

Transfer Video to Your Computer

[Video Link](#)

Getting Started

Transferring video to your computer may seem a little overwhelming but it's easy. All you need is the right tools. Be sure to watch the video for extra details.



- You will need a working video player. Demonstrated in this video is a VHS machine, but this will work with any video player.
- You will need a set of video cables that match the output of your video player such as RCA cables as shown.
- You will need a video camera capture adapter. The one I use is from Elgato. [Video Capture - Digitize Video for Mac, PC or iPad \(USB 2.0\)](#) (affiliate link) **There are other video capture devices on the market.** For example, some have HDMI connections. This one has proven to work well for me with my old VHS player. This cable comes with free capture software.
- Software download link is here.



<https://www.elgato.com/en/downloads>

- Choose Video Capture and either Windows or Mac
- Check your downloads folder or look in the lower left side of your screen for the downloaded file.
- Work through the set-up wizard.



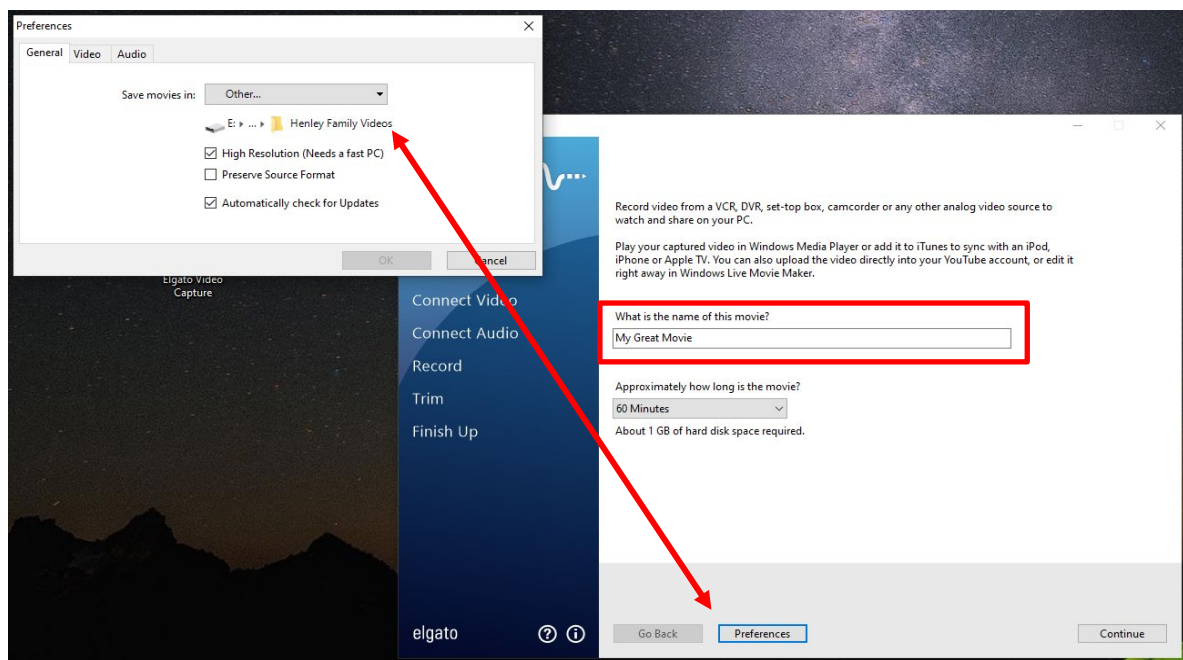
Setting up for Recording

Once you have the Elgato software downloaded and installed you're ready to start recording.

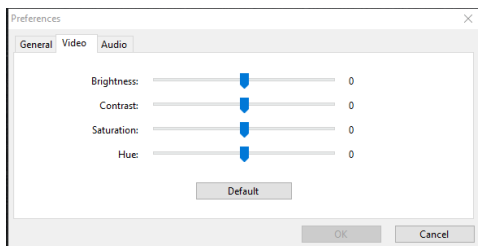
- Plug in the video and audio cables to the "out" connections on the back of your video player. This can be RCA cables or SVHS with this Elgato Video Capture cable.
- Plug the other end of the cable into the corresponding Elgato Capture cables.
- Plug the USB side of the Elgato capture cable into a 2.0 or higher port on your computer.
- Launch the Elgato software.



