

How to Capture Video from a Digital Camcorder

Equipment needed: Digital camcorder, firewire cable, computer with firewire connection

Software needed: Adobe Premiere

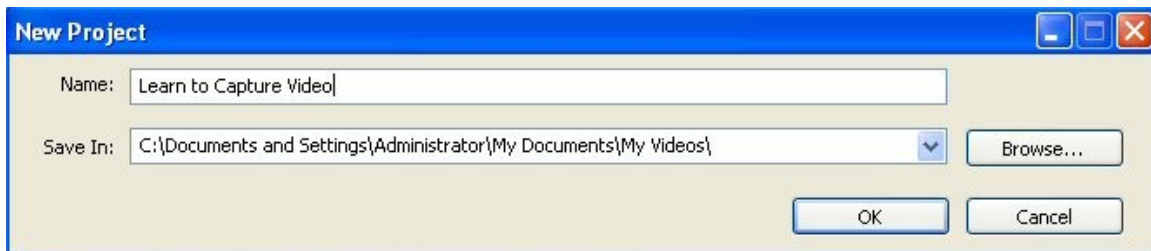
Note: Digital camcorders do not normally come with a firewire cable; you must purchase it separately. There are two types of firewire connections – four-pin and six-pin. Before you purchase a firewire cable, you need to know what type of connections are available to you. Check the documentation that came with your camera. Chances are the firewire connection on your camera is a four-pin connection. Then check your computer to see if the firewire connection is four-pin or six-pin. Depending on what you find, you may need a four-pin to four-pin, four-pin to six-pin or six-pin to six-pin cable. These vary widely according to manufacturer, so check before you buy!! We have both four-to-four and four-to-six pin firewire cables available in the LRC.

Once you have determined that you have a firewire connection on your camera, the next thing to check is whether you have a firewire connection on your computer. Most new computers do indeed have a firewire connection; older computers may not. So what do you do if you don't have one? You have two choices:

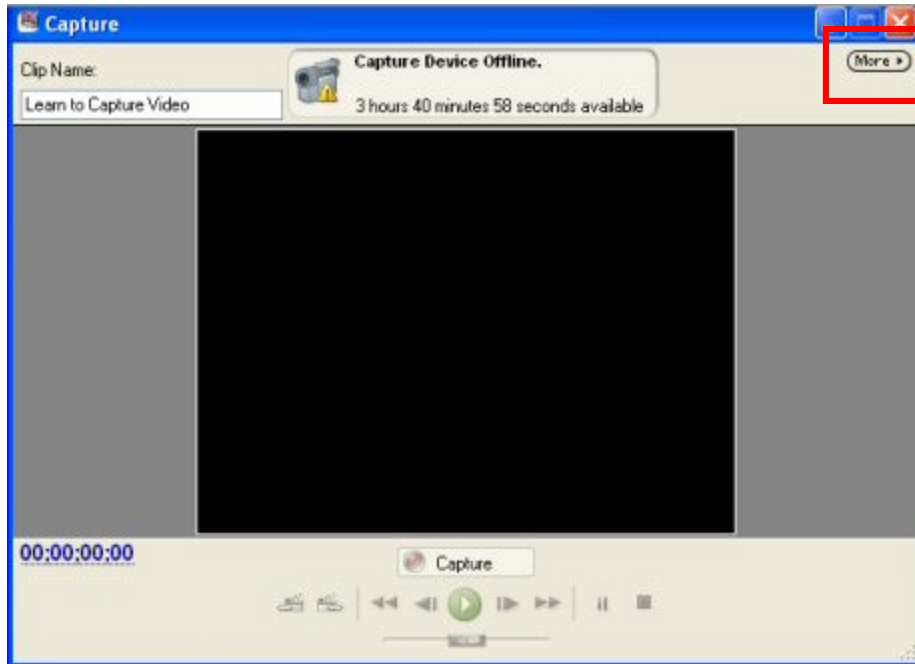
- If your laptop does not have firewire, you can purchase a firewire card that slips into a slot on your computer and provides you with a firewire connection (cost is about \$60.00)
- If your computer does not have firewire, you will need to buy a firewire card that must be installed. These vary in price, but an average cost would be about \$50.00. Once we get our new computers in late August 2005, all computers in the LRC will have a firewire port built in.

