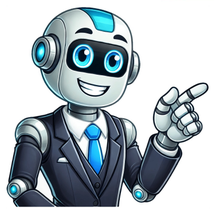
Continue



I have several MiniDV tapes and an old Sony DCR TRV8 camcorder. It has an S-Video out, Firewire out, a "Laser Link", button, and a yellow ID-2 audio/video plug. I own two surface laptops that have only the following inputs: USB 3.0 and USB-C, and an SD Card reader. The camcorder also has an SD Card slot. I've fallen down the rabbit hole on this already on this. I know you can't connect the firewire to newer laptops. Windows 10 doesnt support it and most don't even have the input. People with desktops could buy a firewire pci card, but they'd also need old windows. Microsoft rep suggested a "double boot" somethingoranother where you can have both Windows 10 and Windows 7 on your laptop at the same time to address this. But I still don't have a firewire input. Laser Link transmits full quality video to a TV, but how could I do that with a laptop and capture the video lossless? . Im at a loss. It truly seems like you can not get your MiniDV's onto a windows 10 system anymore. Can't anyone invent a converter for Firewire? I get that Windows 10 can't handle it, but that's what Converters are for. You handle the conversion there, and then send it to Windows 10 in a lossless compatible format. Please tell me what hardware I need to buy, and what software I need to buy, to make this happen. Very much appreciate any help. No need to invent anything it already exists, tons of threads asking the exact same question just search the forum and you will find them. Lets ask the mods to sticky this under the title: "How to Connect your DV/HDV Camcorder to a Laptop with no Firewire/iLink Port?" //forum.videohelp.com/threads/396471-help-with-capturing-dv-footage-from-sony-ha...am#post2577809 Last edited by dellsam34; 20th May 2020 at 21:27. Pinnacle 500-usb: When you connect the device with a firewire cable to the camcorder and playback a DV tape, it will transfer the DV stream to the computer via USB cable and control the camcorder functions from within a DV application such as WinDV Hard to find. It took me so long to find the device (and walk the dog) dellsam34 beat me to it. You should look at the following thread and other recent mini DV threads that dellsam34 linked to in his posts: Firewire cards still work when installed in a Windows 10 desktop although it may be necessary to install Windows Legacy Firewire Drivers. There are also a few old USB devices from Pinnacle that are supposed to still work with a Windows 10 machine. See: Edit] I got beat twice... Last edited by usually_quiet; 20th May 2020 at 21:38. Ignore list: hello_hello, tried, TechLord, Snoopy329 Hahaha. Thank you guys. Sorry. Ive spent the last three weeks searching for simple solutions to this so this is the one time I didn't do the search . Let me read through the replies and write something else super stupid that you guys can laugh at soon. Maybe I should make a thread listing all the potential pinnacle devices that have the capability of transferring firewire data packets over USB and get stickyed, but for that I need to do some research and help from the owners of such devices. No need to invent anything it already exists Okay so i did this like 4-5 years ago using a Pinnacle. But the video quality was degraded during transfer. It was not good at all. It didnt start out HD or anything, but what I got as far as video files on my computer almost looked 480 quality. Also, when I googled a pinnacle recently, I was told it would not work with Windows 10. Its good to know it actually will. Thanks guys and gals. Ummm, dv IS 480 quality.Scott Originally Posted by Cornucopia Ummm, dv IS 480 quality.Scott Told you I'd say something new that was stupid. Okay rephrasing: Video quality was degraded. Audience: "How degraded was it?" VideoBurger: "It was so degraded that it seemed like it was [insert number less than 480] quality!"-B- What program did you use to capture? Did you capture as DV AVI or some other codec/container? If you used Windows Movie Maker it may have saved the file as a low quality WMV file. Some other programs may have saved as MPEG 2 in an MPG container, h.264 in an MP4 container, etc. Those will degrade the quality too. Originally Posted by VideoBurger Told you I'd say something new that was stupid. Okay rephrasing: Video quality was degraded. Audience: "How degraded was it?" VideoBurger: "It was so degraded that it seemed like it was [insert number less than 480] quality!"-B- Not when you use ScenalyzerLive, Maybe Pinnacle software back in the day when hard drives were only few GB's by default converts AVI to MPEG-2 on the fly to produce small files, That's why we have third party software. Originally Posted by dellsam34 Not when you use ScenalyzerLive, Maybe Pinnacle software back in the day when hard drives were only few GB's by default converts AVI to MPEG-2 on the fly to produce small files, That's why we have third party software. Awesome. Thanks so much everyone. Was getting very bummed out that no such converter existed. I actually posted on another video forum and just got snarky comments about how "life isnt as easy as you want it to be sometimes". You guys were actually helpful. Btw, fyi FireWire = ieee 1394 = iLink (not laser link). All the same thing.Scott Ok one problem guys. Where do I buy a 500 online? Can't find one anywhere. EDIT: Found a Pinnacle 700 USB. Would that work? Originally Posted by dellsam34 hi EDIT 2: The guy wont ship the thing for a month. Any suggestions finding a 500? EDIT 3: Hey Dellsam - do I need to buy any cables? Does the 500/700 come with a firewire to go into the camcorder?Do I need to buy a cable to go from the pinnacle to the laptop? Last edited by VideoBurger; 21st May 2020 at 02:28. Yah, It is not made anymore, you will have to keep an eye on a used one and due to this pandemic you may have to wait even longer.Here is one Originally Posted by dellsam34 Yah, It is not made anymore, you will have to keep an eye on a