VIDBOX®
Video Conversion for PC™

User Guide

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honestech

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Table of Contents

1. Introduction

Video tapes can deteriorate over time. Deteriorated videos will exhibit color bleed, white specks, and other distortions. Don't let this happen to your precious memories by archiving your videotape collection onto DVD/CD. Video Conversion for PC™ offers the fastest and easiest way to do just that.

Video Conversion for PC enables novice and professionals alike to bring back precious memories from old VHS, Betamax and camcorder tapes. Convert analog tapes to digital formats with this product today to preserve priceless home videos forever. If you have a Mac, please check out Video Conversion for Mac (Mac solution) or Video Conversion Suite (PC & Mac solution).

1.1. System Requirements

• **Operating System:**
  Windows Vista®
  Windows® 7
  Windows® 8
  Windows® 10
• **Available USB 2.0/3.0 Port**
• **Processor:**
  Intel® Pentium® IV 2.4 GHz, Pentium® D, Pentium® M 1.3 GHz, Pentium Core™ Duo, or AMD® Athlon® 64 processor (Intel® Pentium® IV 3 GHz with hyperthreading or dual core 1.3 GHz for HD editing)
• **Memory:**
  1GB of RAM
• **Free Hard Disk Space:**
  700MB for program installation and 10GB for DVD creation
• **Other:**
  VCR/Camcorder for tape conversion
  Composite (RCA) cable
  Audio cable (3.5mm to composite)
  Audio cable (3.5mm to 3.5mm)
  DirectX 9.0 or higher
  Windows Media Player 6.4 (or higher)
  CD Writer for Audio CD
  DVD Writer for DVD

1.2. Output Formats

- **Video Output:** DVD, MPEG-2, MP4

2. Overview

Videotapes can deteriorate over time. Your old videos will have color bleed, white specks, and other distortions. Don't risk this happening to your home video collection! Video Conversion for PC™ provides everything you need to easily convert your videos to digital formats. All you need is a VCR and a PC with or without a DVD burner. With Video Conversion for PC™, you can transfer your video to DVD or video file with one click. Step-by-Step pictorial instructions guide you through the process.

Video Conversion for PC™ has two modes: 1) Video and 2) Audio and.

- **Video**
  Capture old VHS, Beta, 8mm or camcorder tapes and convert them to DVD or other digital formats. Save your memories from your wedding, graduation, family vacation and more.

- **Audio**
  Digitize your old music by recording audio from your cassetts, LP records, and videotapes to create WMA files or audio CDs.

3. Video Conversion for PC™ Installation

3.1. Installing Video Conversion for PC™

3.1.1. Insert the installation CD into the CD/DVD drive on your computer.
Do NOT connect the VIDBOX – if you have connected the device, unplug it now.
Disable any Anti-Virus or Anti-Spyware.

3.1.2. The installation process will start automatically.
*Note: If the installation does NOT start automatically, double-click the **"Setup.exe"** file on the installation CD to begin the installation process.*

3.1.3. Click **[Next >]** to continue the installation.
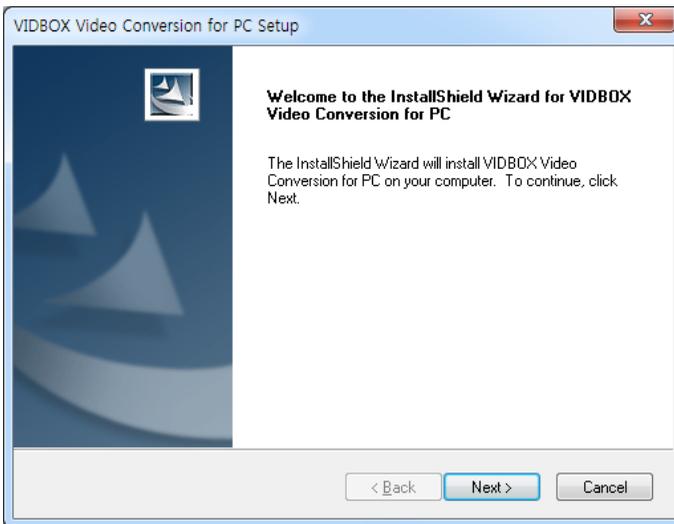
3.1.4. Read the License Agreement. Click **[Next >]** after accepting the License Agreement to continue with the installation.


3.1.5. Click **[Change…]** if you want to install the software in a different folder. Click **[Next >]** to continue with the installation.
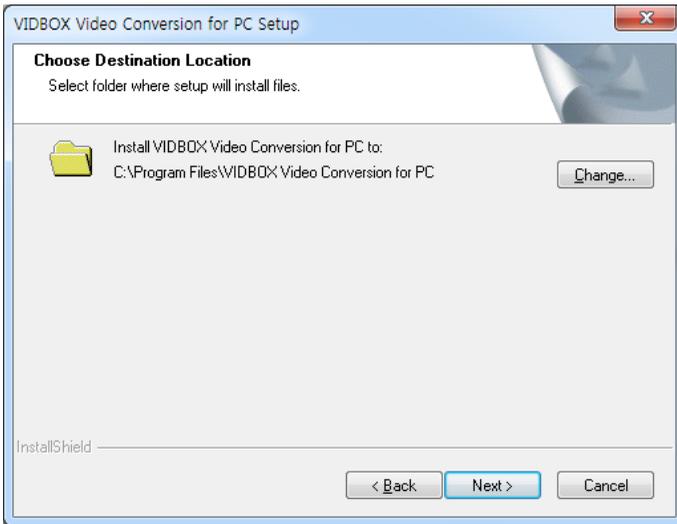
3.1.6. Accept the default program folder or create your own program folder by entering a new folder name. Then click **[Next >]** to continue with the installation.
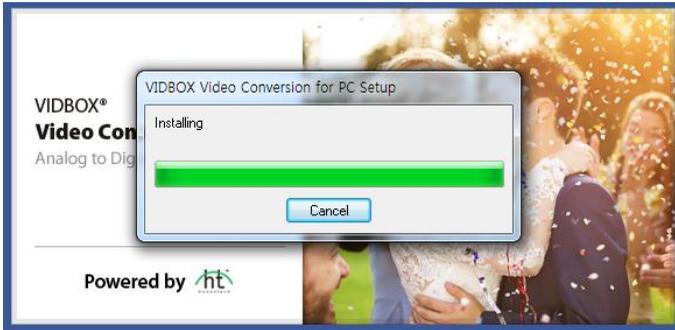

