CREATING A VIDEO OF PICTURES TO MUSIC

Part One - Software & Getting the Music! - By Les Jones

(FEBRUARY 2025)

This is so easy!

What you will need before you start:

1. ***Pictures!*** - You all know how to get pictures into your computers.

   What type of pictures? .jpegs, preferably resized as you already do for PhotoEntry, so maximum say 1600 pixels wide by 1200 pixels deep. It's pointless putting a very high quality image into a video because the video editor will re-size everything. Note that HD video is 1920 pixels wide by 1080 pixels deep and as you will see in Part Two, you're not going to fill the screen.

2. ***Music!*** - Slightly different ball game. Not everyone knows how to get music into their pc, so for music you'll need at least one of two things:

   EITHER:

   (i) A CD / DVD / BD drive and a cd with the music you want to 'RIP' (copy) on it. Charuty shops are a brilliant source of CD's. (note that Drives that attach via a USB cable are readily available)

   OR:

   (ii) Software that will copy music from the internet.

   From £10 on Amazon

   OR:

   (iii) Both! - if you want to include music from CDs and the internet.

3. ***Video Editing Software. -*** Lots of choice here. There is no need to pay, as much is free, for example the basic edition of **'Da-Vinci Resolve'** is free ***as used by many Hollywood Studios!*** - but, not recommended as it is very difficult for an inexperienced person to get their head around.

   We're ***not*** going to be editing a Hollywood blockbuster. We just need something that produces a professional result and later, we'll look at what to use.

Where do I start?

So where ***do*** we start? The thought of this for some, might be a little daunting, but if you go about the task logically, you'll see how easy it is.

Let's look at ***pictures*** first and as an example of how to go about this, I'll refer to the video I created at the clubhouse on 18th February 25.

To make a video lasting between 3-4 minutes, you'll need about 20-ish images.

"But I'm struggling to find 20 images!" Rubbish! We all enter 30+ images into the 'Formal' competitions. Probably another 20+ into informal ones.

We all take several hundred (or more!) photographs a year!

Surely you can find around 20 images to put to music!

Each image you select is only going to be on screen for around ***TEN*** seconds. That's long enough for the audience to form an opinion, but not long enough to start picking holes in. So they don't have to be competition winning images, just choose good ones.

In the video I created at the clubhouse, I used all of the winning images from last year (23-24 Season), 21 pictures in all.

So ***start*** by writing down on a piece of paper the names of the images you've decided to use.

Last year's winning images were:

NO:	DATE	COMPETITION		MEMBER	IMAGE
1	19th Sept 23	**Open**	Col P	Paul Hayward	Come into my Parlour
2	19th Sept 23		Mon P	Alan Cook	Whixall Mosses
3	19th Sept 23		PDI	Paul Hayward	Elegance
4	10th Oct 23	**Landscape**	Col P	Sandy Robertson	French Street
5	10th Oct 23		Mon P	Howard Holden	River Tweed At Berwick
6	10th Oct 23		PDI	Patrick Miles	Glenbrittle
7	31st Oct 23	**This Year's Work**	Col P	Paul Hayward	Spiritual Healing
8	31st Oct 23		Mon P	Les Jones	The Cathedral
9	31st Oct 23		PDI	Paul Hayward	The All Seeing Eye
10	26th Nov 23	**Captured In Camera**		Ruth Elner	Lime Lines
11	16th Jan 24	**Set Subject**	Motion	Paul Hayward	The Dance
12	16th Jan 24		People	Ruth Elner	Pondering
13	16th Jan 24		Nature	Ruth Elner	White Faced Darter
14	20th Feb 24	**Panel**		Les Jones	Colour All Around You
15	20th Feb 24	**AVI**		Les Jones	Walking The Dog
16	27th Feb 24	**It's A Knock-out**	Col PDI	Phil Buckle	Vestrahorn Black Sand Dunes
17	27th Feb 24		Mon PDI	Phil Buckle	Black Rock Cottage In The Snow
18	26th March	**Image Of The Year**	Col P	Judy Naden	Dahlia Splendour
19	26th March		Mon P	Wendy Taylor	Choose Life
20	26th March		PDI	Phil Buckle	Mar Menor Sunrise
21	9th April 24	**Mobile Phone**	PDI	Paul Sweetnam	Llyn Idwal from the Glyderau

Twenty-One images. Perfect for 'Pictures to Music.

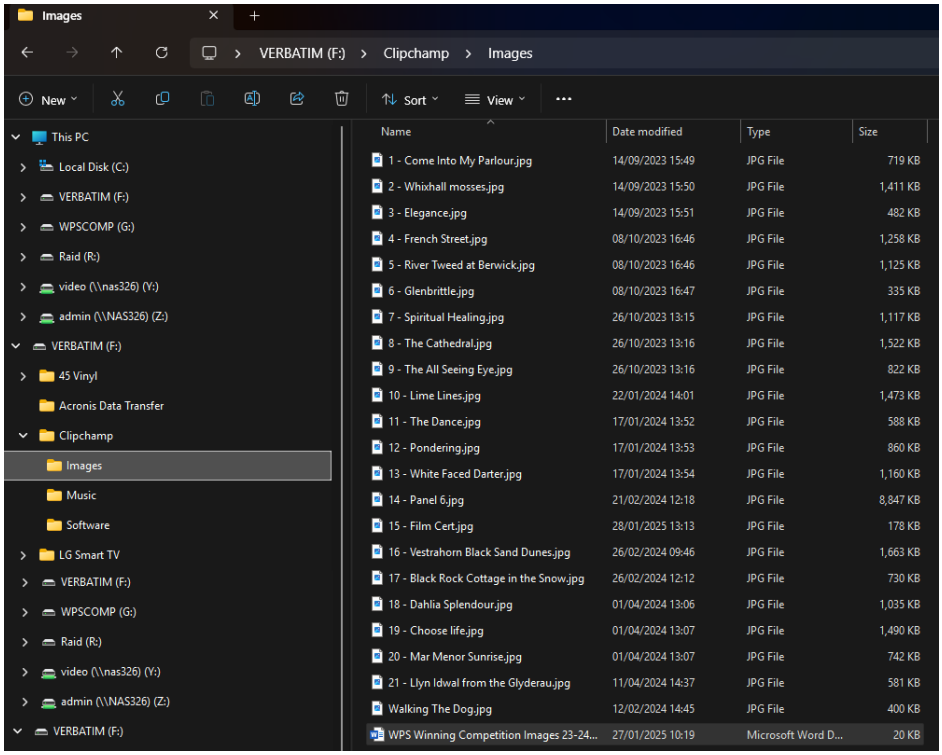
So why is this perfect?

21 images x 10 seconds display time each = 210 seconds, or 3minutes 30 seconds.

Why write them down?

To enable you to sort them into order and the information you write down, could form the text if you intend to add a 'caption' to each image in the video.

