

How to Import Video from Panasonic 700 and Panasonic 920 to iMovie

iMovie does not recognize the HD video format (AVCHD) created by the Panasonic camcorders. (Adobe Premiere recognizes all of the Panasonic file formats) There are a few ways to work around this limitation in iMovie.

Importing Options

Option 1

If you are not concerned with shooting in HD, choose the HX1920 (Panasonic 700) or the iFrame (Panasonic 920) instead of the 1080/60p format. It will create a .mov file easily recognized by iMovie.

Option 2

Shoot 1080/60p and use Quicktime to export the HD video to iMovie. The exported file will be slightly smaller than standard HD video, but higher quality than the HX1920 option (1280x720).

Option 3

Shoot 1080/60p and use Handbrake to convert the file to an .mp4 and import it into iMovie. This takes a few more steps, but will produce full HD video.



Fig 1 - Format Options

Instructions

Option 1 - Shooting Formats

Panasonic 700

- 1080/60p –1920x1080/60p - produces an AVCHD package file
- HX1920 –1920x1080/60i - produces a .mov file recognized by iMovie**
- HG1920 –1920x1080/60i - produces an AVCHD package file
- HA1920 –1920x1080/60i - produces an AVCHD package file
- HE1920 –1920x1080/60i - produces an AVCHD package file

Panasonic 920

- 1080/60p –1920x1080/60p - produces an AVCHD package file
- PH1920 –1920x1080/60i - produces an AVCHD package file
- HG1920 –1920x1080/60i - produces an AVCHD package file
- HA1920 –1920x1080/60i - produces an AVCHD package file
- HE1920 –1920x1080/60i - produces an AVCHD package file
- iFrame –960x540/30p - produces a .mov file recognized by iMovie**

Instructions

Option 2 - Converting Video with QuickTime

1 In QuickTime, open your files by navigating to your SD card, and locating the AVCHD package. This is a single file that holds all of your video clips.

- On an SD card shot with the Panasonic 700, it is located within a folder labeled "private" and will be a file labeled "AVCHD". Open this file.
- On an SD card shot with the Panasonic x920 it will be a file labeled "Private". Open this file.

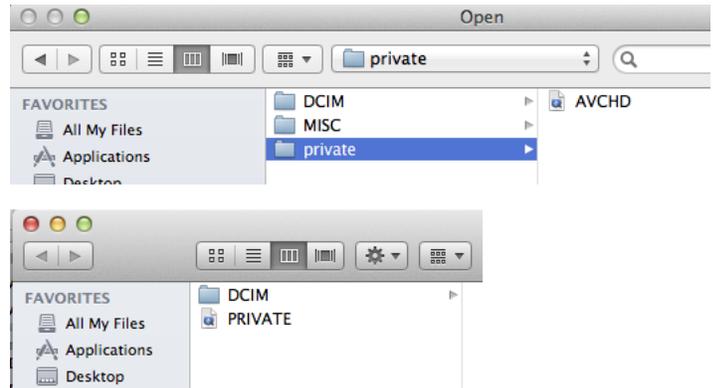


Fig 2 - Navigate to files

2 Quicktime will display all of the video clips within the AVCHD package. Select all of the clips that you would like to convert and click "Open"

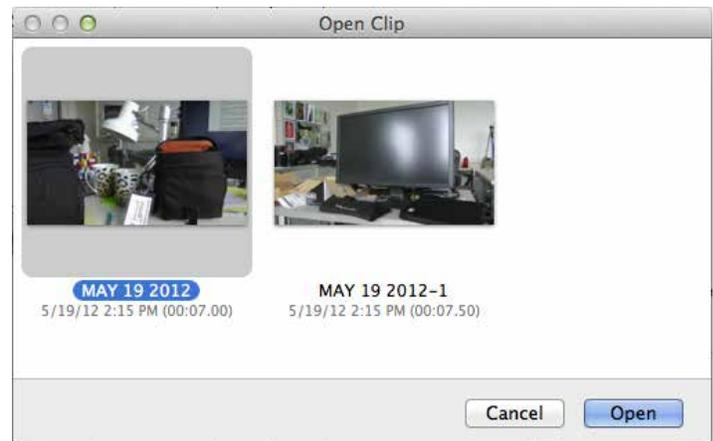


Fig 3 - Open in Quicktime

3 Quicktime will open each clip in a new window. From the menu, select File>Export to>iMovie. When prompted, click the "Share" button to complete the transfer. Repeat for each clip.

