

honestech
VHS to DVD 3.0 SE

User Guide



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1. Introduction

Video tapes can deteriorate over time. Deteriorated videos will have color bleed, white specks, and other distortions. Don't let this happen to your precious memories, and archive your videotape collection onto DVD/CD. *honestech* VHS to DVD 3.0 SE offers the fastest and easiest way to do just that.

- Capture video from VCR, Digital Camcorder, PC camera, TV, DVD players and convert them into home DVD movies.
- All-in-one solution: provides everything you need to easily transfer your video onto VCD, SVCD, or DVD movies.
- Advanced scene editing tools: trim out unwanted scenes and add transition effects.
- Transition effects: many different screen effects and filters to create professional quality videos.
- Watch video on new gadgets: convert captured video into PSP or iPod formats.

Video input: Capture Device (VCR, Digital Camcorder, TV, DVD Player, etc)

Video output: VCD, SVCD, DVD, Long DVD, WMV, MPEG-4 (PSP and iPod)

honestech VHS to DVD 3.0 SE is revolutionary software that provides users with a complete and fully featured program for easy and simple conversion of their videos onto VCD, SVCD or DVD movies. Now you can save all your old home videos and burn them to DVD to keep your precious memories alive forever. You can also convert captured video into MPEG-4 or WMV format and watch them on your PSP, iPod, or Windows-based PDA device.

honestech VHS to DVD 3.0 SE has three modes:

1. Capture: Capture your video from camcorder, VCR, or DVD player.
2. Edit: Trim unwanted scenes and add transition effects.
3. Burn: Burn your movie into DVD, VCD, or SVCD or convert the video into MPEG-4 or WMV format that you can watch on your PSP, iPod, or Windows-based PDA device.

Whether you're a novice or professional, *honestech VHS to DVD 3.0 SE* is your best choice for editing and producing home movies on VCD, SVCD or DVD. *honestech VHS to DVD 3.0 SE* provides everything you need to easily produce DVD movies. *honestech VHS to DVD 3.0 SE* auto-detects capture devices on your PC and captures video from a wide variety of devices: TV, PC Camera, DVD Player, VCRs, Camcorders, etc.

Whether you create Video CD, Super Video CD, DVD or mini-DVD, all of your home movies will play in a superb digital quality. Simply load the disc you have produced and play it on your home DVD player or PC. Sit back, relax and enjoy the show!

1.1. System Requirements

- TV/Video Capture Card or USB Video Capture Box
- USB 2.0 Host Controller/port
- Operating System:
 - Windows XP SP2/3
 - Windows Vista
- Processor
 - Pentium IV 2.0GHz or equivalent.
- Composite cable
- DirectX: 9.0 or higher
- Memory: 256 MB or more
- Video Card: 16MB or more
- Other:
 - Windows Media Player 6.4 (or higher)
 - DVD Writer for DVD
 - CD Writer for VCD, SVCD

2. Overview of steps

honestech VHS to DVD 3.0 SE allows you to convert analog videotapes to CD or DVD. You can create VCD/DVDs of TV programs, movies or videos from your camcorder in real time. The Edit function enables you to make beautiful titles with transition effects and cut and paste features. The Burning function enables you to save your video clips as DVD or VCD so that you can play them later using the player. Now you can make your own VCD/DVDs using *honestech* VHS to DVD 3.0 SE .

honestech VHS to DVD 3.0 SE has three modes:

- Step One – Capture
Capture video from your VCR, camcorder, or DVD player. Select appropriate format including DVD, VCD, or SVCD.
- Step Two – Edit
Trim out unwanted scenes from your videos and add transition effects to create professional quality videos.
- Step Three - Burn
Create DVD, VCD, or SVCD with the videos that you have captured and edited. You can also convert the video into MPEG-4 or WMV format to watch it on your PSP, iPod, or Windows-based PDA device.

3. Using *honestech* VHS to DVD 3.0 SE

You can start *honestech* VHS to DVD 3.0 SE by simply double-clicking on this icon.



