

SiggySoft DV Capture User Manual

SiggySoft DV Capture copies MiniDV and Digital8 tapes from a camcorder or VCR to the PC over FireWire, and saves every recorded scene as its own video file, named after the date and time the scene was filmed. This manual covers the first capture step by step, how SiggySoft DV Capture decides where one file ends and the next begins, the clip list, tape damage, every setting, the tools, and what to do when something does not work.

How to read this. Part A explains what SiggySoft DV Capture does and how the window is laid out. Part B is the capture itself: the steps (Chapter 4) and how a tape is split into files (Chapter 5). Part C is what to do with the files afterwards: the clip list, tape damage (Chapter 7), opening a clip in SiggySoft Video Editor to trim, split or join it (Chapter 8), and deinterlaced copies (Chapter 9). Part D is reference: every setting, the tools, and troubleshooting. Help > Manual opens this page in the browser; Help > Manual as PDF opens the same text as a PDF for printing.

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PART A

Getting started

What SiggySoft DV Capture does, what it needs, and where everything is in its window.

What SiggySoft DV Capture does

One file per scene, named by the date it was filmed

Why a DV tape can be split by date

A MiniDV or Digital8 camcorder writes the date and time into every frame it records, together with a running tape timecode. When the tape plays back over FireWire, those values come along with the picture and the sound. SiggySoft DV Capture reads them for every frame. When the recording date jumps between two frames, the camera was stopped and started there, so a new scene begins, and SiggySoft DV Capture starts a new file.

The picture and sound are copied exactly as they come off the tape. Nothing is converted or compressed again, so a file is as good as the tape it came from.

What it writes

- **One AVI file per scene** in the capture folder, named `Name'YYYYMMDD HH.MM.SS.avi`: the name typed before the capture, then the date and time the scene was filmed. Sorting by name puts the scenes in the order they were filmed.
- **A capture log**, `SiggySoft DV Capture log.jsonl`, in the same folder: one line per file with its frame count, recording dates, timecode, damaged and dropped frames, and the order it was captured in.
- **Still pictures**, when asked for, in a `Stills` folder inside the capture folder.

Each file's modified date in Windows is set to the moment its scene was filmed, and its created date stays the moment it was captured. Sorting a folder by created date therefore shows the order the tape played.

What it does not do

- It does not capture from analog capture cards or USB video devices. A VHS tape can still be captured by playing it through a camcorder or converter that outputs DV over FireWire.
- It does not cut or join files. Trimming, splitting and joining are SiggySoft Video Editor's, which each clip's Edit button opens (Chapter 8). Other video files, such as MP4 files from a phone or an HD camcorder, can join the clip list to be checked for interlacing and deinterlaced (Chapters 6 and 9). Every file can be opened in any video player or editor.
- The clip list does not play files itself: pressing Enter on a clip opens it in the player Windows uses for that kind of file. SiggySoft Video Editor plays a clip with its sound (Chapter 8).

Before the first capture

Installing, what the PC needs, connecting the camcorder, choosing where the files go, the setup check, and updates

Installing

Run `SiggySoftDvCapture-win-Setup.exe` from the download page on www.middlesiggy.com. It asks nothing: it installs SiggySoft DV Capture for the Windows user signed in, in `%LocalAppData%\SiggySoftDvCapture`, without administrator rights, puts SiggySoft DV Capture on the desktop and in the Start menu, and first installs Microsoft's .NET 8 Desktop Runtime when the PC has none. That runtime is Microsoft's own installer, so Windows Update keeps it patched afterwards. Settings > Apps > Installed apps removes the program again; the settings, the captured clips and their deinterlaced copies stay where they are.

What the PC needs

- Windows 10 or 11, 64-bit.
- The Microsoft .NET 8 Desktop Runtime, or a newer one; Setup installs it when it is missing. A copy started without Setup shows a Windows message with a download link instead. Windows Update keeps the runtime patched; the setup check says when it does not.
- A FireWire port (also called IEEE 1394 or i.LINK), and a FireWire cable that fits the camcorder.
- Disk space: DV takes 3.6 MB a second, about 13 GB for each hour of tape. The status bar shows how many hours of DV still fit on the disk.

Connecting the camcorder

1. Connect the camcorder to the PC with the FireWire cable.
2. Switch the camcorder on in its playback mode (often marked VCR, VTR or PLAY), with the tape inside.
3. Windows lists it as **Microsoft DV Camera and VCR**. In SiggySoft DV Capture, pick it in the **Device** box. The pencil button beside it gives it a name of your own, for example the camcorder's model, which helps when more than one is connected.

Only one program can use the camcorder at a time. Close Windows Camera, video-call programs and any other capture program before picking the device. If another program has the camcorder, SiggySoft DV Capture says it could not open the device.

Choosing the capture folder

The folder button under **Capture folder** chooses where the files go; the button beside it opens the folder in Explorer. Use a folder per tape or per project, and a disk with room for the whole tape. SiggySoft DV Capture reads free space as a full 64-bit number, so disks of any size work, including disks with more than 2 TB free.

| The setup check

The first time SiggySoft DV Capture starts, it opens the setup check: one page that says what the program needs on this PC, what it can use, and whether .NET, Windows and SiggySoft DV Capture itself are up to date. Each line has a status and, where it helps, a button.

- **Needed for capturing:** the Windows video parts for DV, a FireWire port with Microsoft's DV driver, and a capture folder that can be written to, with its free space in hours of DV and a short write test. A line marked **NEEDED** stops capturing until it is fixed; adding files, trimming and deinterlacing still work.
- **Updates and fixes:** the .NET version against Microsoft's list of releases, whether Windows Update installs .NET fixes, Windows itself, an ffmpeg that is a development build or older than the one tested, and SiggySoft DV Capture's own version, with **Check for updates**, or **Restart and update** once a new version is downloaded.
- **Optional:** the speakers, ffmpeg, QTGMC and the cut-out model for tape photos. Each says what it adds; the program works without it.
- **Information:** whether a camcorder is connected.

Tools > Setup check opens the page at any time. Run it on a new PC, or when something does not work: the results also go into the program log, which can be sent along with a question. Chapter 11 describes the installs it can do.

At every start SiggySoft DV Capture repeats the quick part of the check, without the network and without the write test. When it finds a new problem, a notice appears under the menu with a button that opens the setup check; its cross hides that finding for good.

| Updates

A copy installed with Setup looks for a new version at every start and when you choose Help > Check for updates. A new version downloads in the background; when the place it comes from holds a delta package, only the files that changed are downloaded. It goes in when you close SiggySoft DV Capture, and the next start runs it. Help > Check for updates offers to close and start again on it at once, and the setup check's update line has **Restart and update** for the same.

An update never goes in while the program is busy. Restart and update says "Not now" while a capture runs or is paused, while the camcorder records to tape, while a stopped capture still writes its last frames or a re-split or the disk test runs, while clips are being deinterlaced or wait to be, and while tape photos are being cut out; the new version then goes in when the program closes. The settings, the tape name and the clip list are kept across an update.

Settings > Updates turns the check at start off and names where new versions come from (Chapter 10). A copy started from the folder it was built or unpacked in, not installed by Setup, does not update itself; the setup check says so.

