



SCENE SAVERS

Making History Modern

HD Videotape Cassette Formats



Format: HD-D5

Length(in): 11.5

Width(in): 6.5

Depth(in): 1.00

Length(cm): 29.21

Width(cm): 16.51

Depth(cm): 2.54

Notes

Professional digital video format introduced by Panasonic in 1994. Like Sony's D-1 (8-bit), it is an uncompressed digital component system (10bit), but uses the same half-inch tapes as Panasonic's digital composite D-3 format.



Format: HDcam

Length(in): 10(large), 6.13(small)

Width(in): 5.75(large), 3.75(small)

Depth(in): 1.00

Length(cm): 25.40(large),
15.56(small)

Width(cm): 14.61(large),
9.53(small)

Depth(cm): 2.54

Notes

Introduced in 1997, is a high-definition video digital recording videocassette version of digital Betacam. Like Betacam, HDCAM tapes are produced in small and large cassette sizes; the small cassette uses the same form factor as the original Betamax.



Format: HDcam SR

Length(in): 10(large), 6.13(small)

Width(in): 5.75(large), 3.75(small)

Depth(in): 1.00

Length(cm): 25.40(large),
15.56(small)

Width(cm): 14.61(large),
9.53(small)

Depth(cm): 2.54

Notes

Introduced in 2003, it uses a higher particle density tape and is capable of recording in 10 bits 4:2:2 or 4:4:4 RGB with a video bit rate of 440 Mbit/s, and a total data rate of approximately 600 Mbit/s. The increased bit rate (over HDCAM) allows HDCAM SR to capture much more of the full bandwidth of the HDSDI signal (1920x1080). There are 12 channels of audio recorded uncompressed at 24 bit 48 kHz sampling.

424 SCOTT ST. COVINGTON, KY 41011
859.291.5100

www.scenesavers.com



SD Videotape Cassette Formats



Format: D1
Length(in): 14.38
Width(in): 8.00
Depth(in): 1.25
Length(cm): 36.51
Width(cm): 20.32
Depth(cm): 3.18

Notes

D-1 was an early component digital format. It stored the video as an uncompressed signal, so was very high quality. It was, however very expensive and was not widely used except for applications that required its high quality, such as graphics creation. This format is extinct and equipment is becoming increasingly rare. If you have this format in your archive, it should be transferred as soon as possible.



Format: D2
Length(in): 10.00
Width(in): 5.88
Depth(in): 1.25
Length(cm): 25.40
Width(cm): 14.92
Depth(cm): 3.18

Notes

D-2 was another early digital format. It was uncompressed, like D-1, but it used a composite video signal rather than a component video signal. This means it wasn't as high quality as D-1. It was less expensive a format. Like D-1, the format is extinct and equipment is increasingly rare. If you have this format in your archive, it should be transferred as soon as possible.



Format: Digital Betacam
Length(in): 10(large), 6.13(small)
Width(in): 5.75(large), 3.75(small)
Depth(in): 1.00
Length(cm): 25.40(large), 15.56(small)
Width(cm): 14.61(large), 9.53(small)
Depth(cm): 2.54

Notes

Introduced in 1993. Widely used, high quality standard definition format. Two different cassette shell sizes exist. The formats are identical, and the size of the cassette was determined by the running time. Running times exist up to 124 minutes.





SCENE SAVERS

Making History Modern

SD Videotape Cassette Formats



Format: Betacam SP

Length(in): 10(large), 6.13(small)
Width(in): 5.75(large), 3.75(small)
Depth(in): 1.00

Length(cm): 25.40(large),
15.56(small)
Width(cm): 14.61(large),
9.53(small)
Depth(cm): 2.54

Notes

Introduced in 1982. Early "oxide" betacam tapes tend to be difficult to play back. Later tapes, which used a metal recording surface, seem to hold up better. Equipment is still relatively widely available, but is no longer being manufactured. Two common sizes of tapes were available, a large cassette and small cassette. The format is the same, and the size of the cassette was determined by the running time. Running times exist up to 94 minutes.



Format: Betamax

Length(in): 6.13
Width(in): 3.75
Depth(in): 1.00

Length(cm): 15.56
Width(cm): 9.53
Depth(cm): 2.54

Notes

Very rare in today's market. This format was geared toward the consumer market, but VHS took over as the clear winner in their target market. Equipment is still available, but is hard to locate. If you have these tapes transfer as soon as possible.



Format: ¾" U-Matic

Length(in): 8.63
Width(in): 5.50
Depth(in): 1.25

Length(cm): 21.91
Width(cm): 13.97
Depth(cm): 3.18

Notes

Introduced in 1971. It was one of the first cassette based formats. U-Matic is also known as ¾". Decks are still available, but haven't been manufactured in many years (approximately 10-years). Locating parts is also getting increasingly difficult. This format should be transferred as soon as possible. ¾" was the de facto standard for many years in the broadcast industry, so a very large number of tapes exist in the market.