Or you can start the program through the **Start** menu button by clicking

Start → All Programs → honestech VHS to DVD 3.0 SE → honestech VHS to DVD 3.0 SE

Following screen will be displayed when the program starts.



Project options:

- New Project
- Open Project
- Save Project.

A new project will be created when you start **honestech VHS to DVD 3.0 SE** for the first time. You may choose to save your current project before you exit the program so that you can continue working on the project at another time.



Button : Shows help file.



Button : Minimizes the program window.



Button : Exits the program.

3.1. STEP 1 – CAPTURE

1. Capture

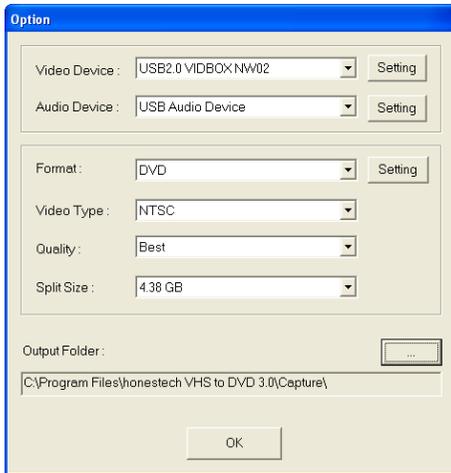
In this phase, you will capture your video. You must select properly format depending on the type of output you want.



-  Option Button

Select your input video device, audio device and the video output format.

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- Selecting Capture Device.



Using the drop-down menu shown above, you can select the video input device. honestech VHS to DVD 3.0 SE will detect and list all available video input devices.

- Video Device

Select the video device that you want to use from the list

-  Video Device Settings

Select input cable type for the video device you selected.



- Selecting Audio Device.



- Audio Device

Select the audio device that you want to use (Select **USB Audio Device** if you are using **USB2.0 Capture Device**).

-  Audio Device Settings

Configure the settings of the selected audio device and adjust the volume (if allowed).

-  

Select the output file format from drop down menu.
(VCD / SVCD / DVD / LongDVD / WMV)

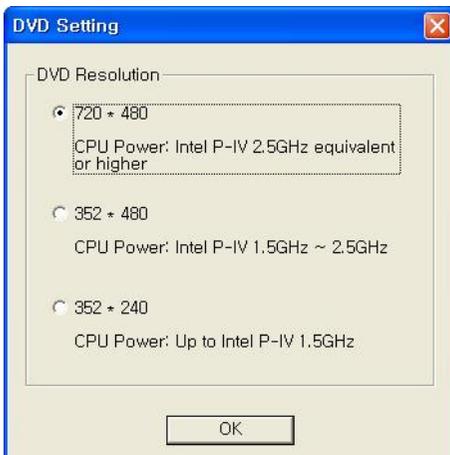
-  Video Format Settings

Configure the settings of the selected video format.

- DVD, Long DVD

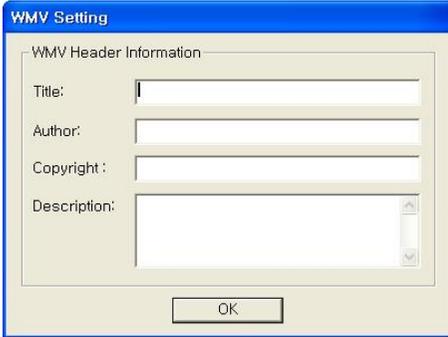
You can select the DVD/Long DVD Resolution (352*240(288) / 352*480(576) / 720*480(576)). Long DVD format will allow you to record longer video on your writable DVD than the normal DVD format, but it will result in slightly lower video quality.

Note : Selecting higher than the recommended resolution setting may result in dropped frames and poor video quality.



- WMV

Enter the Header Information on WMV files.



- Video Type : NTSC

Select video type (NTSC / PAL; * Select NTSC for North America).

