

VideoFlash ConverterTM



Support: support@macvide.com

Sales: sales@macvide.com

Website: www.macvide.com

USER GUIDE

Copyright Notice

VideoFlash Converter program copyright © 2008 by Macvide.

VideoFlash Converter User Guide copyright © 2008 by Macvide. All rights reserved. This document may not, in whole or in part, be copied, photocopied, reproduced, translated, or reduced to any electronic medium or machine-readable form without written consent from Macvide.

Acknowledgments

Throughout this manual reference is made to several trademarks: VideoFlash Converter is a trademark of Macvide. All other brand and product names are trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective holders.

Printed in the United States of America
First Printing
November 2008

Table of Contents

Introducing VideoFlash Converter	5
About VideoFlash Converter	5
VideoFlash Converter Features	6
Overview of the VideoFlash Converter Interface	6
Minimum System Requirements	10
Installing VideoFlash Converter	11
Uninstalling VideoFlash Converter	11
Using VideoFlash Converter	13
Overview of the Conversion Process	13
Converting a Video File	14
Creating an HTML File	15
Troubleshooting	17
Resolving Problems	17
Additional Resources	18
Contacting Technical Support	19
Conclusion	19

C H A P T E R 1 :

Introducing VideoFlash Converter

This chapter introduces VideoFlash Converter and provides a brief overview of its features and capabilities. It also provides information on how to download and install VideoFlash Converter, and, when necessary, to uninstall it.

This chapter contains the following sections:

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

About VideoFlash Converter

Welcome to VideoFlash Converter, a utility from Macvide that allows you to easily convert most of the popular video formats – AVI, WMV, MOV, MPG, ASF, and DivX – to Flash files. Simply select the file you want to convert, rename it, specify a few settings, and click the Start Conversion button.

VideoFlash Converter automatically provides the ideal default settings. You also have the flexibility to crop videos, set the duration, adjust the picture quality, and specify other audio/video preferences. And Macvide VideoFlash Converter provides an easy-to-use interface that guides you through the conversion process.

VideoFlash Converter Features

VideoFlash Converter's features and capabilities include the following:

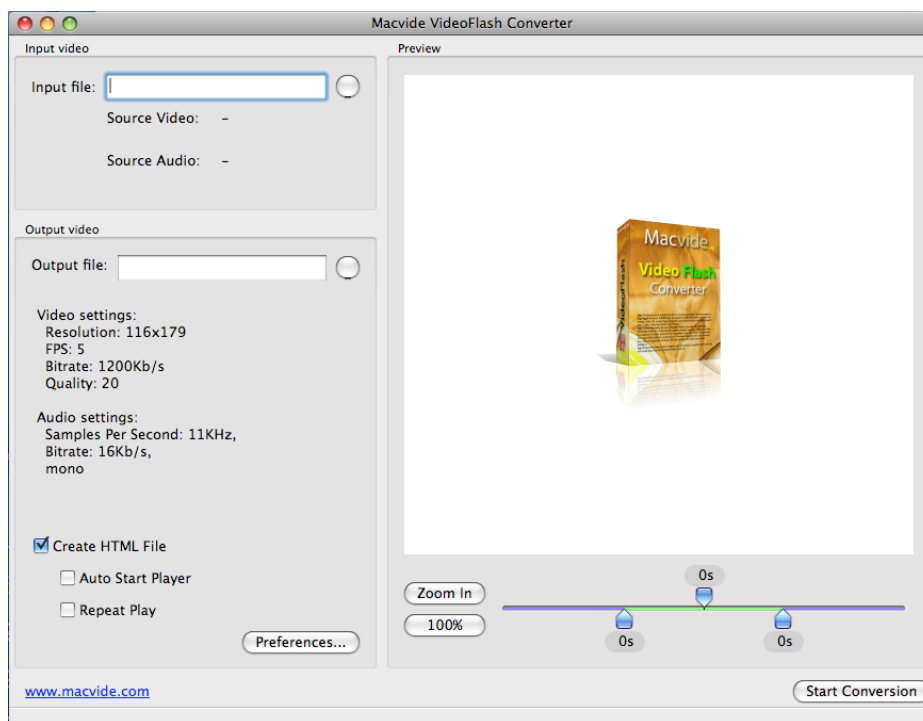
- ❑ Convert popular video formats – including AVI, WMV, MOV, MPG, ASF, and DivX – to Flash files.
- ❑ Choose between .flv or .swf output.
- ❑ Modify the resolution, frame rate, video and audio bit rates, width and height to suit your needs.
- ❑ Crop videos to remove black borders.
- ❑ Preview your video from the first frame to the final frame.
- ❑ Compatible with PowerPCs G4 or G5 and Intel Core 2 processors.
- ❑ User-friendly interface that guides you through the conversion process.

