to type on titles, you will need to create this using a program such as Microsoft Paint and then save the drawing as an image.



The File Browser will open. Within this browser you can navigate to where you pictures are stored. Once you have selected the picture click **OK**.

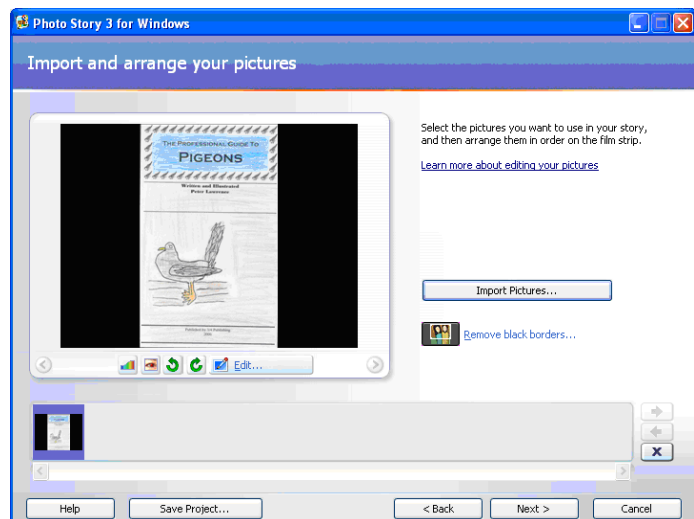



The picture that you have chosen will then appear in the browser. A new page will also be shown in the timeline at the bottom of the browser.

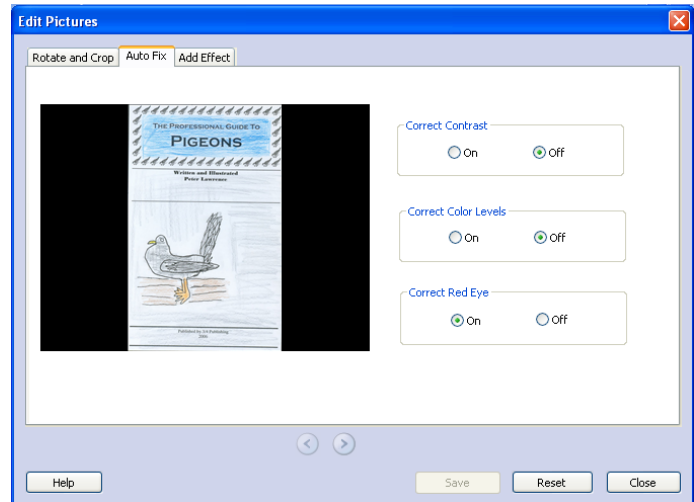
At this stage if you wish you can do some basic edits to your picture such as correct the colour levels, remove red eye or rotate the image. This is done using the edit bar



You also get another chance to Remove black borders....



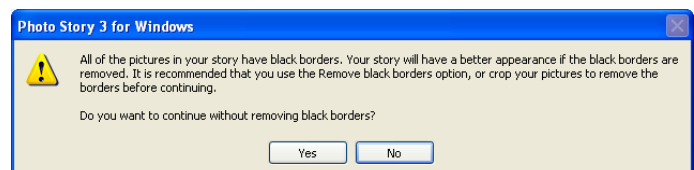
For more control over the editing you can click on the  **Edit...** button and then select from the array of Edit Tabs.



You can re-order the pictures either by **selecting and dragging** the image to another place on the **timeline**. Alternatively you can **select** a picture and then click on the **directional arrow** to the position you want it.



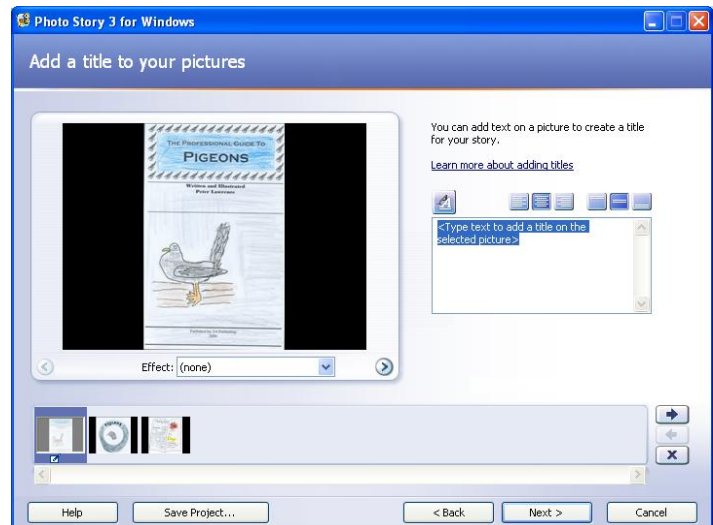
When you click on the **Next** button, you will be asked again if you wish to proceed with black borders around your pictures. I usually say **Yes**.



