THIS IS A VHS TAPE

Common Identifiers for Video Home System tapes

- **VHS**
  - There will be a VHS logo on the upper right hand corner

- **VHS cassette tape**
  - Dimensions: 7.375” x 4.0625” x 1”
  - Typically made of black plastic with white hubs and clear windows to show the reels
  - Tape width is ½”

- **VHS tape container**
  - Dimensions: 8” x 4.688” x 1.125”
  - Usually in hard plastic snap-closure. Can also be found in paper or plastic sleeves or have no container

- **Common brands**
  - Sony
  - Fuji
  - JVC
  - Maxell
  - Panasonic
  - Off brand like Q
THIS IS A VHS-C TAPE

Common Identifiers for VHS - Compact tapes

- **VHS logo**
  - There will be a VHSC logo somewhere in the middle of the tape

- **VHS cassette tape**
  - Dimensions:
    - 3.625” x 2.25” x 0.8”
  - Typically made of black plastic with a white hub and clear window
  - Tape width is ½”

- **Common brands**
  - Sony
  - JVC
  - TDK
  - Panasonic

- **DO NOT PUT A VHS-C TAPE IN A REGULAR VHS DECK. USE AN ADAPTER!**
THIS IS A Digital8 TAPE

**Common Identifiers for Digital8 tapes**

- **Hi8 or Digital8 logo**
  - There will be a Hi8 logo or Digital8 somewhere on the front side of the tape near or on the clear window
  - Digital 8 is recorded on standard Hi8 tapes. There may not be any distinguishing marks to indicate that the recording is in Digital 8, although ME (metal evaporated) tapes are often used because Digital 8 records at faster head speeds.

- **Digital8 cassette tape**
  - Dimensions:
    - 3.69” x 2.38” x 0.56”
    - Typically made of black plastic with a white hub and clear window
    - Tape width is 0.3125” (AKA 8mm)

- **Common brands**
  - Sony
  - Fuji
  - Panasonic
THIS IS A Video8 TAPE

Common Identifiers for Video8 tapes

- **Video8 logo**
  - There will be a Video8 logo somewhere on the front side of the tape near or on the clear window

- **Video8 cassette tape**
  - Dimensions: 3.69” x 2.38” x 0.56”
  - Typically made of black plastic with a white hub and clear window
  - Tape width is 0.3125” (AKA 8mm)

- **Common brands**
  - Sony
  - Fuji
  - Panasonic
THIS IS A Hi8 TAPE

Common Identifiers for Hi8 tapes

- **Hi8 logo**
  - There will be a Hi8 logo somewhere on the front side of the tape near or on the clear window

- **Hi8 cassette tape**
  - Dimensions: 3.69” x 2.38” x 0.56”
  - Typically made of black plastic with a white hub and clear window
  - Tape width is 0.3125” (AKA 8mm)

- **Common brands**
  - Sony
  - Fuji
  - Panasonic
THIS IS A (small) DVTAPE

Common identifiers for small DV tape

- **DVCAM logo**
  - There will be a DVCAM logo in the upper righthand corner

- **DVCAM (small) cassette:**
  - Dimensions: 2.563” x 1.875” x 0.5625”
  - Tapes are generally dark gray with a light blue anti-static cover and only one clear window to see the hub

- **DVCAM (small) container:**
  - Dimensions: 3-1/16” x 2-1/2” x 3/4”
  - Usually hard plastic snap-closure boxes

- Be sure to switch to SAFE MODE

- **Common Brands:**
  - Sony

**NOTE:** DV and the DV family are already digital!
THIS IS A miniDV

Common identifiers for miniDV

- miniDV logo
  - There will be a miniDV logo in the left hand side

- miniDV cassette:
  - Dimensions: 2.56” x 1.88” x 7/16”
  - Tape width is 5/16” (8mm)
  - Tapes are generally dark gray with a light blue anti-static cover and only one clear window to see the hub

- miniDV container:
  - Dimensions: 2.88” x 2” x 5/8”
  - Usually hard clear plastic hinged boxes

- Be sure to switch to SAFE MODE

- Common Brands:
  - Sony
  - Panasonic
  - JVC

★ NOTE: DV and the DV family are already digital!
Common identifiers for compact cassette

- **Cassette logo**
  - Usually there is a compact cassette logo somewhere on the cassette

- **Compact Cassette:**
  - Dimensions: 4” x 2.5” x ½”
  - Typically made of plastic
  - Tape width is ¼”

- Each tape holds between 30 to 120 minutes of audio content

- Most commercial tapes have a four-track stereo configuration: tracks 1 and 2 on “Side A” and tracks 3 and 4 on “Side B”

- Most commercial tapes have a playback speed of 1 ⅚ IPS but it can vary (especially mixtapes!)

