

VHS Tape Wiping & Recording Guide

List of Materials

- A VHS Tape
- A strong magnet (optional)
- A VCR with a “record” function
- An older TV model with 2 RCA input ports (details below)
- 2 RCA cables, an HDMI cable, and an HDMI to RCA adapter
- A laptop with videos you want to record
- Sticky tape

Wiping the Tape

There are a couple ways to erase a tape.

The easiest way is to let it run in the VCR while recording without any input. That is, hit the record button and let it run without playing anything. This method is easy, but you will have to wait the full length of the tape.

The second is using a strong magnet, such as the magnets used for magnet fishing. Move the magnet over both sides of the reels (labeled A1 and A2) and over the top of the guard panel (Labeled B) of the cassette. Move it around over the surface of the cassette to make sure every part of the tape has been wiped.



Once done, try playing the tape normally. If no video shows up, it's ready to record!

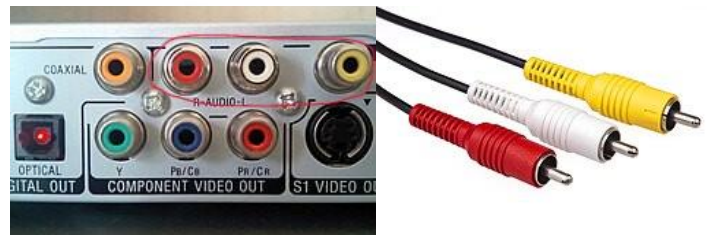
Cables & Electronics

There are two different kinds of cables you will need. The first is an HDMI cable, which will transfer the image on your computer to the TV. The second is 2 RCA cables. One cable to hook up the VCR, and one to hook up the HDMI through the HDMI to RCA adapter. Your TV will need 2 RCA input ports. Some older TVs will also come with a built-in VCR. If you have a TV like this, you only need 1 RCA cable and input. **You cannot use newer TV models because the VCR will not be able to read other input channels.** Older TVs don't have different channels quite like newer TVs. Whatever input is on the screen is what the VCR is able to record. The TV you will use will likely be one of the thicker CRT TVs from before they switched to LED flatscreen.

HDMI male (right) and female (left) ports



RCA male (right) and female (right, circled in red) ports



Once you have all the things you need, first hook up the VCR to one of the RCA inputs. Plug one end of the HDMI cable into your laptop and the other into the HDMI to RCA adapter. Then, plug one end of the second RCA cable into the adapter and the other end into your TV.

Once finished, you should see your laptop background on your TV.

Recording your tape

Before you load the tape you want to record onto into the VCR, put a little bit of tape over the square hole at the bottom of the tape (Labeled C). This hole protects tapes from accidentally being recorded over, so blocking it will allow you to record.



Once done, you can put the tape into the VCR and press the record button. At this point, the VCR is recording whatever is on your computer screen.

Tips

To make sure you're not recording yourself opening the video file, make sure you press record after you have put the video on fullscreen.

Press record after the video is already playing so you don't record the progress bar at the bottom of your video.

You will have to wait the full duration of the video before it has been recorded onto the tape.