



Advice on attaching leads to your video player.

The video-2-PC kit can capture video & audio from any VCR with a Scart socket, or any camcorder with RCA phono outputs. Below are some examples you may find useful.

Example 1 – LG DV1000 DVD & VHS combo unit featuring NTSC VHS playback.

This unit has ports all over it – and a lot of them look like good candidates for the Video-2-PC kit cables, but in fact only one port will output a VHS tape signal to our video grabber.



The yellow, white & red inputs on the bottom left look like a good fit, don't they? Actually, they're an input for a camcorder, and we need an output. Never connect our leads to the front of a VCR.



Here's the rear of the same VCR. On the right we have more yellow, red & white RCA sockets, but if you look closely you'll see they're only for the DVD player, not the VCR – so no good for us.

On the left you see two Scart sockets. The one marked AV1 is where we attach our Scart adapter & leads. Don't use any of your own Scart leads or adapters, only the ones supplied with the kit.

Example 2 – Vintage Camcorder - Video8 Sony Handycam Camcorder from 1998.

This camcorder uses the 8mm format tapes, which are common to Video8, Hi8 & Digital8 formats. At first glance it doesn't look like there's anywhere to attach our leads ... but look a little closer.

These larger/older camcorders will almost always have a plastic flap somewhere that exposes the RCA phono sockets. This model only has mono sound, so you see Yellow for Video & Black for Audio. This is fine for us, just attach Yellow to Yellow & then Red or White to Black.



Example 3 – Modern DV Camcorders – Sony & Panasonic models.

If attaching a Mini-DV camcorder to our kit you'll often find the yellow, red & white connector is either a proprietary plug-in lead (Sony on left) or some kind of docking station (Panasonic on right). Often this will be left in the original box & only used if you watched the videos on a TV.



NOTE: A Camcorder with a MiniDV output will give better results if connected by a Firewire cable to a Firewire port on your PC. If you capture using an analogue device you are losing some quality.

Example 5 – Betamax and older VHS players.

Firstly, we'd always recommend that you test the VCR & tapes on your TV before ordering our kit. Most of these models pre-date the widespread adoption of the Scart socket. You'll normally have an Aerial in & out, and then hopefully sockets marked Video Out & Audio out.

The Video Out socket is usually a twist-on BNC bayonet fitting, and we can supply a small adapter that pushes on the Yellow RCA plug. The Audio Output will be a regular RCA phono socket, so just insert either the red or white plug into it.



Example 5 – Combo TV/VCR units.

If the only VCR you have access to is built into a portable TV, it might be that the Scart socket on the rear is only an input – for a DVD player etc. I think some manufacturers did this to save money. If you have a combo unit like the one pictured below, then connect it up to a 2nd TV using a Scart lead, and if you see the video playing on both screens you know the Scart socket is sending out a signal & will be compatible with our Video-2-PC kit. The Bush BTV19SIL unit (which cost me just 99p on eBay) pictured works fine, as you can see.



Use only the leads we sent you...

This is really important. The Scart adapter we sent you is wired for Video-Out. If you decide to use your own cables there's a good chance (50%) that your Scart cable is wired for Video-In and you will think we've sent you a faulty kit – when in fact your cable is the problem.

If you have your own Scart lead with an In/Out switch it should be set to Out. If you have a Scart lead with red, green, & blue phono plugs, then that's a Component lead and isn't compatible either - as all the wires inside run to the wrong pins. Only a Scart lead set to OUT with yellow, red & white plugs will work with the USB adapter – this is what we've supplied.

If you're trying to use an S-Video lead to connect to our grabber please remember that you still have to attach the red & white phono plugs to capture audio. Also, you can't just assume that your old VCR has the pins inside the Scart socket wired for S-Video output – one of mine doesn't. Use the supplied leads initially & prove everything works correctly, before experimenting with other cables.

Don't drape the wires over a WiFi router or Dect cordless phone base station – both transmit constantly and can cause interference, when less than one foot away.

Don't attach our leads to your TV (some people do this, no idea why). You shouldn't even have your TV connected, as you'll see the Video playing in a window on the PC while you capture. Make sure your VCR or camcorder powers up & plays tapes correctly through your TV (preferably before ordering our kit).