



4-H Filmmaking

Converting Footage

When should I convert my footage?

If you used a camera that records to mini DV tape, you do not need to convert your footage- you just need to capture it using your editing software and your camera. If you used a camera that records to mini DVD or an internal harddrive you most likely do need to convert your footage.

If you used a mini DVD, HD, Camcorder it would have automatically created MPEG 2 files or a file with a similar compressed format. Flash cameras usually compress footage to a MPEG4. THE PROBLEM: some older versions of editing software do not recognize anything but AVI or MOV formats.--Windows Movie Maker XP- freeware found on PC's with Windows-- does not retrieve or recognize MPEG2 or MPEG 4 files. As a result, YOU NEED TO CONVERT THE MPEG 2 AND MPEG 4 FILES INTO .AVI (PC) OR .MOV (MAC) FILES.

What kind of software should I use?

Any Video Converter is an all-in-one video converting *freeware* with an easy-to-use format. It can convert almost all video formats or *codecs* including **AVI** movie format for use in Windows Movie Maker and iMovie.

Why does my camera compress my footage?

Compressing the footage shrinks large movie files and makes them playable on your computer. It is all in the *codec*---"Codec" is a technical name for "compression/decompression". It also stands for "compressor/decompressor" and "code/decode". Codec programs are also required for your media player to play your downloaded music and movies. Some codec examples are MP3, WMA, RealVideo, RealAudio, DivX and XviD, MPEG2 and MPEG4.

What are the Steps I have to do?

Convert Mini DVD/HD Camcorder MPEG2 Footage or FLASH Camcorder MPEG4 footage to Windows Movie Maker and iMovie Friendly **AVI** Files. If you do not already have Any Video Converter on your computer, go to <http://www.any-video-converter.com/download/> and scroll to the bottom of the page to the free version and download onto your computer. Make sure to save the program on your desktop for easy access.

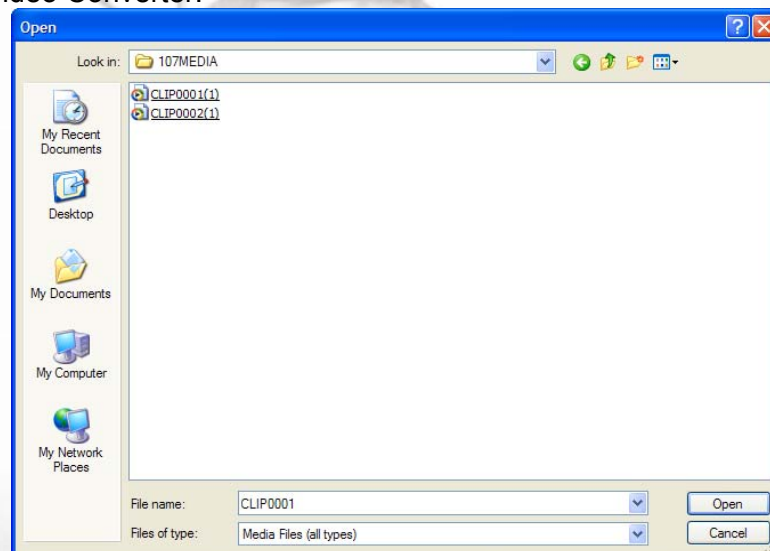


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Converting your footage:



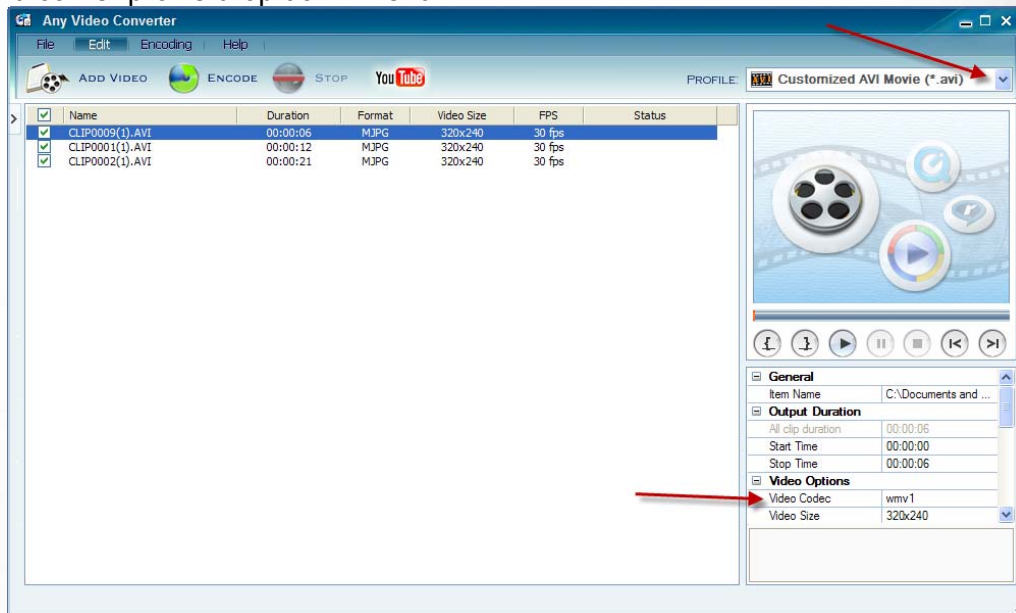
1. Click on Any Video Converter on your desktop to open the program.
2. Click on "Add Video" icon in upper left corner of the screen.
3. Select the folder on your desktop that you saved your media to. Click on the individual clips to import into Any Video Converter.



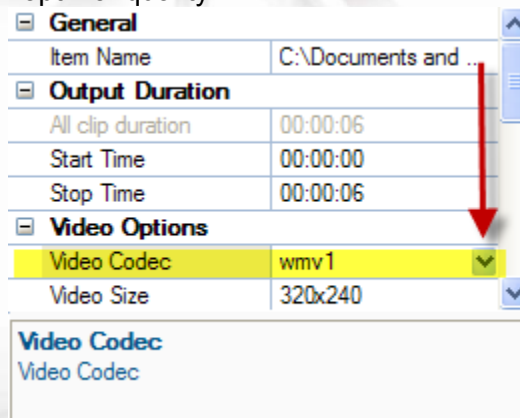


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4. Your clips will appear in the main window. Once all of your media clips are listed in the main window, you must set your preferences. There are two preference settings that are important to the conversion working properly. First, you must select “Customized AVI Movie” from the upper right hand corner profile drop down menu.



5. Second, under Video Options in the lower right screen click on “**Video Codec**”. A drop down arrow will appear on the right, click to reveal the drop down menu and select “**wmv 1**”. Change “**Video Size**” to 640x480 for optimal quality.





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6. Click on File at the top of the screen and select “Set Output”. Choose a folder in which to store your new video clips for editing.
7. At the top of the window left click on “Edit”. Scroll Down and click on “Select All”. The video clips in the main window should all be highlighted in blue. Next, click on the “Encode” icon at the top of the window. Progress can be tracked for each clip under the status icon. The word completed will be listed under status next to each clip when it is finished.

