Using Handbrake to Reformat DVD Clips

While copying or ripping DVDs has negative connotations, academics engaged in the critique of media often "reformat" portions of DVD video to an easily editable format – they then use this footage to highlight and support their arguments. As long as you follow the guidelines of reformatting (that is, changing the format so that you can edit the media for academic critique) you are operating legally. The minute you rip or copy a video file to share with others outside the purpose of academic critique, you are possibly breaking the law. Keep this in mind as you proceed.

At Bates, we use software called **Handbrake** to reformat DVD video for editing in **Final Cut X**. **This Help Sheet Guide addresses the use of Handbrake to reformat clips**.

Let's Get Started.



Insert the DVD you need to reformat.

Open Handbrake from **Applications>Handbrake**



The first time you open Handbrake, it will ask you for your "Source".



Select the DVD you wish to reformat. DO NOT select any folders inside the disc.

		Q Search	
Documents	common ►		
Downloads	disc.id		
Creative Clou			
Devices	VIDEO_TS		
Remote Disc	win 🕨		
🗐 XSan			
⊚ school ≜	<u>/</u>		This DVD has been
Shared			selected.
	Scan only title: 1		
Options		Cancel Open	

Handbrake will begin scanning the disc. This process can take a few minutes.

File:	ers/ckelley/Desktop/SCHOOL_OF_ROCK_16X9.m4v		Browse
Prese For	Apple Contemporation	iPod 5G support	
	video o Encoder: H.264 (x264) OQuality	Picture Audio Subtitles Chapters	
F	rate (FPS): 30 📀 Peak Framerate (VFR) Constant Framerate	Average Bitrate (kbps): 6000 2-pass encoding	
E	er Options Preset: fast Tune: O Fast Decode		
	Profile: main Additional Options Level: 4.0	u	

Just under Source you'll notice a menu labeled "Title". DVDs are broken up into titles (e.g. Both the main "feature" and each DVD extra are considered "Titles"), so you'll want to select the Title you want to reformat.

HINT: Handbrake gives you the total length of each title in hours, minutes and seconds (00h00m00s). The longest title is usually the main feature.



To ensure you've chosen the correct title, click the "Preview Window" button on the top right.

• • •					HandBrake			
2222	E.					0	>_	
Open Source	Add To Queue	Queue	Start	Pause		Preview	Activity Log	Toggle Presets

Once you're certain you've selected the correct title, you need to select the chapters you need to reformat.

 \rightarrow How Do I Know Which Chapters to Select? See page 7 of this document.

Source: SCHOOL_OF_ROCK_16X9			
Title: SCHOOL_OF_ROCK_16X9 1 - 01h49m07s	C Angle: 1 C	Chapters 0 8 0 through 8 0	Duration: 00:06:49
Destination			

For example, if I wanted to reformat Title 1, Chapter 8, I would select Title 1 and Chapters 8 through 8.

Chapters	٢	8	٢	through	8	۵	Duration: 00:06:49	

We're almost done!

Next, select the **Destination** for your reformatted media. You'll want this destination to be somewhere you can easily find.

Destin	nation	
File:	/Users/ckelley/Desktop/SCHOOL_OF_ROCK_16X9.mp4	Browse

If you're reformatting multiple chapters from the same disc, this is also a good time to rename your file something that will easily differentiate it from the other chapters you plan to reformat.

Destir	nation
File:	/Users/ckelley/Desktop/SCHOOL_OF_ROCK_16X9-ch8.mp4

Now double check that your Format is set to MP4 and that your "Video Codec" is set to H264. *This is the default setting, so you should be all set! If not, simply select the correct settings.* Your default preset may vary from disc to disc, but so long as format and video encoder are correct, you'll be fine.

Preset: Fast 1080p3	30
Format: MP4 File	☺ □ Web optimized □ iPod 5G support
	Video Picture Audio Subtitles Chapters
Video Encoder:	H.264 (x264) Ouality: O Constant Quality RF: 22
Framerate (FPS):	30
	Peak Framerate (VFR) Average Bitrate (kbps): 6000
	Constant Framerate
Encoder Options	
Preset: -	fast
Tune:	none 🗢 🕞 Fast Decode
Profile:	main Additional Options:
Level:	4.0 🗘
x264 Unparse: lev	vel=4.0:ref=2:weightp=1:8x8dct=0:subme=6:vbv-maxrate=20000:vbv-bufsize=25000:rc-lookahead=30

Now click **start** to begin the reformatting/encoding process.