used one and due to this pandemic you may have to wait even longer.Here is one Hey Dellsam - do I need to buy any cables? Does the 500/700 come with a firewire to go into the camcorder? Do I need to buy a cable to go from the pinnacle to the laptop?EDIT: That is a PCI card for a PCI slot. Doesn't look like the Pinnacle Studio 500 USB device (?). Look again, He is selling both with all the cables, You seem to have a problem of glossing over things and not taking the time to read thoroughly. Originally Posted by dellsam34 Look again, He is selling both with all the cables, You seem to have a problem of glossing over things and not taking the time to read thoroughly. You linked me to a page with multiple photos of a PCI card. All it said was "and 500". Naturally I assumed you linked me to something I can't use. A PCI card that for some reason was also called a "500". And yeah I saw it had cables but what good will that do me since I have a laptop and can't use a PCI card? Later I saw that nearly 6 pictures in, it also comes with the actual 500 device. That was extremely confusing. It does not reflect that I don't read. I still would like to know if the 700 I found "in general" comes with cables or not. I already bought it. Ill ask the seller. Last edited by VideoBurger; 21st May 2020 at 03:57. Originally Posted by dellsam34 Look again, He is selling both with all the cables, You seem to have a problem of glossing over things and not taking the time to read thoroughly. I also asked you if a 700 would work just as well. No actual response to that question yet. This is why I repeat myself Last edited by VideoBurger; 21st May 2020 at 03:57. I don't know if the 700 will work or not I don't own one, You will have to ask sellers such questions as well as accessories and cables, this is used stuff you get what the seller is describing. You have to search, read and ask questions before you buy anything. DIY MiniDV-to-digital transfer can be done at home if you have the right tools, time, and patience. The process involves connecting the camcorder and the computer via a USB or AV cable.How do I transfer files from Mini DV to computer?How do I transfer files from Mini DV to computer?Using the USB cable, connect the MiniDV camcorder or tape deck to your computer.Open the camcorder or tape deck.Load the MiniDV tape into the camcorder or tape deck.Open your computers video capture software.From the file menu in the software, click capture and wait for a window to appear on the monitor.How can I connect my camcorder to my laptop without Firewire?You more than likely will need a video capture device such as a Dazzle DVD Recorder HD VHS to DVD Converter to go between the camcorder and the computer. The camcorder will connect to the capture device via a A/V cable (camcorder should have one) and the capture device will connect to the computer via a USB cable.How do I convert Mini DV to digital?Converting Mini DV Camcorder Footage to DigitalDoes FireWire to USB work for Mini DV?In theory, yes. however the method to transfer your MiniDV is contingent upon the MiniDV camera outputs available. Firewire was one of the more popular hi-end methods from that technologys era. and use USB.Does FireWire to USB work?No, it is not possible to connect a FireWire interface to your computers USB port via a FireWire to USB adapter since this connection is not sufficient to run a FireWire audio interface.How do I convert DV to mp4?How to convert VHS/MiniDV into MP4 EasilyCan you convert camcorder tapes to USB?Converting tapes to USB is a complicated process and requires specific equipment. It is essential that the correct devices and wiring is used for successful results. Chances are, you dont have this specialist equipment lying around your house. It will be expensive.How do I transfer video tapes to my computer?HOW TO TRANSFER VHS TAPES TO YOUR COMPUTERWhat if my computer doesnt have a FireWire port?If all you have is USB ports and no room to add a firewire card then you will need a capture device that has a firewire port on it. If the camcorder did not record in HDV then you could get a capture card without a firewire port and use the analog out cable to connect to a capture device.Does my laptop have a FireWire port?Double-click IEEE 1394 Bus Host Controllers and search the name of the device to find out whether the computer uses FireWire 400 or FireWire 800.Is DV the same as FireWire?FireWire is the brand name used by Apple. iLink is the brand name used by Sony for both consumer electronics and personal computers. DV is short for Digital Video, and is used as the logo for the interface on most video camcorders..How do I connect my Canon Mini DV to my laptop?Connecting Your DV Camera To Your ComputerHow do I transfer from Sony Mini DV to DVD?There can be varied solutions to transfer mini DV to DVD, but the most straightforward and simple one is to use a DVD recorder. While using this method, you simply plug the output cable from your MiniDV camcorder to the input of your DVD recorder.Is there a FireWire to HDMI adapter?The answer is no. There is no FireWire to HDMI cable or Firewire adapter except for Smart TVs as they have an input HDMI connection. The solution is to utilize an expansion card like a PCI-X card, an output device with SDHC / SDXC memory cards, or built-in Firewire in the receiver device.How do I get FireWire on my laptop?The primary, and for the most part only way to add a supported firewire connection to a laptop is with a firewire expresscard adapter. In most cases, to find a laptop with an expresscard expansion slot, youll need to look at the Business class laptops from the major manufacturers.How do I connect FireWire to my PC?Like USB, FireWire is a plug-and-play connection; a FireWire port can support 63 devices (using a daisy-chaining technique). Just connect a device to your PC by using a FireWire cable run the cable from the device to the FireWire port on your PC, and youre ready to roll!Did