Don't forget, if you haven't already done it, you'll need to convert each image into a .jpeg.



Create a folder on your pc and store all of these images in it. Above I've created the folder 'Clipchamp' and a sub-folder 'Images'.

This makes it a lot easier later when we open our Video Editor.

So, we've got our images sorted, let's now have a look at:

Music.

CD 'Ripping' (WINDOWS USERS).

I know this sounds very 'techie', but ***'Ripping'*** is simply ***'copying'*** a track off a music CD and converting it into a digital format your computer can read.

There are many formats, but the easiest and most widely used is **'mp3'**.

This is a universal compressed music format just as .jpeg is a universal compressed picture format.

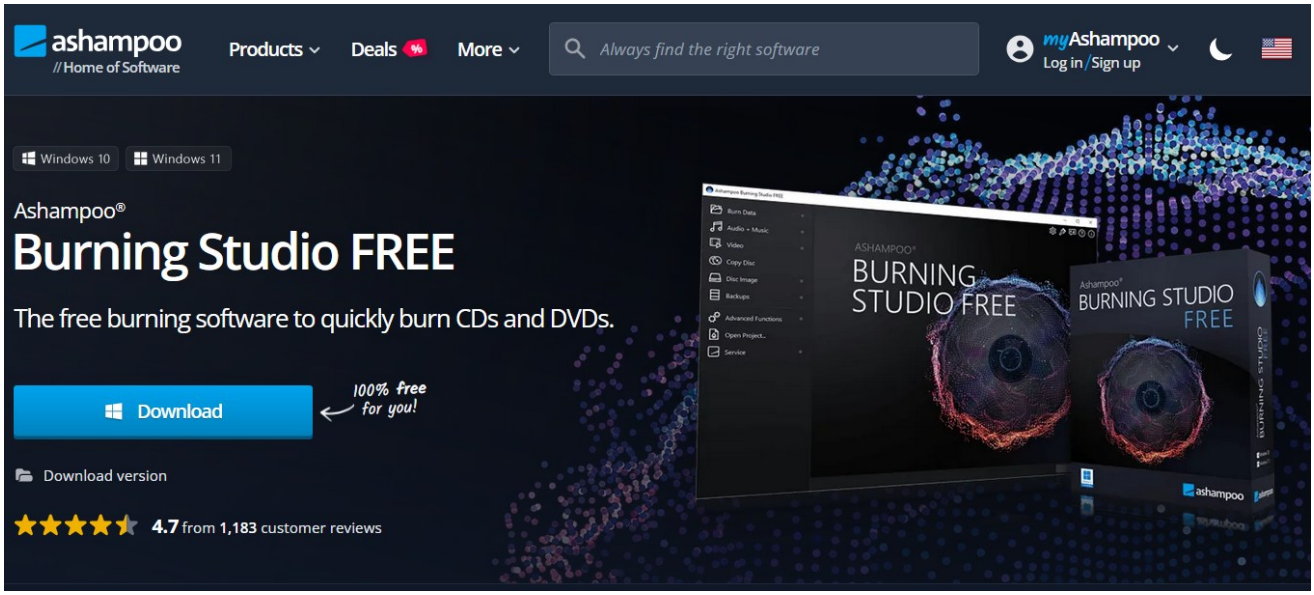
Neither .mp3, nor .jpeg are the best formats, as they are 'lossy'. They were created when computer hard drives were very small. They both 'lose' information in order to reduce the file size. In these days of huge hard drives, technically, they are both redundant, but their popularity continues.

We use these formats in our video because they are recognisable by virtually all editing software.

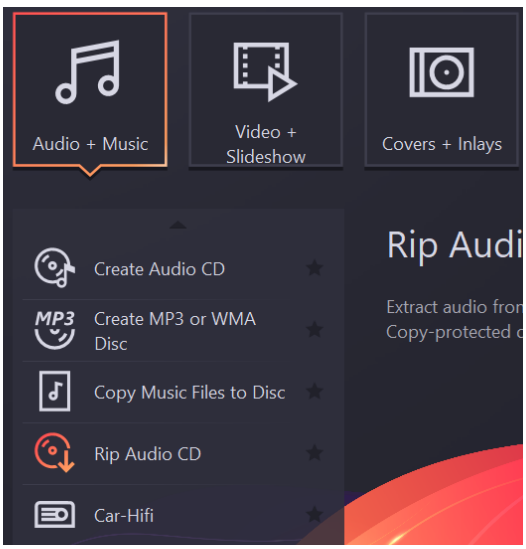
In Windows, you can 'Rip' a track from a CD using Windows Media Player, but I prefer a much better tool, Ashampoo Burning Studio and there is a free edition. The free edition is genuinely free. All it does before you use it each time is splash an advert to buy other software oir upgrade. You simply close the advert.

You can download it here:

https://www.ashampoo.com/en-us/burning-studio-free



Once downloaded, install the software and on first use, you will have to register with your email and a password, but that's all, there's no other costs involved except the occasional email with offers (that sometimes are tempting!).



How to rip a track from a disc using Ashampoo.

Put a CD into your drive and open Ashampoo.

