

# Converting Video using Handbrake

## Why would I need to convert video?

There are many reasons to convert video, but the two main reasons are to save space and for device compatibility such as converting for use on an iPod. Converting video for viewing on your Mac mini, iPod, iPhone and many other devices can be done in just a few clicks using Handbrake's built-in presets.

## Converting for the Mac mini Media Center

Using the following guide will make sure the picture quality remains excellent, the audio retains any surround sound characteristics, and chapter markers remain in place.

### 1. Starting Handbrake

Launch Handbrake by clicking on it in the Dock. Handbrake will immediately prompt you to select a source. Navigate to your source file which can include backed up DVD/Blu-ray sources.



### 2. Selecting a Preset

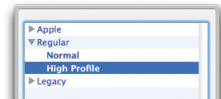
Click on a preset to the right. For use on the Mac mini either Normal or High Profile will work.

#### Normal

*Provides great quality and doesn't require as much processing power.*

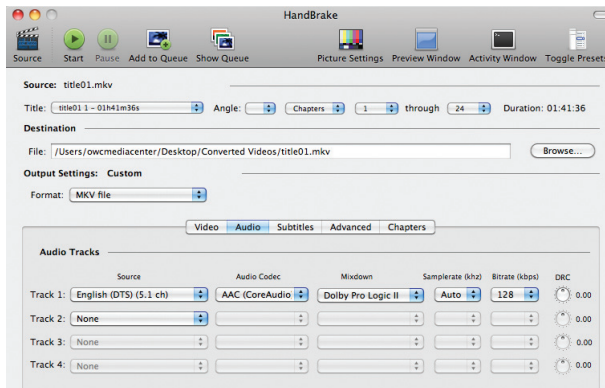
#### High Profile

*Uses all the advanced settings to create excellent quality in a small file size.*



### 3. Choosing the Format

Change the "Format" from MP4 to MKV as the MKV format gives more flexibility with audio formats than MP4.



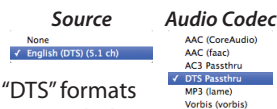
### 4. Audio Settings

Click on the Audio tab to enter the audio configuration section.

This first track will default to a downmix that will work with any sound system.

#### To Include Surround Sound...

Click on the Track 2 source menu to see if the source file has any surround sound sub-sources so they can be added as extra audio tracks. Usually surround sound sources will be in "AC3" or "DTS" formats with 5.1 channels (ch) of audio. Select the corresponding codec to match the source as seen in the example to the right.



### 5. Convert

Once the audio options are set, the video is ready to be converted. Click the Start button to immediately start the conversion or click the "Add to Queue" button to configure additional videos for a batch conversion. Handbrake is preset to place converted items in the "Converted Videos" folder on the Desktop.



### 6. Adding to Plex

See the "Adding & Organizing Media" sheet for more information on video naming and adding to Plex.

# Adding & Organizing Media for Plex

Plex is already set up to look in certain locations for music, photos, TV shows, and movies. All that needs to be done is to place your media in those locations and Plex does all the rest.

## Music

Plex has a built-in iTunes plug-in that gives access to everything in the iTunes library. Add and organize music using the familiar iTunes interface and Plex will follow.

## Photos

Plex will automatically link itself to the iPhoto library, so adding photos is as easy as adding them to iPhoto.

## Videos

Out of music, photos, and video, video uses the most storage space. Everything has been set up for video to be stored on the external storage unit that comes with the OWC Custom Configured Mac mini Media Center.

Two handy folders have been placed on the desktop linking to the storage space for Movies and TV Shows. Plex will automatically look at these locations for content. Before adding Movies and TV Shows to their respective locations, it is important to name them correctly so that Plex can accurately gather information about them from the Internet.

### Naming Movies and TV Shows

Plex will automatically obtain all information for movies and TV shows if they are named correctly. Plex does this using a process called "scraping" where it will look up information on the Internet based on the name of the file.

#### Name movies in this format:

"Movie Name (YYYY)" (ex. "The Last Man on Earth (1964)")

#### TV Shows should be organized and named in this format:

Folder "Show Name" (ex. "Bonanza")

Folder "Season #" (ex. "Season 1")

File "Show Name - S##E##" (ex. "Bonanza - S01E13")

-OR-

"Show Name - Episode Title - S##E##" (ex. "Bonanza - Vendetta - S01E13")

-OR-

"Show Name - S##E## - Episode Title" (ex. "Bonanza - S01E13 - Vendetta")

### Adding to Storage After Naming

After the movie or TV show files have been appropriately named, they then need to be added to storage so that Plex will automatically detect them.



#### Movies

Movie files can simply be dragged and dropped into the "Drag New Movies Here" alias folder located on the Desktop. This folder is linked to the external storage unit where movies will be permanently stored.



#### TV Shows

Because TV Shows have different seasons and episodes, more care is needed when adding new items. For example if a certain TV show already exists and a new season is being added, only add that "Season #" folder to the already existing "Show Name" folder.