USB replace FireWire?Since firewire cost more than USB, the adoption of USB became the standard for connecting most peripherals that did not require a high-speed bus. The cost really is the main reason USB became more popular than firewire. USB was cheap in every sense from construction up to licensing.Can FireWire be converted?Other FireWire to USB OptionsOne of the most reliable methods for converting FireWire to USB is to avoid the conversion process entirely and find a direct method for establishing a connection between the FireWire-enabled device and your other hardware, which in most cases is a computer.Which is faster FireWire or USB?FireWire 800 is substantially faster than Hi-Speed USB, both in theory and in practice. USB 3.0 (released November 2008) gives a theoretical speed of 4.8 Gbit/s, which is about 5 times faster than FireWire 800, substantially faster than any of its competitors or predecessors until the next one is released.How can I view MiniDV tapes?The only way to view your MiniDV tapes on your television is to hook up a camcorder to your TV using the audio/video cables that were bundled with your camcorder.Transfer Video from a Digital8 or MiniDV Camcorder to a ComputerConnect your Digital8 or MiniDV camera to the computer using the Audio Video (A/V) cable.Connect your camera to the computer using a Sony i. LINK or Apple FireWire cable.Connect your camera to the computer using the USB cable.Are MiniDV tapes digital?Mini. Send your Legacybox kit, filled with your old MiniDV home movies. We do the rest- our transfer services will digitize your tapes and send you digital copies of your precious memories stored on a thumb drive, available for digital download from the cloud, or on a DVD.Can you put old camcorder tapes on computer?If the camcorder records on MiniDVD discs, it may have a USB port (mini or micro USB connection), but some may not. If it has a USB port, you can connect the camcorder to a PC using a standard or mini/micro-to-standard USB cable.How can I watch my old camcorder tapes?Place the tape you want to copy into your camcorder and place a blank VHS tape in your VCR or blank recordable DVD into your DVD recorder. Start the VCR or DVD recorder first, then press play on your 8mm/Hi camcorder to start the tape playback.Where can I get camcorder tapes converted to?Whether youre looking to transfer your old family photos or convert your VHS home movies to digital or disc formats, CVS Photos Home Movie and Photo Transfer service is ready to help.Does FireWire work on Windows 10?Microsoft has officially discontinued support for Firewire (IEEE1394) with the introduction of Windows 10 OS, but there is a workaround that many SPOT customers have used successfully. It involves installing the legacy FireWire drivers into the Windows 10 OS.How do I install FireWire on Windows 10?The fix is simple:Install a FireWire card into one of the open slots in the computer.Using the instructions above, set the drive to Legacy.Reboot the computer.Then connect the FireWire cable from the video camera, into the new FireWire port that you just added.Use a Firewire card with the VIA chipset.Is FireWire still supported?It remains supported via a Thunderbolt adapter cable or an external hub, but its really just a legacy technology nowfor people (like me) who still rely on FireWire devices.What is the purpose of a FireWire port in a computer system?FireWire, which is also called IEEE 1394, is a connecting device used primarily for adding peripherals to a computer. FireWire is often used for connecting external hard drives and digital camcorders that benefit from a high transfer rate.Where is FireWire in Device Manager?Most FireWire cards will be listed in the Device Manager under the Network Adapters, FireWire Controllers or Imaging Devices category.What is a FireWire port look like?FireWire has two versions, and unlike USB 2.0 and 3.0, theyre not backward compatible. They dont even look remotely alike, which can lead to some confusion. The older standard, FireWire 400, is a flatter connector with one rounded side, and the faster 800 version resembles a fat USB connector.Is IEEE 1394 the same as FireWire?IEEE 1394, commonly known as FireWire, is a standard connection type for many electronic devices such as digital video cameras, printers and scanners, external hard drives, and other peripherals.How do I transfer video from camcorder to computer using USB?Connect the USB cable to the camcorder. Connect the other end of the USB cable to the computer. NOTE: The computer must have a standard, factory-installed USB port. Cue the video to the beginning of the video footage to be transferred.How do I transfer videos from my Canon camcorder to my computer?SolutionTurn on the computer.Make sure the camcorder is turned off.Connect the camcorder to the computer using the supplied USB cable.Plug the compact power adapter into an outlet or power strip and then connect it to the camcorder.Turn on the camcorder.Set the camcorder to playback mode.What is a DV connector?The Firewire standard, also known as DV, iLink and IEEE1394 cables, can be used for many purposes, ranging from high-speed data transfer between computers and peripherals, digital video and audio transmission between, e.g. digital camcorders and PC or DVD recorders.In todays digital age, preserving precious memories captured on mini DV tapes can be a daunting task, especially when most modern computers lack FireWire ports. However, fear not, as this step-by-step guide will walk you through the process of transferring mini DV footage to your computer without the need for a FireWire connection. Whether it be for archiving purposes or simply wanting to share those cherished moments with loved ones, this guide has got you covered.Understanding Mini DV Tapes And Their FormatMini DV tapes are a type of digital video cassette designed for use with Mini DV camcorders. They offer high-quality video recording and are commonly used for