When you're finished...



You can load your finished file directly into Final Cut X for editing.



Appendix A: How Do I Know Which Chapters to Select (using the Apple DVD Player)?



Open up the DVD Player app (it may open by default when you first insert the DVD).

Using the DVD Player, navigate to the beginning of the scene you need to reformat.



Clicking and dragging this little gray diamond is a helpful way of navigating when you're not exactly sure where a particular scene occurs.

Pause the DVD player.



In the top menu bar, go to **Go > Chapter**.

DVD Player	File	Edit	Controls	Features	Go	View	Window	Hel	р		
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					Be La: De	ginning st Time fault Bo	of Disc Played ookmark		仓策D		
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					Sk Sk	ip Back ip Ahea	5 seconds d 5 second	ds	て∺← て∺→	Chapter 6 Chapter 7	

The Chapter number that has a checkmark next to it is the Chapter you are currently viewing.

Next, go to the END of the scene you need to reformat. Pause playback.

Again, go to **Go > Chapter**. As before, the chapter number that has a checkmark next to it is the Chapter you are currently viewing.

- → It is not uncommon to find that your scene both begins and ends in the same chapter. However, it is always good practice to check the Chapter numbers at both the beginning and end of the scene as a failsafe.
- → Notice that you can also confirm "Title" using these same steps.

Appendix B: How Do I Know Which Chapters to Select (using VLC)?

In certain Mac labs at Bates, the default DVD Player is an app called "VLC". Sometimes *oftentimes* you may not know which chapter or title you need to select. No worries – this tutorial will guide you through using VLC to get the relevant info.

Open up the VLC Player app (it may open by default when you first insert the DVD).



If VLC hasn't opened your DVD by default, click the "Open media..." button.



Select the "Disc" tab and click "Open".

File Dis	c Network Capture	
	SHERLOCK_HOLMES	
	Open VIDEO_TS folder	
DVD	Open BDMV folder	
Media Resource Locator (MRL)		
Streaming/Saving:	Settings	
	Cancel Open	

Your DVD will appear in the "Playlist" often with a weird title like "rdisk12".

• • •	VLC media player	
LIBRARY	Playlist	Q Search
📄 Playlist	1 Name	
📄 Media Library	O A rdisk12	
MY COMPUTER	N	
Hy Videos		
🎵 My Music		
My Pictures		
LOCAL NETWORK		
😭 Universal Plug'n'Play		
삼 Network streams (SAP)		
INTERNET		
🛓 Free Music Charts		
🛓 Freebox TV		
🛓 Icecast Radio Directory		
🛓 Jamendo Selections		
🛓 Channels.com		
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Using the VLC Player, navigate to the beginning of the scene you need to reformat.

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LIBRARY	PI	aylist			Q Search
📄 Playlist		Name			
📻 Media Library	0	SHERLOCK_HOLME	ES		
MY COMPUTER					
My Videos					
🞵 My Music					
My Pictures					
LOCAL NETWORK					
🚰 Universal Plug'n'Play					
A Network streams (SAP)					
INTERNET					
A Free Music Charts					
A Freebox TV					
🛓 Icecast Radio Directory					
A Jamendo Selections					
A Channels.com					
	31.201			06:45	#0 [111]
	3 34			00.45 4	
			I find clicking a	nd dragging th	is little grav
		-	to be a helpful v	way of navigati	ng when I
			exactly sure wh	iere a particula	r scene occ

Pause the VLC player.



In the top menu bar, go to **Playback > Chapter**.



The Chapter number that has a checkmark next to it is the Chapter you are currently viewing.

Next, go to the END of the scene you need to reformat. Pause playback.

Again, go to **Playback > Chapter**. As before, the chapter number that has a checkmark next to it is the Chapter you are currently viewing.

➔ It is not uncommon to find that your scene both begins and ends in the same chapter. However, it is always good practice to check the Chapter numbers at both the beginning and end of the scene as a failsafe.

→ Notice that you can also confirm "Title" using these same steps.

→ Also: VLC is not quite as smart as the Mac DVD Player, so it can be fooled into looking at "ghost titles" – all the while playing back your DVD as though all is

normal. Always make sure your selected "title" is the correct length prior to selecting your chapters.