The window

The monitor and deck buttons, the capture fields, the clip list and the status bar

The monitor

The picture at the top left is what the camcorder is playing. Over it:

- top right, the date and time the frame was recorded, from the camcorder's own clock;
- bottom left, the tape timecode (hours:minutes:seconds;frames); while the tape winds, the timecode the deck reports;
- bottom right, what the deck is doing: PLAY, STOP, PAUSE, FF, REW;
- top left, during a capture, a red **REC** mark with the time since the capture started.

Under the picture are the sound meters (left and right, from -30 dB to 0 dB) and a line with the tape's format: NTSC or PAL, the sound format, and 4:3 or 16:9. When no picture arrives, the monitor says so: the deck is stopped or winding, or the tape is blank there.

The deck buttons

From left to right: rewind, one frame back, play backwards, stop, pause, play, one frame forward, fast forward. They work when the camcorder accepts commands over FireWire, which most DV camcorders and VCRs do. **Mute** turns off the tape's sound on the PC speakers; the files always keep their sound.

Device, names and the capture buttons

- **Device:** the camcorder or VCR, with buttons to name it and to look for devices again.
- **Tape name:** usually what the tape's label says. Every file is named after it, and it is stored inside every file, so editing programs can tell which tape a clip came from.
- **Tape photos:** up to four photos of the tape and its case (Chapter 4).
- **Capture folder:** where the files go.
- **Capture:** starts the tape and the capture. During a capture this button becomes **Stop**, **Pause** and **Split** (Chapter 4).
- **Rewind the tape when it ends:** when ticked, a tape that has run out of video is rewound to the start once the capture stops, ready to come out (Chapter 4). The same switch is on the Device menu and in Settings > Device.

Every menu item has a small picture beside it, as in the other Siggysoft programs. The **Help** menu opens this manual (F1) or its PDF, Check for updates (Chapter 2), the MiddleSiggys' Digital World channel on YouTube, the middlesiggy.com website, and About, which shows the version and the license.

The **View** menu makes everything in the window larger or smaller, from 60 to 150 percent: Ctrl+plus, Ctrl+minus, Ctrl+0 for 100 percent, or Ctrl and the mouse wheel, as in a web browser. On a small screen a smaller size fits the whole window; the size is remembered.

The clip list

The right side lists the DV files in the capture folder, and any video files added from other folders, each with five pictures from its start, middle and end, its name, when it was filmed, its length, size, sound format and timecode, and a badge that says whether it is interlaced. Chapter 6 describes it.

Under the list, one strip gives the totals (clips, selected, damaged frames, dropped frames) and the **Messages**: what SiggySoft DV Capture has done and anything that needs attention, newest first. Drag the line above the strip to make it taller or shorter.

The status bar

Along the bottom: during a capture, the number of files and the time so far; then dropped frames, damaged frames and the file being written; on the right, the RAM buffer (during a capture), the free space and how many hours of DV it holds, and the memory SiggySoft DV Capture uses. The version number is in the title bar and beside the name at the top left.

PART B

Capturing

The capture step by step, and how SiggySoft DV Capture decides where one file ends and the next begins.

Capturing a tape

From a rewind tape to a folder of dated files

Step by step

1. Rewind the tape to the start with the rewind button, and press stop.
2. Type the **Tape name**, for example what the tape's label says. The files are named after it.
3. If you like, photograph the tape and its case and drop the photos on **Tape photos** (below).
4. Check the **Capture folder** and the free space in the status bar.
5. Press **Capture** (or Ctrl+R). Siggysoft DV Capture presses play on the camcorder and starts writing. Each new scene appears in the clip list with a red **capturing** badge while it is being written.
6. Leave it running. When no picture has arrived for 30 seconds, the end of the recorded part of the tape, Siggysoft DV Capture stops the capture and stops the tape.

With **Rewind the tape when it ends** ticked (under the Capture button), the tape is also rewound: once the last frames are written, the camcorder gets Rewind, and when it stops at the start, Messages and the monitor say *The tape is rewound and can come out*. A tape that is whirring back to the start has finished capturing. Only the end of the tape rewinds it: pressing Stop, a timer and the other stop rules leave the tape where it is. A blank stretch longer than 30 seconds in the middle of a tape looks like the end too, so a tape with such a gap stops (and rewinds) there; raise the time in Settings > Stop capturing for that tape. The camcorder must take commands over FireWire; with an analog-to-DV converter the box does nothing but say so in Messages.

Photos of the tape and its case

Handwriting on a label often says more than anyone types: names, places, a date. Photograph the tape and its case (with a phone, for example) and drop up to four photos on the **Tape photos** area under the tape name, or click the area to choose them. Each is copied into the capture folder as `Holiday 1998 - tape photo 1.jpg` and so on, named after the tape exactly as its clips are, so the photos stay with the captures wherever they go; the original photos are not touched. The area shows the photos of the tape named in the box; the cross on a photo sends that copy to the Recycle Bin. Type the tape name first: the photos are named after it. Photos in HEIC format (as many phones take them) are copied too, but show only as "HEIC" unless Windows has Microsoft's HEIF and HEVC extensions.

If you correct the tape name after adding photos, and nothing was captured under the old name yet, a button under the photos offers to move them to the new name. They never move by themselves, because two tapes can have names only a letter apart.

For the next tape, press the bin at the right of the **Tape photos** row. It empties the tape name and the photo area and deletes nothing: the last tape's photos stay in the capture folder under its name, with its clips. Type the next tape's name, then add its photos; they are named after it. Typing over the name does the same. A photo dropped while the name box is empty waits, marked "needs a tape name", and is added under the name when you press Enter.

Once the cut-out model is downloaded (Tools > Setup check, 224 MB), each photo also gets a copy with the background cut away, `Holiday 1998 - tape photo 1 (cut out).png`, and the area shows that copy: just the tape or the case, upright, on a clear background. It takes about eight seconds a photo on a recent PC and waits while a capture runs. The photo itself is not changed. Right-click a photo to open the photo or the cut-out, or to cut it out again. The model runs on the PC; photos are not sent anywhere. Settings > Tape photos turns the cut-outs off.

A one-hour tape takes one hour: the camcorder plays at normal speed. The PC can be used for other things meanwhile, but a heavy job such as video encoding on the same disk can make the capture lose frames; the status bar counts any that are lost.

Stop, Pause and Split

- **Stop** (Ctrl+.) ends the capture. The frames still in memory are written first, then the tape stops.
- **Pause** (Ctrl+P) pauses the tape and the capture. **Resume** starts the tape again and starts a new file.
- **Split** (Ctrl+K) closes the current file and starts the next one at once, for a scene change the camcorder did not mark.

Still pictures

Capture > Export the current picture (Ctrl+E) saves the picture in the monitor as a JPEG in the `Stills` folder, named and dated like the video files. By default it removes the dark border, builds the picture from one field so moving subjects do not show comb lines, and stretches it to the shape a TV shows (DV pixels are not square). Chapter 10 lists the options. A still taken from the monitor has the monitor's resolution: 360 pixels wide, or 720 with Settings > Preview > Full-resolution preview.

Timers

Capture > Timers sets VCR-style timers: a start time and either a number of minutes or a stop time. A timer with only a stop time stops a capture already running. SiggySoft DV Capture has to be running, with the device connected, when a timer starts; a timer more than 5 minutes late is skipped and reported in Messages. Times are written like `2026-10-31 19:30`.

