DIGITAL CONVERTING: VIDEO 8 TO MP4

Photos and instructions are for the Video 8 camcorder and Video 8 tapes.
The Video 8 camcorder does not work with Hi8 tapes. See below for more info.

Elgato Video Capture

The Elgato Video Capture device connects analog devices — like the Video 8 camcorder — to the computer. Once connected, the Elgato Video Capture software will record the video and convert it to MP4 digital format.
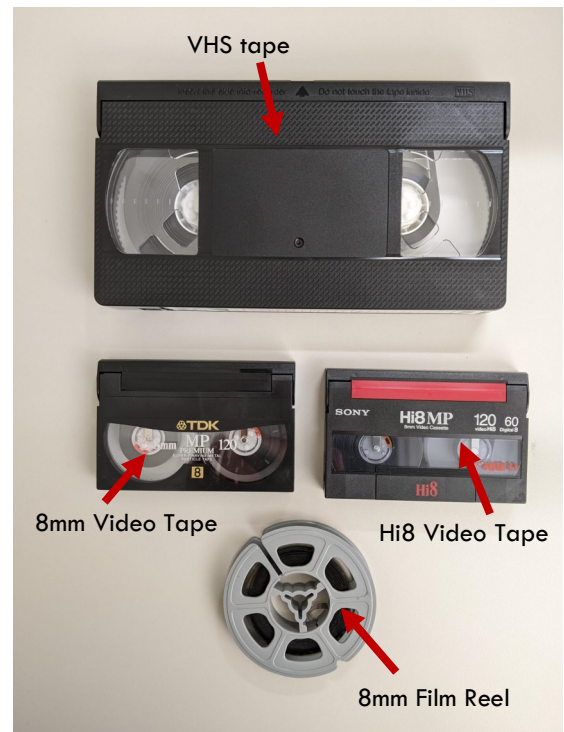
One end of the Elgato Video Capture has composite (yellow, red, and white) cables and a S-video cable to connect to most analog video devices. The other end of the Elgato Video Capture is a USB that connects to the computer. In order to work, the composite or S-video cables must be connected to a "playback" device — like a VHS player or camcorder. The Elgato Video Capture can convert NTSC, SECAM, PAL, and PAL/60 formats into MP4 files, as long as you have the right "playback" device to connect.

For more info, go to *www.elgato.com/en/video-capture*

Different types of video

This handout focuses on Video 8 tapes (also called Video 8 cassettes) and the Video 8 camcorder.

- **Video 8 tapes** were made using Video 8 camcorders that were popular from the 1980s-1990s. Video 8 tapes can be played in Video 8 and Hi8 camcorders.

- **Hi8 tapes** were the "newer" high-quality version of Video 8 used in the 1990s-2000s. **Hi8 tapes can only be used in Hi8 camcorders.**

- **VHS tapes** can be played in VHS players. **VHS-C tapes** were smaller versions of VHS tapes. A VHS-C adaptor is available to digitize VHS-C tapes in the Sound Studio.

- **8mm film reels** were popular from the 1930-s1960s. The film is round onto a reel instead of tape cassettes. There is no sound on 8mm film videos.

- **Super 8 film reels** were the "newer" version of 8mm film. The film is round onto a reel instead of a tape cassette. Super 8 was popular from 1960s-1970s.

