



Cherish Artz
PHOTOGRAPHY & YOUR VIDEO ANGEL
Your Stories - Beautifully Preserved

Identifying Your Video Tapes ***A Guide by Your Video Angel***

Why choose us?

At Your Video Angel, we take exceptional care in retrieving, digitising, and returning your footage with the attention it deserves. It's what our reputation is built on—and something I take great pride in.

We offer a highly personalised, quality-focused service.

You're welcome to read client reviews here:
[facebook.com/yourvideoangel/reviews](https://www.facebook.com/yourvideoangel/reviews)

Cheryl Eagers
Your Video Angel

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Identifying Your Media

Not sure what kind of tapes you have tucked away in drawers or storage boxes? You're not alone — with so many different video formats used over the years, it can be tricky to tell them apart.

This easy-to-follow guide is here to help.

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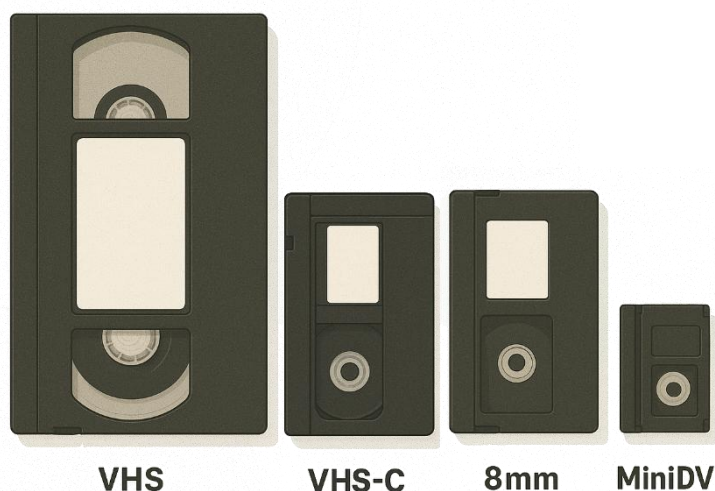
This easy-to-follow guide is here to help.

Inside, you'll find clear images and simple descriptions of the most common tape types we work with, including VHS, VHS-C, 8mm, and MiniDV.

Match your tapes to the examples shown to identify what you have and learn how we can help preserve those memories.

Whether your tapes hold cherished family moments or forgotten footage from years gone by, we're here to guide you every step of the way. Still unsure after looking through the guide? Just reach out — we're always happy to help.

Now, let's bring your memories back to life.