How a tape is split into files

Scene detection, file names and dates, the size limit, and the checks that keep stray frames out

Scenes by recording date

With the standard setting, a new file starts when the recording date of one frame is more than 1 second away from the frame before it, or earlier than it. One second puts exactly one camera take in each file. A larger value keeps takes filmed close together in one file: 900 seconds (15 minutes) puts everything filmed with pauses of under 15 minutes into one file. The setting is Settings > Scene detection > Minimum time between two scenes.

A single damaged frame with a nonsense date does not split a file: Siggysoft DV Capture looks one frame ahead, and when the frame after it continues the scene, the damaged frame stays in the file.

Footage without a date

Tapes recorded through a converter, and some edited tapes, have frames without a recording date. Such frames are split where the tape timecode jumps, which is where a new recording starts on the tape. For analog tapes captured through a DV converter, which have neither, the **Optical** mode starts a new file where the picture changes sharply. It cannot tell a cut from a fast camera move as reliably as a date can, so the shortest scene it makes is 2 seconds by default.

The file size limit and format changes

- A file is closed before it reaches 2,048 MB, which is about 9 to 10 minutes of DV, so it opens in older editing programs too. Within the last 30 seconds before the limit Siggysoft DV Capture splits at the first scene change it finds, so a long camera run is not cut in the middle of a scene when it can be avoided.
- A new file also starts when the sound format changes (48, 44.1 or 32 kHz; 2 or 4 channels) or the picture switches between 4:3 and 16:9.

File names

- `Name'YYYYMMDD HH.MM.SS.avi` : a scene with a recording date.
- `Name'YYYYMMDD HH.MM.SS-0001.avi` : a second scene that starts in the same second.
- `Name0001.avi` , or `Name-0001.avi` when the name ends in a digit: a scene without a date.

Settings > Capture > File names offers two other styles: a counter only, or the date only.

The first frames of a capture

When a capture starts or resumes, the camcorder can send one or two frames left over from where the tape was before. Siggysoft DV Capture holds back the first 15 frames and checks them: frames whose timecode and recording date both break from the frames that follow are skipped, and Messages says how many. Neighbouring frames on a tape always have neighbouring timecode, so a real scene change at the very start is never skipped.

PART C

The clips

Working with the captured files, and with video files from other folders: the list, tape damage, opening a clip in SiggysSoft Video Editor, and deinterlaced copies.

The clip list

Pictures, badges, sorting, selecting, video files from other folders, clearing the list, and what each command does to the files

The pictures

Each clip shows five pictures: the first frame, three from the middle and the last frame (Settings > Clip list changes the number, up to nine). For clips captured by SiggySoft DV Capture the pictures come from the live picture during the capture and are kept, so they appear at once next time. For other files, for example files made by another capture program, SiggySoft DV Capture reads the pictures with ffmpeg, an optional free program (Chapter 11), or with Windows' own DV decoder when ffmpeg is not installed. A clip shows a camera symbol only when neither can read it, for example a raw `.dv` file without ffmpeg. Pictures of files that are not DV come from ffmpeg only.

What each line says

- the file name, and badges: **capturing** while it is being written, the number of **damaged** or **dropped** frames when there are any (Chapter 7), **deinterlaced** when its deinterlaced copy exists (Chapter 9), **interlaced**, **progressive** or **unclear** (below), and 4:3 or 16:9;
- when it was filmed, from the first to the last frame. A file that is not DV has no recording date in its frames: it shows the creation time stored in the file, or, when there is none, **file date** and its modified date;
- its length (hours:minutes:seconds;frames), size, sound format and TV standard (for other files, the picture size and frames a second);
- the tape timecode at its first and last frame (DV files only);
- for a file added from another folder, **added from** and its folder; pointing at that line shows the whole path.

The line under the list adds up the clips, the selected clips, and the damaged and dropped frames.

Interlaced or progressive

The badge just before the 4:3 or 16:9 badge says how the clip's pictures are made:

- **interlaced**: each frame holds two fields filmed a moment apart, as on every DV tape (Chapter 9 explains fields). On a computer or a phone, moving edges show comb lines, so the clip is worth a deinterlaced copy.
- **progressive**: whole pictures, as phones film. There is nothing to deinterlace, and Deinterlace leaves the clip out.
- **unclear**: the detector could not decide, usually because the picture hardly moves in the stretches it looked at.

The badge comes from the pictures, not from the label the file carries, which is often missing or wrong. ffmpeg's interlace detector looks at 100 frames at three places in the clip, 10%, 50% and 85% of the way through, and counts the frames that look top field first, bottom field first or progressive. A clip is interlaced when at least 10 frames look interlaced and they outnumber the progressive ones two to one; the larger of the two field-order counts gives its field order. The same rule the other way round makes it progressive. Pointing at the badge shows the counts. On a clip from a home DV test tape, all 303 frames looked at were bottom field first; on a progressive test file, 239 looked progressive and 8 bottom field first, which is why the rule asks for a clear majority rather than every frame.

The badges need ffmpeg (Chapter 11). The detector works in the background, one clip at a time and below normal priority; on a DV clip its three looks took 0.3 seconds on the test PC. Each result is kept, so a clip is looked at once, and again only when the file changes.

Sorting and selecting

The **Sort** box orders the clips by capture order (the order the tape played), recording date, name, length or size. Click a clip to select it; Ctrl+click adds clips, Shift+click selects a range, Ctrl+A selects all. **Double-clicking a clip selects its group**: every clip filmed within 30 minutes of its neighbours, for example one outing or one party (Settings > Clip list sets the 30 minutes; Ctrl+G does the same as a double-click).

Video files from other folders

Video files outside the capture folder can join the list where they are; nothing is copied or moved. Drop files or folders on the clip list, or use Clips > **Add video files** (Ctrl+O) or Clips > **Add a folder of videos**. A folder brings every video in it and in its subfolders, apart from the copies in **Deinterlaced** folders. Each file gets its pictures and its interlaced or progressive badge like a captured clip.

The list takes DV files (**.avi** , **.dv** , **.dif**) and the video files ffmpeg reads: **.mp4** , **.m4v** , **.mov** , **.mkv** , **.mts** , **.m2ts** , **.ts** , **.mpg** , **.mpeg** , **.vob** , **.wmv** , **.webm** , **.3gp** and **.flv** . A file is taken for DV only when its first frame starts with the DIF blocks every DV frame starts with, so an AVI from a stills camera is listed as what it is. Files that are not DV are read with ffmpeg (Chapter 11); without it they are not added, and Messages says why.

The list remembers the added files from one start to the next, also when the capture folder changes. A file on a drive that is not connected is left out until the drive is back.

- **Deinterlacing** works on every added file, DV or not (Chapter 9). The copy goes to a **Deinterlaced** folder beside the file, unless Settings > Deinterlacing names another folder.
- **Show the tape damage** works on DV files only; for another file the program says so.
- **Edit** opens any clip in the list in SiggySoft Video Editor (Chapter 8).
- **Rename** renames the file where it is.
- **Del** takes an added file off the list and forgets it, leaving the file where it is; dropping it again brings it back. **Send to the Recycle Bin** does not send an added file there.

Taking clips off the list

The list shows the clips in the capture folder and the files added from other folders. Taking a clip off the list never touches its file:

- **Remove from the list** (Del) takes the selected clips off, at once and without a question.
- **Clear the list** (Clips menu, right-click, or the button beside the bin) takes every clip off, to start from a blank page. New captures and video files dropped on the list show as usual.
- **Refresh the list** (F5, the refresh button above the list, Clips menu) reads the capture folder again and brings back every clip in it, the ones taken off the list too. Dropping a clip of the folder on the list brings back just that one.