- **Common Brands:**
  - TDK
  - Maxell
  - Dolby

⭐ Caution: It is really easy to accidentally record over the compact cassette. Try avoiding the RECORD BUTTON.
THIS IS A 3.5” FLOPPY DISK

Common identifiers for 3.5” floppy disk

- SAVE icon
  - You will most likely recognize the floppy disk as the SAVE icon for many programs

- 3.5” floppy disks are 3.5 inches!
  - Floppy disks are thin and are literally 3.5 inches

- Common brands:
  - IBM
  - Memorex
THIS IS 8mm FILM

Common identifiers for 8mm

- It is 8mm wide!
  - 8mm film is approximately 8mm

- 8mm has the same perforation size as 16mm
  - Fun fact: It’s the same perforation size because 8mm is the half of 16mm film

- Edge codes (if its Kodak!)
  - Kodak created “edge codes” which are symbols that represent the year the film stock was made. You can find these symbols on the edge!

- Very small image
  - Do not freak out if it is grainy. 8mm was usually an use as an amateur format for home movies! Enjoy all of its blurriness, graininess, and overexposure!

What to do with 8mm

- Do not touch!
  - Never touch the area where the image is with your hands. The oils will ruin the image over time.

- Do not clean!
  - Any cleaning solution will be too harsh. Seek a professional for cleaning mold or restoring color.

- Store in cool, dark, stable environment.
THIS IS SUPER 8mm FILM

Common identifiers for super 8mm

- It is 8mm wide!
  - Super 8mm film is approximately 8mm

- Super 8mm has smaller perforations than 8mm
  - Smaller perforations meant a bigger image!

- Small image but great quality!
  - Super 8mm were mostly used by artists because of its quality and bigger image size.

What to do with super 8mm

- Do not touch!
  - Never touch the area where the image is with your hands. The oils will ruin the image over time.

- Do not clean!
  - Any cleaning solution will be too harsh. Seek a professional for cleaning mold or restoring color.

- Store in cool, dark, stable environment.
This is 16mm Film

Common identifiers for 8mm

- It is 16mm wide!
  - 16mm film is approximately 16mm

- 16mm has the same perforation size as 8mm
  - Fun fact: It's the same perforation size because 8mm is the half of 16mm film

- 16mm films with no sound (silent) have perforations on BOTH sides

- 16mm films with sound have perforation on only ONE side

- Edge codes (if its Kodak!)
  - Kodak created "edge codes" which are symbols that represent the year the film stock was made. You can find these symbols on the edge!

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What to do with 8mm

- Do not touch!
  - Never touch the area where the image is with your hands. The oils will ruin the image over time.

- Do not clean!
  - Any cleaning solution will be too harsh. Seek a professional for cleaning mold or restoring color.

- Store in cool, dark, stable environment.
THIS IS A 35mm SLIDE

Common identifiers for 35mm slides

- 35mm slides will be POSITIVE
  This means you can see the image clearly because there are no negatives in this process! 35mm slides are originals and come out of the camera as positives.

- 35mm slides can be easily confused with regular positive and negative photo strips
  It is easy to confuse a 35mm slide with a regular film strip for photographs, which were super common! Review THIS IS A FILM POSITIVE and THIS IS A FILM NEGATIVE for help in distinguishing one from the other.

- 35mm slides will most likely be in a cardboard sleeve
  Or a plastic mount! That’s great because it will be easier to handle and keep the slides straight. If not, try budgeting for slide mounts or laying them flat.

- 35mm slides will have 8 perforations
  On both sides! This is easier to tell when the slide is outside of its mount.

- Horizontal orientation
  ★ NOTE: This doesn’t mean the image itself is horizontal. Just the orientation of the strip should be horizontal to fit in mounts.
This is a film negative

Common identifiers for film negatives

- Film negatives can be either black-and-white or color
  - Film negatives will be inverted!
    - When you take photos using film (rather than your phone or digital camera), the negative will be the reverse colors and luminances of an image. It will look kind of weird at first.

- Film negatives are your camera “originals”
  - Film negatives need to be developed and processed in order to get a print out. You can create multiple prints from a negative and different sizes too!
  - NOTE: You can also scan negatives but they must be inverted to be seen properly.

- Film negatives are not 35mm slides
  - 35mm slides can only be positive. Film negatives come in longer strips and processed differently

Memory Lab
THIS IS A FILM POSITIVE

Common identifiers for film positives

- Film positives can be either black-and-white or color

- Film positives can be clearly seen!
  - Similar to your phone or digital camera, the positive will look like the image. It will look normal.

- Film positives are your camera “reversals”
  - Film positives are printed from negatives and can be digitized by scanners. Through a chemical process, all those inverted colors and luminances will be reversed to a positive image. You can create multiple prints and different sizes too!

- Film positives are not 35mm slides
  - 35mm slides are also positive images. It’s OK if you confuse them because caring and handling are relatively the same. Positive film can be (1) individually mounted, (2) in strips, or (3) printed into different sizes to put in frames! This is most common, below are some sizes positive prints:

  - 2” x 2” (passport)
  - 2” x 3” (wallet)
  - 4” x 6”
  - 5” x 7”
  - 8” x 8”
  - 8” x 10”
  - 11” x 14” and above (posters)