3.1.7. Click **[Install]** to start installing the software with the current settings.   If you want to change the settings, click on **[< Back]** to go back to the previous screen.
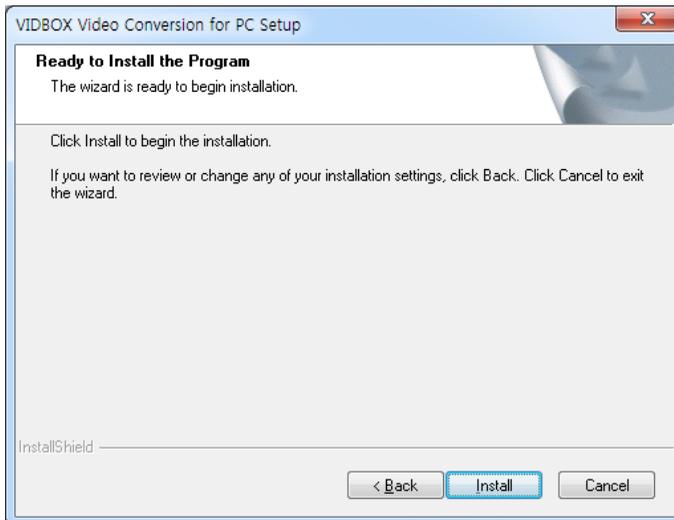
3.1.8. The setup status screen will display the installation progress. Please wait for completion.


*** When the software has completely installed, the device driver for the VIDBOX capture device <u>must</u> be installed. This process will start automatically after you complete the installation of the Windows Media Runtime Setup (see section 3.2).

3.2. Installing the device driver.

3.2.1. Please make sure that your VIDBOX is **NOT** connected to your computer.
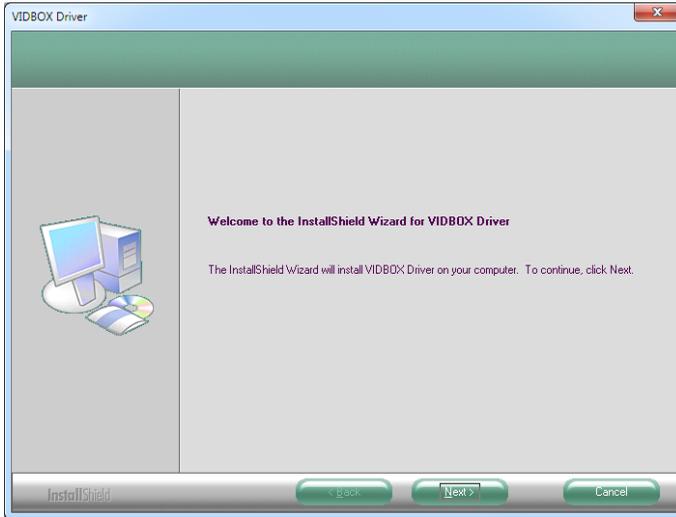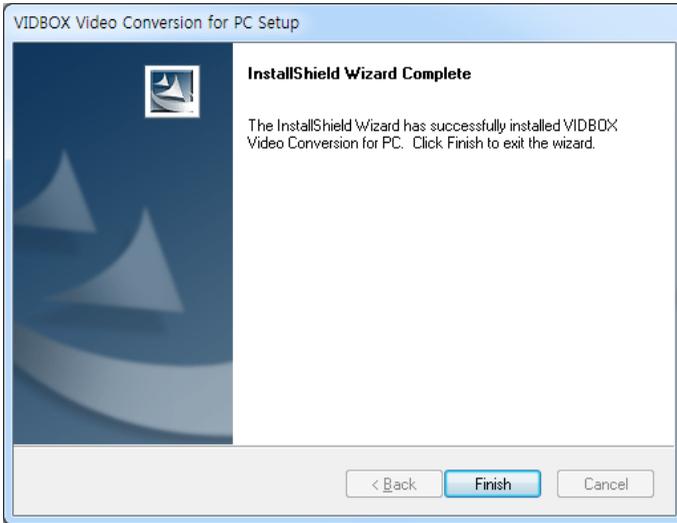

3.2.2. The necessary device driver files have installed completely. Please click **[Finish]** to exit.
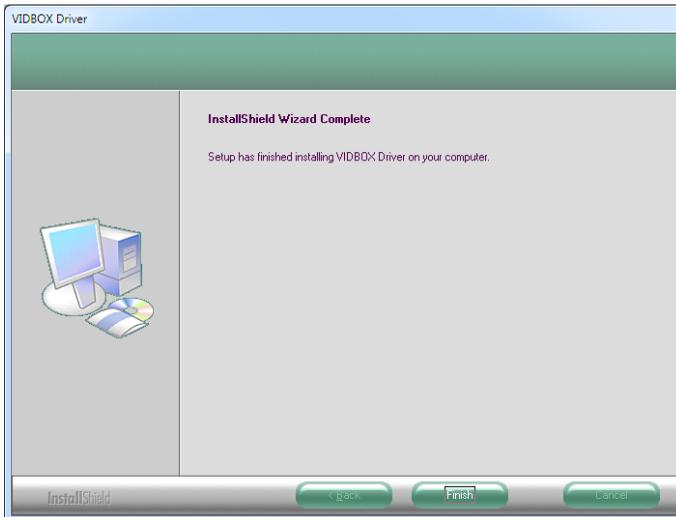
3.2.3. Click **[Finish]** to complete the installation.