Clips of the capture folder stay off the list after the program closes, as long as their files are unchanged: SiggysSoft DV Capture remembers each by its name and the time the file was made, so a new file under the same name shows, and so does every file the program writes itself. Files added from other folders are forgotten when they leave the list. The line under the list counts the clips of the folder that are off it, and the empty list says how to bring them back.

To delete files, select them and use **Send to the Recycle Bin** (Shift+Del, the bin button, or right-click). It asks first, and the files can be restored from the Recycle Bin.

Commands

COMMAND	WHERE	WHAT IT DOES
Play	Enter, the play button above the list, right-click	Opens the clip in the video player Windows uses for that kind of file.
Show in Explorer	right-click	Opens the folder with the file selected.
Edit in SiggysSoft Video Editor	Ctrl+T, the Edit button on the clip, right-click	Opens the clip in SiggysSoft Video Editor, to trim, split, join or change it (Chapter 8). There when the editor is on this PC.
Deinterlace the selected clips	Ctrl+D, right-click	Makes an MP4 copy of each without comb lines, one at a time in the background (Chapter 9). Progressive clips are left out.
Show the tape damage	the damaged badge, right-click	Lists where in the file the tape was damaged, with a picture of each place (Chapter 7). DV files only.
Rename	F2, the pen before the clip's name, the pencil button, right-click	Renames the file. With several clips selected, each gets the new name and a number: Beach 001 , Beach 002 , in capture order. A deinterlaced copy gets the new name too, so the clip keeps its deinterlaced badge.
Send to the Recycle Bin	Shift+Del, the bin button, right-click	Moves the files to the Recycle Bin after asking, so they can be restored. Files added from other folders are not sent.
Export the clip list	Clips menu	Saves the list as a web page with the pictures inside it, for printing or sharing, or as a CSV file for a spreadsheet.
Add video files, Add a folder of videos	Ctrl+O, Clips menu, or drop files or folders on the list	Lists video files from other folders where they are (above).
Remove from the list	Del, Clips menu, right-click	Takes the selected clips off the list; the files stay where they are (above).
Clear the list	Clips menu, right-click, the button beside the bin	Takes every clip off the list, without touching a file.
Refresh the list	F5, the refresh button above the list, Clips menu	Reads the capture folder again: every clip in it, the ones taken off the list too. Up to version 1.16.0 it left those off, and Show all the clips in the capture folder brought them back.

Tape damage and dropped frames

What the two counts mean, how to look at the damage, and what to do about it

Damaged frames

A tape stores each frame as 1,350 small blocks of picture (1,620 on PAL tapes). When the camcorder cannot read a block, from a worn or dirty spot on the tape or a dirty head, it marks the block. Siggysoft DV Capture counts frames with at least one marked block as **damaged**. Players hide most damage by repeating the matching blocks of the frame before, so a frame with a few marked blocks usually looks normal; a frame with most of its blocks marked shows as squares, a frozen picture or a flash.

Click the **damaged** badge on a clip, or right-click the clip and choose **Show the tape damage**. The window lists each place in the file with damaged frames (damaged frames less than half a second apart count as one place): how far into the clip it is, the tape timecode, when it was recorded, how many frames, and how much of the worst frame was unreadable. It also shows a picture of the worst frame of each place, which is the quickest way to judge whether the damage matters. **Play the clip** opens the file to watch the spot.

Damage is on the tape, not in the capture, so capturing again usually gives the same result. A second pass sometimes reads a spot better: on the test tape of 4 October 2026, two passes read the picture of 107,361 frames the same and differed only on 70 frames, all at damaged spots. Cleaning the camcorder's heads with a cleaning cassette before capturing again helps when many clips show damage.

Dropped frames

A dropped frame came off the tape but never reached the file: the PC did not take it in time. Siggysoft DV Capture keeps up to 60 seconds of frames in memory (Settings > Folders and disk space > RAM buffer) while the disk is busy, and the status bar shows how full that buffer is. A healthy capture stays near 0% and drops nothing. If frames are dropped, close other programs, capture to a different disk, check the disk with Tools > Hard disk speed test, or turn on Settings > Stop capturing > Stop when frames are dropped to be told at once.

Editing in SiggySoft Video Editor

Handing a clip to the editor, and renaming its file

SiggySoft DV Capture copies tapes. Trimming, splitting, joining and every other change to a clip are SiggySoft Video Editor's, so they work the same for the clips of this program and of SiggySoft Video Capture.

The Edit button

When SiggySoft Video Editor is installed on this PC, each clip has an **Edit** button after its badges. It opens the clip in the editor; so do Clips > **Edit in SiggySoft Video Editor**, Ctrl+T and right-click. Without the editor the button is not there and the menu item is greyed out. A clip still being captured opens once its file is closed.

Renaming

The pen before a clip's name renames that one file, in its folder: for a tape captured under the wrong name, for example. F2 and right-click > Rename do the same for the selected clips; with several selected, each gets the new name and a number (Chapter 6). A deinterlaced copy gets the new name too. A file another program has open, as ffmpeg has a new clip for a second or two while it makes the pictures, or a player, is renamed as soon as it is let go, within 10 seconds; the messages say so while it waits.

Trim or split, Join the selected clips and Re-split by recording date were here up to version 1.15.2.

Deinterlaced copies

MP4 copies without comb lines, for computers, phones and sharing, made after each capture or on request

Why the DV files keep their comb lines

A camcorder records each picture as two half-pictures, called fields: one holds every other line, and the next, taken a sixtieth of a second later (a fiftieth on PAL tapes), holds the lines in between. A TV shows the fields one after the other. A computer shows both at once, so anything that moves gets comb-like edges. The DV files keep the fields exactly as the tape holds them, which is what an archive copy should do. A deinterlaced copy rebuilds whole pictures from the fields, for watching on a computer or a phone or for sharing. SiggySoft DV Capture makes it as an MP4 file, H.264 video with AAC sound, and never changes the DV file.

Making the copies

- **After every capture:** tick Settings > Deinterlacing > Make a deinterlaced copy of each clip after a capture. When a capture ends, its new clips are queued.
- **For clips you choose:** select them and press Ctrl+D, or Clips > Deinterlace the selected clips, or right-click > Deinterlace the selected clips.
- **For video files from other folders:** add them to the list (Chapter 6), select them and press Ctrl+D. Any video file ffmpeg reads can be deinterlaced, not only DV.

Clips with the **progressive** badge (Chapter 6) are left out, with a message, since they have nothing to deinterlace. The others are done one at a time in the background, and the program shows the work in four places:

- **A banner over the clip list:** which clip of how many, with which deinterlacer, about how long is left, and two bars: this clip, and all the clips queued together. Its buttons open the folder the copies go to and stop the work.
- **A badge on each clip:** **deinterlacing 33%** on the clip being done, **waiting to deinterlace** on the clips queued after it, and a green **deinterlaced** on every clip whose copy exists, whenever the folder is shown.
- **The title bar** adds "deinterlacing 9 of 24", and **the taskbar button** fills with the progress, as it does for a file copy.
- **Messages** lists each copy with the time it took.

Clips > Stop deinterlacing stops the work and empties the queue. A capture started meanwhile pauses the work: the clip in progress is set aside and done again from its start once the capture ends, and the banner says it waits, so deinterlacing never competes with a capture for the processor or the disk. A clip being deinterlaced or waiting cannot be renamed or sent to the Recycle Bin until its copy is made; the program says so.