424 SCOTT ST. COVINGTON, KY 41011
859.291.5100

www.scenesavers.com





SCENE SAVERS

Making History Modern

SD Videotape Cassette Formats



Format: 8mm Videotape

Length(in): 3.75

Width(in): 2.44

Depth(in): 0.56

Length(cm): 9.53

Width(cm): 6.19

Depth(cm): 1.43

Notes

Introduced in 1985, 8mm videotape was mostly a consumer format, and was relatively inexpensive, so it found its way into many archives. There are three related videocassette formats in the 8mm videotape family: Video 8, Hi-8, and digital 8.



Format: DVC-Pro

Length(in): 3.88

Width(in): 2.50

Depth(in): 0.56

Length(cm): 9.84

Width(cm): 6.35

Depth(cm): 1.43

Notes

DV format widely used in high-end consumer, news broadcast and lower end professional applications.



Format: DVCam

Length(in): 5.00(large),
2.63(small)

Width(in): 3.00(large), 1.88(small)

Depth(in): 0.56(large), 0.44(small)

Length(cm): 12.70(large),
6.67(small)

Width(cm): 7.62(large),
4.76(small)

Depth(cm): 1.43(large), 1.11 (small)

Notes

The DV format was introduced in 1995. These formats are grouped together because they use the same type of compression to record the video signal on the tape (DV). There are differences between these tapes and the tape decks (they may be, but aren't necessarily interchangeable).

424 SCOTT ST. COVINGTON, KY 41011
859.291.5100

www.scenesavers.com





SCENE SAVERS

Making History Modern

SD Videotape Cassette Formats



Format: VHS

Length(in): 7.38

Width(in): 4.00

Depth(in): 1.00

Length(cm): 18.73

Width(cm): 10.16

Depth(cm): 2.54

Notes

VHS was introduced in direct competition to Betamax in the early to mid-1970s. The old consumer standby was widely used and decks are still available, but professional decks are getting harder to locate. VHS is relatively low quality.

424 SCOTT ST. COVINGTON, KY 41011
859.291.5100

www.scenesavers.com



SD Open Reel Videotape Formats

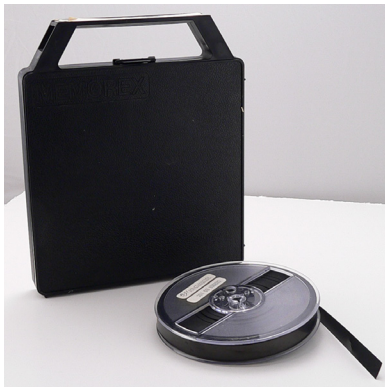


Format: 1/2" EIAJ Videotape
(open reel)

Size: 5" or 7" Reels

Notes

Developed in conjunction with several Japanese electronics manufacturers in 1969. It tends to have a relatively low image quality and the tapes are usually difficult to play back because of degradation (most likely related to their age). Transfer as soon as possible.

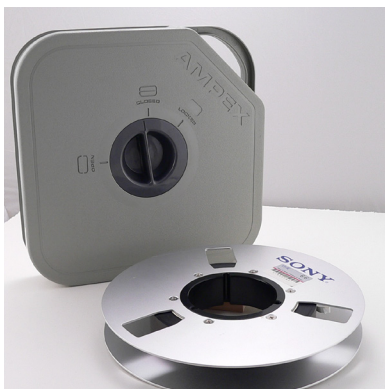


Format: 1/2" CV Videotape
(open reel)

Size: 5" or 7" Reels

Notes

These tapes are similar in appearance to the EIAJ format, but they are not interchangeable (meaning these cannot be played on an EIAJ machine). CV is very rare and it would be very challenging to find a working machine to transfer the tapes. It might be too late to transfer these. If you can find a working deck, transfer as soon as possible.



Format: 1" Videotape
(open reel)

Size: Round reels, varies

Notes

Note there are three types of 1" videotape, Type A, Type B and Type C. Type C was most commonly used in North America, so if you have 1", you may need to confirm that it is Type C (introduced in 1976). These tapes seem to hold up well if stored properly, but should be transferred as soon as possible because the equipment is becoming rare. They aren't in danger yet, but could be soon.





SCENE SAVERS

Making History Modern

SD Open Reel Videotape Formats



Format: 2" Quad Videotape
(open reel)

Size: Round reels, varies

Notes

It was developed and released for the broadcast television industry in 1956 by Ampex. Very rare to find working equipment. Some facilities specialize in this format, but it is getting increasingly rare and as a result, expensive to transfer. Two types of reels are shown here...a program reel and a spot reel. Spot reels held shorter programs (such as commercials). There were two common types of recording hi-band and low-band. Transfer as soon as possible!

424 SCOTT ST. COVINGTON, KY 41011
859.291.5100

www.scenesavers.com