capturing personal memories and professional videography. Understanding the format and characteristics of Mini DV tapes is crucial for a successful transfer process.Mini DV tapes use a digital format, which means the video is stored in a series of 1s and 0s, ensuring minimal loss in quality during transfer. The tapes have a small size, typically measuring about 2 inches by 1.5 inches, making them easy to handle and store.Before transferring Mini DV footage to your computer, its important to check the compatibility of your camcorder and computer. Many modern computers, particularly laptops, may not have FireWire ports, which were traditionally used for Mini DV transfers. This article will guide you through alternative methods using USB connections.By familiarizing yourself with the format and characteristics of Mini DV tapes, you will be well-prepared to successfully transfer your footage to your computer without the need for a FireWire connection.Exploring Alternative Ways To Transfer Mini DV FootageWhen it comes to transferring Mini DV footage to your computer, FireWire is often considered the go-to method. However, there are alternative ways to accomplish this task if you do not have access to a FireWire port.One such alternative is using an analog-to-digital converter. This device allows you to connect your Mini DV camcorder to your computer through a USB port, bypassing the need for FireWire. The analog-to-digital converter works by converting the analog signals from the Mini DV tape into a digital format that can be transferred via USB.Another option is to use a DVD recorder. With this method, you can connect your Mini DV camcorder to a DVD recorder using AV cables. The recorder will then burn the footage onto a DVD. From there, you can transfer the video files from the DVD to your computer using DVD ripping software.While these alternative methods may not be as efficient or high-quality as FireWire, they can still be effective in transferring your Mini DV footage to your computer. It is important to note that the specific steps and equipment needed may vary depending on the devices you are using, so be sure to consult the user manuals and do thorough research beforehand.Connecting Mini DV Camcorder To The Computer Using USBConnecting a Mini DV camcorder to the computer using a USB cable is one of the alternative ways to transfer footage when FireWire is not available. However, it is important to note that not all Mini DV camcorders support this method, as it depends on the specific model and brand. Here is a step-by-step guide on how to connect the camcorder to your computer using USB:1. Check the compatibility: Ensure that your Mini DV camcorder supports USB connectivity. Refer to the user manual or check the manufacturers website for compatibility information.2. Install the drivers: Before connecting the camcorder, install any required drivers or software that comes with the device. These drivers enable your computer to recognize and communicate with the camcorder.3. Power on the camcorder: Turn on the Mini DV camcorder and set it to Playback or VCR mode. This mode allows the camcorder to send the recorded footage to the computer.4. Connect the camcorder: Use a compatible USB cable to connect the Mini DV camcorder to the computer. Ensure that the connection is secure on both ends.5. Select the computer mode: On the camcorder, select the appropriate USB mode. Options may include PC Connect, Transfer, or Computer. Consult the user manual for instructions specific to your camcorder.6. Wait for recognition: After connecting the camcorder, wait for your computer to recognize the device. It may take a few moments for the drivers to install and for the computer to establish a connection.7. Begin transferring: Once the camcorder is recognized, you can begin transferring the Mini DV footage to your computer. Open your preferred video editing software or file management tool and follow the prompts to import the footage.Keep in mind that the transfer speed may be slower compared to FireWire, and the quality may not be as high. However, this method provides an alternative solution for those without FireWire ports or cables.Installing Required Software For Mini DV TransferTo successfully transfer Mini DV footage to your computer without a FireWire connection, you will need to install the necessary software. This step is crucial as it enables your computer to recognize and communicate with the Mini DV camcorder through the USB connection. Follow these steps to install the required software for Mini DV transfer:1. Research compatible software options: Look for software that specifically supports Mini DV transfer via USB. Popular options include Windows Movie Maker, iMovie (for Mac), and Sony PlayMemories Home.2. Download and install the software: Visit the official website of the chosen software and find the download section. Follow the instructions to download and install the software onto your computer. Make sure to select the version compatible with your operating system.3. Configure software settings: Once the software is installed, open it and navigate to the settings or preferences menu. Ensure that you have the correct settings for Mini DV transfer selected, including the USB connection option.4. Test the connection: Connect your Mini DV camcorder to the computer using a USB cable. Open the software and check if the connection is recognized. You may need to select the Import or Capture option within the software to initiate the transfer process.By following these steps and properly installing the required software, you will be ready to transfer Mini DV footage to your computer smoothly and efficiently using a USB connection.Transferring Mini DV Footage To The Computer Via USBTransferring Mini DV footage to your computer via USB can be a convenient alternative for those who dont have access to a FireWire connection. However, the process may differ slightly depending on the