Closing in the middle. Closing the program while clips are being deinterlaced asks first. The clips not done yet are kept in a small list, so when the program starts again, after a close or after it was ended some other way, a box over the clip list says how many were waiting, with **Carry on** and **Forget them**. A half-made copy is deleted either way and made again from the start. Clips > **Deinterlace the clips not done yet** queues every clip in the list that has no copy, at any time.

The copy of `Beach'20020619 16.10.29.avi` is `Beach'20020619 16.10.29.mp4` in a `Deinterlaced` folder beside the clip; Settings > Deinterlacing > Deinterlaced folder chooses another. Its file date, and the creation time stored inside the MP4, are the recording time of the clip's first frame, as for the DV files; for a file that is not DV, the creation time stored in the file, or its modified date when it has none. A DV clip's copy is marked 4:3 or 16:9 from the DV frames; the copy of another file keeps its picture shape. A copy that already exists is not made again. While a copy is being made its name ends in `(being made)`, so a stopped or failed job never leaves a half-written file under the real name.

The deinterlacers

SETTINGS > DEINTERLACING > DEINTERLACER	WHAT IT DOES	SPEED ON THE TEST PC
Standard	ffmpeg's bwdif filter builds each missing line from the lines around it and from the fields before and after. Needs ffmpeg.	6.2 times playback speed
Best, smooth	QTGMC with its usual settings follows the motion between fields, so edges stay clean where simpler filters leave jagged lines or flicker, and it calms grain and shimmer. Needs QTGMC.	1.5 times playback speed
Best, faithful	QTGMC that puts the tape's own lines back into each picture untouched, so nothing of the original is smoothed away. Needs QTGMC.	0.68 times playback speed

Measured on 4 October 2026 with one minute of a home DV test tape at 59.94 frames a second and quality 18, on the PC SiggySoft DV Capture was written on (28 processor threads). At those speeds an hour of tape takes about 10 minutes with Standard, 40 with Best, smooth, and 90 with Best, faithful. The minute of DV took 228 MB; its copies took 42 to 55 MB.

Frame rate. "Every field becomes a frame" makes 59.94 frames a second (50 on PAL), which keeps motion as smooth as it was on a TV. "One frame per DV frame" makes 29.97 (25 on PAL): half the frames, so fast motion looks less fluid.

Picture quality is the H.264 CRF number: lower gives a better picture and a bigger file. The default, 18, is what FFmpeg's H.264 guide calls visually lossless or nearly so.

Field order. A deinterlacer has to know which field of each frame was filmed first. SiggySoft DV Capture tells it, rather than letting it guess from the file's label: before each clip it runs the interlace detector of Chapter 6 (or takes its earlier result) and gives the order the pictures show, and Messages names the order with each copy. When the pictures do not decide, DV is taken as bottom field first, which DV is on NTSC and PAL alike, and other files follow their own label, or top field first when they have none, the order 1080i HD video uses. On the 10-second DV test clip the bottom-field-first order gave the smoother result: the mean difference between neighbouring output frames was 7.0 brightness levels, against 8.2 with the order reversed.

Installing QTGMC

QTGMC is free, but it is not part of SiggySoft DV Capture. It runs inside VapourSynth, a free video-processing program, through the vsjetpack package and a few VapourSynth plugins. All of them are third-party software under their own licenses: VapourSynth under the LGPL 2.1, vsjetpack under the MIT license, and the plugins under theirs, several of them GPL. You install them yourself; SiggySoft DV Capture then finds them and runs its own small script with them as a separate program (the script, `Tools\siggysoft_qtgm.py`, is under the MIT license). Until then the two QTGMC choices in Settings > Deinterlacing are greyed out, and clicking one says what is missing.

1. Install Python 3.12 or newer from <https://www.python.org/downloads/>, with "Add python.exe to PATH" ticked.
2. In SiggySoft DV Capture, open Tools > Optional tools and press **Copy the two lines**.
3. Open a Command Prompt (Start, type `cmd`), paste, and press Enter. The first line makes a Python environment in `%LOCALAPPDATA%\SiggySoft\QTGMC`; the second downloads VapourSynth, vsjetpack and the plugins into it from the Python Package Index.
4. Back in Optional tools, press **Check again**. SiggySoft DV Capture starts Python and deinterlaces a small test picture; the card then says **WORKS**, with the versions found.

The two lines:

```
py -m venv "%LOCALAPPDATA%\SiggySoft\QTGMC"  
"%LOCALAPPDATA%\SiggySoft\QTGMC\Scripts\python.exe" -m pip install vapoursynth vsjetpack vapoursynth-  
bestsource vapoursynth-mvtools vapoursynth-znedi3 vapoursynth-fmtconv vapoursynth-akarin vapoursynth-zsmooth  
vapoursynth-vszip vapoursynth-descale vapoursynth-resize2 vapoursynth-mvutensils vapoursynth-bwdif
```

Tested on 4 October 2026 in a new environment with Python 3.14.3: the download and install took 27 seconds and brought VapourSynth R81 and vsjetpack 2.2.6, and QTGMC worked in both modes. The setup SiggySoft DV Capture was developed with has VapourSynth R80 and vsjetpack 2.2.4.

An environment made another way works too: Optional tools > **Choose python.exe** picks its `python.exe`.

PART D

Reference

Every setting, the tools, and what to do when something does not work.

Every setting

Tools > Settings, group by group, with the value a new installation starts with

The Settings window lists the groups on the left; scrolling the right side moves the highlight with it. Changes apply from the next capture. **Restore defaults** puts every option back to the value below (the capture folder, the device names and the timers are kept). The options are stored in `%APPDATA%\SiggySoft\DV Capture\settings.json`, the two update options of the Updates group beside it in `updates.json`.

Capture

SETTING	STARTS AS	WHAT IT DOES
File type	DV-AVI type 2 (.avi): DV video plus a PCM sound stream	Type 2 DV-AVI (video plus a PCM sound stream) is what most editing programs and ffmpeg expect. Raw DV keeps the tape's frames only. Choices: DV-AVI type 2 (.avi): DV video plus a PCM sound stream; Raw DV (.dv): the tape's frames only.
Maximum file size (MB)	2048	A new file starts before this size; 0 means no limit. SiggySoft DV Capture tries to split at a scene break in the last 30 seconds before the limit. From 0 to 1000000.
Maximum file length (minutes)	0	A new file starts after this many minutes; 0 means no limit. From 0 to 100000.
File names	name'YYYYMMDD HH.MM.SS (sortable; undated clips become name0001)	How captured files are named. The default is name'YYYYMMDD HH.MM.SS.avi from the first frame's recording date, which sorts by date. Choices: name'YYYYMMDD HH.MM.SS (sortable; undated clips become name0001); name-0001, name-0002, ...; YYYYMMDD HH.MM.SS only.
Date files to the recording time	On	Sets each file's modified date to the camcorder date of its first frame. The created date stays the capture time, so capture order is kept.
Time-lapse capture	Off	Keep only one frame of every N (the factor below). A 60-minute event becomes a 1-minute file at factor 60.
Time-lapse factor	60	Keep one frame of this many. From 2 to 100000.
Write a capture log	On	Appends one line per file (frames, recording dates, timecode, damaged and dropped frames, capture order) to 'SiggySoft DV Capture log.jsonl' in the capture folder.