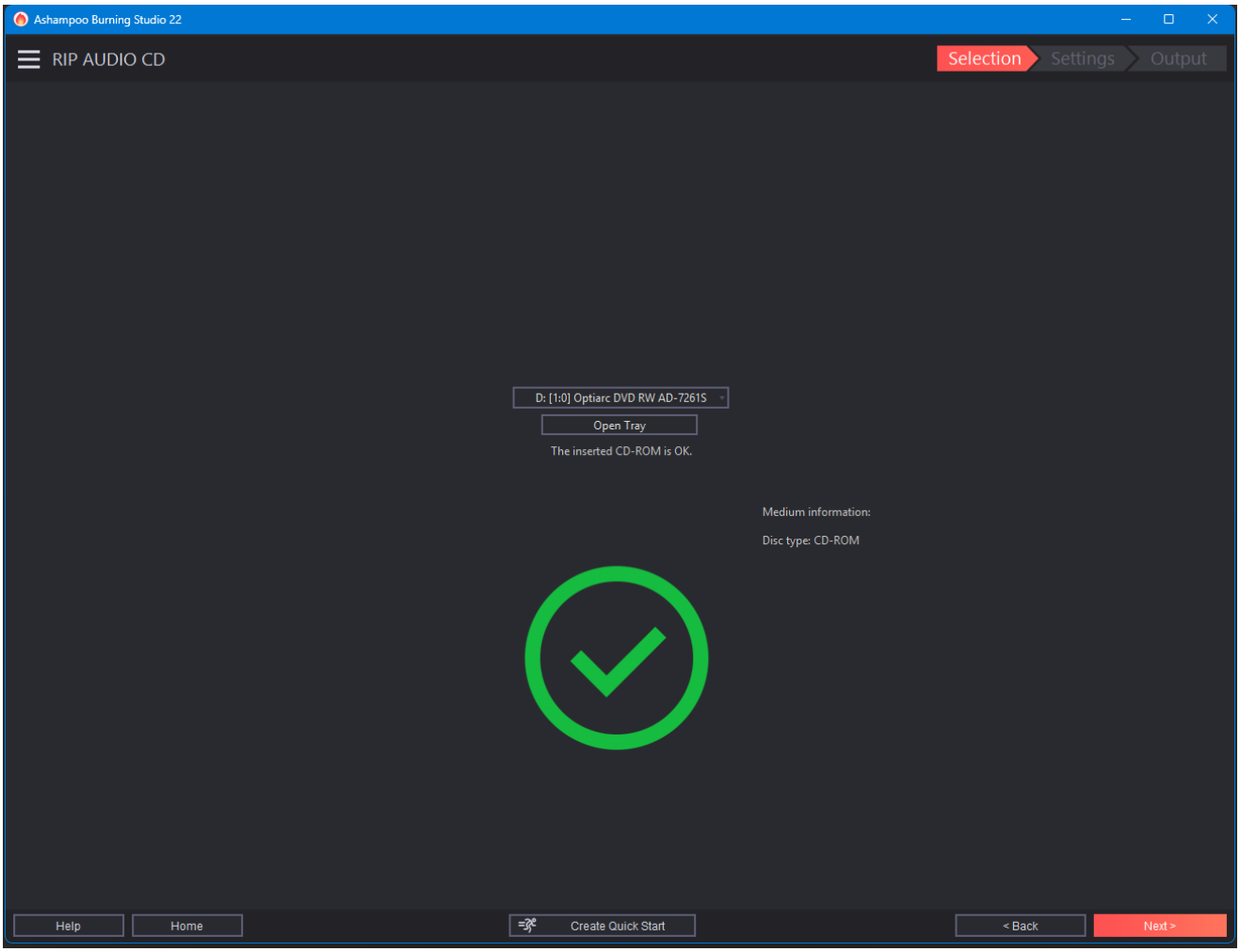
In the on large, screen options, select:

Audio and Music

Then click on:

Rip Audio CD

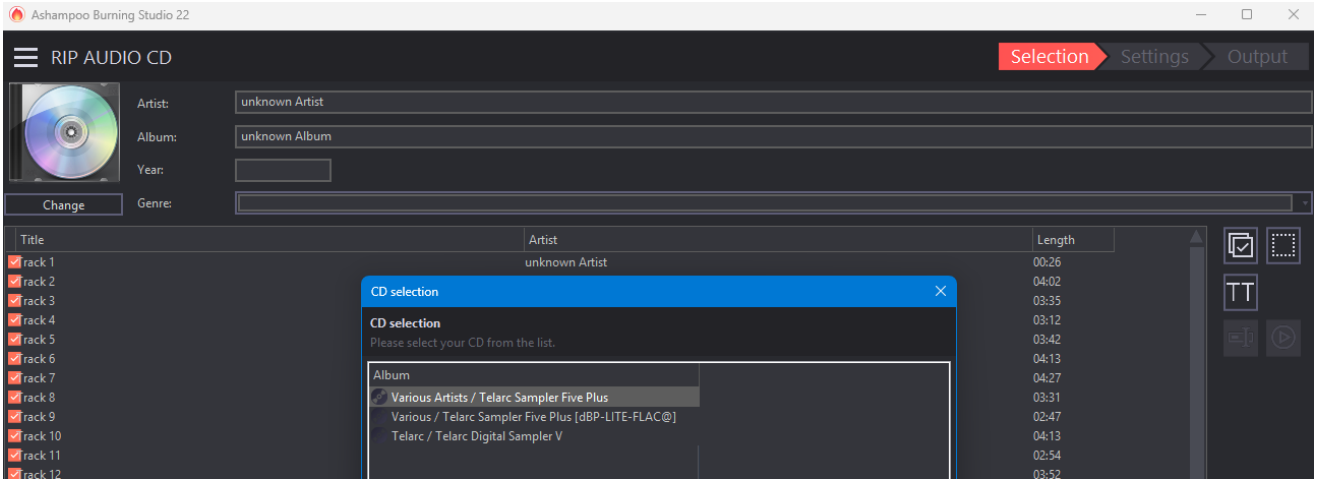
The following screen appears:



This first screen tells you that the disc you have inserted is OK. Click Next >

If you remember, I had a disc (bought in a Charity Shop!), that had the 20th Century Fox Theme as one of the tracks. This is the disc in the drive below.

Ashampoo analyses this and the following screen pops up:

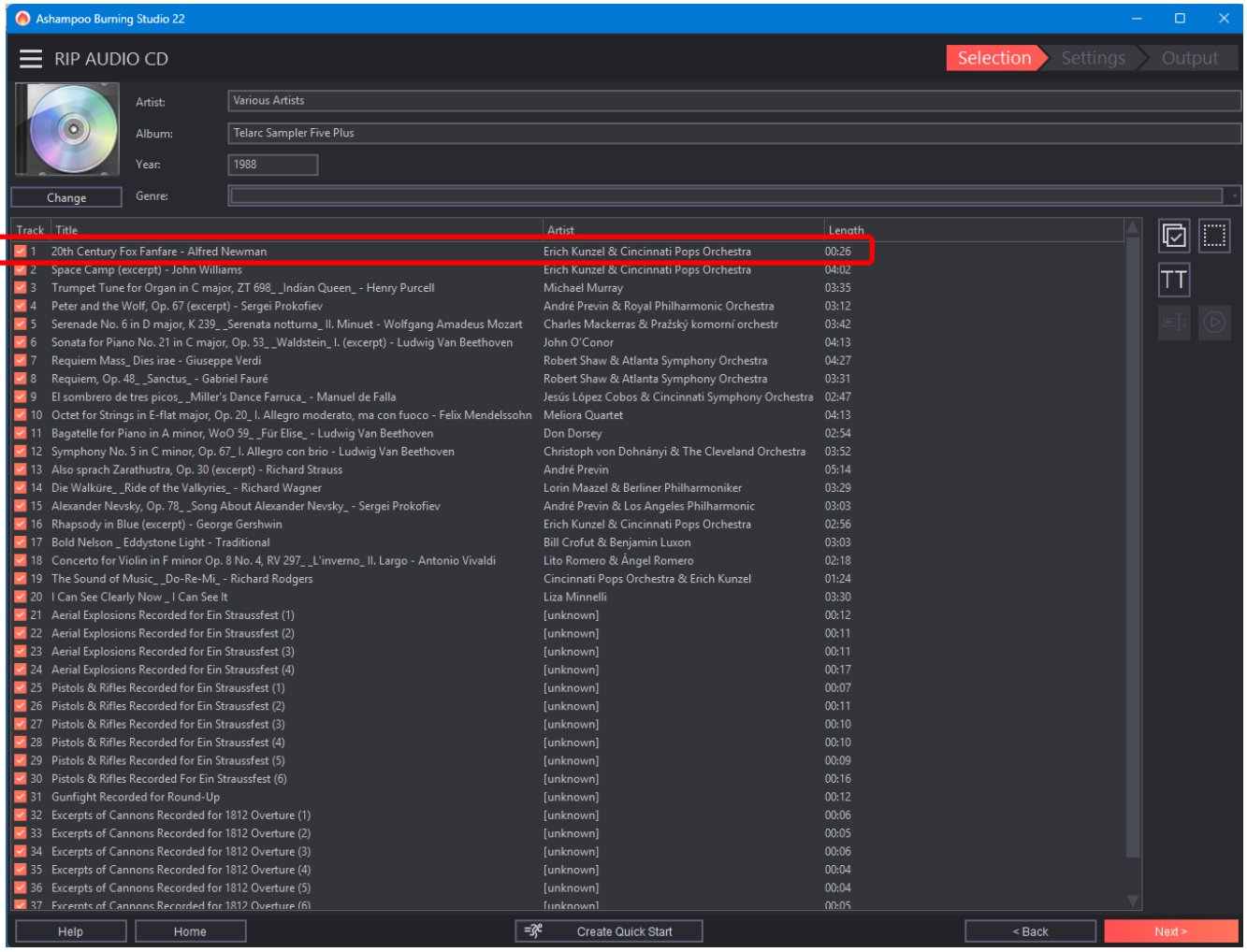


It's asking you 'Is this the disc you've put in the drive? - Various Artists / Telarc Sampler Five Plus.

Click OK (if it's correct, which it usually is).

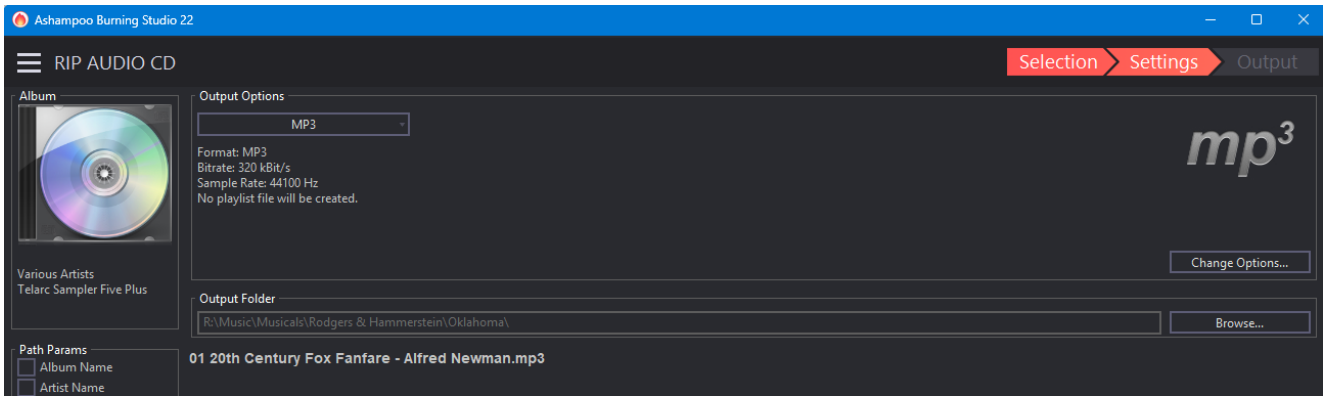
The software will now populate the interface with all the information about the disc as follows:

By default, it assumes you want to ‘rip’ all tracks so ‘untick’ all the ones you don’t want.



As you can also see, it tells you the length of the track. 20th Century Fox Fanfare is just 26 seconds.

Click Next >

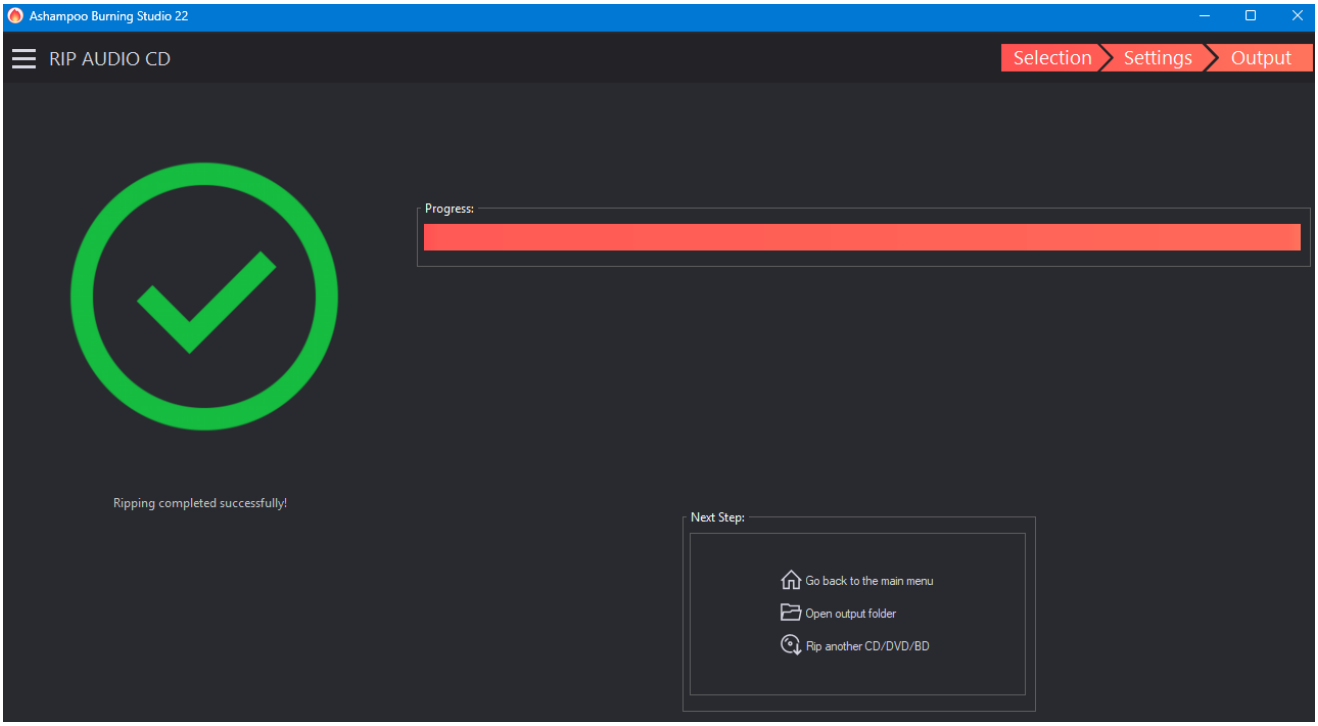


In the next screen, you can change:

1. the format you want to rip to Change Options... here I’ve selected MP3.
2. where you want to save the ripped track to Browse... here I’ve selected a location on my hard drive.