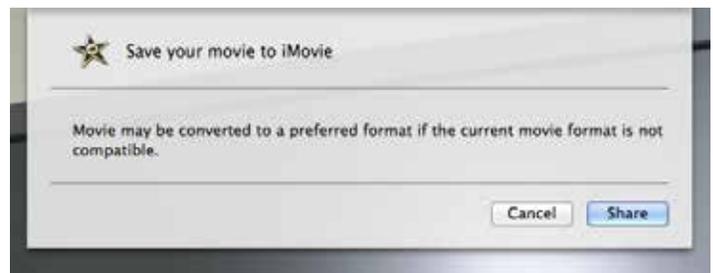


Fig 4 - Export to iMovie

4 In iMovie, import the files by navigating to File>Import>Movies. The files will be located on your local hard drive in the Movies>iMovie Events>iMovie Drop Box. Select your files.



Fig 5 - File Menu in iMovie

Instructions

Option 3 - Converting Video with Handbrake

1 You must relocate the .MTS video files from within the AVCHD package file, so that they are accessible by Handbrake.

- For the **Panasonic 700**, navigate to your SD card>private. Control-click on the "AVCHD" file, and select "Show Package Contents". Then, control-click on the "BDMV" file and "Show Package Contents". Then navigate to >STREAM. The .MTS files are located in the "STREAM" folder. Copy the .MTS files to another location (like into a new folder on the desktop).
- For the **Panasonic 920**, navigate to your SD card. Control-click on the "PRIVATE" file, and select "Show Package Contents". Then, control-click on the "AVCHD" file and "Show Package Contents". Then, control-click on the "BDMV" file and "Show Package Contents". Then navigate to >STREAM. The .MTS files are located in the "STREAM" folder. Copy the .MTS files to another location (like into a new folder on the desktop).

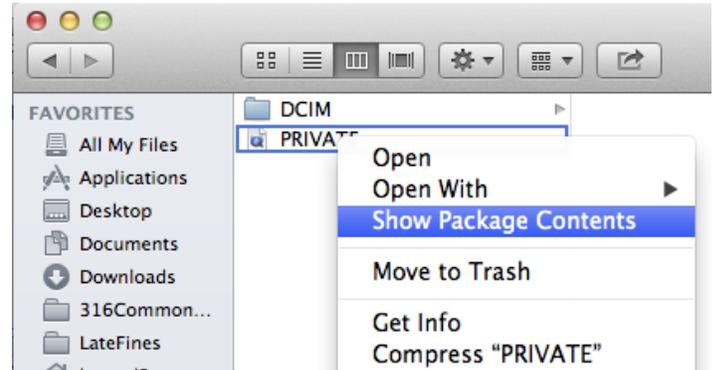


Fig 6 - File Menu in iMovie

2 Open Handbrake. It will automatically open a file browser to select the file(s) you would like to convert. Navigate to your new .MTS file location and select a file. (To locate subsequent files, click the "Source" button at the top menu.)

3 The default settings (Format: MP4, Video Codec: H.264 x264, Framerate (FPS): Same as source, Video Quality: Constant Quality) will produce HD video. Click the Browse button to select the destination for your file.

4 Click "Start" in the top menu to begin the conversion.



Fig 7 - Handbrake Option settings



Fig 8 - Handbrake "Start"

5 In iMovie, import the files by navigating to File>Import>Movies. The files will be located in the destination location you specified in Handbrake.

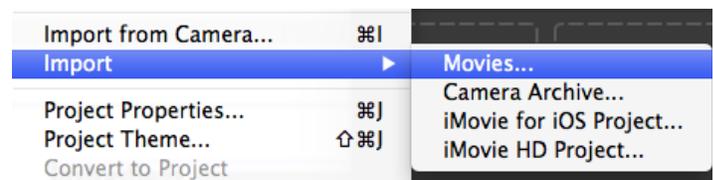


Fig 9 - iMovie "import"