

VHS Tape to MiniDV Camcorder (used as a converter) to a DVD

You need the following:

VCR - with RCA outputs in the back or front (newer models)

Stereo Video Cable - mini to 3 RCA, yellow-video, red and white-audio)

MiniDV Camcorder - allows you to make it a digital converter. Not all cameras have this feature.

Firewire Cable - connects your camcorder to your computer.

Editing program/DVD authoring program - importing recorded footage and creating a DVD
(iMovie and iDVD on an Apple)

On the VCR, connect the yellow (video) and red & white (audio) cables to the OUT of the VCR. The other mini end (headphone size plug) goes in to the AV In/Out port of a camcorder. Place VHS tape in VCR.

Turn on the camcorder to Play/VCR mode and go to the Menu. Open the VCR set up - Select AV>DV Out to ON. This changes the analog signal of the VHS tape to a digital signal that the computer will understand. If your camcorder does not have this feature, you'll have to look for another camcorder.

Plug in a firewire cable (4 pin) on camcorder and then to computer (6 pin). Open editing program (iMovie). In iMovie, after a few seconds, it should recognize that you plugged in a camcorder.

Your VHS image should appear on the iMovie screen. The controls in iMovie will not work for rewind/forward so you'll have to do that with the VCR remote control. Import what you want and edit what you want. If this does not work, try turning off the camera, then turning it on after all has been connected.

Export your edited work to a DVD program (I use iDVD on an Apple which sends it directly to iDVD with a few simple menu commands). All of my work is done on an Apple, so if you have an Apple, you're in good shape. If you have a PC, I can't help with your editing software, but hopefully a tech person at your school could help.

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