VHS tape

8mm Video Tape

Hi8 Video Tape

8mm Film Reel

Set Up the Video 8 Camcorder and Elgato Video Capture

1. Grab the Video 8 Kit from the cart in the Sound Studio.

2. Plug the charging cable into the camcorder.

3. Use the power switch to turn it to "**Player.**"

4. Open up the camcorder screen.

5. Connect the yellow and white **RCA cable** to the camcorder. This is near the lens.

6. Connect the other end of the yellow and white **RCA cable** to the Elgato Video Capture.

7. Plug the **USB** of the Elgato Video Capture into the iMac.
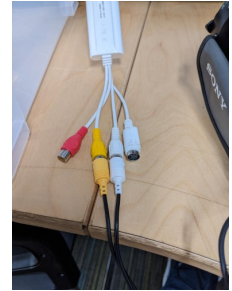

On Switch

Battery and charging cable

Yellow/White RCA cables

The Elgato Video Capture device

Open the VHS Converter Software

1. Find the **VHS Convert** icon on the desktop. Note: The Video 8 digitizing uses the same software as the VHS digitizing.
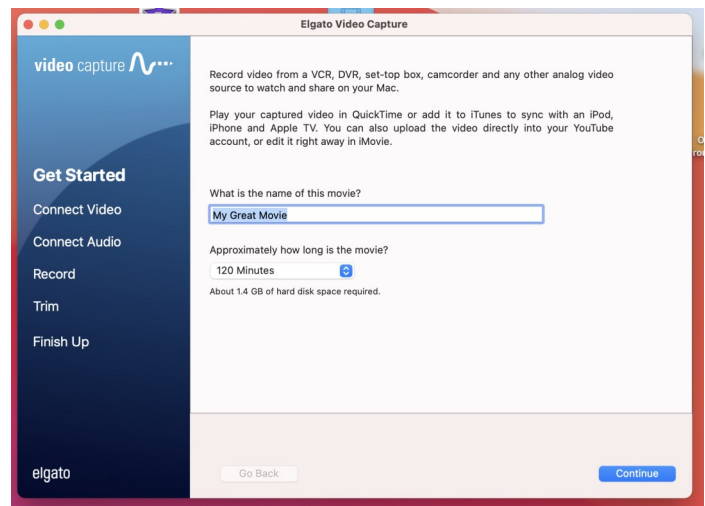
2. Double-click to open.

Alternative Method

1. Click "**Go**" in the Top Menu.

2. Click "**Applications.**"

3. Find "**VHS Converter**" in the list of Applications.

4. Double-click to open.

VHS Converter

Get Started

Follow the prompts on the VHS Converter software.

1. Give your file a name. (This can be changed later.)

2. Choose the approximate time of the movie. Check to see if it's listed on your Video 8 tape. This will provide an idea for the file size of the MP4. For instance, for 120 minutes, it is predicting about 1.2 GB.
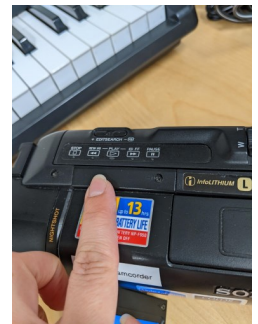
3. Click "**Continue**."

Connect Video

1. Push the "**Eject**" button to open the cassette tray. This tray is motor operated. **Do not** try to forcefully open it.

2. Insert your Video 8 tape.

3. Gently push the cassette tray close.

4. Select "**Composite ("RCA")**"

5. Press "**Play**" on the Video 8 camcorder. The video should be displayed in the Elgato Video Capture software.

6. If it looks like the video is getting cut off, change the Aspect Ratio from 4:3 to 16:9.

7. If you are seeing a playback of your tape, click "**Continue**."
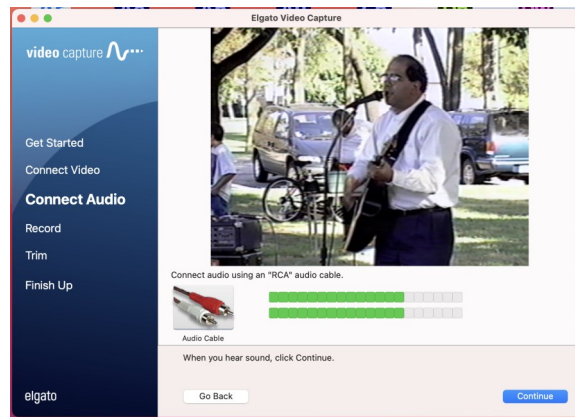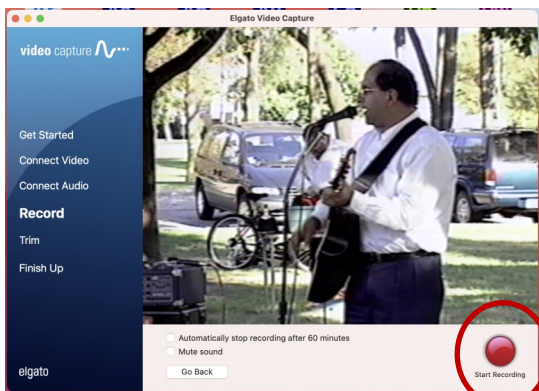