Overview of the VideoFlash Converter Interface

Before attempting to use VideoFlash Converter, we encourage you to 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 VideoFlash Converter.



The VideoFlash Converter Main window.

It contains the following options:

Input Video options

- ❑ **Input File** – Displays the file path of the video file you have selected for conversion. **Note:** To select a video file for conversion, click the adjacent radio button, then use the dialog that displays to navigate to and select the desired file.
- ❑ **Source Video** – Displays video information about the selected input file, such as the display height and width, the frames per second and the duration in seconds.
- ❑ **Source Audio** – Displays audio information about the selected input file, such as the number of channels and the samples per second.

Output Video options

- ❑ **Output File** – Displays the file path and name of the output file (i.e., the Flash file that will result from the conversion). **Note:** To specify an output location and a name for the converted Flash file, click the adjacent radio button and use the dialog that displays to specify the output file's location and name.
- ❑ **Video Settings** – Displays video information for the output file, such as the resolution, frames per second (FPS) and bitrate. **Note:** These default settings can be adjusted via the Select Codec Parameters dialog, which you can access by clicking the Preferences button.
- ❑ **Audio Settings** – Displays audio information about the output Flash file, such as the samples per second and bitrate. **Note:** These default settings can also be changed via the Select Codec Parameters dialog.

Create HTML File options

- ❑ **Create HTML File** – Select to create an HTML file in which the output file can be viewed. This file could then be uploaded to a website.
- ❑ **Auto Start Player** – Select to specify that the Flash file will automatically start playing when the HTML file is opened in a browser.
- ❑ **Repeat Play** – Select to specify that the Flash file will play continuously (i.e., will loop) when the HTML file is viewed in a browser.
- ❑ **Preferences** – Displays the Select Codec Parameters dialog (discussed below), with which you can modify the audio and video settings for the output Flash file.

Preview – Displays a frame from the selected video file.

Resizing handles – Located in the Preview window, these allow you to crop the display.

Zoom In – Click to shorten the output Flash file to length designated by the sliders (see below).

100% – Click to restore the output Flash file to its full length if you have altered its length via the sliders.

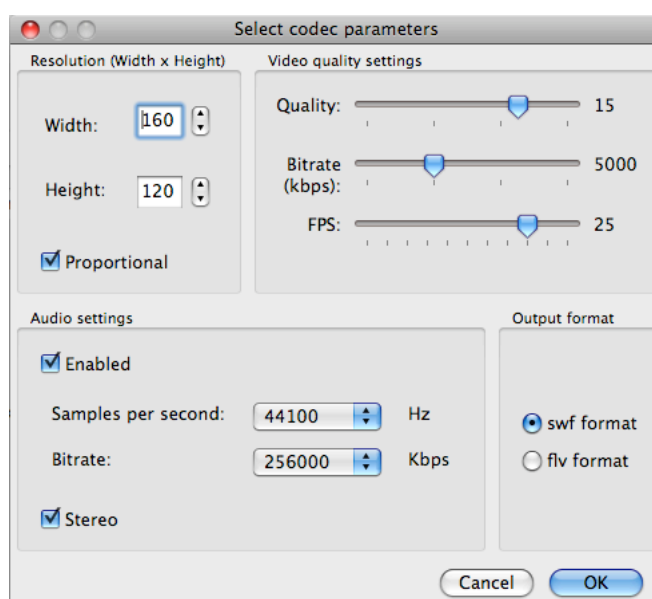
Sliders – Located near the bottom of the preview window, these allow you to shorten the duration of the output file by specifying how many seconds to remove from the beginning or end (or both ends) of the video.

Start Conversion – Click to begin the conversion of the selected input 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 Preferences button on the VideoFlash Converter's main window. It displays the default settings that will be applied to the output Flash 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 display width and height of the original video file will be maintained in the output Flash 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.

Output Format settings

- ❑ **swf format** – Select to convert the video file to Shock Wave Flash (.swf) format.
- ❑ **flv format** – Select to convert the video file to Flash (.flv) format.

Minimum System Requirements

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

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

Installing VideoFlash Converter

To install VideoFlash 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 videoflashconverter.dmg file, then double-click “install.app” in the VideoFlash Converter dialog that displays.
3. Follow the prompts in the Install VideoFlash Converter window.

Uninstalling VideoFlash Converter

If you need to uninstall VideoFlash Converter, you may easily do so. To uninstall VideoFlash Converter simply double-click on the videoflashconverter.dmg file, then double-click “Uninstall.app” in the VideoFlash Converter dialog that displays.

