VHS-C Digitization Guide

What type of tape do you have?

VHS-C is a common home camcorder format. VHS-C tapes can be played in a regular VCR using an adapter. The adapter can be found in the memory lab drawer. Ask a staff member for help if you don't see it.
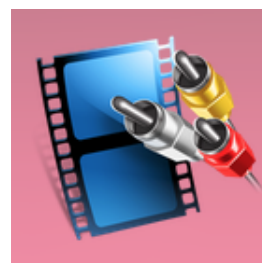
Load your VHS-C tape into the VHS adapter.

Load the adapter tape into the VCR. Press the VCR Mode button (red arrow), then rewind your tape by turning the scroll wheel counterclockwise.

Click on the "Elgato" icon at the bottom of the screen to open the Elgato Video Capture software.
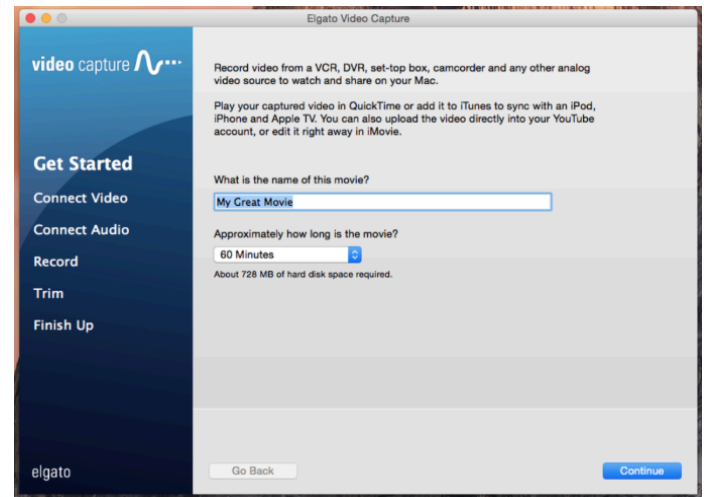
Type a name for your movie.
This can be changed later, so don't worry if
you don't know what's on your tape yet.

There will also be an option to choose your
approximate tape length. You can leave this
set to 120 minutes. It's mainly used for giving
an estimated file size.

Click "Continue."

Press play on the VCR.

Make sure your video is playing on the screen.
Click "Continue."

Make sure you hear audio coming from your tape.
To adjust the volume, use the volume buttons at the top right of the computer keyboard.
Click "Continue."

You'll see two options to automatically stop your recording after 60 minutes and mute the
sound. Most users leave these unchecked.

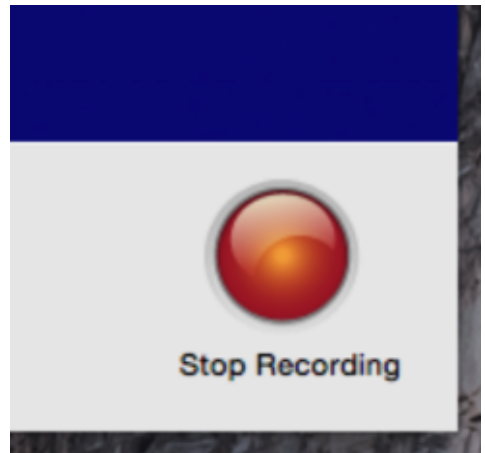**Rewind your tape all the way again.**
You're now ready to digitize!

**Press Play on your tape and immediately click "Start
Recording" in ElGato.** The button should turn from red to
orange and a counter will begin.

Your tape will play into the computer in real time.
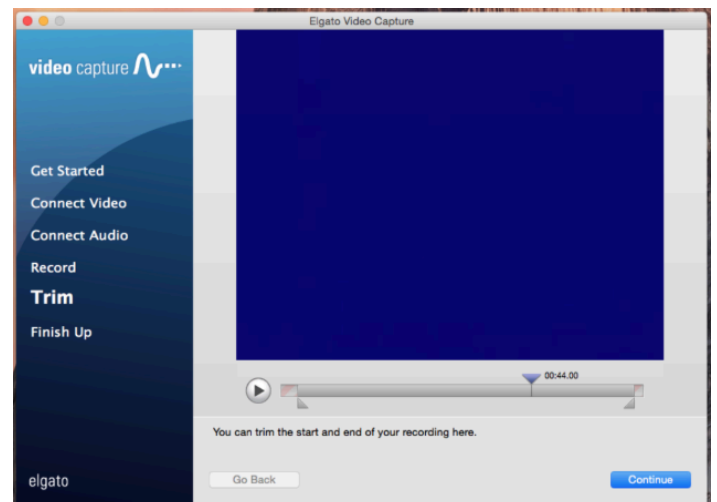**This means a 2 hour tape will take 2 hours to digitize.**

When the video is finished playing, click the "Stop Recording" button.

Here, you can trim the beginning and end of your recording (optional).
Click and drag the gray triangles to trim the beginning and end of your video.

Click "Continue" when you are done.

Your video will be saved as an MP4 file in the Movies folder.
To store the file on your removable drive, insert a flash drive or external hard drive into the USB ports beneath the monitor. An icon for your drive should appear on the computer's desktop. Drag your .MP4 file from the Movies folder to your external drive.

If you have questions, please ask our staff to help you make sure your files are saved correctly before you leave. All user data is erased from the computer each day.