

FAQ: Transferring Home Movies

Q1. Do I have to take a class to learn to use the film transfer equipment? How difficult is it to use?

A. We will show you how to use the film transfer projector and the DVD recorder in the first 5 minutes. We then supervise your next several starts to be sure you are comfortable with the process. We're just a few feet away at all times while you are transferring your film so we can come to your aid quickly if something goes awry. Our new Tobin Cinema Systems load film faster and easier and they rewind much faster so you can transfer more film in less time. Operation of the DVD recorder is very much like using a VCR to record on tape.

Q2. Can I transfer my movies to Digital Tape instead of to a DVD?

A. Yes. Call us to discuss your specific project and equipment. 952 903-5782.

Q3. Is there a risk to my movie film when using your transfer projectors?

A. Yes, there is. Old film can be damaged despite everyone's best intentions and precautions. To minimize this risk, we recommend that your films have a film leader at least 30 inches in length. Also, you should examine your film to ensure that sprocket holes are undamaged and any splices are intact and smooth.

Q4. My film reels seem to have a musty coating of some kind on them. Can I still transfer them?

A. That coating is probably mildew caused by storage in a humid and warm environment. We will not permit mildewed or dirty film in our projectors. We can recommend a local firm where you can have your film cleaned. Call 952 903-5782.

Q5. Can you record in High Definition (HD)?

A. Not yet. Few people have the equipment to replay High Definition video and the equipment needed to record in HD is new and very expensive. We'll wait until the HD environment becomes more commonplace. When thinking about recording old movie films to HD, we have to consider that the original images have far less definition (resolution) so the result in an HD recording might be to simply magnify detail including all kinds of defects and dirt. Stay tuned on this subject.

Q6. I don't see transfer of my videotaped movies mentioned here. Can I do that at your facility?

A. Yes, you can. Please call us for an appointment and specify that you have videotapes, not movies. You can transfer VHS, VHS-C, Hi8 and MiniDV Digital tapes to DVD. We cannot accommodate Digital 8 tapes at this time. 952 903-5782.

Q7. I've read articles lately that suggest DVD discs will not keep recorded data intact as long as initially claimed. What's the scoop?

A. We have read the same articles but don't have an authoritative answer for you. Some people are hedging their bets by recording to regular DVDs then making an archive copy burned to a "Gold" disc. The extra layer of gold on these discs is said to give an extra measure of protection to the data recording layers. That archive copy would be kept sealed and stored away rather than being played. If you want to do this, ask your Media Studios technician to make a "Gold" copy for you.

Q8. So, we can make duplicate copies of the DVDs once our movies are transferred?

A. Yes, duplicate copies can be made quickly using our new **1 to 5 Duplicator Station**. No computer is needed. We drop a source disk into the reader and blank discs into the DVD recorders and the copy procedure begins with the touch of a button.

Q9. Can I make copies of my DVD on my home computer?

A. Yes, you can. If you have a DVD recording drive (usually referred to as a DVD burner), and burning software, you can make copies at home.

Q10. Can I edit the video files contained on the DVD on my computer?

A. *Yes. If you have a Windows PC*, you can install software that will capture and edit the video files on your DVD produced at the Media Studios. We use the Roxio Creative Suite software but most popular editing software will allow you to do this. The key is to look at the **Input Formats** listed under System Requirements for your software. If that list includes IFO/VOB files or VIDEO_TS folders, you should be able to capture the video files into your computer and edit them. Of course, that will require that you record a new DVD from your edited files. Note: Windows MovieMaker does not capture IFO/VOB files.

If you have a Macintosh computer, the answer is slightly different. Apples iLife Suite does not allow capture of IFO/VOB video files so you will have to purchase a capture software or an editing program. Roxio's Popcorn is a capture program that will convert to an AVI format usable on your MAC. Roxio's Toast is a full capture and editing program for the MAC. There are freeware and shareware programs available on the Internet, as well.