Now you can copy the track by selecting Rip >

It just takes a few seconds for each track you have selected and once done, the following screen appears:



At this point, if you have all you need, you can close the software, but if you want to rip another CD, the option is there in the 'Next Step' box.

Note that this software is more than just for ripping. It is a burning suite. You can even make a slide show, but unfortunately, only to a DVD or BD Disc.

CD Ripping (MAC USERS).

Try fre:ac

From their website: fre:ac is a free audio converter and CD ripper with support for various popular formats and encoders. It converts freely between MP3, M4A/AAC, FLAC, WMA, Opus, Ogg Vorbis, Speex, Monkey's Audio (APE), WavPack, WAV and other formats.

With fre:ac you easily rip your audio CDs to MP3 or M4A files for use with your hardware player or convert files that do not play with other audio software. You can even convert whole music libraries retaining the folder and filename structure.

The integrated CD ripper supports the CDDB/GNUdb online CD database. It will automatically query song information and write it to ID3v2 or other title information tags.

Features (click an entry to see details)

Converter for MP3, M4A/AAC, FLAC, WMA, Opus, Ogg Vorbis, WAV and other formats

Integrated CD ripper with CDDB/GNUdb title database support

Portable application, install on a USB stick and take it with you

Multi-core optimized encoders to speed up conversions on modern PCs

Full Unicode support for tags and file names

Easy to learn and use, still offers expert options when you need them

Available for all major operating systems

Multilingual user interface available in 43 languages

Completely free and open source without a catch

The latest version (Oct 2024) is **fre:ac v1.1.7**

You can download it here:

https://www.freac.org/

The download link is on the right near the top of the page.

This opens a new page and the MAC link is part way down.

As you can see, it is also available for Windows and Linux.

So that's ripping, let's have a look at downloading music from the internet.

For this, I use **4K Video Downloader +.**

Again, totally free ***(also available for Mac's).***

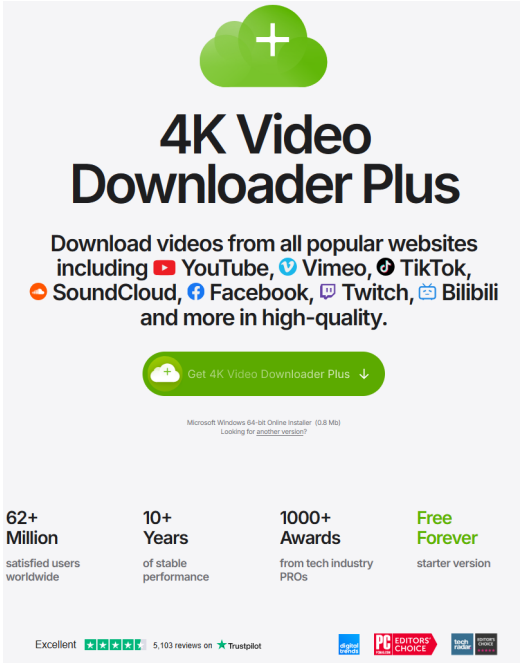
The only difference between the Free version and the Paid For version is that you are limited to TEN downloads a day with the free. Just how many do you need!!?

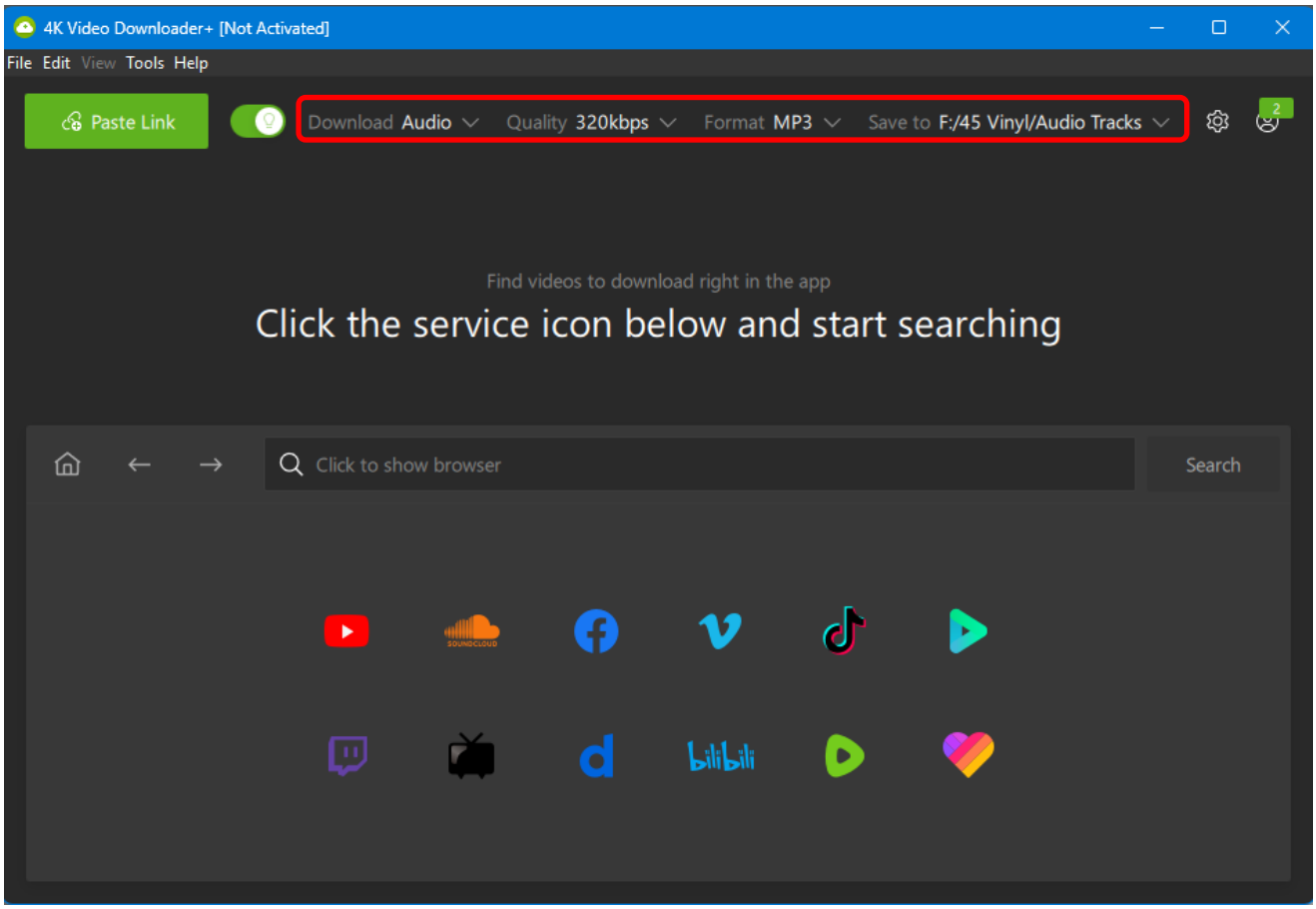
Download it here:

https://www.4kdownload.com/products/videodownloader-42

This opens their web page. Click on the Green download link, and after you've downloaded the setup file, double click on it to install the software.

