How to record to videotape

Exporting a project is the final step in the video production process. You face several options:

- What to export: single frames, clips, work area of a sequence, an entire sequence
- Which format: videotape, PC files, streaming video files for the Internet or networks, DVD

This guide focuses only on exporting—recording—a project to videotape. Later you will learn about other exporting options.

When you export to videotape, you can work with recorders that have *device control* or recorders that do not. With device control, you can operate a recorder remotely by using VCR-style controls in the Adobe Premiere Pro CS4 Capture panel.

Adobe Premiere Pro controls devices through its built-in support of IEEE 1394 (FireWire, iLink). In Windows, it also supports several professional-level controllers.

Most digital video camcorders have device control and connect to a computer via an IEEE 1394 cable.

Most analog camcorders (Hi-8 and VHS, for example) do not have device control. You need to manually put them in record mode before you begin to export a project. In addition, you need an analog-to-digital video converter to connect them to the computer.

For exporting, recorders with device control have only a slight advantage over non-device control recorders. However, device control is very helpful when *capturing* a video—transferring it from a camcorder to a hard drive. You will capture video later.

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Exporting to digital videotape by using device control

1. Connect your DV camcorder or deck to your computer.
2. Turn on the camcorder or deck and set it to VCR or VTR (not Camera).
3. Cue the tape to where you want to start recording.
4. Start Adobe Premiere Pro and open a project that has a sequence you want to export.
5. Select the sequence you want to export by clicking its tab in the Timeline panel (**Figure 1**).

   Note: If you don't click somewhere in the Timeline panel, Adobe Premiere Pro does not present Export as an option in the File menu.
6. Select File > Export > Export to Tape.

   The Export To Tape dialog box appears (**Figure 2**). Here's a rundown of some of its options:

   - Activate Recording Device: When selected, Adobe Premiere Pro controls your DV device.
   - Assemble At Timecode: Select an in-point on the tape where you want recording to begin. When unselected, recording begins at the current tape location.
   - Delay Movie Start: For the few DV recording devices that need a brief period of time between receiving the video signal and recording it. Check your device's manual to see what the manufacturer recommends.
   - Preroll: Most decks need little or no time to get up to the proper recording speed. To be on the safe side, select 150 frames (5 seconds) or add black video or bars and tones to the start of your project by using the New Item button in the Project panel.
7. Be sure Status says Ready (**Figure 2**).

   If it doesn't say Ready, make sure your camcorder is properly connected and turned to VCR mode.
8. Click Record.

   If you haven't rendered your project, Adobe Premiere Pro does that now. When rendering is complete, Adobe Premiere Pro starts your camcorder and exports your project to it. When exporting is completed, Adobe Premiere Pro stops your camcorder or tape deck.

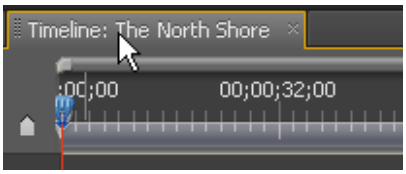

Figure 1 Sequence tab in the Timeline panel

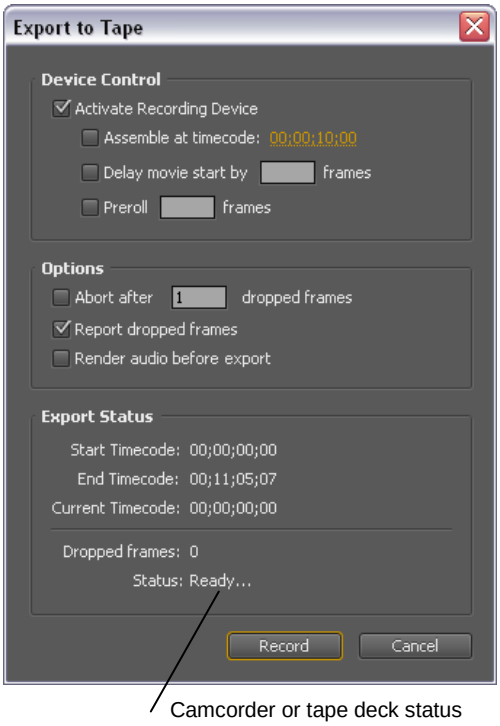

Figure 2 Export To Tape dialog box

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How to export to an analog or non-device control recorder

1. Connect the device to the computer, turn it on, and set it to VTR, VCR, or Play mode.
2. Start Adobe Premiere Pro and open a project with a sequence you want to export.
3. Render the sequence you want to export by opening that sequence and selecting Sequence > Render Entire Workarea.

   Note: You need to render at this point; otherwise, you will end up with a lot of blank tape on your recorder. If you click Play in step 8 without rendering first, Adobe Premiere Pro will render the project before playing it. Rendering can take a long time. During that time your recorder will be recording black video.
4. Play the sequence to make sure you see it displayed on your external recording device.
5. Make sure the video recording device is in Record-Pause mode and the tape is cued to the point where you want to start recording.
6. In Adobe Premiere Pro, position the current-time indicator at the beginning of the sequence (or elsewhere in the sequence as needed).
7. Click the Record (or Pause) button on the device to put the device into Record mode.
8. Click the Play button in the Program Monitor.

   You should see the video playing in the Program Monitor and on your recording device. If your device is paused, be sure to click record or remove pause to begin recording.
9. When the program finishes, click the Stop button in the Program Monitor and then press Stop on the device.

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