Scene detection

SETTING	STARTS AS	WHAT IT DOES
Scene detection mode	Recording date: a new file when the camcorder's clock jumps (DV and Digital8 tapes)	How Siggysoft DV Capture decides where one clip ends and the next begins. Choices: Recording date: a new file when the camcorder's clock jumps (DV and Digital8 tapes); Recording date, and optical detection for stretches without a date; Optical: a new file when the picture changes (analog tapes captured through a DV converter); None: one file per capture, split only by the size and length limits.
Minimum time between two scenes (seconds)	1	If the recording date of two frames in a row differs by more than this, a new file starts. 1 second puts exactly one camera take in each file; 900 (15 minutes) keeps takes filmed close together in one file. From 1 to 604800.
Split undated footage at timecode breaks	On	Footage without a recording date is split where the tape timecode jumps (a new recording on the tape).
Optical sensitivity	Low: only clear cuts (fewest false splits)	For optical detection: how big a picture change starts a new file. Choices: Low: only clear cuts (fewest false splits); Medium; High: also softer changes (more false splits).
Shortest optical scene (seconds)	2	Optical detection never makes a clip shorter than this. From 0 to 3600.
New file when the sound format or 16:9 flag changes	On	Starts a new file when the tape switches between 48 kHz, 44.1 kHz and 32 kHz sound, 2 and 4 channels, or 4:3 and 16:9. (Type 2 AVI always splits on a sample-rate change, because one file cannot hold two rates.)

Audio

SETTING	STARTS AS	WHAT IT DOES
Capture audio	On	Off writes silence (the DV frames still carry the original sound).
Write channels 3 and 4 to a WAV file	Off	4-channel tapes (32 kHz, 12-bit) carry a second stereo pair; this writes it beside each AVI with the same name.
Mute time-lapse sound	On	Time-lapse files get silence instead of chopped sound.

Folders and disk space

SETTING	STARTS AS	WHAT IT DOES
---------	-----------	--------------

Alternate capture folders	(empty)	Used in this order when the capture folder's disk is full. Separate folders with semicolons, for example D:\Video;E:\Video.
Space to leave free on each disk (MB)	100	SiggySoft DV Capture switches to the next folder, or stops, before a disk has less than this free. Free space is read as a full 64-bit number, so disks of any size work. From 0 to 1000000.
RAM buffer (seconds of video)	60	Frames wait here when the disk is briefly busy. 60 seconds of DV is about 216 MB. If it fills, frames are dropped and counted. From 5 to 600.
Still pictures folder	(empty)	Where exported stills go. Empty: a Stills folder inside the capture folder.

Stop capturing

SETTING	STARTS AS	WHAT IT DOES
No-more-video timeout (seconds)	30	When no video arrives for this long, capture stops and the deck is stopped (the end of the recorded part of the tape). From 0 to 3600.
Stop when frames are dropped	Off	Stops the capture at the first dropped frame.
Stop when the recording date moves more than (hours)	0	For example 12 captures about one day of video and stops. 0 turns this off. From 0 to 100000.

Device

SETTING	STARTS AS	WHAT IT DOES
Use device control	On	Lets SiggySoft DV Capture play, stop and wind the camera or VCR. Turn off for analog-to-DV converters and for cameras used as converters.
Play the tape when capture starts	On	Puts the deck in play when you press Capture.
Stop the tape when capture stops	On	Stops the deck when you press Stop or a stop rule fires.
Rewind the tape when it ends	Off	When the capture stops because no more video came (the no-more-video timeout under Stop capturing), the tape is stopped and rewound to the start, ready to come out. Stopping by hand, a timer or another stop rule never rewinds. A blank stretch in the middle of a tape longer than that timeout ends the capture there too. Needs a camcorder or VCR that takes commands over FireWire. Also on the Device menu and under the Capture button.

Preview

SETTING	STARTS AS	WHAT IT DOES
Preview while capturing	On	Turn off on a slow PC; the capture itself does not need it.
Full-resolution preview	Off	Decodes 720-pixel frames instead of 360. Costs more CPU; stills export at full resolution.

Still pictures

SETTING	STARTS AS	WHAT IT DOES
Format	JPEG	File type of exported stills (Ctrl+E). Choices: JPEG; PNG; BMP.
JPEG quality	90	1 (smallest) to 100 (best). From 1 to 100.
Crop pixels on each edge	8	Removes the dark border DV frames usually have. From 0 to 64.
Square pixels	On	Resizes for PCs and printers (DV pixels are not square). Leave off for stills going back into a DV video.
Deinterlace	On	Builds the still from one field so moving subjects do not show comb lines. Turn off for progressive-scan footage.
Open the still after export	Off	Opens each exported picture in the default viewer.

Clip list

SETTING	STARTS AS	WHAT IT DOES
Group-select time frame (minutes)	30	Double-clicking a clip selects every clip recorded within this many minutes of its neighbours. From 1 to 100000.
Thumbnails per clip	5	Pictures shown for each clip: the first, some from the middle and the last. From 1 to 9.
ffmpeg for thumbnails of existing files	(empty)	Thumbnails of files captured in an earlier session come from ffmpeg. Empty: Siggysoft DV Capture looks in the usual places. Use a release build: some development builds cut long files short.

Deinterlacing

SETTING	STARTS AS	WHAT IT DOES
Make a deinterlaced copy of each clip after a capture	Off	When a capture ends, each new clip is also saved as an MP4 without comb lines, one clip at a time, in the folder below. The DV files stay as they are. Needs ffmpeg (Tools > Optional tools). A capture started meanwhile pauses the work until it ends.
Deinterlacer	Standard: ffmpeg's bwdif filter (needs ffmpeg)	Standard is quick: about 6 times faster than playback on the test PC. QTGMC gives the cleanest picture but is slower: it took two thirds of the clip's playing time (smooth) to one and a half times it (faithful). QTGMC is free but not part of Siggysoft DV Capture, so it is greyed out until you install it (Tools > Optional tools). Choices: Standard: ffmpeg's bwdif filter (needs ffmpeg); Best, smooth: QTGMC with its usual settings, which also calm grain and shimmer (needs QTGMC); Best, faithful: QTGMC keeping the tape's own lines untouched (needs QTGMC).
Frame rate	Every field becomes a frame: 59.94 frames a second (50 on PAL), the motion of the original	A tape holds 59.94 half-pictures (fields) a second. Keeping all of them as frames keeps the motion as smooth as on a TV; one frame per DV frame halves the frames and the file size. Choices: Every field becomes a frame: 59.94 frames a second (50 on PAL), the motion of the original; One frame per DV frame: 29.97 frames a second (25 on PAL).
Picture quality (H.264 CRF)	18	Lower numbers give a better picture and bigger files. FFmpeg's H.264 guide calls 17 or 18 visually lossless or nearly so; each 6 more roughly halves the size. From 0 to 51.
Deinterlaced folder	(empty)	Where the MP4 files go. Empty: a Deinterlaced folder inside the folder of each clip.
QTGMC: python.exe with VapourSynth	(empty)	The python.exe of the Python environment where VapourSynth and vsjetpack are installed. Empty: Siggysoft DV Capture looks in the usual places (Tools > Optional tools shows where).