software and specific camcorder you are using. Heres a step-by-step guide to help you transfer your Mini DV footage successfully:1. Begin by connecting your Mini DV camcorder to your computer using a USB cable. Make sure both devices are powered on.2. On your computer, open the software that you installed in the previous step for Mini DV transfer. If your camcorder didnt come with one, you can utilize video capture software such as Windows Movie Maker, iMovie, or Adobe Premiere.3. In the software, locate the option to import or capture video from a device. This may be found in the File or Capture menu.4. Select your Mini DV camcorder as the video source. The software should detect the connected device.5. Start the capture or import process. This will initiate the transfer of Mini DV footage to your computer. The duration of the transfer will depend on the length of the video.6. Once the transfer is complete, you can save the footage to a specific folder on your computer. Consider creating a new folder dedicated to your Mini DV files for easier organization.Remember that the steps provided here are general guidelines, and your specific software and camcorder may require slight variations. Consult your devices manual or the software manufacturers documentation for detailed instructions.Best Practices For Organizing And Managing Mini DV Files On Your ComputerWhen it comes to transferring Mini DV tapes to your computer, its important to have an organized system in place for managing your files. Here are some best practices to ensure that you can easily locate and access your Mini DV footage:1. Create a dedicated folder: Start by creating a folder on your computer specifically for storing your Mini DV files. Give it a clear and descriptive name, such as Mini DV Transfers or Video Archive.2. Use a consistent naming convention: Develop a consistent naming convention for your Mini DV files. Include relevant details such as the date of the recording, location, or event. This will make it easier to search for specific footage in the future.3. Organize files into subfolders: Consider creating subfolders within your main Mini DV folder to further categorize your footage. You could create folders for different events, projects, or time periods.4. Create backups: To ensure the safety of your Mini DV files, make regular backups. Consider storing copies on an external hard drive, cloud storage, or DVDs. This will protect your footage in case of computer crashes or accidental deletions.5. Add metadata and tags: To make searching for specific footage even easier, consider adding metadata and tags to your Mini DV files. This could include information like keywords, descriptions, or even the names of people featured in the footage.By following these best practices for organizing and managing your Mini DV files, youll save yourself time and frustration when it comes to accessing and utilizing your footage.Troubleshooting Common Issues During Mini DV Transfer ProcessDuring the Mini DV transfer process, there are common issues that may arise, causing frustration and delay. By being aware of these issues and knowing how to troubleshoot them, you can ensure a smooth transfer of your Mini DV footage to your computer.One common issue is the inability to detect the Mini DV camcorder when connected to the computer. To resolve this, make sure that the camcorder is properly connected via USB and turned on. Check your computers Device Manager to ensure that the camcorder is recognized and the drivers are installed correctly. If necessary, reinstall the drivers or try connecting the camcorder to a different USB port.Another issue that may occur is dropped frames during the transfer process, resulting in choppy video playback. This can be due to a slow computer or insufficient bandwidth. To resolve this, close any unnecessary programs that may be consuming system resources and consider transferring the footage to a computer with higher specifications.If you encounter audio syncing problems, where the audio is not aligned with the video, try updating your video editing software to the latest version. Alternatively, you can use dedicated video capture software that is compatible with your Mini DV camcorder to ensure proper audio synchronization.Lastly, if you experience errors or interruptions during the transfer process, such as freezing or crashing software, try closing and reopening the software or restarting your computer. Additionally, ensure that your Mini DV tapes are in good condition, without any visible damage or dirt.By understanding these common issues and following the troubleshooting steps provided, you can overcome any challenges that may arise during the Mini DV transfer process and successfully transfer your footage to your computer.FAQ1. Can I transfer Mini DV tapes to my computer without a FireWire cable?Yes, it is possible to transfer Mini DV tapes to your computer without a FireWire cable. This step-by-step guide will provide you with alternative methods to achieve this.2. What are the alternative methods to transfer Mini DV to my computer?There are several alternative methods you can use to transfer Mini DV to your computer without a FireWire cable. They include using USB capture devices, analog-to-digital converters, or direct AV connections. This guide will walk you through each of these methods in detail.3. Are there any specific software requirements for transferring Mini DV tapes?Yes, you will need video editing software installed on your computer to transfer Mini DV tapes. Most video editing software, such as Adobe Premiere Pro or Final Cut Pro, will have the necessary tools to capture and import Mini DV footage. We will provide guidance on how to use these software programs for transferring videos.4. Are there any quality differences when using alternative methods?The quality of the transferred footage may vary depending on the alternative method you choose. While FireWire offers the highest