

Saving Stuff: Converting VHS to DVD

What to bring:

- A VHS tape
- A blank DVD-R
- Note: If you have the VHS mini tapes, you'll need an Adaptor to allow it to play in a VCR.

How much to bring:

- A DVD-R holds 2 hours of video.
- A standard VHS tape also holds 2 hours of video, unless it was recorded in extended or long play mode. In that case it may have anywhere from 4 to 8 hours of video if the entire tape was used. Bring extra DVDs if you are not sure.

How long does it take?

The conversion is in real time. Expect to stay as long as it takes to play through your VHS tape, plus an extra 10-20 minutes of processing time.

Can I edit my videos?

The converter burns a playable DVD, which is a DVD that will be recognized by a standard DVD player. The Digital Media Center has software to "rip" the video from your playable DVD, which you can then edit and burn to either a data DVD or a playable DVD format. Video files can also be saved to USB drives or portable hard drives if you wish to upload them to Youtube or Facebook, or simply keep a digital copy.

What if I need help?

Stop by the Digital Media Center during staffed hours. Staffed hours are listed on the DMC calendar online: www.athenslibrary.org/athens/services/dmc/calendar.

If you have any questions, please send us a message through our Contact Us form: www.athenslibrary.org/athens/services/dmc/dmc-cu or call us at 706-613-3650.

Things to know:

- The Converter will NOT warn you if you go beyond the capacity of the DVD. Keep an eye on the counter on the front. When you get close to 2 hours, stop the tape and finalize the disc. Then insert a new DVD and repeat the conversion process from the current stopped point on the tape. It is recommended to set an alarm on your phone if you are reading a book or checking email while converting your tapes to avoid missing the mark. The DVD will fail if you go over 2 hours, and all of your conversion work will be lost.
- The Converter records exactly what you see on the screen. Tapes in poor condition which play with lines and static will lead to poor quality DVDs with lines and static. The Converter has auto-tracking adjustment.
- If the tape has a blank section of more than 3 minutes, the dubbing will automatically stop even if you do not press the STOP button. If the converter stops automatically, fast forward your tape to make sure there isn't additional video which might be missed.
- There are no speakers connected to the converter, however, rest assured that the audio is being recorded along with the video.