

FlashVideo Converter™



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USER GUIDE

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C H A P T E R 1 :

Introducing FlashVideo Converter

This chapter introduces FlashVideo Converter and provides a brief overview of its features and capabilities. It also acquaints the user with the FlashVideo Converter interface, and provides information on how to install FlashVideo Converter and, if necessary, to uninstall it.

This chapter contains the following sections:

- ❑ About FlashVideo Converter
- ❑ FlashVideo Converter Features
- ❑ Overview of the FlashVideo Converter Interface
- ❑ Minimum System Requirements
- ❑ Installing FlashVideo Converter
- ❑ Uninstalling FlashVideo Converter

About FlashVideo Converter

FlashVideo Converter is a utility from Macvide that allows you to convert Flash files (.swf and .flv) to video movie mp4 (iPod Video), MOV, 3GP, ASF/WMV, or MPEG files. Prior to the conversion process, FlashVideo Converter allows you to modify the codec parameters in order to customize the output video file.

You can use FlashVideo Converter for a variety of purposes, such as:

- ❑ Converting your favorite Flash movies to create your own video or DVD collection.
- ❑ Recording a session of your favorite Flash game to a video file and saving it for future gaming.
- ❑ Converting .swf and .flv files to MP4 and 3GP media content for your mobile devices.

FlashVideo Converter Features

FlashVideo Converter features and capabilities include the following:

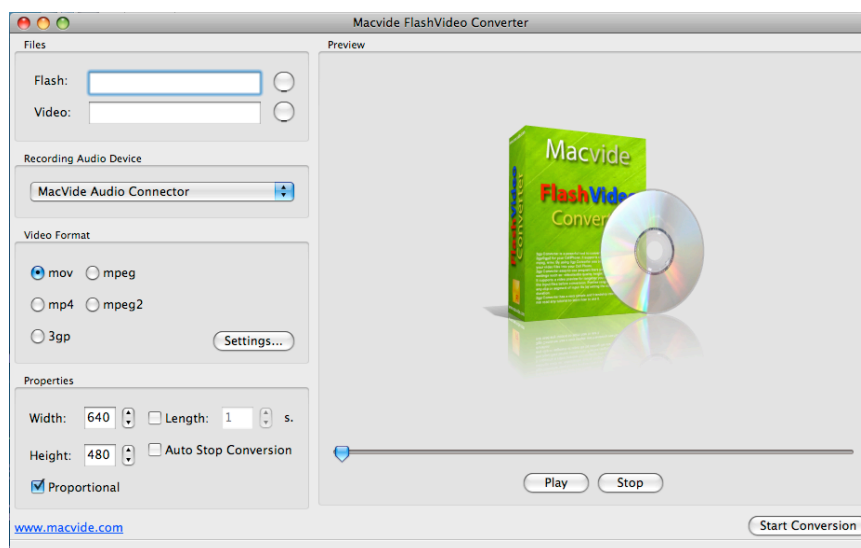
- ❑ Converts Flash files to MOV format.
- ❑ Converts Flash files to MP4 iPod format.
- ❑ Converts Flash files to 3GP (.3GPP, *.3G2) format.
- ❑ Mp4 iPod support for converting .swf and .flv files.
- ❑ Supports Flash 6, Flash 7, Flash MX, Flash 8 and Flash 9 compressed movies.
- ❑ Converts movie clips and ActionScript and ActionScript2.
- ❑ Movie width and height determination.
- ❑ User can control the movie while capturing.
- ❑ Customizable settings.
- ❑ Easy to use interface.

Overview of the FlashVideo Converter Interface

Before attempting to use FlashVideo Converter, we recommend that you familiarize yourself with its interface, which consists of two primary parts, the Main window and the Select Codec Parameters dialog.

Main Window

The main window displays when you open FlashVideo Converter.



The FlashVideo Converter Main window.

It contains the following options:

Files options

- Flash** – Displays the file path of the Flash file you have selected for conversion.
- Video** – Displays the location and name of the output video file that will result from the conversion process.

Recording Audio Device options

- MacVide Audio Connector** – Select to use the Macvide audio connector for capturing audio. This is the default and recommended option.
- Built-in Input** – Select to use the built-in audio driver from Apple.
Note: In most cases, the MacVide Audio Connector should be used.

Video Format options

- mov** – Converts the Flash file to a .mov file.
- mp4** – Converts the Flash file to a .mp4 file.
- 3gp** – Converts the Flash file to a .3gp file.
- mpeg** – Converts the Flash file to a .mpeg file.
- mpeg2** – Converts the Flash file to a .mpeg2 file.
- Settings** – Displays the Select Codec Parameters dialog (discussed below).