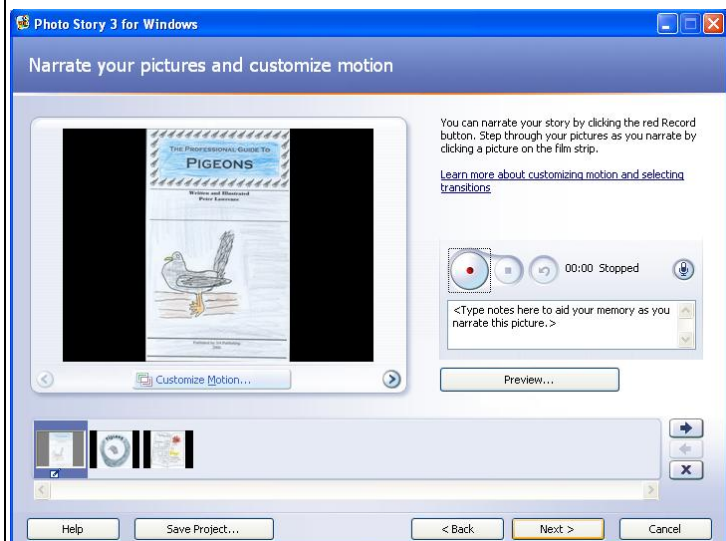
The next screen enables you to add Titles to any of your pictures.


Again you can add effects to each of the pictures.

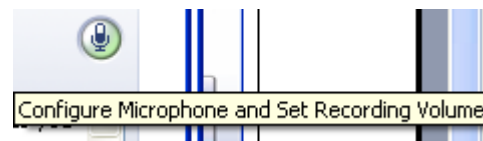
Note as you add an effect to any of the images an icon related to these effects will appear in the border of each image.



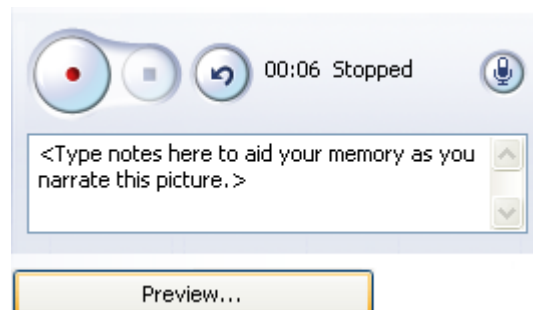
In the next screen you get the chance to add narration to your story. If your computer has a built in microphone you only need to click on the red button. The red button will flash and blue recording button will light. The timer will also register the length of the recording.



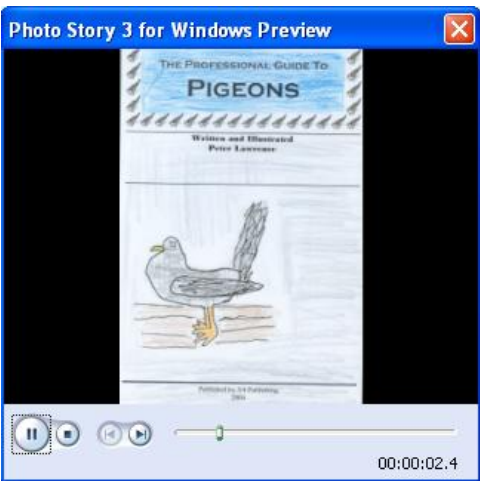
If you have any microphone problems or the recording volume is too loud or soft then you may need to use the **Configure Microphone and Set Recording Volume** button 