Once you've gathered up your hardware (camera, computer and firewire cable to connect the two), you're ready to begin. Connect one end of the firewire cable to your camera and the other end to the firewire connection on your computer. Turn on your camera.

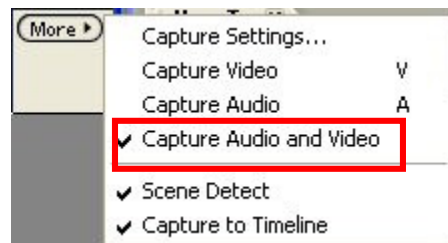
1. Launch Adobe Premiere Elements. At the welcome screen select "Capture Video."
2. When the following dialogue box opens up, name your project and select a folder to save it into (click on "Browse" then navigate to the folder you want to use to store your project), then click OK.



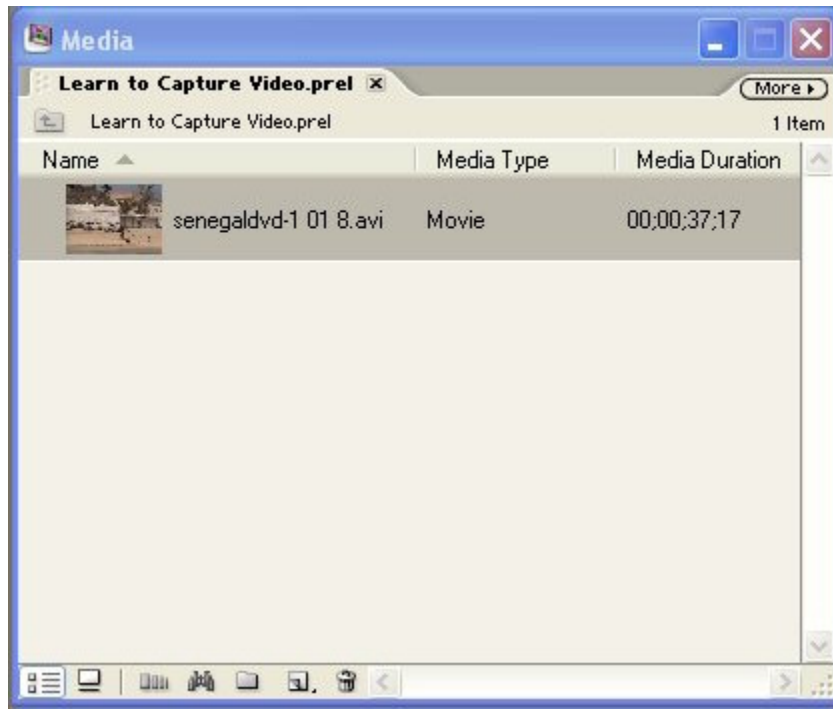
3. Once you click OK, you will enter Premiere Elements and the Capture screen will be front and center:



4. Let's double-check the settings before we begin. In Premiere, it is possible to capture just audio, just video or both audio and video from your camera. We want to be sure we get both, so click on the **More** button in the upper right hand corner of the capture window and be sure the option to capture both audio and video is checked:



5. Press **PLAY** on your camera to begin playing the footage you shot. As it plays, you will see the video in the preview screen above.
6. When you get to the point in the video where you want to begin capturing, simply press the green capture button at the bottom of the screen. When you get to the end of what you want to capture, press the stop button (the capture button will automatically turn to a red stop button once capture begins). Don't worry if you start a little too soon or end a little beyond where you want to go. You can always edit out the extra footage later.
7. Once you click STOP, a thumbnail of the clip you have just captured is placed in the media window to the left of the capture window. It is now ready to be used in your own personal video. Each successive capture will produce an additional thumbnail in the media window. Remember that the actual clip is being saved in the folder you selected before you began. By default, the video format for capturing is .avi.



Here's the thumbnail of the clip I just captured. The media window also tells me that this clip is 37+ seconds long.

That's all there is to video capture from a digital camcorder. Easy, isn't it??!!

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