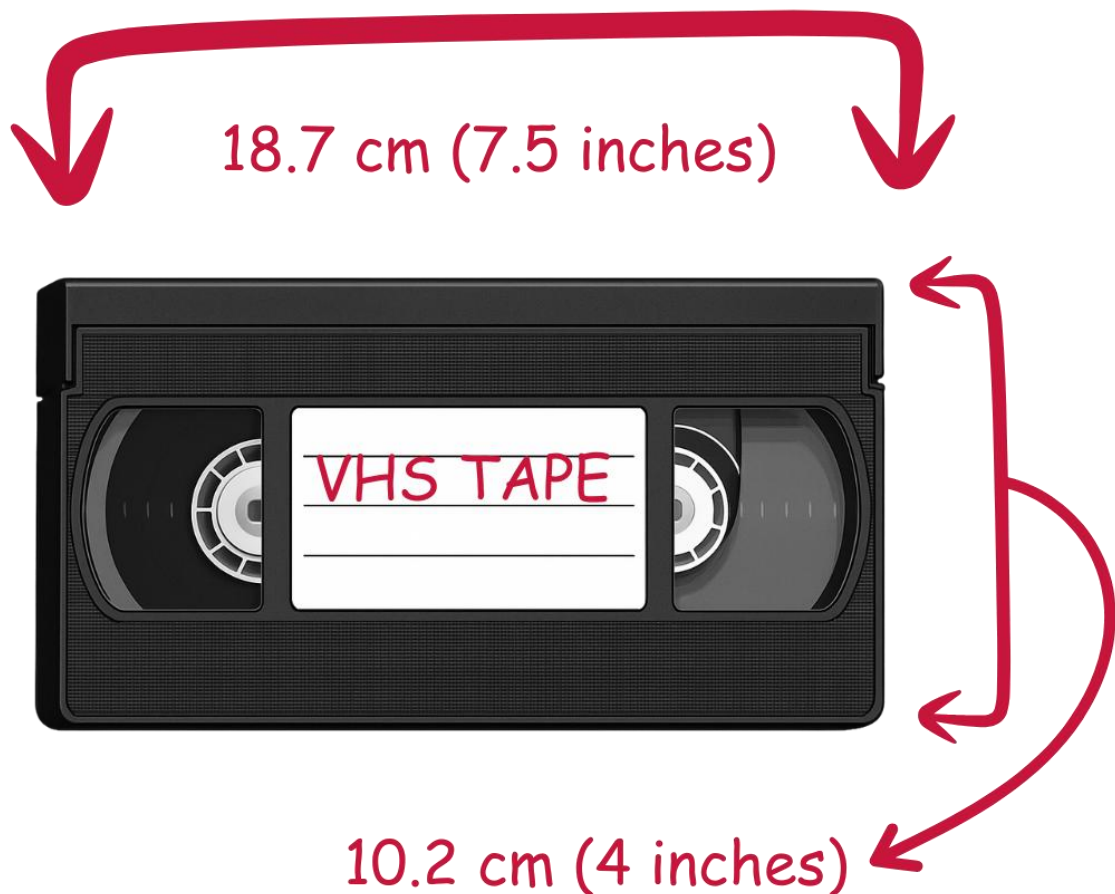




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VHS (Video Home System) Tape

A **VHS (Video Home System) tape** is a rectangular plastic cassette that was widely used from the late 1970s through the early 2000s to record and play back home videos, movies, and television broadcasts.





Physical Size:

- **Dimensions:** Approximately **18.7 cm (7.4 inches) wide, 10.2 cm (4 inches) tall, and 2.5 cm (1 inch) thick.**
- It fits comfortably in two hands and has a relatively bulky feel compared to modern digital media.

Tape Inside:

- Inside the cassette is a **half-inch wide magnetic tape** (12.7 mm).
- The tape is wound between two internal spools and is coated with magnetic particles that store video and audio signals.

Appearance:

- Typically, black or dark grey in colour.
- It has a **clear plastic window** on the front so you can see the tape spools inside.
- On the spine, there is often a label where users wrote the title or contents.
- There's a **sliding plastic flap** on the front that protects the exposed section of tape—this flap opens automatically when inserted into a VHS player.
- Most VHS tapes also have a **safety tab** (a small piece of plastic that can be broken off to prevent accidental recording).

Other Notes:

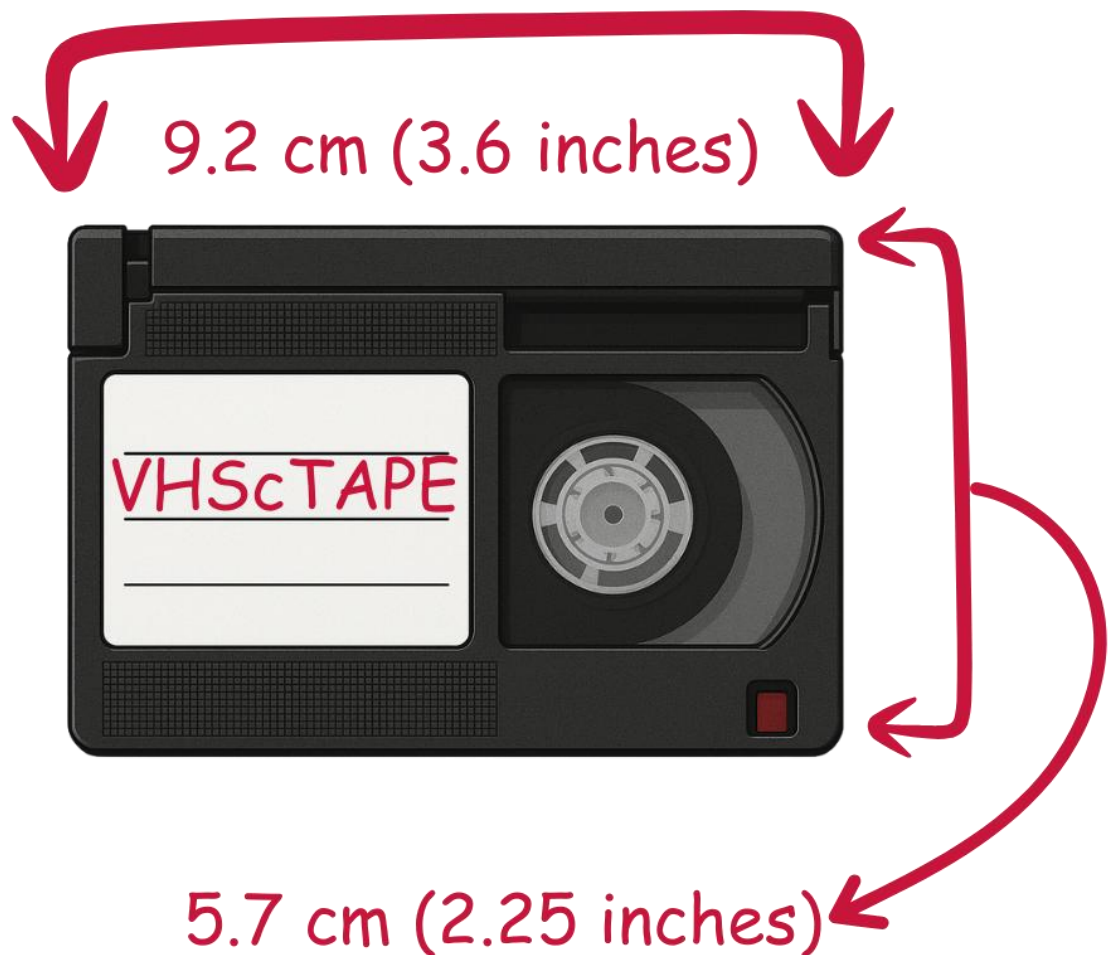
- VHS tapes store analogue video and are prone to **degradation over time** from heat, humidity, magnetic fields, or mould.
- Each tape could typically hold **2 to 6 hours** of video, depending on the recording speed used (SP, LP, or EP/SLP modes).



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VHS-C Tape

A VHS-C tape is a compact version of the standard VHS cassette, designed primarily for use in early home camcorders. Introduced in the 1980s, it allowed people to record video in the same VHS format but in a much smaller and more portable cassette.



**Physical Size:**

- Dimensions: Approximately 9.2 cm (3.6 inches) wide, 5.7 cm (2.25 inches) tall, and 2 cm (0.8 inches) thick.
- About half the size of a standard VHS tape, making it ideal for handheld video cameras.

Tape Inside:

- The magnetic tape inside a VHS-C is the same 1/2-inch wide (12.7 mm) tape used in full-size VHS.
- This allows it to be fully compatible with VHS players when used with an adapter.

Appearance:

- Usually black or dark grey plastic with a single clear window showing one of the tape reels.
- It has a shorter label area, often on the top or side, for writing dates or content descriptions.
- A sliding plastic tab covers the exposed tape when not in use.
- Many have a red or black safety tab that can be toggled to prevent accidental recording.

Playback Compatibility:

- A VHS-C tape can be played in a standard VHS player using a mechanical VHS-C to VHS adapter, which holds the smaller tape in place and mimics the size of a full VHS.

Recording Time:

- Typically stores 30 to 60 minutes of video, depending on recording speed (SP or EP mode).