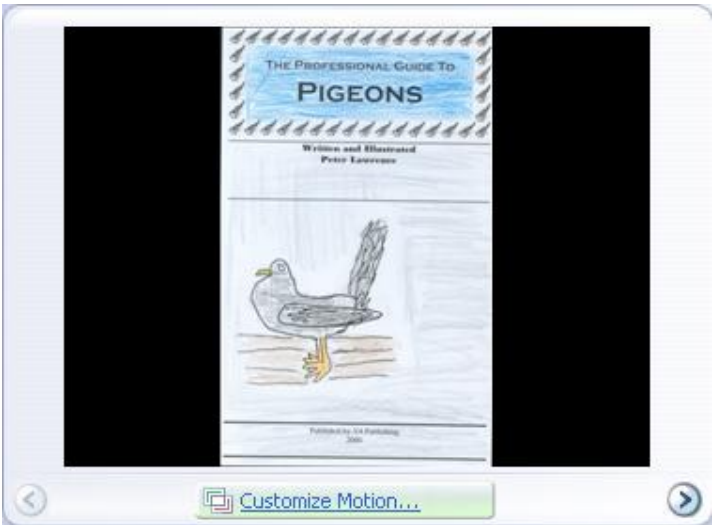
Once you have completed any or all of the recordings then you can check your recordings by selecting the **Preview** button.



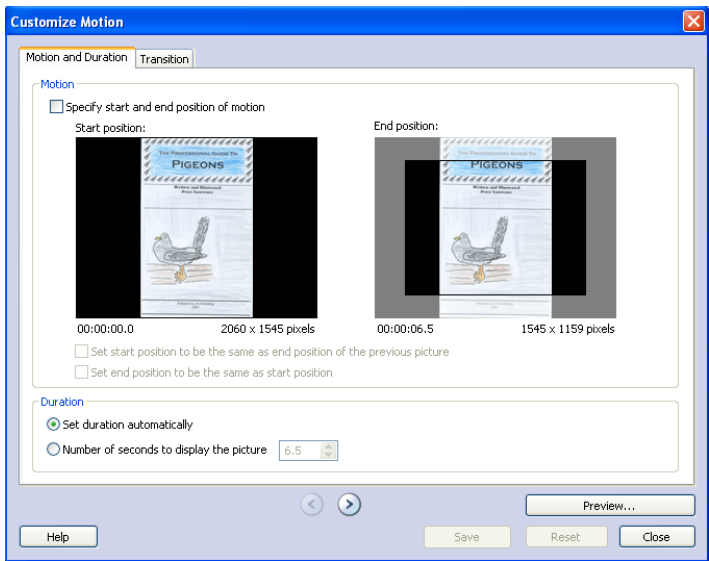
A smaller **Preview Window** will then appear complete with a timeline and play, pause and stop buttons. NB you will need to have your speakers or headphones turned up to hear the narration.



Closing the **Preview Window**, you can also modify the way in which the picture is presented by using the **Customize Motion** link.




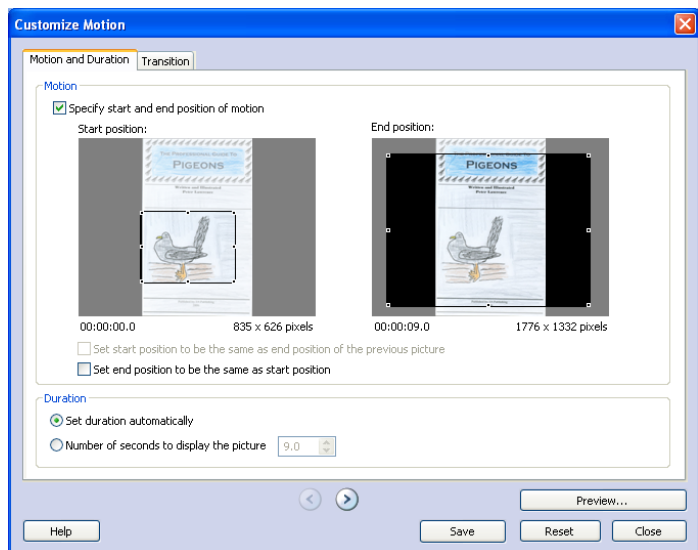
The **Customize Motion** window will then open.



When you check the **Specify start and end position of motion** box, a rectangular box with handles will appear on each of the **Start position** and **End Position** pictures. You can resize and move both of these rectangles around. The **Start position** is where the picture will open. The picture will then pan to the **End position**.

NB you can allow the motion duration to be set automatically or by clicking the radio button you can set the **Number of seconds to display the picture**. If you have added narration, you may wish to add at least one second to the display time. Again you can **Preview** the motion.