3.2.4. Setup has finished copying files to your computer. Before you can use the program and VIDBOX, you must restart your computer.

4. Starting Video Conversion for PC™

You can start **Video Conversion for PC™** by simply double-clicking on this icon typically found on your desktop.

Or you can start the program through the **Start** menu button by clicking:
Start → All Programs → *VIDBOX Video Conversion* **for PC →** *VIDBOX Video Conversion* **for PC**

The following main menu screen will be displayed when the program starts.
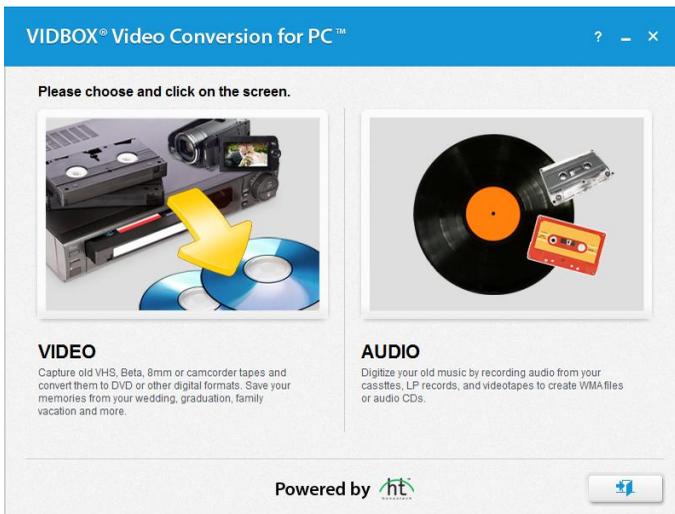

The **Video Mode** allows you to convert analog video such as VHS, Beta, 8mm, camcorder video tapes to digital video formats including DVD disc and video file such as MPEG-2 and MP4 file formats.

The **Audio Mode** is recommended for recording sound only. It can be used to record sound from various audio devices including LP turntables, cassette tapes, and any other device that can be connected to an RCA/Composite audio jack.

5. Video Mode

The **Video Mode** assists you with converting your old analog video tapes including VHS, Beta, camcorder and more to digital formats including MPEG-2 files and DVD disc. From the main menu screen, select the **Video Mode** to begin.
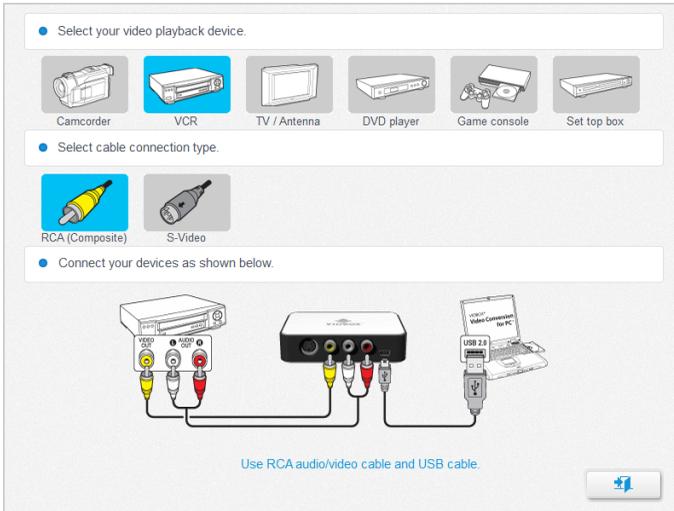
5.1. Step 1 - Select your video connector
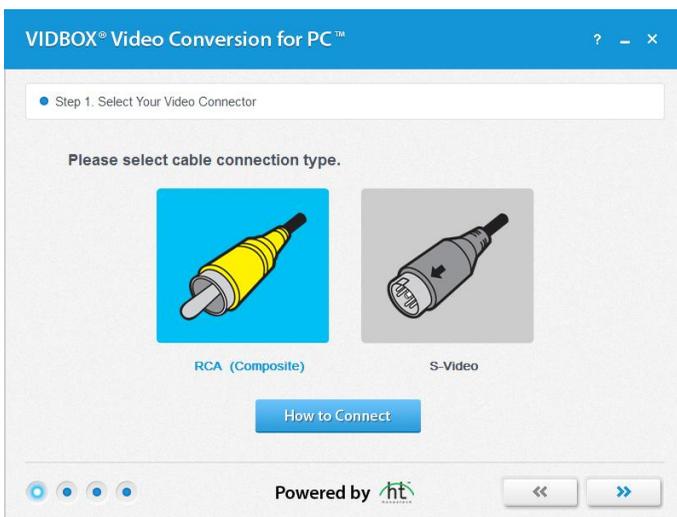
Select your video connector type: RCA (Composite) or S-Video, and click the arrow pointing to the right to proceed.   Click the arrow pointing to the right to proceed.

If you need assistance with setting up the hardware including the video player and USB video capture device, click on the   **How to Connect**   button.

Note) S-Video cables transmit a higher quality video signal than regular RCA (Composite) cables, but they do not carry an audio signal. RCA (Composite) audio cables are still required when making an S-Video connection.