quality transfer, the alternative methods can still provide good quality results. However, it is important to note that there may be some loss of quality when using analog-to-digital converters or USB capture devices. We will discuss tips to optimize the quality during the transfer process.VerdictIn conclusion, transferring Mini DV tapes to a computer without FireWire may seem challenging, but it is possible with alternative methods. By utilizing a video capture card or a DV-to-USB adapter, the process becomes straightforward. Through the step-by-step guide provided, users can digitize their Mini DV tapes and preserve their cherished memories for years to come. It is important to note that while USB transfers may not provide the same quality as FireWire, they offer a viable solution for those without FireWire ports on their computers. With the outlined steps and a bit of patience, anyone can successfully transfer Mini DV to their computer hassle-free. Hi, I posted this before and did not really understand what to do. My family has mini dv tapes that we need to transfer to our pc. We tried paying a friend $1000 to do it and he made mistakes. Gave us two batches. One batch only plays with a VLC player and the other does use Windows media player which is what we want to use. Also there were many parts that were cut out completely. I tried WinDV and it did not work. We run a corporation and can't take chances with freeware infecting our PC'S. Money is no object. Since 2015 we have used a Canon Vixia HD with an SD card. It's so easy. We simply dump the SD card to the PC. The format it is in is MP4. We can play it in Windows Media Player. Cornucopia was nice enough to reply last time I posted this six months ago. He mentioned only convert to MP4 if that is the final product. We will want to trim some of the video. We think that is the term for cutting the parts out that you don't need. I hope there is a way to trim MP4 video because we have hundreds of hours from 2015 on that can never be trimmed since they were recorded with the Vixia SD card. First we need a software program that will be able record through PCI-E firewire IEEE 1394 three port fire wire that is installed in our PC. Some of these were recorded with a mini dv HD camcorder so we want to keep the HD quality for those tapes. This has been a project for many years that we have not been able to do. Any help is appreciated. Thank you, Cathy We tried paying a friend $1000 to do it and he made mistakes. I'd be defriending them! Problem 1: Trim MP4sAnswer: Videoredo. This fantastic program will cut up your MP4s (and just about any other video file) and losslessly save them in the original format if they were MP4 or MPEG. Or it will re-encode your DV files into MP4 after you have trimmed them. It will also join files together. VideoRedo is a "half-way" editor: you can select the bits throughout the file you want to get rid of, to frame-accuracy. It has basic intro titling and cutting (fade, hard or blend/dissolve) so for trimming and cutting out bad bits, it is brilliant. And it does this without re-encoding your video, provided you save it in the same format, which in your case would be MP4.Problem 2: MiniDV CaptureFor Standard Definition DV, use WinDV as mentioned by Ocotber262. I can vouch for it's safety; I have used it for years and it's fine.For High Definition DV ie HDV, use HDVSplit (again. safe). It works in a similar way to WinDV. All it does is dump your HDV DV files (which are really MPEGs) onto your computer. After you have your DV (SD or HDV) files on your computer, you can then trim/edit them with VideoRedo and save them in MP4 format.If one of you catch the video bug, you can then move up to a more fully-featured video editing program. Last edited by Alwyn; 1st Jun 2021 at 00:47. Reason: Revised VideoRedo info. The benefit of mp4 is the space & birate savings, due in large part by the efficient LongGOP compression. The detriment of mp4 is the complexity, and difficulty of editing, due in large part by the efficient LongGOP compression. In other words, if you start with dv it would have made sense to both capture and edit in dv before encoding to your final destination format.Since it sounds like many of those clips are not dv anymore but mp4 (assuming h264 codec), your choices appear to be:1. Redo the work but capture using dv this time.2. If the current quality of the mp4 is acceptable, and your edits are simple and general (not tightly time-specific), you could stick with these and just edit on the GOP boundaries (which might be 1/2sec or less, up to 5 or 10 seconds). Avidemux is a good non-reencoding (aka smart) GOP-level editor for this.3. If you don't want to recapture, or can't, and you need finer edits, it is probably best to convert to a lossless codec (which will likely be 10x to 50x the size of the original mp4), edit and master with that, and then convert to your final format (which very well may be mp4/h264 again). Yes, you have to reconvert multiple times, but only one of them (the last one) is lossy, so you will only incur one more generation of loss, which is the next best thing to no loss. Scott Originally Posted by Cornucopia 3. If you don't want to recapture, or can't, and you need finer edits, it is probably best to convert to a lossless codec (which will likely be 10x to 50x the size of the original mp4), edit and master with that, and then convert to your final format (which very well may be mp4/h264 again). Yes, you have to reconvert multiple times, but only one of them (the last one) is lossy, so you will only incur one more generation of loss, which is the next best thing to no loss. Apart from the US$95.99 (money is no object, according to the OP) why would you do all that when VideoRedo will do it in a few clicks? I stand corrected, VideoRedo will do fades between cuts. I wasn't aware of that. Originally Posted by VideoRedo website Select automatic smooth transitions or fast jump