Now open the software and once you've registered, the following screen appears:





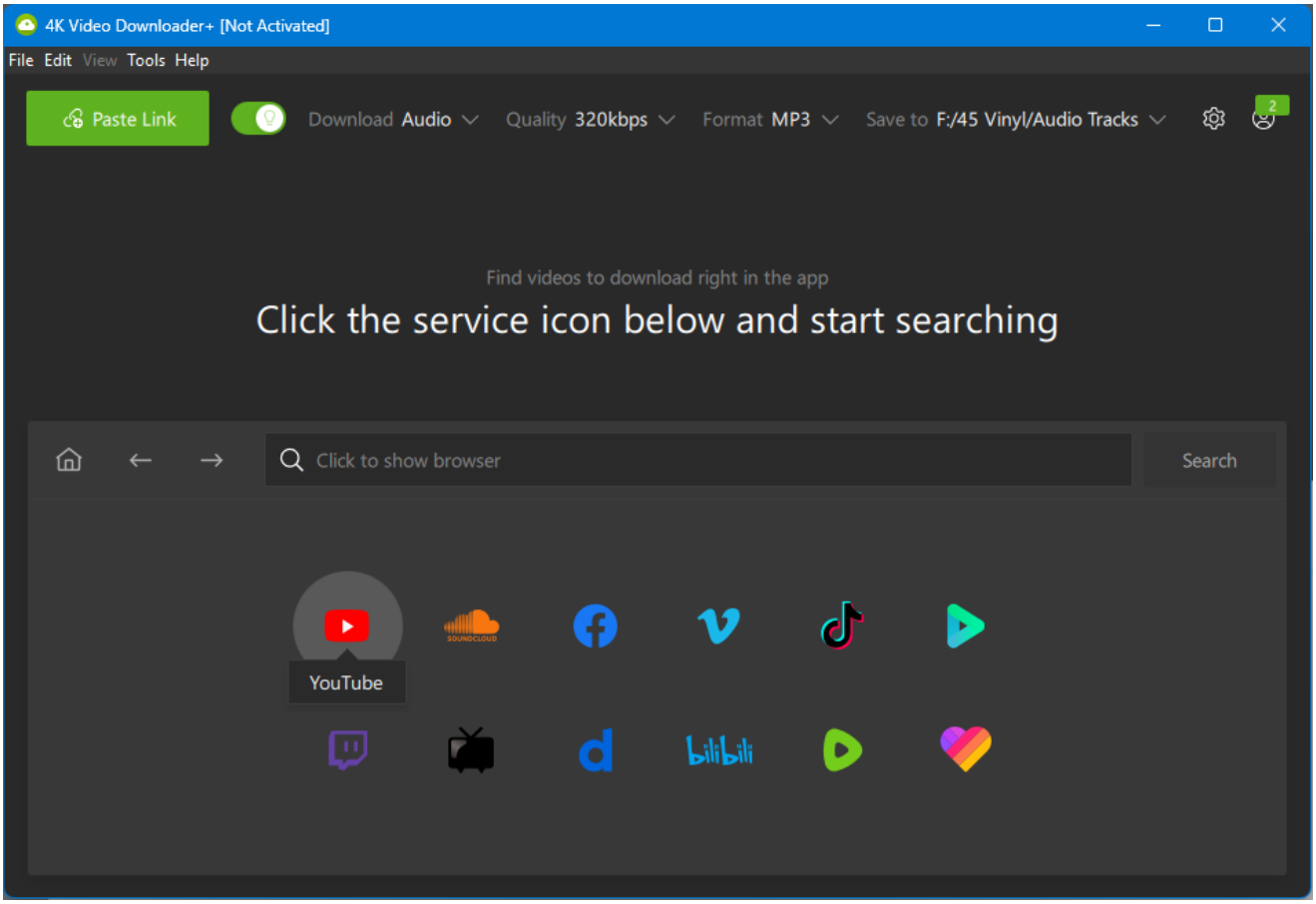
Don't be misled by the title, yes it downloads video from many sources, but if you change the settings at the top of the screen, it will just download the audio from a video and convert it into the format you want, eg: .mp3, so useful stuff! Suggest you select the folder you have put your pictures in as a download location.

There are ***TWO*** easy ways you can use this software.

FIRST METHOD - Open your normal internet browser, locate the music you want on YouTube, then copy the internet address at the top of your screen with a '***right click > Copy'***. Once copied, now click the green button in 4K Video Downloader +. Job done! You now have the music you have selected, in the format you need in the folder with your pictures!

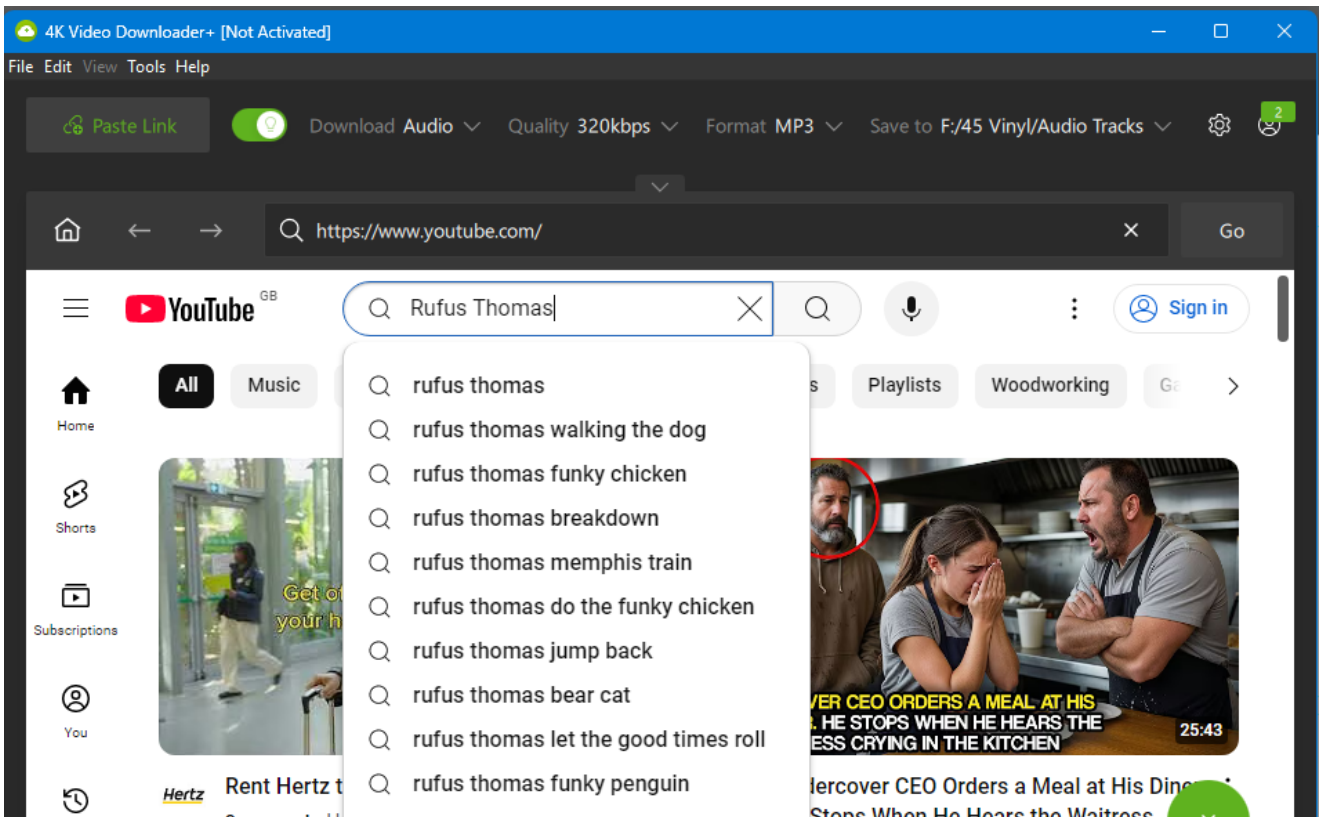
Note that you need to pick a track at least as long as your intended video. If it's too short, you're going to have a bit of silence in your video, if it's too long, you can always (very easily!) trim it later and (very easily!) fade it out.