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Camcorder DV 8mm Tape

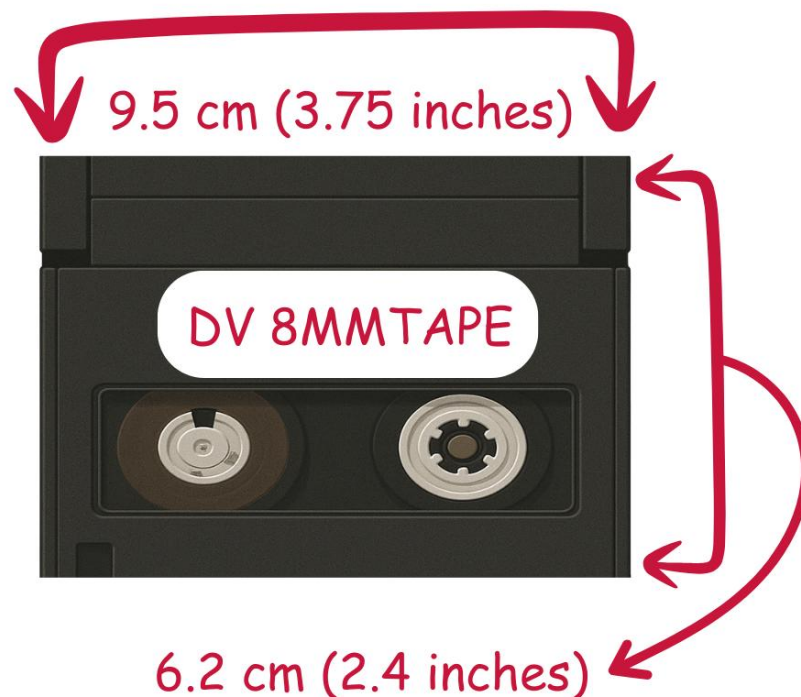
The **8mm camcorder tape** is a small, rectangular magnetic video cassette developed for compact handheld camcorders. These tapes became popular in the late 1980s and 1990s for home video recording due to their portability and improved video quality compared to VHS-C.

Formats:

There are three main types of 8mm tapes:

- **Video8** (analogue)
- **Hi8** (improved analogue)
- **Digital8** (digital recording on Hi8 tape)

Despite the different recording formats, all share the same physical cassette size.





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Physical Size:

- **Dimensions:** Approximately **9.5 cm (3.75 inches) wide**, **6.2 cm (2.4 inches) tall**, and **1.5 cm (0.6 inches) thick**
- Much smaller and more portable than VHS or VHS-C tapes

Tape Inside:

- The magnetic tape inside is **8mm (0.31 inches) wide**, which gives the format its name.
- The tape is wound around two internal spools visible through a small window on the front of the cassette.

Appearance:

- Typically, black or dark grey plastic casing with a label area on the front or top
- One side features a **slide tab** to protect against accidental recording
- A clear or tinted window reveals the tape inside
- Some may include stickers or branding like "Video8," "Hi8," or "Digital8"

Recording Time:

- Varies by model and speed setting:
 - Typically, between **30 and 120 minutes**
 - Digital8 tapes can hold **up to 60–90 minutes** in SP mode

Playback Compatibility:

