

How to make a high-quality or uncompressed mini-DV

For a film to look sharp on the large movie screen, it needs to be much less compressed than it is in DVD format. Your completed film can be output from your computer onto a mini-DV by using your movie camera, following the steps below.

Using iMovie

1. Set your camera to VTR mode (some cameras call this VCR or Play mode) and insert a blank mini-DV tape (the tape must be at least as long as your movie).
2. Connect your camera to your computer using a FireWire cable.
3. Choose File > Share.
4. Click "Videocamera" and set the number of seconds you want to allow for the camera to get ready and the seconds of black to begin or end the movie. Watch out! It is important to let the recording device you are using "record" for about 5 seconds before you "play" the source device. If you "play" and "record" at the same time you might miss the very beginning of your video because the recorder needs to be fully engaged to work properly.
5. Click "Share".

Using Final Cut Pro

1. Set your camera to VTR mode (some cameras call this VCR or Play mode) and insert a blank tape (the tape must be at least as long as your movie).
2. Connect your camera to your computer using a FireWire cable.
3. Choose File > Print to Video.
4. A prompt will appear and ask you if you want to lay bars/tone, black, a slate, etc. Also check to make sure you are correctly either printing "Marked in/out" or entire media.
5. Press Record on your camera and then ok on the computer. Click "Videocamera" and set the number of seconds you want to allow for the camera to get ready and the seconds of black to begin or end the movie. Watch out! It is important to let the recording device you are using "record" for about 5 seconds before you "play" the source device. If you "play" and "record" at the same time you might miss the very beginning of your video because the recorder needs to be fully engaged to work properly.