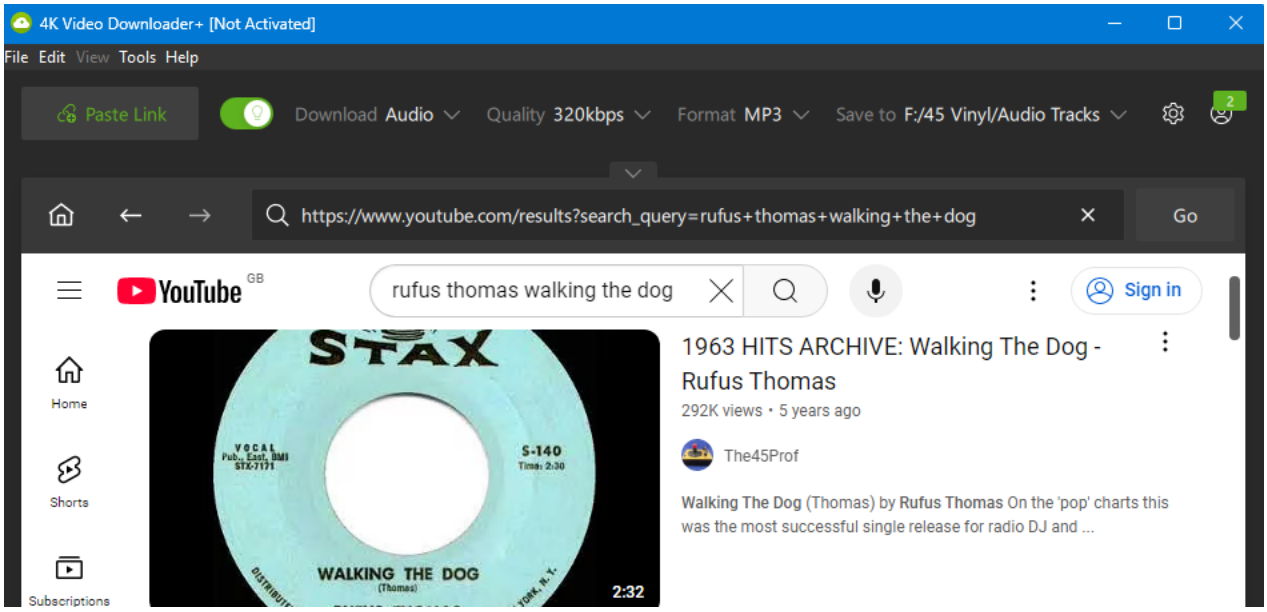
METHOD TWO - Click on the YouTube icon within 4K Video Downloader.



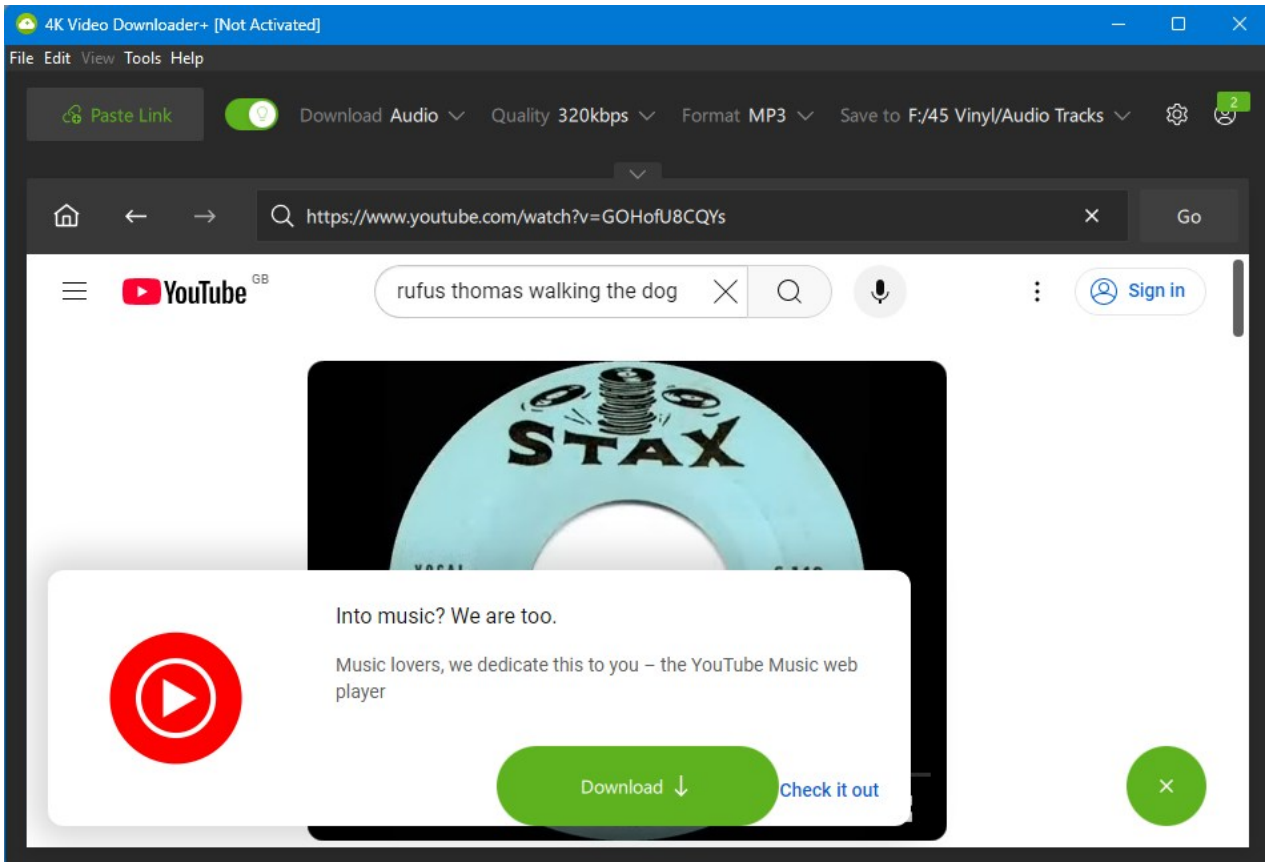
This opens YouTube in a browser, within the programme itself.