- Quality : Best

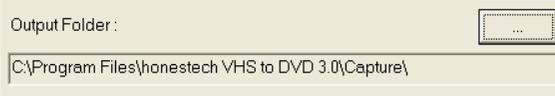
Adjust the quality of the output file (Best / Good / Normal / Average). The higher quality will result in bigger file size, and the lower quality will allow you to burn longer video on your CD/DVD.

Maximum recording time under each setting for DVD (This is an approximate calculation, and the result will vary depending on the video/audio type.)

- 1) Best: 1 hour and 10 minutes
- 2) Good: 1 hour and 30 minutes
- 3) Normal: 1 hour and 50 minutes
- 4) Average: 2 hours and 20 minutes

- Split Size : 4.38 GB

Split Size feature automatically splits the capture video file into two or more files if it would become too large to fit on a single DVD/CD. This is a great tool if you have many long videos that cannot fit on a single DVD/CD.

- 

Specify the location where the capture video will be saved.

- **Record and Burn**

When checked, the recording will be made for the duration of time you set, and DVD/CD burning will start automatically afterward. This option makes the whole process automatic.

- **Maximum Recording Time**

This feature lets you know the maximum amount of video you can capture on your computer. The maximum recording time will depend on the output format and amount of hard drive space available. This is useful when you want to monitor and record activities at home while you are away for a short period of time (Few hours are ideal).

- **Set Recording Time**

Set the duration of recording, and the recording will stop automatically after the duration you set. This is very useful if you know the length of the movie you are capturing. It is recommended that you always set the recording duration time to prevent the recording from continuing until it reaches the maximum recording time. You can always stop the recording manually before the recording duration time is reached.

-  **Record Button**

Click to start recording.

-  **Stop Button**

Click to stop the recording. The recorded video will be saved in the output folder.

-  **Current State**

Displays the recording status and the remaining time for the recording duration time or the maximum record time

3.2. STEP 2 – EDIT

2. Edit

Once all your videos are captured, you can move on to the edit phase of *honestech* VHS to DVD 3.0 SE



The above image is a screenshot of the Edit Window's Main Window. The Main Window consists of Player, Transition List, Storyboard panels and the File Pool.

1. Player Panel

This panel has buttons for Play/Pause, Stop, Previous Frame, Next Frame, Cut Clip Start Point, and Cut Clip Endpoint functions.

2. Transition List Panel

Transition allows you to add a video transition between the two clips, like a fade-in-fade-out effect.

3. Storyboard Panel

The Storyboard panel displays clips in thumbnail format in time order.

4. File Pool

The File Pool displays clips in thumbnail format that you have captured.

In the **EDIT** phase, you can trim out unwanted scenes from your recorded video or split one video clip into multiple clips. You can add transition effects between clips or merge multiple clips into one video clip.

3.2.1. Editing in Storyboard

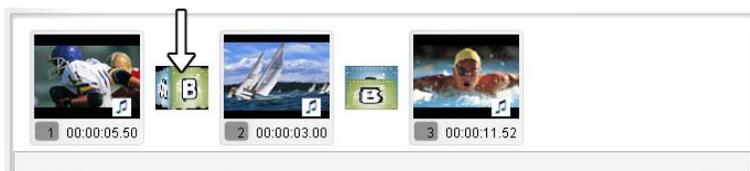
Editing video clips (or removing unwanted scenes).

1. Play the video in the **Play Panel** (Double-click on the video clip to play).
 2. Position the scroll bar () to the beginning of the segment that you want keep. You can also play the video and click on **Start Edit Point** () button at the beginning of the section that you want to keep.
 3. Position the scroll bar () to the ending of the segment that you want to keep. You can also play the video and click on **End Edit Point** () button at the end of the segment that you want to keep.
 4. Click on () to cut the file clip. The selected segment will be placed in the Storyboard.
 5. Click Merge & Save () button to apply the changes and save the new file from the Storyboard.
- *NOTE: When you edit a video clip and save, a new clip will be created. Your original file will remain unchanged.*



Merge multiple video clips and add transition effects between scenes.