Select your video player and the type of cable you are using.   Then connect your devices with appropriate cable as shown on the screen.   Click the button to exit out from the screen.
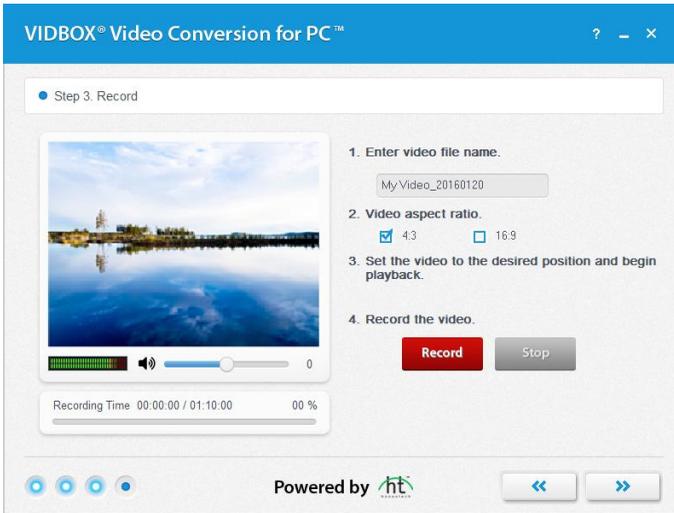
5.2. Step 2 - Record Settings
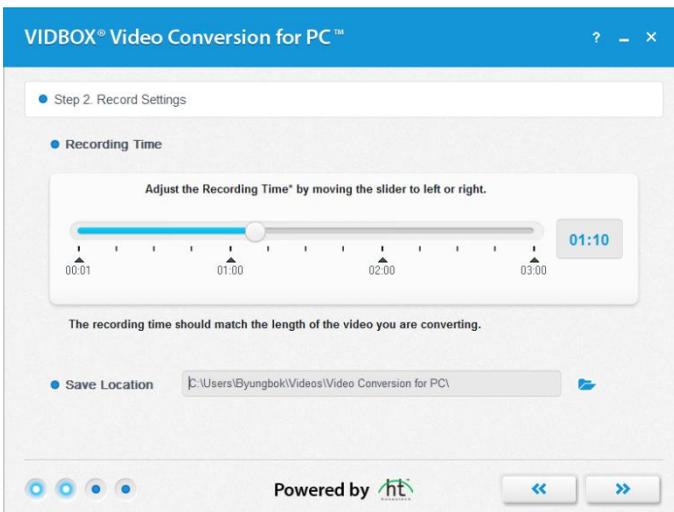
Set your Record settings by adjusting the Recording Time slider to match the length of the video you will be recording. Click the arrow pointing to the right to proceed.

Save Location – this is the directory/folder on your computer's hard drive, where all video recordings will be saved.

5.3. Step 3 - Record

1. Enter the video file name.
2. Select the video aspect ratio.
   a. If you are converting VHS tapes, it should be in 4:3 format.
   b. Select the Widescreen (16:9) option if your video appears squished or compressed in the Preview Screen. Generally, this will only be necessary for camcorder DV tapes recorded in the 16x9 format.
3. Begin playback of your video tape to view it in the Preview Screen.
4. Click the **[Record]** button to start recording.   Click the **[Stop]** button to manually stop the recording any time.
5. Once finished, click the arrow pointing to the right to proceed.

- Use the **Recording Volume** slider at the bottom of the Preview Screen, to adjust the recording volume. Volume Meters to the left of the slider display a visual representation

Tip: It is always a good idea to preview the loudest sections of your video source while adjusting your recording volume. This will help you to avoid distortion when the signal peaks in the red during actual recording.   For best recording volume, set the volume slider so the meter spike in the yellow but not in the red.

5.4. Step 4 – Review and Publish
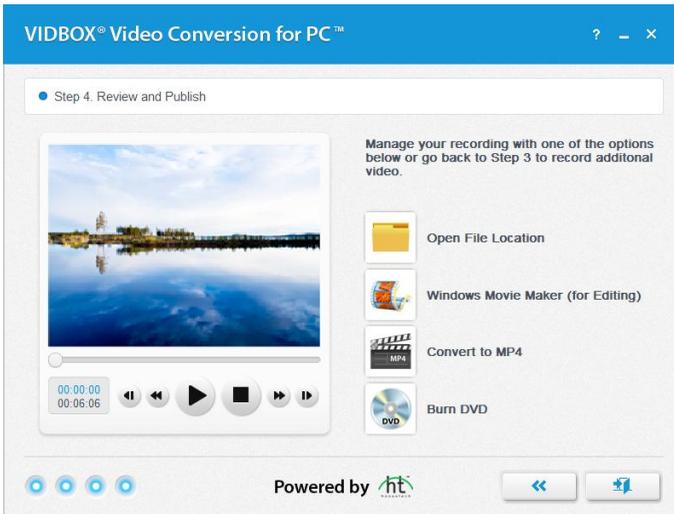
1. Click the **Play** button to view the recorded video.
2. Click the **Open File Location** to open the folder where the video recordings are saved.
3. Click **Windows Movie Maker** if you want to export and edit the recorded video in Windows Movie Maker.

4. Click **Covnert to MP4** to convert the recorded clips to MP4 format to watch on your mobile device or computer.
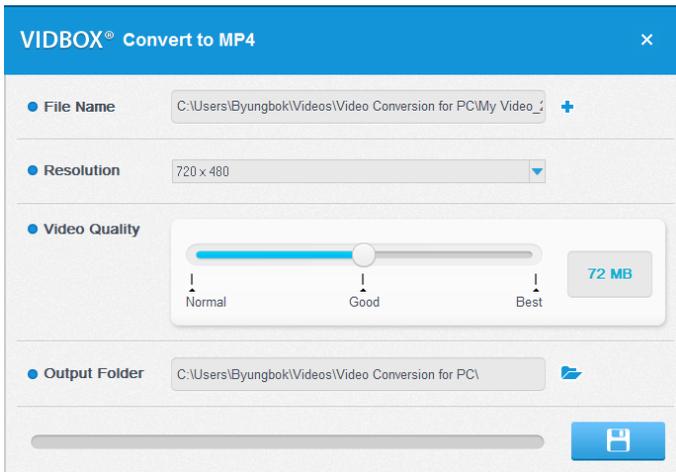
a. Choose a resolution setting and video quality setting.   Choosing higher resolution and video quality will result in larger file size.
b. Click on the button to begin.