C H A P T E R 2 :

Using VideoFlash Converter

This chapter provides an overview of the process of converting a video file to a Flash file, as well as step-by-step instructions for doing so. It also describes how to create an HTML file in which to display the converted Flash file.

This chapter contains the following sections:

- Overview of the Conversion Process
- Converting a Video File
- Creating an HTML File

Overview of the Conversion Process

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

- Select the video file for conversion
- Specify an output format, either swf or flv
- Specify the output location
- Customize the codec parameters (optional)
- Specify HTML file settings (optional)
- Crop the video display (optional)
- Adjust the video file's duration (optional)

As you can see, most of the above steps aren't even required; they're optional.

Converting a Video File

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

To convert a video file:

1. Launch VideoFlash Converter. The main window displays.
2. Click the radio button next to the Input File field to display the Select Input Video File dialog.
3. Navigate to and select the file you want to convert, then click the Open button. The dialog closes and a frame from the video you selected is displayed in the Preview screen.
4. Click the Preferences button to display the Select Codec Parameters dialog.
5. Under the Output Format heading, select the desired output format (swf or flv), then click the OK button. **Note:** If you prefer to customize the codec parameters for the selected output format rather than use the default ones, you may do so before clicking OK. See the section on the Select Codec Parameters dialog on page 9 for more information.
6. Click the radio button next to the Output File field to display the Select Output Video File dialog.
7. In the Save As field, enter the name you want to assign to the output file, 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.
8. If you want to create an HTML file in which to play the output file (which you could then upload to a website), select the Create HTML File check box, then select the desired options:

Auto Start Player – Select to specify that the output file will automatically start playing when the HTML file is viewed in a browser.

Repeat Play – Select to specify that the output file will play continuously (i.e., will loop) when the HTML file is viewed in a browser.

Note: For more information on creating an HTML file, see the section on page 15.

9. If you want to crop the video display, you may do so in the Preview window by clicking and dragging any of the resizing handles.
10. If you want to shorten the duration of the output file, you may do so by removing seconds from the beginning or end of the video (or from both) via the sliders located near the bottom of the preview window. To remove seconds from the beginning of the file, drag the leftmost slider to the right. To remove seconds from the end of the file, drag the rightmost slider to the left. For example, dragging the leftmost slider from the 0s position to the 5s position, will remove the first 5 seconds from the video.
11. 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.

Creating an HTML File

When converting a video file to a Flash file, you can have VideoFlash Converter create an HTML file in which the Flash file can be viewed. This HTML file can then be utilized on a website, and it can be customized to suit your purposes.

To create an HTML file:

1. When preparing a video file for conversion, under the Output Video heading, select the Create HTML File checkbox. Doing so will cause VideoFlash Converter to create an HTML file with the same name, and in the same location, as the output file.
2. If you want the Flash file to automatically start playing when the HTML file is viewed in a browser, select the Auto Start Player checkbox.
3. To have the Flash file play continuously (i.e., will loop) when the HTML file is viewed in a browser, select the Repeat Play checkbox.
4. Finish specifying any other desired settings, then click the Start Conversion button.

5. When the conversion is complete, navigate to the output location. You will notice that three files have been created: the output Flash file itself, a mediaplayer.swf file, and an html file. **Note:** These three files must be kept together in the same location for the Flash file to successfully play.
6. If you double-click on the html file, a browser window opens and the HTML page displays the flash file. **Note:** If you selected the Auto Start Player checkbox, the Flash file will automatically begin to play, and if you selected the Repeat Play checkbox, it will replay for as long as the browser window is open.
7. You can now edit the HTML page to customize its content (e.g., change the document title, headline and hyperlink).
8. Once all the desired edits have been made to the HTML file, you can upload the files to the web.

CHAPTER 3 :

Troubleshooting

This chapter deals with problems you may occasionally encounter when using VideoFlash 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 VideoFlash 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 of Poor Quality

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

1. Click the Preferences 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.

Video is Cropped

If the video is cropped, perform the conversion again. This time, before converting it, when viewing the sample frame of the video in the Preview window, use the resizing handles to select the *entire* frame that is displayed, rather than just the default portion of it.

Video is Jerky

This can occur if the FPS setting you specified for the output file is less than that in the original video file. For example, if you have a WMV file with a 30 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 video 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.

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.

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 VideoFlash Converter forum, as it may contain a post that resolves your problem.

To visit the online VideoFlash Converter forum, go to the Macvide homepage (www.macvide.com), click on the Support link, and then select the VideoFlash 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 VideoFlash 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 VideoFlash Converter User Guide. We hope you have found it helpful. If you have any comments about VideoFlash 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 VideoFlash Converter.