The first 2 pages of this guide pertains to importing already created videos into iMovie. Once imported, they can be digitized. Your video can be saved to DVD or as a file saved on removeable media (i.e. flash drive or external hard disk drive). The remainder of this guide will help you with editing, enhancing and saving your video projects.

**Importing**

You can Import Media two ways. By clicking on the arrow on the file menu or selecting Import Media arrow icon.

**Import window**

Please make sure you have selected the correct import device or camera.

Below the Canopus ADVC-55 video capture camera/device is selected.

Click play on the tape device and import on the Import window to begin importing the video into iMovie. When the tape selection is finished, click Stop to stop the import and Close to close the Import window. For photos or files, click or Cmd-click to select multiple. Click Import.

**If you do not see the Canopus ADVC-55 listed, make sure the connection is secure on the back of the Mac. You may need to restart the Mac after you plug the cables back in.**
Digital conversion of analog media.
(VHS, DVD or Mini DV tapes)

** Please be aware of copyright laws related to the video you will be using. U.S. Copyright law governs the use of copyrighted materials. Those using copyrighted materials are liable for any infringement.

Mac #15 and #16 VHS/DVD Setup. Mac #13 and #14 MINI DV Tape

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Mac’s #15 & #16 workstations are setup for VHS or DVD conversion. Both work stations are equipped with a VHS/DVD player, Canopus ADVC-55 Video capture camera/device and a Firewire hub. Mac’s #13 and #14 are equipped with the Mini DV tape drives.

** TV: ** Push the large round button on the back (right side) of the television to power/turn on the television.

Insert the VHS tape into the left side of the VCR player. Insertion of the tape will automatically power on the player. Insert DVD into right side of the player. Push the Source selector to play either VHS or DVD’s.

Mini DV tapes can be inserted into the Mini DV tape drive. The tape does not play automatically. Push play button to begin.

*** The VHS/DVD device does not record

Play a portion of the tape or DVD on the VCR/DVD player to make sure it will play without any issues. After you view the tape, make sure you have the VHS tape or DVD set to the beginning (rewind for VHS) or a specific spot (Location) on the media.

On the Mac, open iMovie to create your project. The iMovie icon should be visible on the dock at the bottom of the screen.
The **Project Browser** is where you build your video. Add clips from the event browser, still photos, audio, text and transitions to this browser.

Drag Selected clips from the **Event Browser** into the **Project Browser**.

You will need to follow this process even if you are not going to make edits to the imported video. After your clips are in the **Project Browser**, follow the instructions for **Saving and Exporting** included in this documentation.
Audio Enhancements

Volume Adjustment (adjust for louder or softer audio levels)

Noise Reduction (to reduce background noise) and Equalizer (to enhance vocal quality)

Clip Filter & Audio Adjust (video and audio effects)

Add a Voiceover

Use these features to enhance, correct or add to your video production!

Toolbar Selections

Use the Record Voiceover Button.

To start recording, click a clip where you want the voiceover to begin.

Alter the choice of microphone, volume, left and right audio, and noise using the dialogue box that appears.
**Video Enhancements**

**Backgrounds and Maps**
Informational graphics and interesting **Backgrounds**.
Create zoom, fade or screen wipe **Transitions**.

**Transitions**

**Color Balance**
Automatically adjust clips color casts maximizing contrast in your videos.

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**Credits & Text Editing**

To add **Text** you must first select **Titles**.
Options for different types of text and credits will appear in the **Titles** section.
Click and drag your choice into the **Project Window**.
Either drag directly before or after the video. Or if you wish to have the text over the video drag onto a clip.

Click **Show Fonts** from the menu bar to edit your video further. Select **fonts** or **colors**.
From the **File** menu select **Share** then **File**. This process will create a file so that you can “burn” it to a DVD. You can also save it to removable media. (i.e. external hard disk or flash drive)

The **File** window will open. Add a **Description** of your file in this window.

Click **Next**. Give your document a name in the **Save As** box. Click **Save** and the “share” process will begin. Upon completion, the **Share Successful** window will show in the upper right hand corner of your Mac desktop. Click **Close**. You are ready to view your completed video.
### iMovie Supported Video Formats

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Format</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>MPEG-4 (.mp4)</strong></td>
<td>MPEG-4 Part 14 or MP4, a digital multimedia format used to store video and audio, but also store subtitles and still images. It will be the best video format for iMovie, in case you want a smaller video file size. Also known as H.264.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>QuickTime Movie (.mov)</strong></td>
<td>This file format specifies a multimedia file containing one or more tracks, each of which stores a particular type of data: audio, video, effects, or text (e.g. for subtitles). Popularly known as MOV, it is a format that you can use to export files even to many other formats. It's highly compatible and common with both audio and video exports to iMovie.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MPEG-2</strong></td>
<td>Also known as H.222/H.262, it is the core of most digital television and DVD formats.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AVCHD</strong></td>
<td>Short for Advanced Video Coding High Definition. It is a file-based format for the digital recording and playback of high-definition video.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DV &amp; HDV</strong></td>
<td>The format for storing digital video recorded by camcorder. It will be the best video format because it is uncompressed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DV and AIC</strong></td>
<td>These are two formats that are common for exporting files to iMovie. Use the two when you intend to have additional editing done to the files as well as maintain the high quality. DV and AIC formats are known to create large file sizes. Their compatibility levels are equally high.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>JPEG</strong></td>
<td>This format is used to export both video and still pictures to iMovie as a compressed file. Its size is usually half the normal size of other formats. Output quality is high.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AAC</strong></td>
<td>AAC produces files in small sizes but that in no way compromises on the final quality. It is known for producing one of the best quality files after exportation.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What is the difference between the DVD-R and DVD+R formats?

Answer: DVD-R (pronounced "DVD dash R") and DVD+R (pronounced "DVD plus R") are nearly identical formats. The discs look the same and are both supported by most DVD-ROM drives and DVD burners. The only difference between the formats is the way they determine the location of the laser beam on the disc. DVD-R discs use tiny marks along the grooves in the discs, called land prepits, to determine the laser position. DVD+R discs do not have land prepits, but instead measure the "wobble frequency" as the laser moves toward the outside of the disc.

The DVD-R format was developed by Pioneer and was released in the second half of 1997. DVD+R was developed by Sony and Philips and was introduced in 2002. Companies that support DVD-R include Pioneer, Toshiba, Hitachi, and Panasonic, while companies that support DVD+R include Sony, Philips, Hewlett-Packard, Ricoh, and Yamaha.

However, most of these companies now develop hybrid DVD drives that support both DVD-R and DVD+R formats. They are known as DVD-R or DVD+RW drives. When looking for media for your DVD drive, make sure it ends in "-R" if you have a DVD-R drive or "+R" if you have a DVD+R drive. If you have a DVD-R drive, you can use either format. DVD-R is still more popular than DVD+R, but since they are both widely supported, it should not matter which format you choose.

June 16, 2005 – by Per Christensson

Category: Hardware