

# Videotapes:

## Memories That Don't Last



The first VCRs were reel to reel (Ampex-1956)

- THE PROBLEM:  
Videotape doesn't last forever
- THE SOLUTION:  
Transfer your movies to DVD

# Tape Decay - Dust to Dust



*"... iron dust  
glued to plastic  
ribbon."*

- Video Tape Useful Life :  
6 to 60 years (per the  
Experts)
- 8mm & Super 8 Film
  - Much longer life than video  
tapes but still vulnerable to  
time/poor storage
- BETA TAPE -1975
- VHS TAPE -1977

# Digitally Remastered = New Life

- A true no-brainer



# Not Just for VHS & BETA



- Super 8 and 8mm (film)
- Laserdisc: 1978 - mid- 90 's
- Super VHS
- 8mm
- Hi-8
- Digital 8mm

# Professionally Convert or Do at Home on a Mac?



## The Three Steps (at home):

1. Capture the analog footage to your Mac
2. Author the DVD and encode the video footage
3. Multiplex and burn the whole lot to DVD disc

# Software You Can Use



- **iMovie or Final Cut**
- **iDVD**
  - iDVD4 is a significant update
- **Toast 6 Titanium**
  - Plug & Burn Option
  - DVD Copy Option

# Hardware You Will Need



- Videotape Player
  - Computer
  - DVD Burner
  - Digital Camcorder
    - Pass Through Feature important
    - Sony Digital 8 will play 8mm & Hi8
- OR
- Digital Bridge Device
- OR
- DB Cards (common in PCs)



# Which DVD Media is Most Compatible with Your DVD Player?



- DVD-R
- DVD+R (newer, but...)
- DVD-RW
- DVD+RW
- DVD-RAM
- DVD-ROM

Not all DVD players (or computer drives) will read all recordable formats. DVD-R and DVD+R have best chance of being compatible. Apple Drives require DVD-R (kind of).



# Step 1: Capture Your Analog Video



## iMovie 4 (or Final Cut)

- Connect source to converter and converter to Mac's FireWire port.
- Start iMovie, create a new project.
- Press play on source (VCR/camcorder) & see footage on Mac's screen.
- Rewind source to start, press import in iMovie & press play on source.
- Source starts digitizing in 9.5 minute clips.
- Edit your movie. (Limited only by imagination)
- Export to iDVD

# Step 2: Author Your DVD



**iDVD 4 (if internal superdrive)**

or

**DVD Studio Pro &  
MPEG-2 Encoding  
Program**

- Create New Project in iDVD
- Select Background Theme (static or movie/slideshow)
- Import movie saved in iMovie
- Add other content (up to 2 hrs)
- iDVD 4: Background encode if less than 60 minutes
- Click Burn

# Step 3: Encode, Multiplex & Burn to Your DVD

- A very long process
  - Best to leave computer alone
  - Recommend burn while sleeping
- iDVD 4 (Pref Choices):
  - **Best Performance:** 60 min or less; Fairly fast encoding; Background Encoding Feature
  - **Best Quality:** 60 min or more: MUCH slower, plus, no background encoding (same 2 pass process as DVD Pro, so highest quality.)



# Burning Issues with iDVD4



- Forums filled with lock-up stories during burning.
- My 1st burn flawless, next 5 created coasters.
- Solution:
  - Critical: Turn off Computer Sleep, Display Sleep & HD spindown in Energy Saver
  - Turn off the screensaver
  - Repair permissions
  - Ensure at least 25gigs free on harddrive
  - Disconnect internet connection
  - For pre-iDVD4 versions or if project less than 60 min:
    - Select Best Performance & enable Background Encoding (iDVD 4)
    - Encode before burning
- Don't get impatient when this process seems to take forever (converting 25 gigs to 4.7 is quite a process)!



# Odds and Ends



- Can I make a copy of my new DVD? Yes.
  - Toast Titanium 6
  - Disk Utility (OSX)
- Can I recapture my DVD to iMovie or Final Cut?
  - Analog: yes
  - Digital: not so easy
- Tape to DVD Example(s)
- Questions?