

How to Capture Video from a VHS Tape

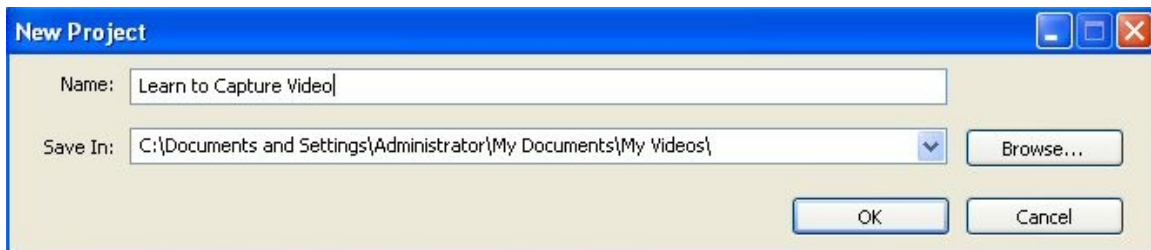
Equipment needed: Computer, VCR, Dazzle device, RCA cables

Software needed: Adobe Premiere Elements

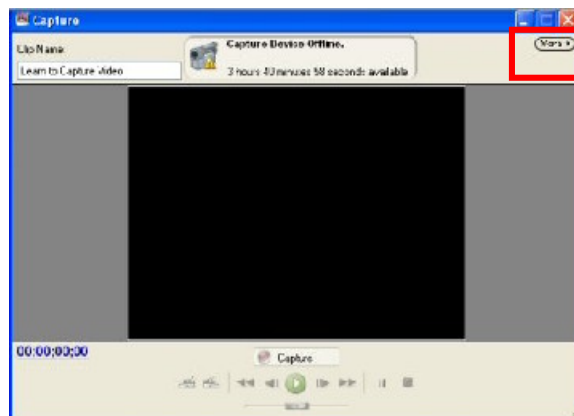
In order to capture video from a VHS tape, you will need not only a computer and a VCR but also a device to connect the two. There is no way to connect a computer directly to a VCR; you will need an intermediary device. In the LRC, that intermediary device is called a Dazzle. It provides the necessary connections between the VCR and the computer. If you are interested in purchasing one for home use, they range in price from \$70 (Dazzle 80) to \$80 (Dazzle 90) all the way to the deluxe model for \$150 (Dazzle 150). You can check out the various models at http://www.pinnaclesys.com/VideoEditing.asp?Category_ID=1&Langue_ID=7&Family=24. In the faculty workroom, the VCR is connected to the computer via a deluxe Dazzle device and is all ready for you to use. The VCR that is connected to it will play both NTSC and PAL tapes.

Once the connection is made from the computer, through the Dazzle, and on to the VCR, the capture process is a simple one. Turn on the computer, turn on the VCR, and insert your tape in the VCR. Then:

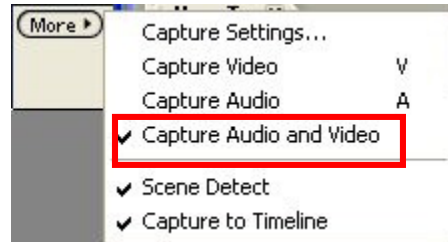
1. Launch Adobe Premiere Elements. At the welcome screen select "Capture Video."
2. When the following dialogue box opens up, name your project and select a folder to save it into (click on "Browse" then navigate to the folder you want to use to store your project), then click OK.



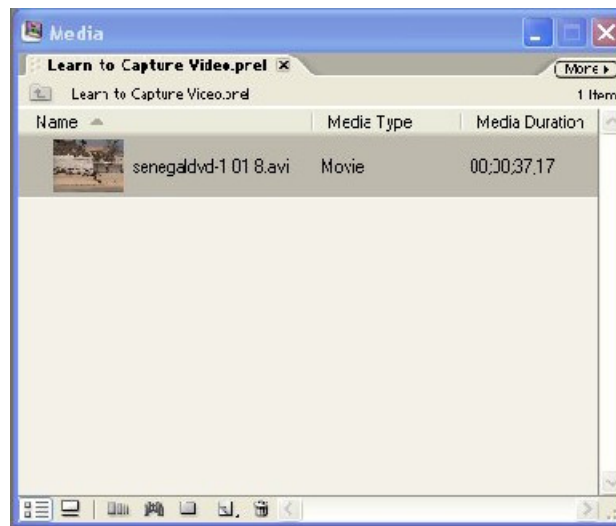
3. Once you click OK, you will enter Premiere Elements and the Capture screen will be front and center:



- 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:



- Press **PLAY** on the VCR to begin playing the movie. As it plays, you will see the video in the preview screen above.
- 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.
- 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 VHS tape. Easy, isn't it??!!

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