5. Click **Burn DVD** to burn the recorded video into DVD format.
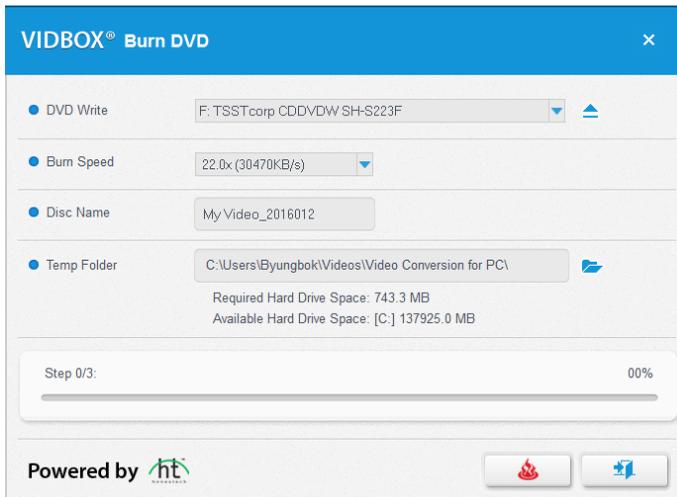
a. **DVD writer:** select your DVD writer.   Generally, your DVD writer will be selected automatically.

b. **Burn Speed:** use this option to specify the speed at which your disc drive will burn your disc.
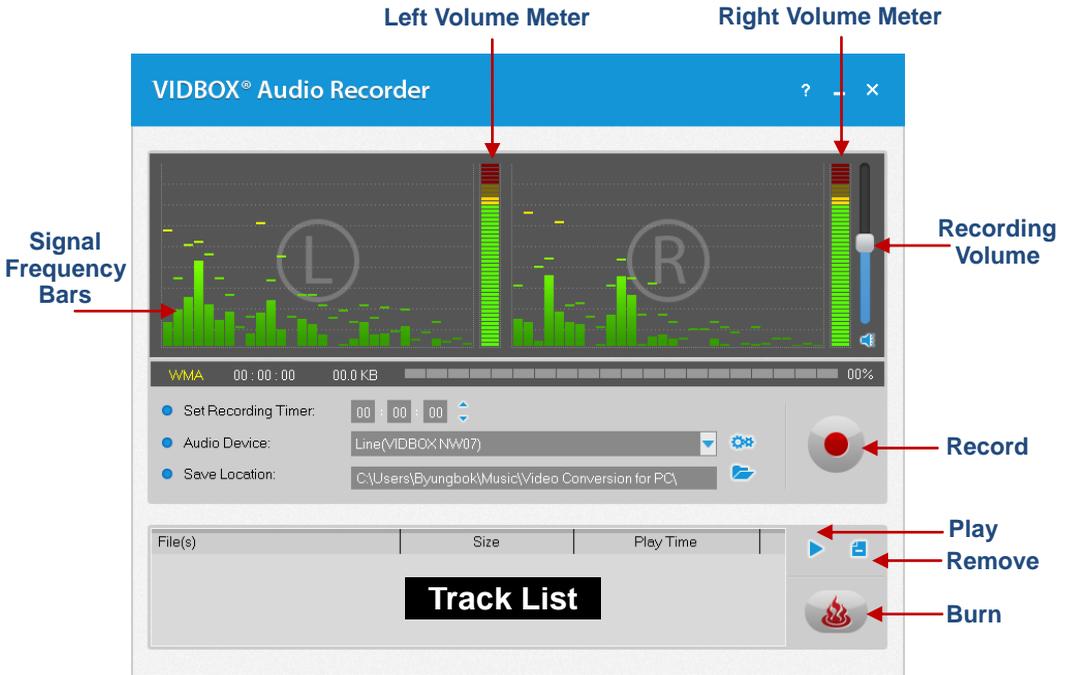- Slower burn speeds will typically yield better disc results. If you encounter burning problems, try lowering the burn speed.

c. **Disc Name:** enter disc name for DVD.
- The name will be visible when played on a computer or from the display interface on supported DVD players.

d. **Temp Folder:** the files will be temporarily stored in this folder.
- Once recording is complete, the video will be written to your blank disc and the contents of the Folder deleted. You can change the Temp Folder location by clicking the folder icon and selecting a new folder.
- Changing your Temp Folder is not recommended unless the Required Hard Drive Space.

Then click the **[Burn]** button to start burning the DVD.   Click the **[Exit]** button to exit the program.

*Warning: Manually ejecting your disc before completion can cause the disc to malfunction.

6. Audio Mode

To convert audio, select **Audio Mode** from the main menu screen.

Left Volume Meter

Right Volume Meter

VIDBOX® Audio Recorder

Signal Frequency Bars

Recording Volume

WMA   00 : 00 : 00   00.0 KB   00%

- Set Recording Timer: 00 : 00 : 00
- Audio Device: Line(VIDBOX NW07)
- Save Location: C:\Users\Byungbok\Music\Video Conversion for PC\

Record

File(s)	Size	Play Time

Track List

Play

Remove

Burn

You can use the Audio Mode to perform several audio recording functions including:

- Record from LP records, cassette tapes, and other audio sources.
- Convert to WMA (Windows Media Audio) digital file format.
- Create Audio CDs, WMA CDs, and WMA DVDs.

