

# VHS Digitization Guide

## What type of tape do you have?

**VHS Tapes** were the most common consumer video tape between about 1980 and the early 2000s.



**S-VHS (Super VHS) Tapes** were a less common, higher quality version. They look identical but have a S-VHS logo.



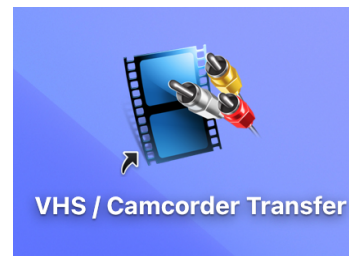
You can digitize both types of tapes in the DIY Memory Lab. The process is the same for each.

## Load your tape into the VCR.

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



**Double Click the VHS/Camcorder Transfer icon** on the desktop to open Elgato Video Capture software.

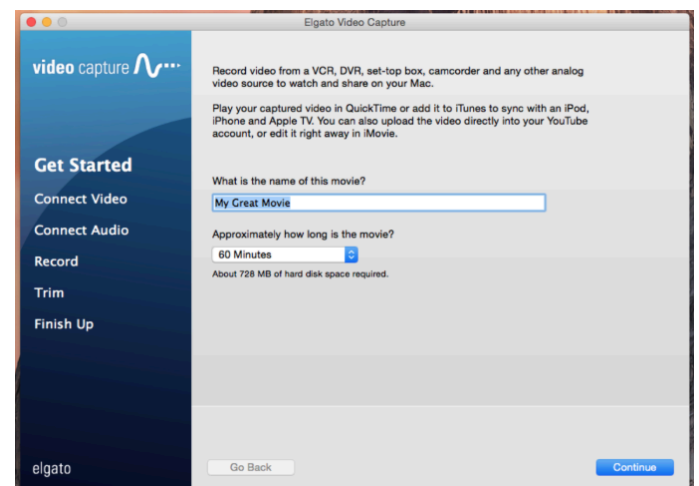


## Type a name for your movie.

This can be changed later, so don't worry if you don't know what's on your tape yet.

Don't adjust the approximate length. Leave it set to 120 minutes.

Click "Continue."



**Press play on the VCR.**

Make sure your video is playing on the computer screen.

**Click “Continue.”**

Make sure you hear audio coming from your tape.

To adjust the playback volume, use the volume knob towards the top of the equipment rack to your right.

**Click “Continue.”**

You’ll see two options to automatically stop your recording after 60 minutes and mute the sound. **Leave these unchecked.**

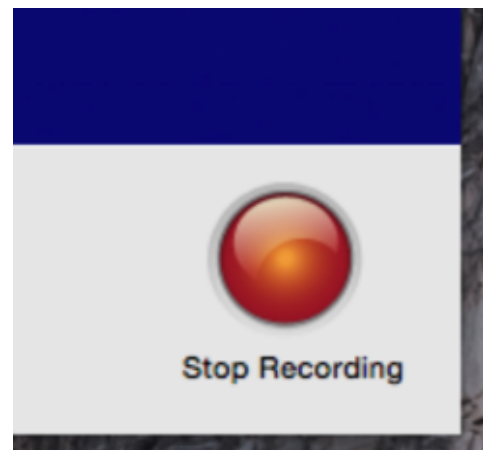
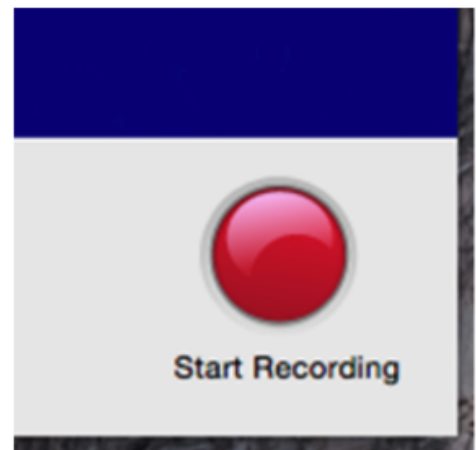
**Rewind your tape all the way again.**

You’re now ready to digitize.

**Press Play on your tape and immediately click “Start Recording” in EIGato.** 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.**

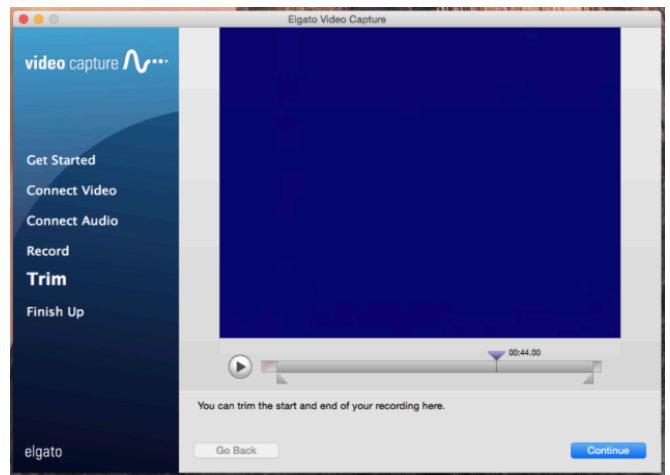
**When the video is finished playing,**  
**click the “Stop Recording” button.**



**Here, you can trim the recording.**

*(Not recommended unless you have a large amount of blue screen or static at the beginning or end of your video file.)*

Click and drag the gray triangles to slightly trim excess blue screen or static from the beginning and end of your recording. The red bars represent the portion of the video that will be deleted. Be careful not to delete your entire video! The gray triangles should only be moved slightly.



**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 and the left hand sidebar of the Finder. 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.**