To move to the next picture motion you need only to click the **advance button** . When you have finished with the motion customization you can **Close** this window.



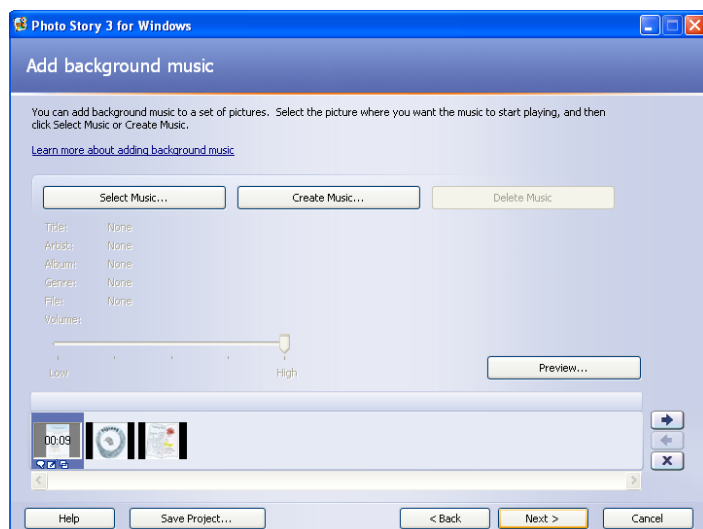
You will then see that each picture icon on the timeline now displays a **time designation**, **speech bubble** indicating that it has narration, a **pad and pen** indicating that it has been edited and **overlapping frames** indicating that a transition has been added.



The next window is where you can **add background music**.

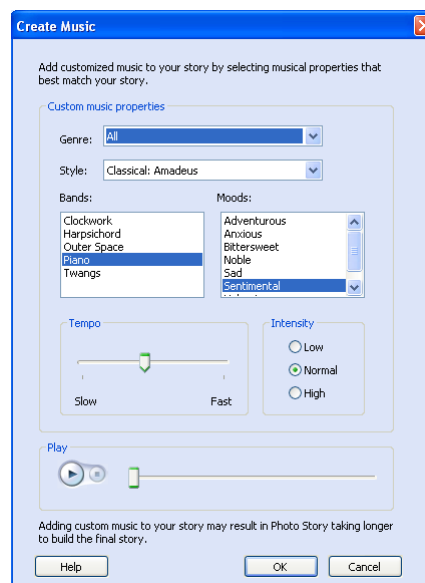
If you have music on your computer you can choose **Select Music** which will open a window where you can navigate to the folder where the music is stored. Opening the music will place it onto the **timeline**.

Alternatively you can insert one of the pre-loaded tracks by choosing the **Create Music** option.



When you choose to **Create Music** a selection menu will open.

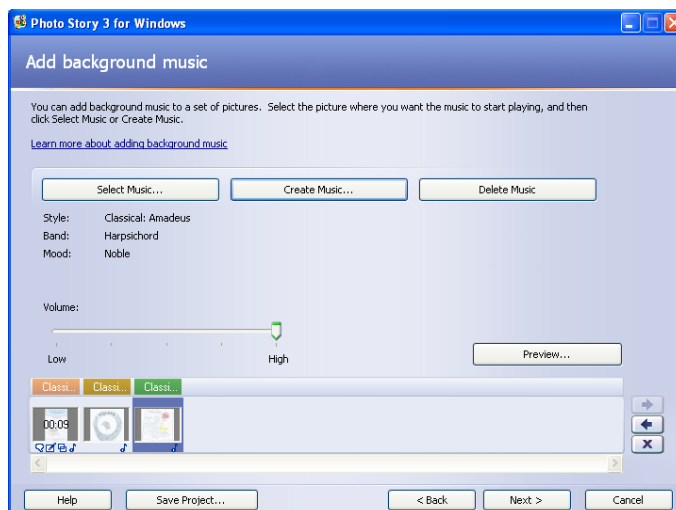
NB again you can **Play** the selection before pressing **OK**.



You can choose to add music to each individual picture as indicated by the different colour in the area above the timeline. You will also see a **music note** at the bottom of each slide which indicates that music has been added to the slide.

