

VHS to DVD Conversion

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Get notes online at: www.thenerdworks.com

NOTE: A small amount of time will be reserved at the end for Q&A and an Evaluation

Demo Software: Pinnacle Studio 16

Demo Hardware: Pinnacle Movie Box

Why Convert to DVD?

-Archive -Accessibility -Organization -Distribution -Duplication

Where can Converting happen?

-Commercial Service (\$15-\$40/2hr tape) -VCR/DVD recorder -Digitizer-Software-PC

Who should do Converting?

Anyone with enough Time, Patience, and Computer

When should Converting be done?

Lots of time is required:

- **Capture** is in real time (1 hour capture for each hour of tape);
- **Edit** can be up to 1 hour per 1 hour of tape, even more...; (especially when learning)
- **Rendering, Saving** and **Burning** to DVD can also be a 1 to 1 ratio.

What do you need for Converting?

- VCR
- Digitizing device – either built into video card or a standalone device (Pinnacle Movie Box);
- Computer with DVD burner, Fast CPU, Lots of RAM and big Hard Drive
- Lots and lots of cables (RCA, USB, Firewire etc...)
- Quality DVD blanks (beware: some burners don't like some DVD blanks)

A suggestion for a computer would be: a Intel Core i7 CPU (3.40GHz or faster), 8 GB of RAM (More RAM is better), 2 **internal** hard drives (NOT external USB or Firewire) of at least 500 GB's (one is used just for video converting), graphics card with \geq 1GB memory.

How Does VHS to DVD Converting happen?

Prepare \implies Capture \implies Review \implies Edit \implies Render \implies Burn/Review

Resources Online:

www.iphotorepair.com Winnipeg based VHS to DVD transfers \$15/tape

www.youtube.com use the search phrase "vhs to dvd transfer" or "convert vhs to dvd" (hours of fun)

www.videoguys.com Hardware & Software sales, Guides

www.vhs-to-dvd.com media transfer professionals (\$9.95+ for tape to DVD conversion)

www.pinnaclesys.com/PublicSite/us/Home/ Pinnacle Studio 16 website with Tutorials, support...

Terms:

AVI – Audio Video Interleaved - Windows video format.

MOV – Mac QuickTime video format.

Capture – the process of playing the video and having it converted and sent into the computer.

Digitizer – the device that actually converts the VHS video into Digital Video.

Non Linear Editing – refers to the fact that clips of video can be moved around at will.

Resolution – For North America the standard is 720 x 480pixels (NTSC).

Rendering – the process whereby the computer mixes all the special effects into the video.

Time code – a way of referencing an exact spot on the video, represented by “**hours: minutes: seconds: frames**” (i.e. “02:17:22:08” would be “Two Hours, Seventeen Minutes, Twenty-Two Seconds, Eighth Frame”).)

Transition – an effect, like a “fade” or a “dissolve”, that acts as a cue that the scene of footage is changing subject.

Tips for Capture:

- VHS output is usually RCA (NOT S-video);
- Turn the VCR On before starting the software;
- Disable “high-resolution previews” to avoid dropping frames of video;
- Practice with small clips of video at first to save time while learning;
- Practice burning to “re-writeable” DVD’s **only when learning** (DVD–RW);
- Faulty or Lost video signals usually relate to the VCR setup or connection;
- Calculate storage before a project (**5 min video needs about 1GB Hard Drive space**);
- Watch TV or Video with the sound muted, to better observe the editing techniques;
- Use effects appropriately, sparingly and consistently; (watch TV for clip length and transition styles)
- **Make All Text Large and Clear** for easy reading;
- Imported Photos are best done at a resolution of 720 x 480pixels;
- Buy quality DVD’s with a printable surface, NO LABELS or SHARPIES!!!
- If you must use a Sharpie use “CD/DVD Safe” Sharpies.
- Don’t delete your video projects after they have been rendered and burned to disc (more later)

NOTE:

Do not discard old VHS tapes after converting them. They can also act as a form of backup in case anything happens to the current DVD copy.

Do not place complete confidence in the durability of burned DVD’s. Burned DVDs use a dye-based recording medium, and are therefore not as durable as commercially pressed (aluminum foil) DVD’s!! Regularly view your DVDs to ensure that the data is intact. REMEMBER: They are susceptible to Heat, Mold & Sharpies!

Remember that at some point DVD’s will become obsolete and replaced with a newer technology. This is a good reason to make a COPY of your digital conversion project on a hard drive just BEFORE you render it to DVD! That way it can be rendered and burned to whatever new medium comes along in the future.

(Sony has a Violet-Blue Laser that can record 20x’s Blu-ray capacity)

Demonstration: Converting VHS tape footage into Digital DVD storage.