Below are descriptions for some of the functions and areas found within the Audio Mode.

Signal Frequency Bars – displays the audio signal detected by the program from both Left and Right channels.

Left/Right Volume Meter – displays the volume of your audio signal detected by the program. The meters will rise as the signal volume increases. They will display yellow warning bars if your volume becomes dangerously close to distorting (too loud), and Red bars when audio distortion is eminent.

Recording Volume – use this bar to adjust your recording volume and manipulate the Volume

Meters.

Track List – displays each recording in list form with size (megabytes) and duration information.

Getting Started:

There are five steps to recording in the Audio Mode:

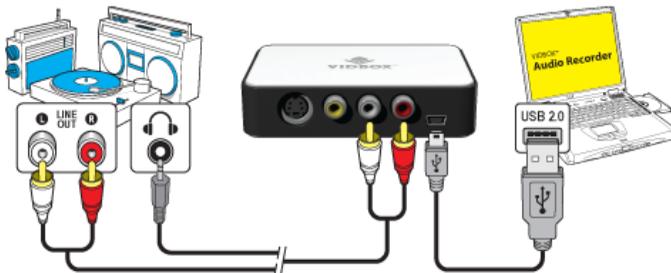**Step 1 – Connections**
Step 2 – Setup
Step 3 – Record
Step 4 – Preview
Step 5 – Burn

These steps are described in more detail below.

6.1. Step 1 – Connections

You will first need to connect your audio player to your capture device or audio card. Connections for the "VIDBOX" capture device are shown below.

Connections from your audio player can be made via **RCA (Composite) cables** or with a **Headphone-to-RCA (Composite) adapter cable**.

> **Tip:** It is important to connect the capture device to your computer before opening the VHStoDVD program to ensure proper device detection.

6.2. Step 2 – Setup

Once your connections are complete;

• Open the Audio Mode and check your device setting.

   Audio Device – this field should reflect the capture device/card that connects between your audio player and your computer. *Some capture devices/cards may be automatically detected by the software, and listed as your audio device by default.

If your device setting is correct;

• Press play on your audio player to verify your connections and settings match up. If your setup is good, you should hear the audio play through your computer and see the **Signal Frequency Bars** moving in unison.
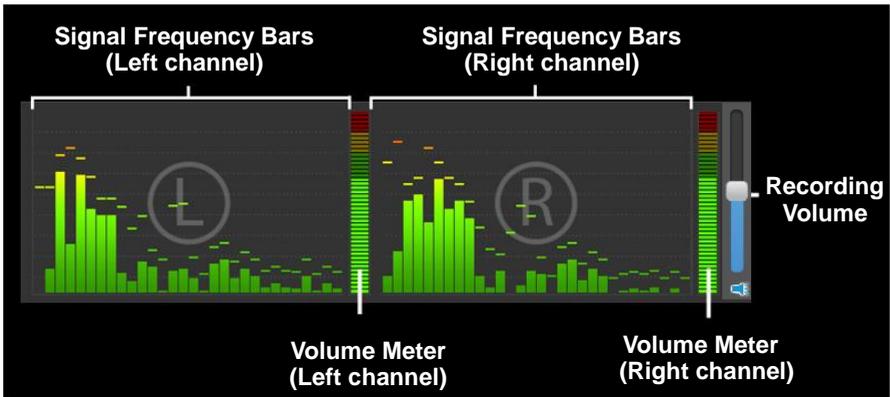
While previewing your audio signal;

• Use the **Recording Volume** slider to adjust the recording volume, visible in the **Left & Right Volume Meters**. *For best recording volume, set the volume slider so that the meters spike in the yellow but not in the red.

> **Tip:** It is always a good idea to preview the loudest sections of your audio source while adjusting your recording volume. This will help you to avoid distortion if the signal peaks in the red during actual recording.

6.3. Step 3 – Record

Before clicking record, you will want to check your recording settings listed below and make any necessary adjustments.

> **Set Recording Timer** – setting a recording time enables the Audio Mode to stop recording once the time entered has elapsed. The timer will not start until the Record button is clicked. *This is an optional setting and is not necessary for recording.
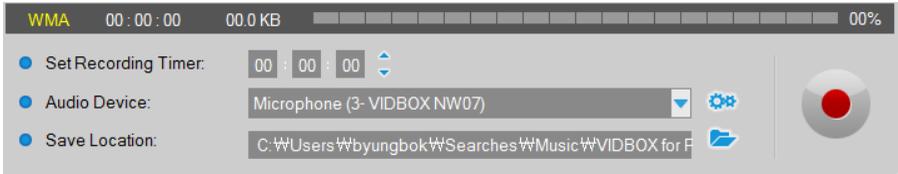
> **Output Folder** – this is the location on your computer's hard drive where all audio recordings will be saved permanently. Click the Folder icon on the right to change the output folder location. *Changing the Output Folder location is not recommended unless space is low on the current drive.

Record – click the record button when you are ready to capture your video. (This button will change to a Stop button when clicked)

Stop – click the stop button when you are ready to halt or cancel the recording process. Any audio that has been recorded will appear in the **Track List** at the bottom of the recording screen.

6.4. Step 4 – Preview

Play – click the play button to playback any recorded audio file from the Track List. *Click and highlight a specific audio file in the track list to play it.

Remove – Use the remove button to the right of the Play button to remove any audio files from the Track List. *Click and highlight a specific audio file in the track list to remove it.