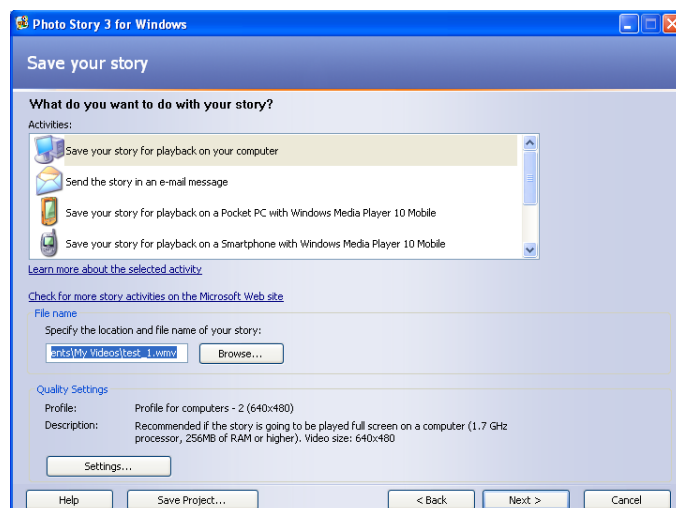
NB you can delete music from any slide by clicking on that slide and then choosing the **Delete Music** button.

Again you can **Preview** your story before selecting **Next**.

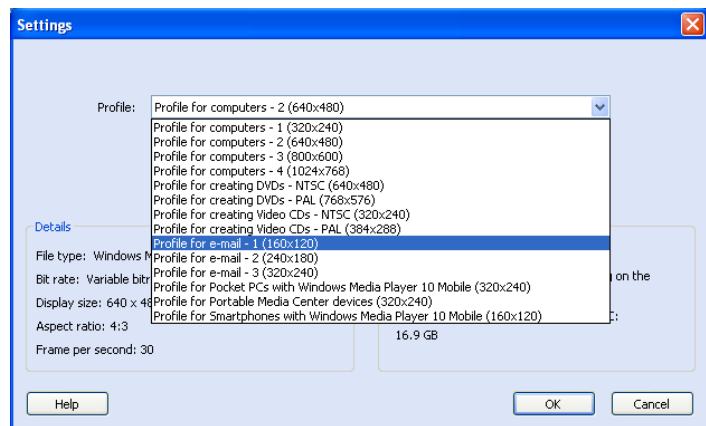


At any time you should choose to **Save your Project**. This is different to the **Save your story** window which opens next. The **Project** is a collection of all of the elements whereas the **Story** is the final movie product.

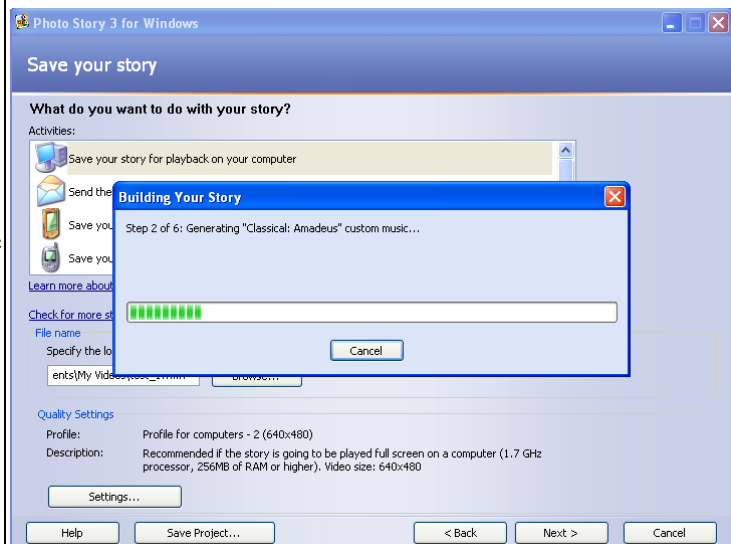
Here you need to choose how you wish your story to be played back. You should also choose the **Browse** button to choose where your story will be saved. You may also wish to choose how large the movie will display which affects the size of the file. Smaller movie displays mean smaller file sizes which can be a consideration if you are putting the movies online.



When you click **Settings**, the settings window will open where you can choose from a range of different size options.



Once you have chosen the size and format of your movie you can click the **Next>** button and your **Story** will be built.



Once your story has been built you can choose to **View your story** or **Create another story**.

NB at any time you can travel back through the process by using the **<Back** button.

NB to play your story movie file you will need to have the free Microsoft Windows Media Player Version 10 or higher installed on your computer. The movie file can be uploaded to a blog or other internet site for viewing over the web.