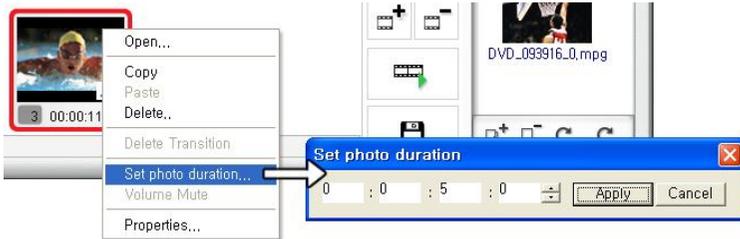
- Addin a transition effect :
 - 1) Select a transition box (between two clips).



2) In the Transition Properties window, select a transition effect of your choice.



- To change the duration of an image clip :
 - 1) Select an image clip.
 - 2) Right-click on the selected image clip to display a popup menu.
 - 3) From the popup menu, select "Set photo duration..."
 - 4) A window opens in which you can adjust the image duration time.



3.2.2. Transition Effects

Various types of transition effects can be added in between the scenes (clips).



- Adding Transition Effects

To add a transition effects:

- 1) Drag a transition effect of your choice to the transition box (between clips) in the Storyboard other to add the transition effect.
- 2) Once the transition has been added, the Transition Properties window will open to the right of the screen. Here you can set the direction, background color, and number of horizontal and vertical lines.



- Applying Transition Effects

When you click on a Transition Box (in between the clips) in the Storyboard, the Transition Properties window opens as shown below. In the Transition Properties window, you can set the direction and background color of the transition. You can also preview your changes.



[Transition Properties window]

1. Preview Window : Provides immediate playback of the edited videos.
2. Direction : Set the direction of the transition.
3. Section Setup: You can adjust the section where the two clips overlap.

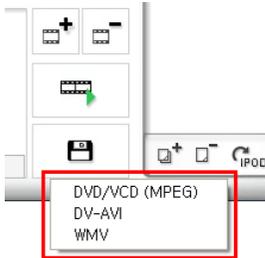


3.2.3. Merge and Save

This saves the contents edited in Storyboard into a file.

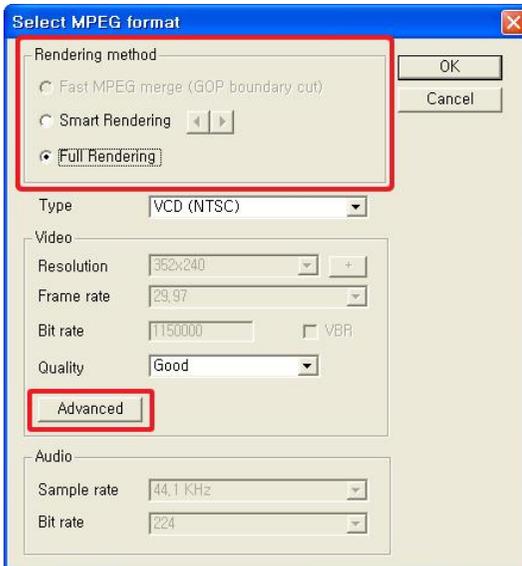
Click  button to merge the clips, apply the changes (editing), and save.

There are 3 output format options.



- DVD/VCD (MPEG) Format
- DV-AVI Format
- Window Media (WMV) Format

- Saving in DVD/VCD(MPEG) Format



* Fast MPEG merge (GOP boundary cut)

1) Rendering Method : Fast MPEG merge

- All video clips must have identical MPEG formats.
- Makes inserting and deleting frames simple and fast.
- The output video format will match the original MPEG format.
- Customizing of video and audio settings is not possible; function property settings are made inactive.

2) Type : Displays MPEG format of file to be rendered.

3) Video

- Resolution: Video resolution (screen size).
- Frame Rate: Frames per second (fps).
- Bitrate: Number of data bits used per second (bps).