6.5. Step 5 – Burn

Burn – click the burn button when you are ready to burn your audio tracks to disc.
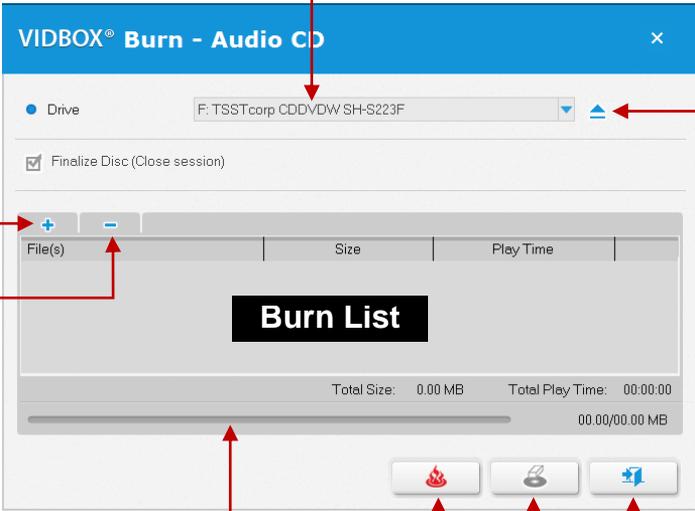
The burn button will present you with 3 burning options:

- **Audio CD** – creates a traditional Audio CD that will play in most standard CD players. This option converts the WMA digital audio files to audio CD format.

- **WMA CD** – creates a data CD with your WMA audio files. Provides portability and storage for your audio files. *Files are not converted and CD will not play as an audio CD.

- **WMA DVD** - creates a data DVD with your WMA audio files. Provides portability and storage for your audio files. *Files are not converted and DVD will not play as an audio DVD.

After selecting the desired burning option, the corresponding Burn window will open providing some additional disc burning choices before you begin the actual burning process.

See the next page for descriptions of the available burn options.

Burn Options:

Drive – use this option to select the disc drive that will burn your disc.

Add/Remove File(s) – use this option to add or remove digital audio files to/from the Burn List.

Burn List – displays each audio file to be burned, in list form with size (megabytes) and duration information. *Use the Total Size listed at the bottom of the Burn List to avoid adding more than your disc will allow.

> **Tip:** The Audio CD burn window will automatically convert the size of your digital audio files and display them in Audio CD format (approx. 10 MB per minute).

Finalize Disc (Close Session) – use this option to finalize or close a data disc after burning. This will prevent further writing to the disc in the event that there is space left over. *This option is only available for the WMA CD and WMA DVD options.

Burn Process:

Burn – click the **Burn** button to begin the burning process. The Burning Status bar will display the burn progress and a finish message will appear when the burning is complete.

*Warning: Manually ejecting your disc before completion can cause the disc to malfunction.

7. Uninstall Video Conversion for PC™

1. Find its program group

Start → All Programs → VIDBOX Video Convesion for PC
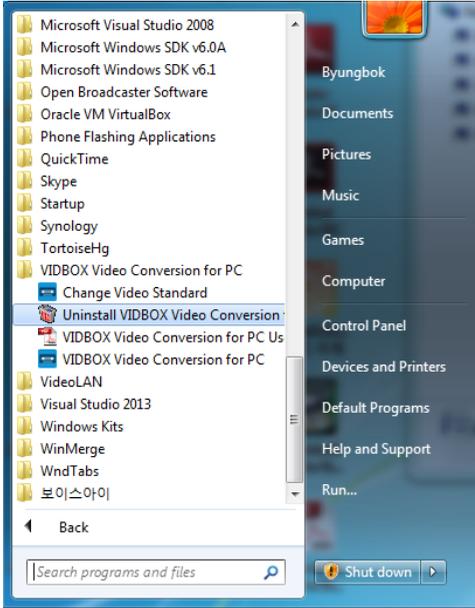
2. Select **Uninstall VIDBOX Video Conversion for PC.**
Please click **[Yes]** to uninstall.
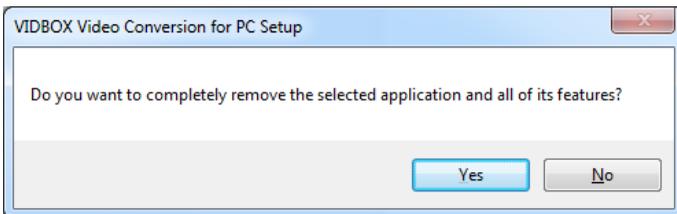
3. Uninstall Completed
You will see a screen confirming a successful completion.
Please click **Finish** to finish the process.

VIDBOX Video Conversion for PC Setup

Uninstall Complete

InstallShield Wizard has finished uninstalling VIDBOX Video
Conversion for PC.

< Back   Finish   Cancel

8. Appendix

Converting PAL /NTSC (and other video standards)

The software is capable of recording NTSC, PAL, and many other video tape standards from around the world. It is possible, however, tha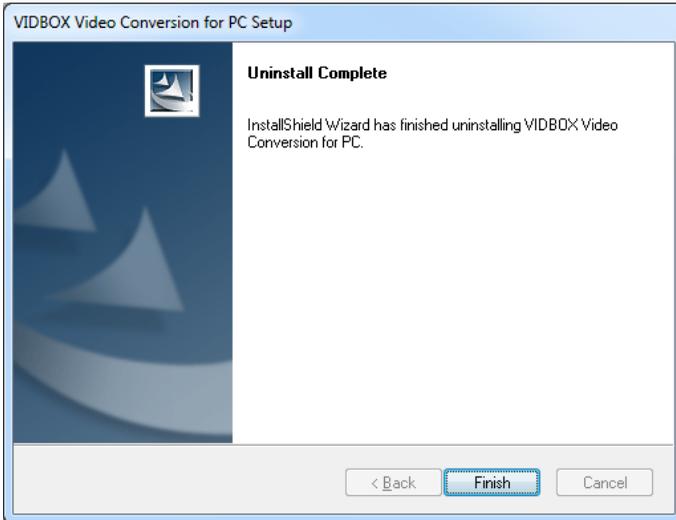t your computer system may not correctly recognize the video signal from a tape made in a foreign country. In this case you would typically experience black and white video.

