

ANALOG TO DIGITAL

5 Reasons to Transfer Analog to Digital Format

1. Analog tapes degrade every time you play them. The adage "every time you use, you lose" refers to the loss of visual image and audio loss each time an analog tape is played.
2. In the near future, equipment to play analog VHS tapes will be difficult to purchase or have repaired. DVD players are quickly replacing videocassette players/VCRs.
3. Digital media have improved image permanence and audio quality.
4. Digital media can be shared with others across the Internet.
5. Storage devices for digital media are typically smaller in size than that of analog videotapes and thus easier to store.

Equipment Needed—2 Possible Options



Steps and Tips

1. Decide the primary use for the digital file before beginning the transfer from analog to digital. Are you going to use the video in a PowerPoint® presentation, put it on a website, enhance or edit it before returning it to analog format, or simply archive it in a digital format?

Output Target/Use from Analog VHS Tape

VHS/SVHS	VCD/Web	DVD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Capture to M-JPEG to edit and replay and store on VHS tape 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Capture to MPEG-1 for VCD storage ◆ Capture to M-JPEG and render to MPEG-1 or Quicktime MPEG-4 for Web use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Capture to M-JPEG and render to MPEG-2 for DVD storage

2. Check to make sure you have ample computer hard drive storage, processor speed, and RAM. For each minute of MPEG-1 video, you need 16MB of disk space (at 2mbps), and for each minute of MPEG-2, you need 31MB to 46MB (at 1mbps to 6mbps).
3. Determine what codecs you have on your computer. Codec stands for compression/decompression. A codec is either a software application or a piece of hardware that compresses the file and then decompresses it for playback. Of the two types, software codecs are the least expensive. Many digital-video packages have built-in codecs. Free software codecs can also be downloaded from the Web. A disadvantage to software codecs is that they are CPU-intensive and slow to compress files. Hardware codecs are more expensive than software ones but deliver high-quality video. However, they require viewers to have the same codec to play the video.

Source: Ulead Learning Center—Digital Video—Video Media (www.ulead.com/learning.htm) and Apple Computer (www.apple.com/Quicktime and www.apple.com/mpeg4)

Using the Finished Digital Product

1. Save the digital product on a VCD or DVD for viewing of quality images without continuous degradation and for easier storage.
2. Incorporate clips into PowerPoint® presentations or use on a website.
3. Add transitions and menus with video software and save as a DVD file.
4. Capture frames for still shots to use in print documents.