Tape photos

SETTING	STARTS AS	WHAT IT DOES
Cut the tape out of each photo	On	When a photo of the tape or its case is added, a copy without the background is saved beside it as 'tape name - tape photo 1 (cut out).png', and the photo area shows that copy. The photo itself is kept as it was. Needs the cut-out model, a free download (Tools > Setup check).

Updates

SETTING	STARTS AS	WHAT IT DOES
Check online once a day for .NET fixes	On	Reads Microsoft's list of .NET releases (7 KB) once a day, so the setup check can say when this PC is missing a .NET security fix. Nothing about this PC is sent. Off: the check uses the copy of the list built into this version.
Look for a new version at every start	On	Only a copy installed with Setup.exe updates itself. A new version downloads in the background and is installed when SiggySoft DV Capture closes, never while it captures, deinterlaces or cuts out tape photos. Off: it looks only when you choose Help > Check for updates.
Where new versions come from	(empty)	A folder, or an HTTPS address, holding what SiggySoft LLC publishes with each version. Empty: the address built into the program.

Tools

The disk test, the setup check and its installs, ffmpeg, the program log, and remote control for testing

Hard disk speed test

Tools > Hard disk speed test writes 5 minutes of DV (about 1 GB) to the capture folder, deletes it, and says how many times faster than DV's 3.6 MB a second the disk wrote. Two times or more is enough; a modern internal disk usually manages well over ten.

Setup check

Tools > Setup check, described in Chapter 2. Its buttons open the right Windows page (Windows Update, its Advanced options, Optional features) or do the job themselves. Three of them install a tool, each only after a note says where the tool comes from and under which license, and you agree:

- **Install ffmpeg** downloads the current FFmpeg release build for Windows (about 115 MB), checks it against the checksum its publisher posts beside it, unpacks it into `%LOCALAPPDATA%\SiggySoft\ffmpeg` and chooses it in Settings.
- **Set up QTGMC** runs the two setup lines of Chapter 9 for you, when Python 3.12 or newer is installed, then deinterlaces a test picture. Without Python the button opens python.org instead.
- **Download the model** fetches the cut-out model for tape photos (224 MB, MIT license) and checks it.

The tools go into your own `%LOCALAPPDATA%\SiggySoft` folder, where the other SiggySoft programs find them too; nothing changes the PATH or needs administrator rights. An install never starts while a capture runs, and its Stop button cancels it. The first tick box at the bottom, also in Settings > Updates, lets the check read Microsoft's list of .NET releases (7 KB) once a day; nothing about the PC is sent. Without it, the check uses the copy of that list built into this version. The second, also in Settings > Updates, makes a copy installed with Setup look for a new version of SiggySoft DV Capture at every start (Chapter 2).

Optional tools: ffmpeg and QTGMC

ffmpeg is a free program that reads almost any video file. SiggySoft DV Capture does not need it to capture. SiggySoft DV Capture uses it for five things: the deinterlaced copies of Chapter 9 (it does the encoding for both deinterlacers), the interlaced or progressive badges of Chapter 6, reading video files that are not DV (with ffprobe, which comes with ffmpeg), the pictures in the clip list of files SiggySoft DV Capture did not capture itself, because ffmpeg removes the comb lines of interlaced video, and pictures of raw `.dv` files. Without ffmpeg, Windows' own DV decoder draws the pictures of DV-AVI files, including those in the tape-damage and Trim or split windows, deinterlacing is greyed out, the clips get no interlaced or progressive badge, and only DV files can be added to the list. Tools > Optional tools shows whether SiggySoft DV Capture found it, where, and which version.

1. Press **Open the ffmpeg download page**. It opens `https://ffmpeg.org/download.html`, the official page.
2. Under Windows, choose one of the builds it links to. Take a release build: some development builds cut long files short.

3. Unzip it to a folder of your choice.

4. Back in SiggySoft DV Capture, press **Choose ffmpeg.exe** and pick the `ffmpeg.exe` inside the `bin` folder. The missing pictures are fetched straight away.

The quicker way is **Install ffmpeg** in Tools > Setup check. SiggySoft DV Capture also finds ffmpeg by itself when it is in `C:\ffmpeg\bin`, in `Program Files\ffmpeg\bin`, where the setup check installs it, or on the PATH.

The same window has a card for **QTGMC**, the best deinterlacer. It says whether SiggySoft DV Capture found a Python environment with QTGMC and whether QTGMC works there (it deinterlaces a small test picture to find out), shows the two setup lines with a button that copies them, and links to python.org and the VapourSynth and vsjetpack pages. Chapter 9 has the steps.

The program log

File > Open the log folder opens `%LOCALAPPDATA%\SiggySoft\DV Capture\logs`. There is one file a day with everything shown in Messages, the setup check's results, and the details of any error. Send the day's file along with a question about a problem.

Remote control, for testing

While it runs, SiggySoft DV Capture listens on a named pipe, `SiggySoft.DvCapture.Control`, that only the signed-in Windows user can open. The companion test program `siggysoft-dv-cli.exe` sends it commands (`siggysoft-dv-cli remote status`, `remote deck play`, `remote capture`, `remote edit play` in the Trim or split window, `remote deinterlace 0,1`, and others; `remote help` lists them), so a test can run the program the way a person would and read back what the window shows. Start SiggySoft DV Capture with `--no-control` to turn it off.

When something does not work

The problems seen so far, and what to do about each

WHAT HAPPENS	WHAT TO DO
The Device box is empty, or has no DV device	Check the FireWire cable, switch the camcorder to its playback mode, then press the refresh button beside the Device box. Windows Device Manager should list the camcorder under Imaging devices.
"Could not open the device"	Another program is using the camcorder. Close any other capture program, then pick the device again.
The picture stays black with "No video"	Press play. If the deck plays but no picture arrives, the tape may be blank there, or the camcorder may be in camera mode instead of playback.
The deck buttons do nothing	Check that Settings > Device > Use device control is on. Some converters and older camcorders accept no commands; then use the camcorder's own buttons and SiggySoft DV Capture's Capture button.
Frames are dropped	See Chapter 7: close other programs, use another disk, run the disk speed test.
The capture did not stop at the end of the tape	It stops 30 seconds after the last picture (Settings > Stop capturing). Stop it by hand if the camcorder keeps sending pictures over blank tape.
Clips show a camera symbol instead of pictures	Windows could not read the file (a raw <code>.dv</code> file, for example) and ffmpeg is not installed: see Chapter 11.
Deinterlacing is greyed out	ffmpeg is not installed: see Chapter 11.
Clips show no interlaced or progressive badge	ffmpeg is not installed (Chapter 11), or the detector is still working through the list in the background.
A video file cannot be added, or an added file is gone from the list	Messages says why a file was not added: files other than DV need ffmpeg. An added file leaves the list when it is moved or renamed outside SiggySoft DV Capture, or while its drive is not connected; add it again from its new place.
A clip is missing from the list	It may have been taken off the list; the line under the list counts those. Refresh the list (F5) brings them back.
The tape damage says "DV files only"	The clip is an MP4 or another format, which has no tape damage marks. It can be deinterlaced here and edited in SiggySoft Video Editor.
A clip has no Edit button	SiggySoft Video Editor is not installed on this PC. Its Setup comes from www.middlesiggy.com (Chapter 8).
The QTGMC choices are greyed out, or say "not installed"	Install QTGMC (Chapter 9), then press Check again in Tools > Optional tools. If the card says NOT WORKING, run the second setup line again: it adds whatever is missing.