- Name the video you are about to capture.
- Click on Preferences on the bottom to set the location of where to put your video file on your computer.



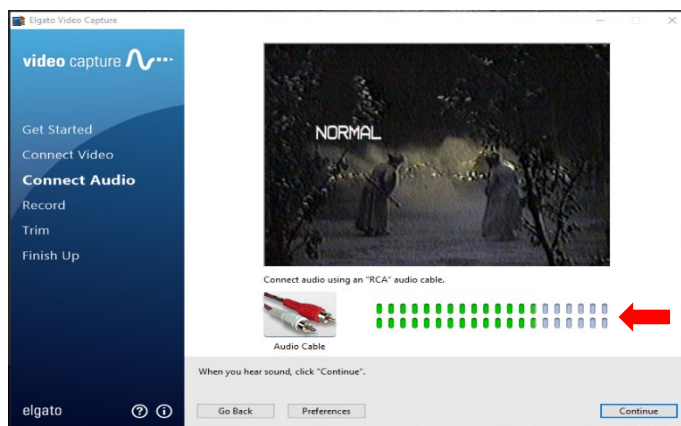
- GENERAL PREFERENCES - The other options are your choice. I use High Resolution, but it does require more Ram on your computer. If you tend to have a slow computer, uncheck this box.
- VIDEO PREFERENCES - If your video is too dark or light, you can adjust it on the next tab that says video. You can also try to color correct it using the hue and saturation. I tend to leave these alone.
- AUDIO PREFERENCES - If the audio is too low or too loud, use the audio tab. For audio that is too low you can try adding some gain to the recording by moving the slider to the right. If it is too loud, move the slider to the left of center.
- Next set the approximate time for the recording. If you set it for 60 minutes, the recording will automatically shut off at 60 minutes. Click the drop-down menu to change the length of time.
 - If you are not sure, look at the tape for the length. Often on VHS tapes the length is stamped on the spine. For example, T-60 means it is a 60-minute tape.
 - You can also set a custom length.
 - WARNING - Be careful not to shuttle old tapes too often, they may break.
- Once you have the setting the way you want them, press Continue in the lower right corner.
- Rewind your tape machine.



- Choose the type of cables you connected and the aspect ratio of the video you want to record. If you are transferring a video older than 2009, you are likely going to want 4:3 aspect. 16:9 did not come along until the television digital transition occurred in February 2009. Click continue.

Recording Your Video

- Test the audio. Play a portion of your video to ensure that you can see the green lights in the audio meter bouncing as the audio plays from your tape.
 - If you are seeing green in the meter bouncing between half and three-quarters, you are good to go. The image below is a good level, or maybe slightly higher to the right.
 - Make sure the meter is not “peaking” on the right side and turning red. A little orange is okay, but stay out of the red always.
 - If you’re audio is too loud, go back to your preferences > audio tab (at the bottom) and turn down the audio (moving the slider left) in the audio tab. Play it again to make sure the audio is good.
 - When you’re ready, click continue to the recording page.