4) Audio

- Sampling Rate: Sampling Frequency (KHz).
- Bitrate: Number of data bits used per second (bps).

* Smart Rendering

1) Rendering Method : Smart Rendering

- Encode a portion or the whole video.
- Only the edited segments of the original video will be encoded.
- If the entire movie clip was edited, the entire movie will be re-rendered.
- When movie clips with different video formats are combined, the format of the output file will be set to match the format of the "base video file". Movie clips with formats that don't match the "base video file" will be re-rendered.
- Select the "base video file" using the  button.
- Although the video settings cannot be changed, the audio settings can be changed.

2) Type : Display MPEG type

3) Video

- Resolution: Video resolution (screen size).
- Frame Rate: Frames per second (fps).
- Bitrate: Number of data bits used per second (bps).

4) Audio

- Sampling Rate: Sampling Frequency (KHz).
- Bitrate: Number of data bits used per second (bps).

* Full Rendering

1) Rendering Method: Full Rendering

- Renders the entire movie. This rendering option will take longer than the other rendering options.

2) Type : Select MPEG type

- Supports MPEG-1 (VCD) and MPEG-2 (SVCD and DVD). Both NTSC and PAL standards are supported.

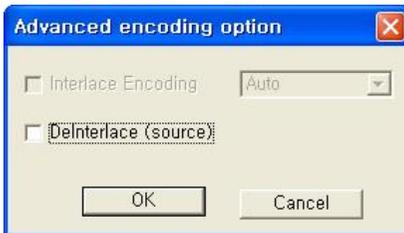
3) Video

- Resolution: Video resolution (screen size).
- Frame Rate: Frames per second (fps).
- Bitrate: Number of data bits used per second (bps).

4) Audio

- Sampling Rate: Sampling Frequency (KHz).
- Bitrate: Number of data bits used per second (bps).

* Advanced encoding option



1) Interlace encoding mode:

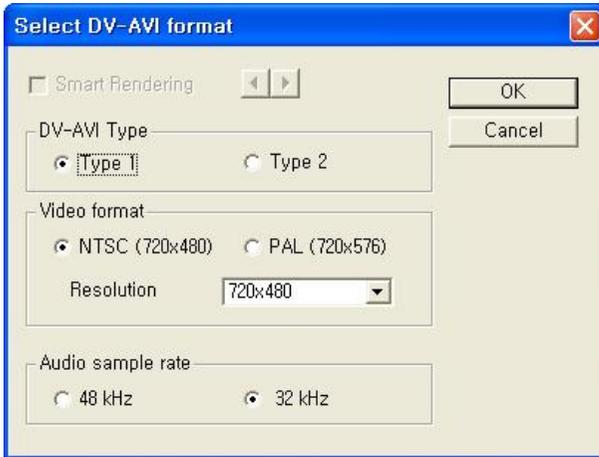
Encodes each frame by separating the field units into even numbered line fields and odd numbered line fields. You can improve screen quality using this option when horizontal lines appear in the input source screen. When the Interlace Encoding Mode is set, an MPEG file whose frame type is interlaced is created. This option is available only in MPEG2.

2) De-interlace:

Removes the horizontal lines on the screen entered in the frame unit before encoding. If you select the Interlace Encoding Mode above, you don't have to use this option. In addition, if you select De-interlace, you can obtain a good quality MPEG file without using the Interlace Encoding Mode.

Interlace Encoding Mode and De-Interlace are very effective when converting DV-AVI files created by Camcorders into MPEG files.

- Saving in DV-AVI Format



* Smart Rendering (honestech's intelligent method of encoding edited segments of an original streaming video)

- Encode a portion or the whole video.
- Only the edited segments of the original video will be encoded.
- If the entire movie clip was edited, the entire movie will be re-rendered.
- When movie clips with different video formats are combined, the format of the output file will be set to match the format of the "base video file". Movie clips with formats that don't match the "base video file" will be re-rendered.
- Although the video settings cannot be changed, the audio settings can be changed.