A deinterlaced copy is missing	Messages says why for each clip. A copy that already exists is not made again; a capture pauses the work until it ends.
A clip shows damaged frames	Look at the places in the tape-damage window (Chapter 7) before deciding to capture again.
A notice under the menu says .NET is missing a fix	Press Open the setup check, then Open Windows Update and check for updates. If the line says Windows Update does not install .NET fixes, turn on "Receive updates for other Microsoft products" in Windows Update > Advanced options.
The setup check says the Windows video parts for DV are missing	On a Windows "N" edition, add the Media Feature Pack: the line's button opens Optional features. On other editions, a codec pack or cleaner may have removed them; Windows Update or a repair install brings them back.
Help > Check for updates says SiggysSoft DV Capture is not installed by Setup	This copy runs from the folder it was built or unpacked in. Run Setup.exe (Chapter 2) to install a copy that updates itself.
Restart and update says "Not now"	The program is busy: the message names what with (a capture, deinterlacing, cut-outs). Wait until it ends, or close SiggysSoft DV Capture: the new version goes in when it closes.
A tape photo gets no cut-out	Download the model in Tools > Setup check, and check that Settings > Tape photos has cut-outs on. Photos in HEIC format need Microsoft's HEIF and HEVC extensions. Point at the photo: its note says why.
Something else	Run the setup check, then send the day's file from the log folder.

Feedback

Reporting a problem, suggesting a feature, asking a question or saying thanks, from the Feedback menu

Sending a report

The Feedback menu, last on the menu bar, opens the same window four ways: Report a problem, Suggest a feature, Ask a question and Say thanks. The kind can still be changed in the window.

- **Title and description.** The title says in a few words what the report is about. For a problem, the description says what happened, what you expected and the steps that lead to it.
- **Email address.** Optional. Give one for an answer by email, and tick *SiggySoft may email me about this report*. Replies also appear in My feedback without it.
- **System details.** Ticked at first: the Windows and .NET versions, the processor, the memory, the graphics card and the screen size.
- **This program's log.** Not ticked at first: the last 200 lines of SiggySoft DV Capture's log. Your user folder in it is written as %USERPROFILE%.
- **Pictures and files.** Up to 3, 5 MB together: pictures of SiggySoft DV Capture's windows (*Add pictures of this program's windows*), or PNG, JPEG and text files (*Add a file*).

Show exactly what will be sent displays the whole report before anything leaves the PC. *Send* sends it and shows its ticket number, such as FB-2026-000123, with a link to its page on www.siggysoft.org. *Save to send later* keeps it on the PC instead.

My feedback

Feedback, My feedback lists the reports sent from this PC by every SiggySoft program, newest first, with their status (New, Seen, Planned, In progress, Fixed in a version, Won't fix, Duplicate or Closed) and SiggySoft's replies. Refresh asks the site again.

When the site cannot be reached

A report that cannot be sent waits on the PC in %LOCALAPPDATA%\SiggySoft\Footer\outbox. It goes the next time any SiggySoft program starts, or when you press *Send them now* in My feedback, and is deleted from the PC once the site has given it a ticket number.

What is sent, and who sees it

SiggySoft DV Capture sends nothing in the background: no usage counts and no crash reports. A report leaves the PC when you press Send, or when a saved report goes from the outbox. It travels over HTTPS, signed with a key this PC gets from the site with its first report. The key is kept in %APPDATA%\SiggySoft\Footer\client.json, readable only by your Windows account. A report's page shows its title, status and replies, never your email address, the system details, the log or the pictures. Feedback, What is sent and why lists every part of a report.

Keys

Every keyboard shortcut

KEY	WHAT IT DOES
Ctrl+R	Start capturing
Ctrl+P	Pause or resume (resuming starts a new file)
Ctrl+K	Split now: close the current file and start the next
Ctrl+.	Stop capturing
Ctrl+E	Save the picture in the monitor as a still
Ctrl+,	Settings
Ctrl++ , Ctrl+- , Ctrl+0 , or Ctrl and the mouse wheel	Everything in the window larger, smaller, or back to 100 percent
F5	Read the capture folder again, with the clips taken off the list
Enter	Play the selected clip
F2	Rename the selected clips
Del	Take the selected clips off the list (the files stay)
Shift+Del	Send the selected clips to the Recycle Bin, after asking
Ctrl+A	Select every clip
Ctrl+G or double-click	Select the clip's group (filmed within 30 minutes of each other)
Ctrl+T	Open the selected clip in SiggySoft Video Editor
Ctrl+D	Deinterlace the selected clips
Ctrl+O	Add video files from another folder to the list
F1	Open this manual

Files and folders

Where SiggySoft DV Capture keeps what

WHAT	WHERE
Captured clips	The capture folder you choose; <code>Videos\SiggySoft DV Capture</code> until you choose one
Capture log	<code>SiggySoft DV Capture log.jsonl</code> in the capture folder
Tape photos	<code><tape name> - tape photo 1.jpg</code> to <code>4</code> in the capture folder: copies of the photos dropped on the tape photo area
Tape photo cut-outs	<code><tape name> - tape photo 1 (cut out).png</code> beside each photo: the tape without the background
Tools the setup check installs	<code>%LOCALAPPDATA%\SiggySoft\ffmpeg</code> , <code>\QTGMC</code> and <code>\Models\BiRefNet lite</code> , shared with the other SiggySoft programs; delete a folder to remove that tool
Microsoft's list of .NET releases	<code>%LOCALAPPDATA%\SiggySoft\dotnet releases-index.json</code> , read once a day when Settings > Updates allows it
Still pictures	<code>Stills</code> in the capture folder, unless Settings names another folder
The program, installed with Setup	<code>%LocalAppData%\SiggySoftDvCapture</code> : the program in <code>current</code> , and <code>Update.exe</code> , which puts in new versions and removes the program (Chapter 2)
Settings	<code>%APPDATA%\SiggySoft\DV Capture\settings.json</code> ; the two update options of Settings > Updates beside it in <code>updates.json</code>
Feedback (Chapter 13)	This PC's key in <code>%APPDATA%\SiggySoft\Feedback</code> ; reports waiting to be sent in <code>%LOCALAPPDATA%\SiggySoft\Feedback</code> ; shared by every SiggySoft program
Program log	<code>%LOCALAPPDATA%\SiggySoft\DV Capture\logs</code> , one file a day
Saved clip pictures	<code>%LOCALAPPDATA%\SiggySoft\DV Capture\thumbs</code> ; safe to delete, they are made again
Interlaced or progressive results	<code>%LOCALAPPDATA%\SiggySoft\DV Capture\scan types.json</code> ; safe to delete, the clips are looked at again
Deinterlaced copies	<code>Deinterlaced</code> beside each clip, unless Settings > Deinterlacing names another folder
Clips waiting to be deinterlaced	<code>deinterlace queue.json</code> beside the settings, while there are any
Video files added from other folders	Listed in the settings; the files stay where they are
Clips taken off the list	Listed in the settings, with each file's creation time; the files stay where they are

A copy installed with Setup is removed in Settings > Apps > Installed apps; a copy unpacked by hand is removed by deleting its folder. `%APPDATA%\SiggySoft\DV Capture` and `%LOCALAPPDATA%\SiggySoft\DV Capture` can go too, and `%LOCALAPPDATA%\SiggySoft` as a whole when no other SiggySoft program uses its tools. The captured clips are never touched.

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