cuts.With a single setting, TVSuite Version 6 lets you choose between jump cuts, or fades and dissolves for professional looking output. And it does intro titles. Last edited by Alwyn; 1st Jun 2021 at 00:45. I've been using SmartCutter for years works even on multi track m2ts blu-ray files. Originally Posted by Alwyn We tried paying a friend $1000 to do it and he made mistakes. I'd be defriending them! Problem 1: Trim MP4s Answer: Videoredo. This fantastic program will cut up your MP4s (and just about any other video file) and losslessly save them in the original format if they were MP4 or MPEG. Or it will re-encode your DV files into MP4 after you have trimmed them. It will also join files together. VideoRedo is a "half-way" editor: you can select the bits throughout the file you want to get rid of, to frame-accuracy. It has basic intro titling and cutting (fade, hard or blend/dissolve) so for trimming and cutting out bad bits, it is brilliant. And it does this without re-encoding your video, provided you save it in the same format, which in your case would be MP4. Problem 2: MiniDV Capture For Standard Definition DV, use WinDV as mentioned by Ocotber262. I can vouch for it's safety; I have used it for years and it's fine. For High Definition DV ie HDV, use HDVSplit (again. safe). It works in a similar way to WinDV. All it does is dump your HDV DV files (which are really MPEGs) onto your computer. After you have your DV (SD or HDV) files on your computer, you can then trim/edit them with VideoRedo and save them in MP4 format. If one of you catch the video bug, you can then move up to a more fully-featured video editing program. Alwyn, thank you for the response. Why do we need three different programs? WinDV does not work at all. We have tried it. About five months we captured a two minute clip to test it. Then ever since then nothing captured. Just a blank screen. Would the HDVSplit also capture SD? Saw a Youtube video from two years ago where a gentlemen used Pinnacle studio 20 to do everything. Called their sales office and the said the new version does not capture mini dv tapes. She did not sound like she knew much so she may be wrong. Thank you C-Leigh, you'll certainly need something like VideoRedo to edit your MP4s. I most certainly would not recommend Scott's method. It's not that hard. Second, I am a bit confused about your MiniDVs. Could you mentioned "HD" which I took to mean HD video (or HDV) which is recorded by some video older cameras. Could you please tell us what model tape video camera you have (not your Vixia), and confirm that the tapes are actually "MiniDV" tapes? We'll then know exactly what you'll need to capture the video from your tapes. Regarding Pinnacle Studio, it can record/import DV: Originally Posted by Alwyn C-Leigh, you'll certainly need something like VideoRedo to edit your MP4s. I most certainly would not recommend Scott's method. It's not that hard. Second, I am a bit confused about your MiniDVs. Could you mentioned "HD" which I took to mean HD video (or HDV) which is recorded by some video older cameras. Could you please tell us what model tape video camera you have (not your Vixia), and confirm that the tapes are actually "MiniDV" tapes? We'll then know exactly what you'll need to capture the video from your tapes. Regarding Pinnacle Studio, it can record/import DV: Alwyn, the SD (Standard Definition) mini DV tapes were recorded with Canon GL-1 (1999-2009). The HD (High Definition) mini DV tapes were recorded with a Sony HDR-FX7 (2010-2014). We want to ensure the HD quality is transferred properly for the HD tapes. Since 2015 we have used Canon Vixia HF G30 which uses an SD card that can transfer the recordings. We see all the video clips are in MP4 format which is great for us because we use Windows Media Player to view it. Are you saying we can use Pinnacle Studio to transfer SD and HD tapes? From there we use VideoRedo to edit out the parts of me or my husband recording the ground or recording with the lens cap on? lol Now I know the topic title is 'Software for....' but since the tried and tested software for Mini-Dv (SD) >> WinDv stopped working then surely that must be addressed. Solve that and you will be able to capture both SD and HD DV - yes, different programs are required. According to your PC specs you are using Windows10. The issue could be a quite simple one. Some updates ago Microsoft removed support for IEEE1394 (Firewire) controllers. The driver for your card - since these rely on Ms and not a bespoke one - could have been removed in that update. So check Windows Device Manager to see if a driver is active. If not you will require the Windows8 legacy driver to be installed. Now if you happen to have a PC with Windows7 around then installing the card in to that and all your troubles could magically vanish. Originally Posted by c-leigh Originally Posted by Alwyn C-Leigh, you'll certainly need something like VideoRedo to edit your MP4s. I most certainly would not recommend Scott's method. It's not that hard. Second, I am a bit confused about your MiniDVs. Could you mentioned "HD" which I took to mean HD video (or HDV) which is recorded by some video older cameras. Could you please tell us what model tape video camera you have (not your Vixia), and confirm that the tapes are actually "MiniDV" tapes? We'll then know exactly what you'll need to capture the video from your tapes.Regarding Pinnacle Studio, it can record/import DV: Alwyn, the SD (Standard Definition) mini DV tapes were recorded with Canon GL-1 (1999-2009). The HD (High Definition) mini DV tapes were recorded with a Sony HDR-FX7 (2010-2014). We want to ensure the HD quality is transferred properly for the HD tapes. Since 2015 we have used Canon Vixia HF G30 which uses an SD card that can transfer the recordings. We see all the video clips are in MP4 format which is great for us because we use Windows Media Player to view it. Are you saying we can use Pinnacle Studio to