* DV-AVI Type

- Type 1 : Video file in Digital Video format.

- 1) Native video format in digital camcorder.
- 2) Video and audio are in the same stream.
- 3) Requires a splitter to divide video and audio.

- Type 2 : Video file in general AVI format.

- 1) Video is compressed in DV format.
- 2) Video and audio are in separate streams.
- 3) Must be converted back to type 1 to be transferred to a digital camcorder.

* Video resolution : Select NTSC or PAL.

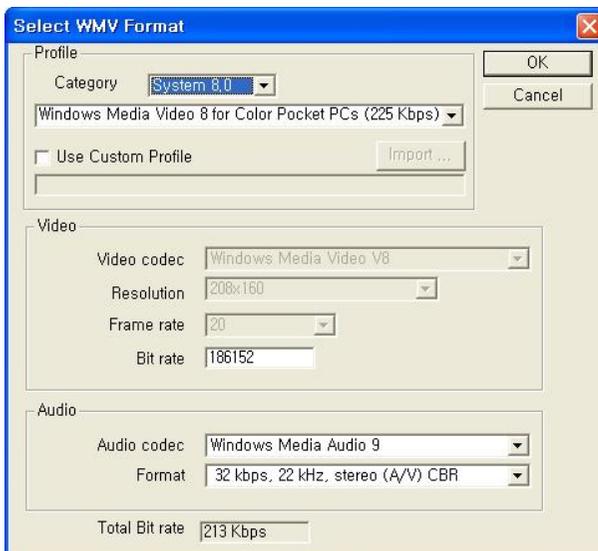
- NTSC: 720 x 480 resolution
- PAL: 720x 576 resolution

* Audio sample rate : Select audio frequency.

- 32kHz
- 48kHz

• Saving Windows Media(WMV) File

- Select a CODEC from the Profile Index.
- Displays the CODEC's setting.



* Profile : The profile includes the audio and video codec, output video size, audio sample rate, bitrate , etc. You can select a video codec and an audio codec of your choice and create your own custom profile by using Profile Generator of Windows Media Encoder .

To output using your own custom profile,

- 1) Check **[Use Custom Profile]**.
- 2) Click on **[Import]** button, and import your custom profile..
- 3) You can modify bitrate, audio codec, and audio format (however, this value cannot be save in the the imported profile.).
- 4) Click **[OK]** button to create an output in WMV format.

For more information of making a custom profile, please refer to the manual provided by Windows Media Encoder.

- Video: Supports both NTSC and PAL standards (NTSC is used in North America and PAL in Europe).
- Resolution: Video resolution (screen size).
- Frame Rate: Frames per second (fps).
- Bitrate: Number of data bits used per second (bps).

* Audio

- Sampling Rate: Sampling Frequency (KHz).
- Bitrate: Number of data bits used per second (bps).
- Stereo: Audio presentation type (Stereo or Mono)

Contact Microsoft(R) for more information on the settings and uses of Windows Media Format (Video/Audio CODEC). All rights to Microsoft CODECs belong to Microsoft(R).

3.3. STEP 3 –BURN

3. Burn

You can burn captured and edited video onto DVD/CD.



- Select output format



: Select your output format (DVD/Long DVD/VCD/SVCD/Data CD/Data DVD).

- Add or remove files



: Add (import) files.



: Remove files.

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- Select background image



: List available background themes.



: List available background images.



: List available navigation buttons.

- Chapters



: Add chapters

- Page navigation



: Previous Page



: Next Page.

- Create menu page

Check this option to add a menu to the DVD.

- Disc management



: Displays the disc information.



: Erase the re-writable disc.

- Burn disc



: Start burning disc.

* Option

OPTION

Record to media Disc Name

Drive

Create DVD Folder

Make UDI

Temp Folder

Required/Available hard drive space

(C:) 48.4 MB / 15614.6 MB

Required/Available disc space 24.2 MB / 4482.6 MB

- Record to media

Disc name : Enter disc name

Drive : Select a DVD writer

Write Speed : Select disc writing speed.