Change Video Standard (stand-alone) – You may or may not have already noticed that the VHStoDVD software included an additional utility program called Change Video Standard. Before accessing the utility, please be sure to first close the Video Conversion for PC program. To access the Change Video Standard utility, click the Start icon in the bottom left corner of your screen and select 'All Programs' from the Start Menu.

From the list, locate and highlight **Video Conversion for PC™**, among the four items that will appear, should be Change Video Standard. If the VHStoDVD program is closed, select the Change Video Standard utility to open it.

- **Start → All Programs →VIDBOX Video Conversion for PC → Change Video Standard**
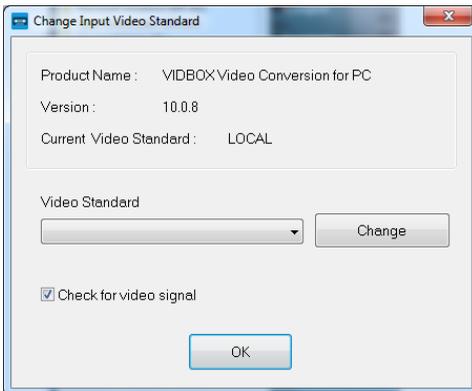
From the Video Standard drop down menu, select the Video Standard setting for the tape you are attempting to record. Click Ok when finished and then re-start the Video Conversion for PC™ software. Preview your video tape using the preview pane in the Capture Screen.

9. Troubleshooting

This information is provided to assist you in resolving video or audio problems within the VHStoDVD program. The solutions given are common answers to the problems listed and are not comprehensive. Some problems may require further technical troubleshooting to fully resolve.

Installation Problems

It is recommended that you disable any Anti-Virus or other background software you may have running while installing this software. Failure to do so can cause the software to exhibit unexpected or unpredictable behavior

Access Denied error:
- Verify you are logged in as an Admin user for the computer.

No Product Key:
- Check the back of the envelope or jewel case that the Install CD was packaged in.

Invalid Product Key error:
- Enter the key manually, 5 characters per box (avoid copying and pasting).

Disc Problems

Media non-applicable error:
- For Easy Wizard Mode: Verify you are inserting a blank DVD disc. The Easy mode will not accept blank CD discs.
- For Advanced Mode: Verify you are inserting the correct type of blank media to match the format of your video clips (see the About Video/Disc Format Options section in the Appendix).

No DVD writer detected error:
- Verify your optical disc drive will write to DVD -/+R discs. Many drives labeled DVD-ROM will only read DVD discs but not write to them.

Video Problems

No video:
- Check your cable connections to make sure they are secure.
- Verify you are connecting your cables to the ports labeled 'Output' on your video player.
- Verify you are only connecting one type of video cable, RCA (yellow) or S-Video.
- Verify the output ports of your video player work by testing them with your television.
- Verify the USB 2.0 VIDBOX capture device is plugged into your computer directly and not through a USB hub.
- Check your video & audio device settings from the Record Settings control panel (see Step Two of the Advanced Mode – Capture section).
- Verify your video cable connections setting by clicking the 'Settings' button next to the Video Device listing (see Step Two of the Advanced Mode – Capture section).
- Disconnect additional monitors

Choppy, skipping, or stuttering video:
- Verify your computer meets the programs minimum system requirements.
- Avoid the following actions while recording and burning:
  - Locking the workstation.
  - Running other applications in full screen mode.
  - Running CPU intensive programs.

Black & White video:
- Verify your video tape was recorded in the same video standard format for your region. If it was not, see the **Converting PAL/NTSC (and other video standards)** section in the appendix.

Pink/Green video:
- Verify you are plugging your capture device into a USB 2.0 port attached to your computer (avoid using external USB hubs).

Distorted lines at top or bottom of screen:
Distortion or lines at the bottom of your video are actually several lines of picture information that have been corrupted by the VHS system. This is perfectly normal. Typically these lines are not visible on a regular television because they are overscanned – causing the edges of the video to be out of view.
It has nothing to do with the capture equipment or your computer but unfortunately one of the many compromises made by a VHS system.
- Cleaning the heads and/or adjusting the tracking on your VCR can sometimes help to minimize the lines/distortion.

<u>Audio Problems</u>

No Audio:
- Check your cable connections to make sure they are secure.
- Verify you are connecting your cables to the ports labeled 'Output' on your video/audio player. *If there are no 'Output' ports available, try using a Headphone output by way of a headphone-to-RCA (Composite) adapter cable.
- If using a Headphone output, adjust the volume for your audio player.
- Verify the audio output ports of your video player work by testing them with your television.
- Verify the USB 2.0 VIDBOX capture device is plugged into your computer directly and not through a USB hub.
- Check your video & audio device settings from the Record Settings control panel (see Step Two of the Advanced Mode – Capture section).

Choppy audio:
- Verify your computer meets the programs minimum system requirements.
- Avoid the following actions while recording and burning:
  - Locking the workstation.
  - Running other applications in full screen mode.
  - Running CPU intensive programs.

Audio Mode (specific)

Distorted audio:
- Lower the computer volume using volume buttons on keyboard or slider from system tray.
  (this will not affect the recording volume)
- Lower the audio player volume to avoid overdriving the computer sound card.
- Lower the recording volume using the Recording Volume slider.

Low audio:
- If recording from a turntable, connect it to an amplifier or stereo receiver first, then connect the amplifier or receiver to the capture device.
- Adjust the recording volume level using the Recording Volume slider.