# Backing Up DVDs & Blu-rays

\*\*\*Intended for backups of personally owned DVDs and Blu-rays ONLY\*\*\*

## Why would I need to backup my DVD & Blu-ray discs?

Backing up your physical media can provide several benefits. Just like CD's, each DVD or Blu-ray disc is vulnerable to everything from scratches to sticky toddler fingers and backing up gives a protection of your purchase. Another benefit of backing up is flexibility to view the material in any fashion you desire when you convert the backups for use on devices such as the iPod or in this case, the Mac mini.

## Performing a backup with MakeMKV

MakeMKV is a handy program that will perform DVD and Blu-ray backups. We have included a fully activated version so that you do not need to purchase later on.

MakeMKV can perform both a title backup and a full disc backup:

### Option #1: Title backup **\*\*Recommended\*\***

A title backup will backup just the titles selected from the disc. This can be handy to save storage space by only backing up the main title/feature of the disc as opposed to the entire disc.

#### 1. Launch MakeMKV

Insert a DVD or Blu-ray disc and launch MakeMKV by clicking on it in the Dock.

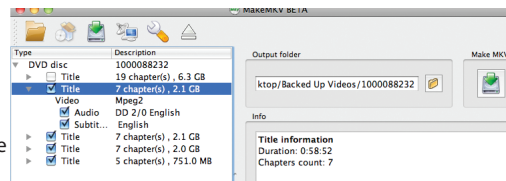


MakeMKV will automatically load the disc. Once MakeMKV has finished loading the disc, click on the disc to hard drive button as pictured to the left. MakeMKV will scan the disc for titles.



#### 2. Title Selection

Once the scan is complete, use the checkboxes to select and de-select the titles for backup. There are sub-components to each title such as different audio formats that can also be selected or de-selected.



#### 3. Starting the Backup

Once titles have been selected, click the "MakeMKV" button to start the backup. MakeMKV has been preset to place the video in the Desktop folder named "Backed Up Videos".



Backed Up Videos

#### 4. After the Backup

Once completed, see *either* the "Adding & Organizing Media For Plex" for naming and adding to Plex without converting the video or the "Converting Video Using Handbrake" sheet for converting the video for space savings before adding to Plex.

### Option #2: Full disc backup

A full disc backup will back up the entire disc to the computer. This is convenient if there is ever a need to burn the disc again to replace a damaged one.

#### 1. Launch MakeMKV

Insert a DVD or Blu-ray disc and launch MakeMKV by clicking on it in the Dock. MakeMKV will automatically load the disc.



#### 2. Starting the Backup

Once MakeMKV has finished loading the disc, click on the backup button as pictured to the left. MakeMKV has been preset to place the back up in the Desktop folder named "Backed Up Videos".



#### 3. After the Backup

Move the backup to the external storage and/or see the "Converting Video Using Handbrake" sheet for converting the video for space savings and use in Plex as well as other devices.

# Plex Basics



*Plex sits at the heart of the OWC Media Center Solution. Plex has three main components that all work together to provide a seamless and complete media management and playback experience*

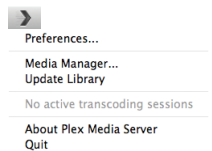
## Plex Media Server



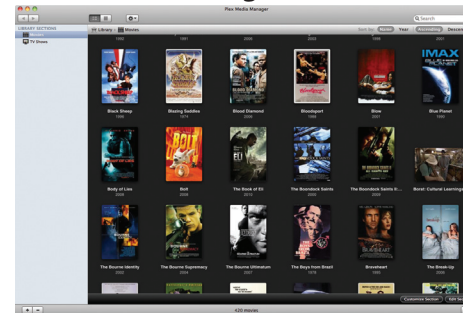
Plex Media Server is the backbone of the entire Plex program by overseeing the media management portion of plex as well as the media playback operations of Plex. Plex media server also controls the sharing of media remotely to other computers running Plex or Apple iOS devices running the Plex iOS application.

Plex Media Server runs as a menu item on the menu bar at the top of the screen. From this menu, you can access the Plex Media Manager

Plex Media  
Server Menu



## Plex Media Manager



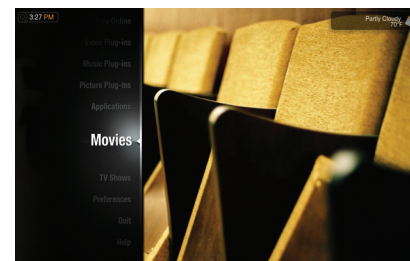
Plex Media Manager provides a friendly iTunes-like interface for managing your media sources and media information. Plex Media Manager automatically scans source locations for content and retrieves all of the metadata (move info, posters, artwork, etc.).

From the Media Manager you can correct any mis-labeled information for content by right clicking on the content file.

Reveal in Finder...  
Fix Incorrect Match...  
Refresh Info

## Plex Media Player

Plex Media Player is the part of Plex that presents your media in an elegant and easy to navigate fashion. All of the menus and control of Plex can be done with the convenience of the included Apple remote.



### Movies

All your movies will be presented here with movie posters, information, and ratings.

### TV Shows

All your TV Shows are presented here with artwork, and show information.

### Plex Online

Download extra plugins for online video, music, and picture sources including favorites Netflix and YouTube. Your added plug-ins will be viewable in the *Video Plug-ins*, *Music Plug-ins*, and *Photo Plug-ins* menus.