- Create DVD folder

Create DVD video folder (VIDEO_TS) and select a folder where you want to save the DVD video folder.

- Create UDI

Select a folder where disc image file will be stored.

- Temp Folder

Select temp folder where the temporary files/folders will be stored.

4. OUTPUT SPECIFICATION

DVD (Digital Versatile Disk) Spec

NTSC

- Size: MPEG-2 720 X 480 pixels
- Video bitrate: Up to 9.8 Mbit/sec
- Frame rate: 29.97 frames/sec
- Audio: MPEG-1 Layer2

PAL

- Size: MPEG-2 720 X 576 pixels
- Video bitrate: Up to 9.8 Mbit/sec
- Frame rate: 25.00 frames/sec
- Audio: MPEG-1 Layer2

VCD (Video CD)

MPEG1 352 X 240 NTSC

- Size: MPEG-1 352 X 240 pixels
- Video bitrate: 1150 kbit/sec
- Frame rate: 29.97 frames/sec
- Audio: 224 kbit/sec MPEG-1 Layer2

MPEG1 352 X 288 PAL

- Size: MPEG-1 352 X 288 pixels
- Video bitrate: 1150 kbit/sec
- Frame rate: 25.00 frames/sec
- Audio: 224 kbit/sec MPEG-1 Layer2

SVCD (Super Video CD)

NTSC

- Size: MPEG-2 480 X 480 pixels
- Video bitrate: max 2524 kbit/sec MPEG-2 (if the audio is in 224 kbit/sec), audio + video max bitrate is 2748 kbit/sec.
- Frame rate: 29.97 frames/sec
- Audio: from 32 - 224 kbit/sec MPEG-1 Layer2

PAL

- Size: MPEG-2 480 X 576 pixels
- Video bitrate: max 2524 kbit/sec MPEG-2 (if the audio is in 224 kbit/sec), audio + video max bitrate is 2748 kbit/sec.
- Frame rate: 25.00 frames/sec
- Audio: from 32 - 224 kbit/sec MPEG-1 Layer2

Long DVD

NTSC

- Size : MPEG2 720 X 480 pixels
- Video bitrate : Up to 2.5 Mbit/sec
- Frame rate : 29.97 frames/sec
- Audio : MPEG-1 Layer2

PAL

- Size : MPEG2 720 X 576 pixels
- Video bitrate : Up to 2.5 Mbit/sec
- Frame rate : 25.00 frames/sec
- Audio : MPEG-1 Layer2

WMV

NTSC

- Size : Windows Media Video 9 352 X 240 pixels
- Video bitrate : 240 ~760 kbit/sec
- Frame rate : 29.97 frames/sec
- Audio : Windows Media Audio 9 (44.1Khz ,stereo)

PAL

- Size : Windows Media Video 9 352 X 288 pixels
- Video bitrate : 240 ~760 kbit/sec
- Frame rate : 25.00 frames/sec
- Audio : Windows Media Audio 9 (44.1Khz ,stereo)

5. Troubleshooting

This information is provided to assist you in resolving video or audio problems within the VHS to DVD program. The solutions given are common answers to the problems listed and are not comprehensive. Some problems may require further technical troubleshooting to fully resolve.

Installation Problems

It is recommended that you disable any Anti-Virus or other background software you may have running while installing this software. Failure to do so can cause the software to exhibit unexpected or unpredictable behavior.

Access Denied error:

- Verify you are logged in as an Admin user for the computer.

No Product Key:

- Check the back of the envelope or jewel case that the Install CD was packaged in.

Invalid Product Key error:

- Enter the key manually, 5 characters per box (avoid copying and pasting).

Disc Problems

Media non-applicable error:

- For Easy Wizard Mode: Verify you are inserting a blank DVD or Blu-ray disc. The Easy mode will not accept blank CD discs.
- For Advanced Mode: Verify you are inserting the correct type of blank media to match the format of your video clips (see the About Video/Disc Format Options section in the Appendix).