transfer SD and HD tapes? From there we use VideoRedo to edit out the parts of me or my husband recording the ground or recording with the lens cap on? lol the sony hdr-fx7 is an HDV cam. you have to use HDVsplit to transfer the files from the HDV cam tape to the computer over firewire. you can't use a minDV cam or winDV with HDV tapes. -- "a lot of people are better dead" - prisoner KSC2-303 Originally Posted by Alwyn Originally Posted by Cornucopia 3. If you don't want to recapture, or can't, and you need finer edits, it is probably best to convert to a lossless codec (which will likely be 10x to 50x the size of the original mp4), edit and master with that, and then convert to your final format (which very well may be mp4/h264 again). Yes, you have to reconvert multiple times, but only one of them (the last one) is lossy, so you will only incur one more generation of loss, which is the next best thing to no loss. Apart from the US$95.99 (money is no object, according to the OP) why would you do all that when VideoRedo will do it in a few clicks? That is certainly an option. But... 1. Not that familiar with VideoReDo, but if it isn't a smart re-encoding editor, then any edits will incur another generation of quality loss. That must be factored into the equation. 2. Depends on the machine, but LongGOP editing can sometimes be difficult and/or less responsive. If the edit tasks are light, maybe this won't be an issue. But it does add up if the tasks mount as well. 3. If those tasks are minor (e.g. top & tail edits, scene extraction/removal), why pay money when Avidemux can do it for free? Scott C-Leigh, thanks for the info on your cameras. GL1/DV I've done some trials here with WinDV and I can't get it to work. It may work with your GL1, I'm not sure. Here is a guide for WinDV: Don't waste any time on it; if it doesn't work, you can try Scenealyzer, which does work on my Win 10 system with my Sony DV camera. In my case,WinDV showed a "Microsoft DV Camera and VCR" but when I selected that, it immediately showed the error message "Can't find DV output pin". Note you have to insert the licence code, which is included in the ZIP archive. It captures from my Sony with no issues. No guide yet; I'll try to make one up shortly but quickly: 1. Start Scenealyzer 2. Click the capture Folder button at the top and set you capture folder 3. Connect your GL1: it should appear in the list on the left as "Microsoft DV Camera and VCR" 4. To start capture: Capture>Start capturing. You'll see the captured video appearing in the main window. 5. To stop capturing: Capture>Stop Capturing. HDR-FX7/HDV As aedipuss has said, you'll need HDVSplit to capture for this. I have no trouble with HDVSplit on my Canon HDV camera. I haven't done a guide for it yet. Run it as an administrator (RC on the exe file and choose Run as Admin). Also, In my case, when I click the Record button with the tape fully rewound, the recording will stop. Wait for a few seconds until all the buttons become alive again, then hit Record and you'll be in business. You won't get a Preview unless you install FFDShow but we'll worry about that later! Fingers crossed you don't have to go down DB83's of a separate Win 7 computer to capture your tapes. Are you saying we can use Pinnacle Studio to transfer SD and HD tapes? From there we use VideoRedo to edit out the parts of me or my husband recording the ground or recording with the lens cap on? lol Yes, the blurb says yes. My editor (Movie Edit Pro) also captures DV and HDV. The disadvantage is only minor: you have not control over the filenames/splits for each file. I like having each scene as a separate file for archive purposes. If you have put (or imported from your cameras) your files (MP4, DV or HDV) into a project in Pinnacle Studio (for example), you can do all your editing there and will have no need for VideoRedo. I remember a Funniest Home Video once of an old bloke discussing with his wife whether he was holding his video camera correctly; he was pointing it straight at his face! It was hilarious. Scott, VideoRedo is a frame-accurate editor, and it will smart-render everything you give it apart from the actual edited bits eg cuts. Long-GOPs? What are they? It just works; easy to set multiple cut points throughout the video and you can see them all before you hit Save As. Multiple options for cursor control/Advance as well. Last edited by Alwyn; 1st Jun 2021 at 22:27. Ok, so yes those smart-render EDITED sections will incur additional quality loss. The OP needs to be aware of that fact. Scott Last edited by Cornucopia; 2nd Jun 2021 at 00:20. Scott, please stop going on about this. The edits would be a straight cut or at most a few frames on a fade or blend. What would you do? Convert it all to uncompressed RGB then completely re-render the whole file in MP4? Be practical.For any normal person, they will never notice a fully rendered fade transition. I certainly don't. In any case, how else are you going to have a fade in a video? A new feature called smart-fades, perhaps? I don't think anybody needs to be told that a fade or cut is going to require a re-render of that tiny portion of the video. There is no other practical option so what's the point of worrying about it? I believe frame accurate editors like VideoRedo and SmartCutter just re-arrange the frames pockets with minimal visual quality loss in the micro seconds time, I don't think they will transcode the video or lower quality dramatically, But I'm not a video professional so that's just my understanding on how it works.Here is a copy-paste from Fame-Ring website about frame accuracy: What is Frame Accuracy? Movies are often digitally compressed before stored. There are key frames and non-key frames in compressed movies. Non-key frames can NOT be displayed without key frames, while key frames can be displayed INDEPENDENTLY. The functionality to locate and display each frame correctly, no matter key or non-key, is called