Eject button

Play, Stop, Rewind

Connect Audio

1. Check that the Composite "RCA" cables are receiving an audio signal. You should notice a green bar that moves based on the noise level of your video. You might notice only one of the bars is green. That's because the camcorder uses only the white audio cable without the red cable.
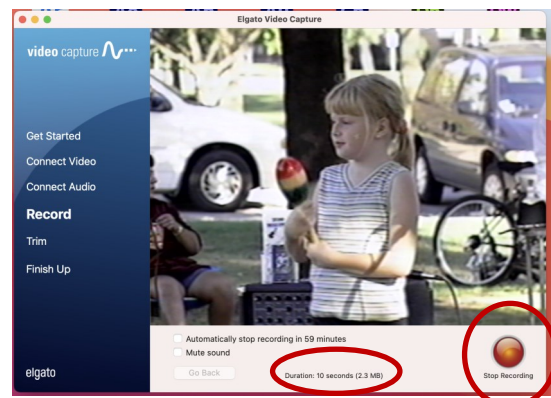
2. If there is a green bar, click "**Continue**."

Record

1. Press the "**Rewind**" button on the Video 8 camcorder to rewind to the very beginning.

2. Press "**Play**" on the Video 8 camcorder to start the tape.

3. Click "**Start Recording**" in the bottom right corner. The Elgato Video Capture software will begin recording and converting the video to MP4. This is in real-time, so if your video is 2 hours, it will take 2 hours. There is a counter that tracks the time and the file size of the MP4 video.

4. When your Video 8 tape is finished, click "**Stop Recording**."
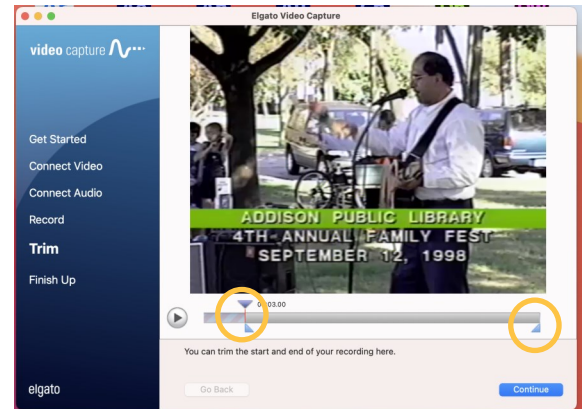

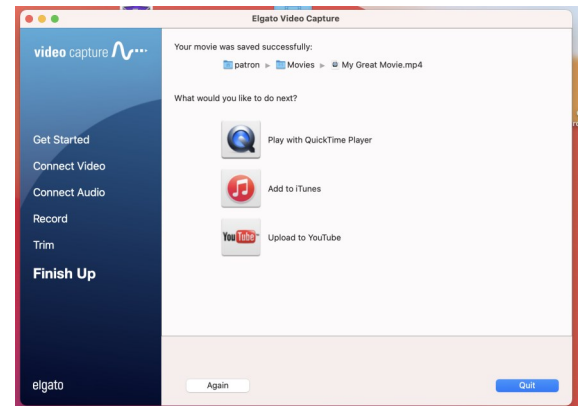
Start Recording

Stop Recording

Trim

1. You can "**Trim**" — or delete — parts of the video at the beginning and end of the recording. This can be used to delete commercials or any unwanted video.

2. To Trim, **click and drag** blue triangles to where you want the video to begin and end.

3. Click "**Continue**."

Note: To edit other parts of your video, you'll need to use a video editing software like iMovie or Windows Video Editor.
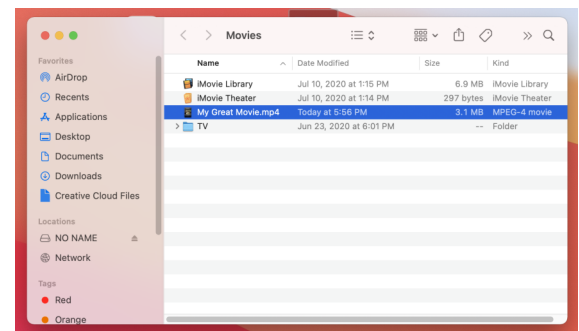
Finish Up

1. The file will automatically save to the "**Movies**" folder. It will ask if you want to open up the file in QuickTime Player or iTunes to view it.

Save to USB

1. After the file is saved to the "**Movies**" folder, you'll want to save it to a USB or upload to Cloud Storage. Make sure you have enough storage space for the file, since it can be up to 1.5 GB of data.

2. Double-click the "**Movies**" folder on the desktop.

3. Find the file name for your video.

4. Copy and paste it to your USB.

Troubleshooting