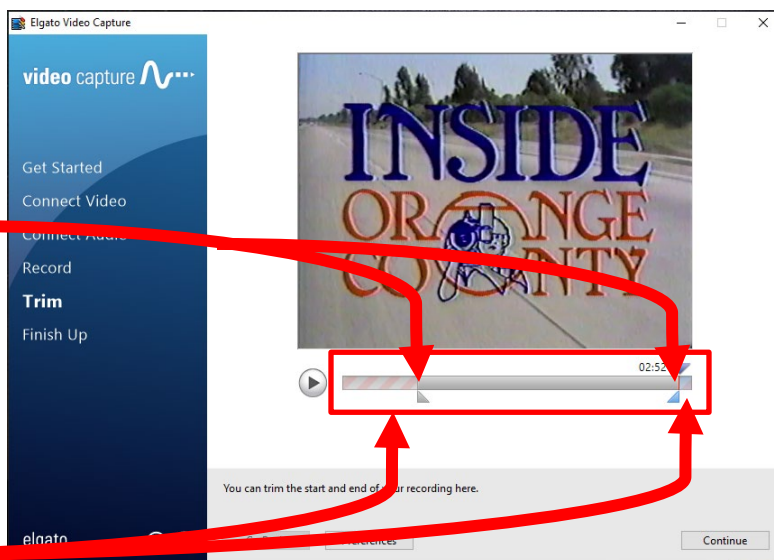
RECORDING

- It’s time to record. Make sure your video tape player is rewound and queued up where you wish to start.
- Press the **Start Recording button in the software** (*not* on the tape machine) and then **press play on the video tape machine**.
- You can watch the recording as it happens on your computer. When you are done, click “Stop Recording” or wait for the time to expire (that you set during in the preferences, such as 60 minutes). I recommend you stop the recording as soon as it is done to prevent a huge file size, but if you walk away and let it run, you can trim unwanted video in the next step.

Trim

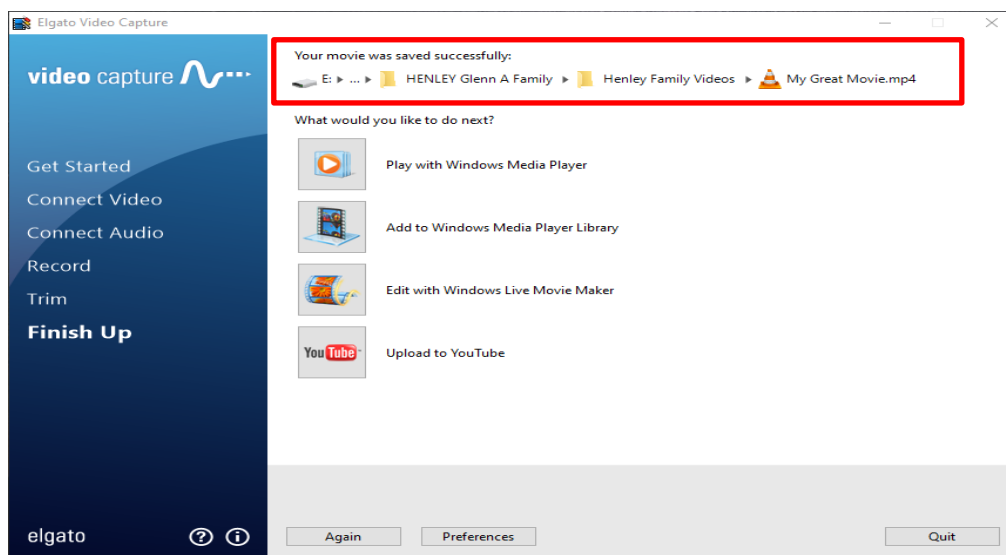
You can trim the video in the Elgato software by moving the right and left sliders to chop off the leader and or tail of the video if it is too long.

- **Drag the triagles** below the timeline underneath the video to trim as you wish.
- The solid section between the two lower triangles (beneath the timeline) is what will be preserved in the final video file. **The rest will be trimmed away (shown as stripes).**
- Click continue to save the trimmed file. Once you do this the trimmed part is gone and you can't go back, so trim carefully. At worst case, you can rerecord the video, but try to get it right the first time as shuttling old tapes may break them.



Find Your Recorded File

From this screen you can play it back on a video player on your computer, edit it, or share it to YouTube. Note where your saved video file is stored, shown in the upper portion of your screen. Now you can share it, edit it, or upload it to YouTube if you wish. Larger files are too large to email. YouTube is free and then you can share a URL link to the video.



Click here to learn [How to Transfer Audio Cassettes](#).