

# Playing Movies on your iOS Device

## Introduction

There are basically two approaches to playing movies or videos as follows:

1. Use the built-in Video App – this limits the format of the videos to H.264, M4V, MOV and MPEG-4. This may sound like a lot of choices but many videos and movies are in another format such as AVI, WMV, MKV and others.
2. Use a 3<sup>rd</sup> party App such as the free VLC Player or the AVPlayerHD for \$2.99. A 3<sup>rd</sup> party video player cannot play video files stored in the native or built-in Video App. The videos must be transferred to the App via iTunes.

Also, you must obtain the movie that you want to transfer. There are several choices as follows:

1. Create your own movies from videos taken with your camera or created from video software.
2. Download movies or videos from YouTube with a Firefox plugin
3. Extract a movie from a DVD using the free Handbrake software. See the instructions at <http://lifehacker.com/how-to-rip-a-dvd-to-your-computer-5809765>

## Example using Handbrake

For this example, the Handbrake program will be used. Here are the steps:

1. Use the instructions for Handbrake using the link above to access them.
2. Choose the iPad format in Handbrake when extracting the movie
3. Use either iTunes or Syncios (available at <http://www.syncios.com/>) to copy the movie file created by Handbrake to your iPad or iPhone. You could also use iTunes to transfer the video just like you would transfer music.

Notes:

- For a tutorial on Handbrake see the info [here](#). An alternative for serious movie watchers is the \$39.95 WinX DVD Ripper.
- A one hour and 40 minute movie that I extracted took about 15 minutes and was 670 megabytes in size.
- Handbrake can convert almost any video or movie format to a file type suitable for playing on an iOS device.