Properties options

- Width** – Specifies the display width of the output file.
- Height** – Specifies the display height of the output file.
- Length** – Select to specify the length, in seconds, of the output video file. **Note:** This setting allows you to control the length of the converted file. For example, if you only want to convert the first 30 seconds of the Flash file, you would select this check box, and then enter **30** in the “S” field. If you don’t select this option and specify a length, the full duration of the Flash file will be converted.
- S** – Specifies the length, in seconds, of the output video file.
- Auto Stop Conversion** – Select to have FlashVideo Converter automatically stop the conversion process once the end of the Flash file is reached.
- Proportional** – Specifies that the width and height of the original Flash file will be maintained in the output video file.

Preview – Displays a frame from the selected Flash file. You may view the Flash file by pressing the Play button.

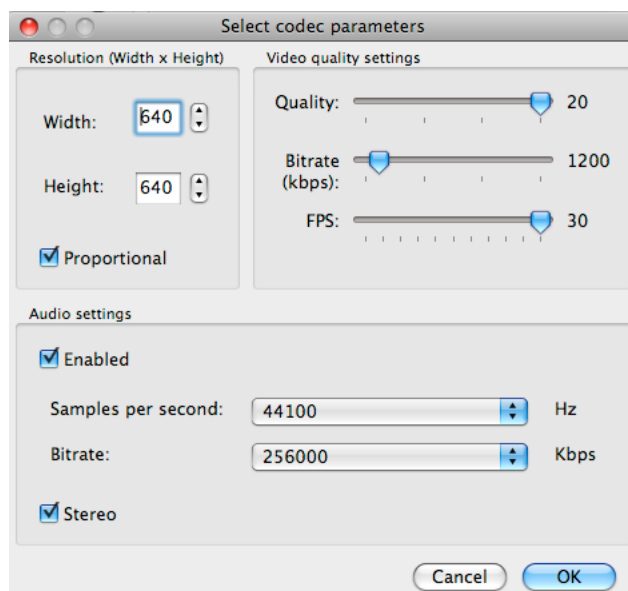
Play – Click to play the selected Flash file.

Stop – Click to stop the playing of the Flash file.

Start Conversion – Click to convert the selected Flash file. **Note:** When you click this button a Conversion Progress dialog displays. When the conversion is finished, a Conversion Complete message box displays.

Select Codec Parameters Dialog

This dialog displays when you click the Settings button on the FlashVideo Converter's main window. It displays the default settings that will be applied to the output video file, but you can modify these to suit your needs.



The Select Codec Parameters dialog.

It contains the following settings:

Resolution settings

- Width** – Specifies the display width of the output file.
- Height** – Specifies the display height of the output file.
- Proportional** – Specifies that the width and height of the original Flash file will be maintained in the output file.

Video Quality Settings

- Quality** – Allows you to increase or decrease the video quality of the output file.
- Bitrate** – Allows you to adjust the bitrate (kbps) setting for the output file.
- FPS** – Allows you to adjust the frames per second setting for the output file.

Audio settings

- Enabled** – Select to enable audio for the output file. **Note:** Clearing this checkbox will remove audio from the output file.
- Samples per second** – Specifies the samples per second setting (in hertz) for the output file.
- Bitrate** – Specifies the bitrate setting (in kilobits per second).
- Stereo** – Select to enable stereo sound.

Minimum System Requirements

To run FlashVideo Converter effectively, you should meet or exceed the following *minimum* system requirements:

- Mac OS X Version 10.4 or Tiger or Leopard 10.5
- Universal Binary for PowerPC and Intel
- 12.6 MB hard drive space

Installing FlashVideo Converter

To install FlashVideo Converter:

1. Go to the Macvide home page (www.macvide.com) and click the “Free Download” or “Purchase Now” link.
2. After the download is complete, double-click the flashvideoconverter.dmg file, then double-click “install.app” in the FlashVideo Converter dialog that displays.
3. Follow the prompts in the Install FlashVideo Converter window.

Uninstalling FlashVideo Converter

If you need to uninstall FlashVideo Converter, you may easily do so. To uninstall FlashVideo Converter, delete the MacVideAudioConnectorDriver.kext file, which is located here:
`/System/Library/Extensions/`

C H A P T E R 2 :

Using FlashVideo Converter

This chapter provides a brief overview of the process of converting a Flash file to a video file, as well as step-by-step instructions for doing so.