Type what you're looking for in the search box and click on it. If there are still, further options, scroll until you find exactly what you're looking for and click on that.





Once you've got to the screen that actually plays what you want, click the green Download button that appears at the bottom of the software.



Again, job done!

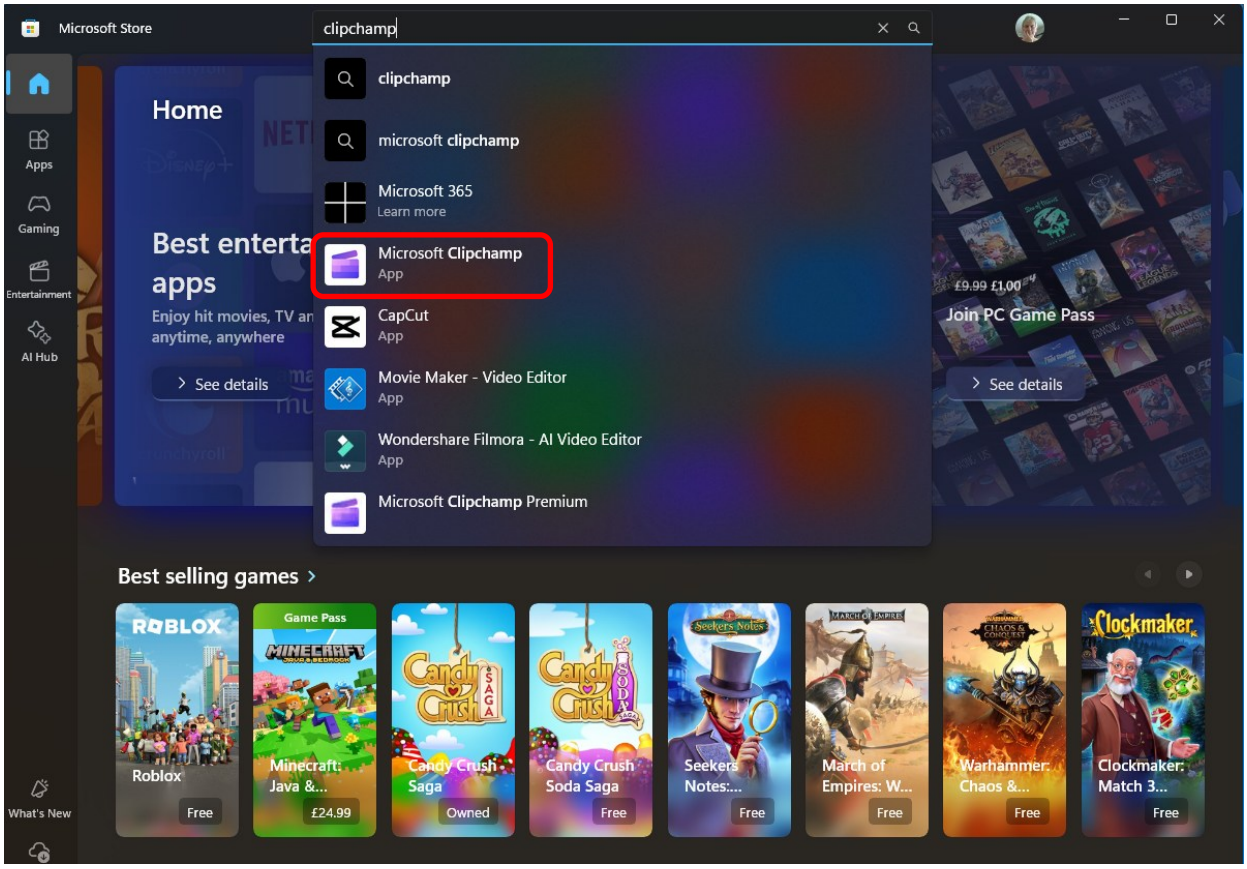
So, we've got ***Pictures*** and we've got ***Music***. We now need something to bring them together in a video - a ***Video Editor***.

Windows Users (Windows 10 onwards)

For this simple project, I recommend using the ***free version*** of Microsoft Clipchamp. It's not the most robust video editor for big project, but we're not undertaking a big project, just a 3-4 minute video.

It's perfect for this.

On W10 machines, download it from the Microsoft Store (in the Start Menu). Type 'clipchamp' into the search bar and up it pops. **Don't upgrade to the Paid For version**!



On W11 machines, it's already installed by default.

This is all you need.

Mac Users

Changed since the presentation.

Now recommended **iMovie**, which should be installed on your Mac by defasult, if not, you can download from the Mac store, or here:

https://apps.apple.com/us/app/imovie/id408981434?mt=12

Reviewed on Mac How:

> Apple's iMovie is easily the best free user friendly editing software we've tried and it's included in every version of macOS.
>
> iMovie is basically a light version of Apple's professional video editing software **Final Cut Pro** but in a more user friendly interface.
>
> With it you can create very striking titles, effects, transitions and trailers fairly easily and even add geo-data to your movies.
>
> Creating trailers is particularly nifty as there are a bunch of trailer templates that make you look like a pro.
>
> It's also surprisingly powerful in what formats it can handle allowing you to edit 4K and HD movies. It can also import iPhone, GoPro and HD camcorder footage with no need for conversion.
>
> The only issue you may find with iMovie is that Apple frequently updates it and getting to grips with new versions and changes in the interface can sometimes be frustrating and confusing.
>
> **Key Features**: 4K editing, drag-and-drop functionality, templates, green screen options, and direct YouTube sharing.
>
> **Compatibility**: Optimized for both Intel and Apple Silicon Macs.
>
> **Pricing:** Free in macOS

So now, you 've got **SOFTWARE.**

You've got **PICTURES.**

You've got **MUSIC.**

In Part Two, we'll put together a video, quickly and easily!