No DVD writer detected error:

- Verify your optical disc drive will write to DVD -/+R discs. Many drives labeled DVD-ROM will only read DVD discs but not write to them.

No Blu-ray writer detected error:

- Verify your optical disc drive will write to Blu-ray BD-R discs.

Video Problems

No video:

- Check your cable connections to make sure they are secure.
- Verify you are connecting your cables to the ports labeled 'Output' on your video player.
- Verify you are only connecting one type of video cable, RCA (yellow) or S-Video.
- Verify the output ports of your video player work by testing them with your television.
- Verify the USB 2.0 VIDBOX capture device is plugged into your computer directly and not through a USB hub.
- Check your video & audio device settings from the Record Settings control panel (see Step Two of the Advanced Mode – Capture section).
- Verify your video cable connections setting by clicking the 'Settings' button next to the Video Device listing (see Step Two of the Advanced Mode – Capture section).
- Disconnect additional monitors

Black & White video:

- Verify your video tape was recorded in the same video standard format for your region. If it was not, see the **Converting PAL/NTSC (and other video standards)** section in the appendix.

Pink/Green video:

- Verify you are plugging your capture device into a USB 2.0 port attached to your computer (avoid using external USB hubs).

Choppy video:

- Verify your computer meets the programs minimum system requirements.
- Avoid the following actions while recording and burning:
 - Locking the workstation.
 - Running other applications in full screen mode.
 - Running CPU intensive programs.

Distorted lines at top or bottom of screen:

- Clean VCR/camcorder tape heads.
- Adjust VCR/camcorder video tracking.

(These lines are not usually visible on a regular television because a TV typically presents in overscan mode – causing the edges of the video to be out of view)

Audio Problems

No Audio:

- Check your cable connections to make sure they are secure.
- Verify you are connecting your cables to the ports labeled 'Output' on your video/audio player. *If there are no 'Output' ports available, try using a Headphone output by way of a headphone-to-RCA (Composite) adapter cable.
- If using a Headphone output, adjust the volume for your audio player.
- Verify the audio output ports of your video player work by testing them with your television.
- Verify the USB 2.0 VIDBOX capture device is plugged into your computer directly and not through a USB hub.
- Check your video & audio device settings from the Record Settings control panel (see Step Two of the Advanced Mode – Capture section).

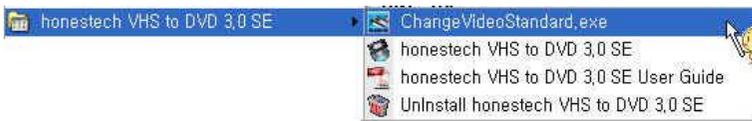
Choppy audio:

- Verify your computer meets the programs minimum system requirements.
- Avoid the following actions while recording and burning:
 - Locking the workstation.
 - Running other applications in full screen mode.
 - Running CPU intensive programs.

Converting PAL /NTSC (and other video standards)

The VHS to DVD software is capable of recording NTSC, PAL, and many other video tape standards from around the world. It is possible, however, that your computer system may not correctly recognize the video signal from a tape made in a foreign country. In this case you would typically experience black and white video.

Change Video Standard (stand-alone) – You may or may not have already noticed that the VHS to DVD software included an additional utility program called Change Video Standard. Before accessing the utility, please be sure to first close the VHS to DVD program. To access the Change Video Standard utility, click the Start icon in the bottom left corner of your screen and select 'All Programs' from the Start Menu.



From the list, locate and highlight honestech™ VHS to DVD 3.0 SE, among the four items that will appear, should be Change Video Standard. If the VHS to DVD™ program is closed, select the Change Video Standard utility to open it.



From the Video Standard drop down menu, select the Video Standard setting for the tape you are attempting to record. Click Ok when finished and then re-start the VHS to DVD™ 3.0 SE software. Preview your video tape using the preview pane in the Capture Screen.