This chapter contains the following sections:

- ❑ Overview of the Conversion Process
- ❑ Converting a Flash File

Overview of the Conversion Process

Converting a Flash file to a video file with FlashVideo Converter is a simple, straightforward process. The primary steps involved are:

- ❑ Select the Flash file for conversion
- ❑ Specify the output location for the converted file
- ❑ Select an output video format (e.g., MOV or MPEG)
- ❑ Customize the codec parameters (optional)
- ❑ Customize the width, height and length settings (optional)

Converting a Flash File

Now that we've briefly outlined the steps involved, let's take a closer look at them.

To convert a Flash file:

1. Launch FlashVideo Converter. The Main window displays.
2. Click the radio button next to the Flash field, then use the Select Input Flash File dialog that displays to navigate to and select the Flash file you want to convert.

3. Click the radio button next to the Video field to display the Select Output Video File dialog.
4. In the Save As field, enter the name you want to assign to the converted file, and then specify the location where you want to save it. **Note:** To save the converted file in a new folder, click the New Folder button and enter a name in the New Folder dialog, then click the Create button.
5. Under the Video Format heading, select the desired option, such as mov or mpeg.
6. If you want to customize the codec parameters for the video format you selected, click the Settings button to display the Select Codec Parameters dialog. **Note:** If you prefer, you may skip this step and use the default parameters.
7. Specify the desired codec parameters, and then click OK. **Note:** See the section on the Select Codec Parameters dialog on page 9 for more information.
8. Under the Properties heading, specify the desired dimensions for the converted file. (To maintain the width, height and length dimensions of the original Flash file, make sure the Proportional check box is selected.) **Note:** If you prefer, you may skip this step and use the default properties.
9. Click the Start Conversion button. A Conversion Progress dialog displays. A Conversion Complete message box displays when the conversion is finished.

You may now view the converted file by navigating to the output location you specified.

CHAPTER 3 :

Troubleshooting

This chapter deals with problems you may occasionally encounter when using FlashVideo Converter. It suggests ways to resolve them, and also provides information about additional resources that may be of help to you.

This chapter contains the following sections:

- Resolving Problems
- Additional Resources
- Contacting Technical Support

Resolving Problems

When using FlashVideo Converter, you may occasionally encounter a problem. Some of the more common problems are discussed below, along with suggestions as to how to resolve them.

Video is Jerky

This can occur if the FPS setting you specified for the output file is less than that in the original Flash file. For example, if you have a Flash file with a 15 FPS setting, and you specify a 10 FPS setting for the output file. Try the conversion again, this time with an equivalent FPS setting for the output file.

Image is Distorted

If the image of the output file is distorted, convert the Flash file again. When doing so, make sure that the Proportional check box is selected on the Select Codec Parameters dialog.

No Video

This may occur if the necessary video codec isn't supported. Contact our technical support department for assistance.

Video is Poor Quality

After performing a conversion, if the resulting video is of poor quality (e.g., is blurry or grainy), convert the Flash file again, this time with a higher video quality bit rate setting. To do so:

1. Click the Settings button to display the Select Codec Parameters dialog.
2. Under the Video Quality Settings heading, specify a higher Bitrate (e.g., in the 5000-6000 kbps range), then click OK.
3. Click the Start Conversion button to convert the file again.

If the video quality is still poor, perform another conversion with an even higher bitrate setting. You may also try adjusting the Quality and FPS settings.

No Audio

If the resulting output file has no audio, perform the conversion again. Before doing so, under the Audio Settings heading on the Select Codec Parameters dialog, be sure to select the Enabled check box. In addition, make sure that the Macvide Audio Connector is selected under the Recording Audio Device heading on the main window.

Audio and Video Are Out of Sync

This can occur if the video file is corrupted.

Additional Resources

If the problem you are having hasn't been addressed above, we suggest you visit the online FlashVideo Converter forum, as it may contain a post that resolves your problem.

To visit the online FlashVideo Converter forum, go to the MacVide homepage (www.macvide.com), click on the Support link, and then select the FlashVideo Converter item in the forum list. If you are unable to find an answer to your question in an already existing thread, you may post a new thread. Posted items are usually replied to within 1 or 2 business days.

Contacting Technical Support

If you are unable to find an answer to your problem on the FlashVideo Converter forum, you may request help by contacting us directly. There are two ways you may do so. You can submit a Technical Support request via the Contacts page of our website (www.macvide.com/Contacts/) or you may send an email to support@macvide.com.

Your satisfaction is important to us, and we will do everything we can to resolve your issue in a timely and professional manner.

Conclusion

This concludes the FlashVideo Converter User's Guide. We hope you have found it helpful. If you have any comments about FlashVideo Converter, or any suggestions as to how it could be improved, we encourage you to forward them to us. We welcome any suggestions you may have. Thank you for using FlashVideo Converter.