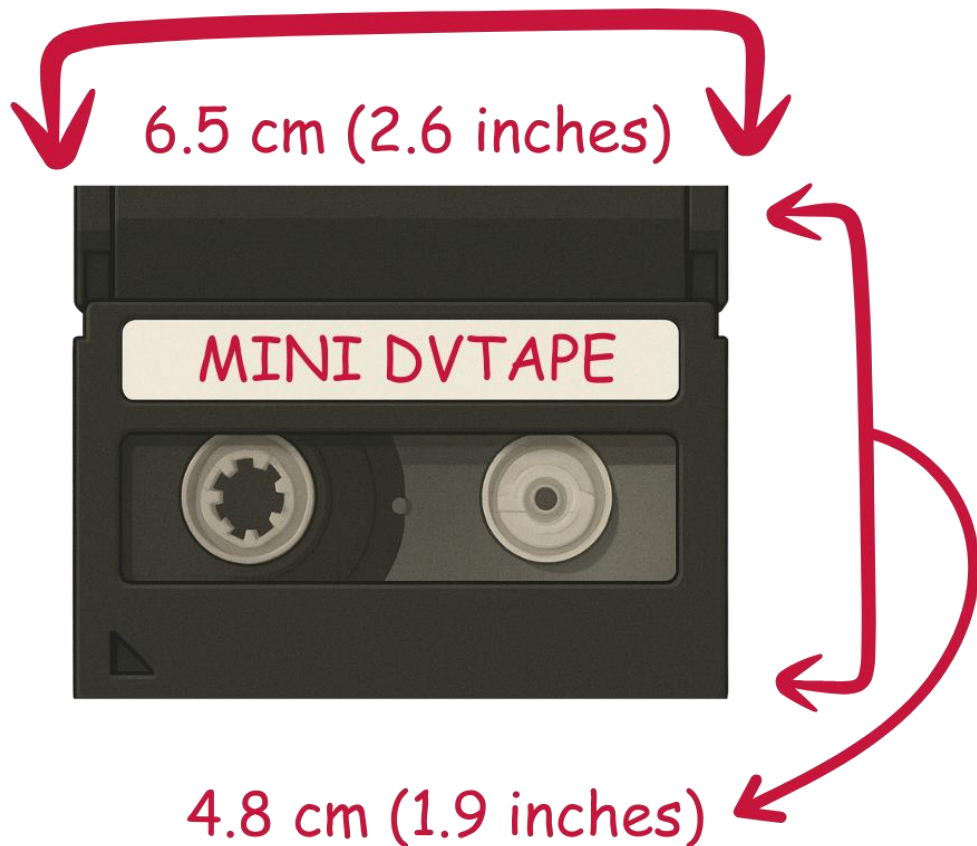
- Requires a compatible **camcorder** or **8mm tape deck** to play
- Digital8 tapes may also play older analogue recordings if the camcorder supports backward compatibility



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Mini Camcorder Tape (MiniDV)

The **MiniDV tape** is a compact digital video cassette that became widely popular in the late 1990s and early 2000s for use in **digital camcorders**. It offered high-quality video recording in a small format and was a major step forward from analogue camcorder tapes like VHS-C and 8mm.





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Physical Size:

- **Dimensions:** Approximately **6.5 cm (2.6 inches) wide**, **4.8 cm (1.9 inches) tall**, and **1.2 cm (0.5 inches) thick**
- Fits in the palm of your hand — one of the smallest cassette formats used in consumer video recording.

Tape Inside:

- Contains **6.35mm (¼ inch) wide magnetic tape**
- Stores **digital video** rather than analogue, meaning clearer picture and sound quality
- Tape is tightly wound around two internal reels visible through a clear window on the front

Appearance:

- Made of sturdy black or dark grey plastic
- Has a **sliding flap** at the top that opens automatically when inserted into a camcorder or player
- Most have a **white label** area for writing contents or dates
- Includes a **record-protect tab** to prevent overwriting valuable footage

Recording Time:

- Standard recording time is:
 - **60 minutes in SP (Standard Play) mode**
 - Up to **90 minutes in LP (Long Play) mode**

Playback Compatibility:

- Requires a **MiniDV camcorder** or a **dedicated MiniDV player**
- Not compatible with VHS players or VHS-C adapters

Notes:

- Known for crisp digital recording and was widely used by home video creators and professionals alike
- Tapes should be stored in a cool, dry place as the magnetic tape can degrade over time



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Thank you

Thank you for considering Your Video Angel for your digitisation and media restoration needs.

Our goal is simple: to bring your precious memories back to life and preserve them for generations to come.

If you have any questions about pricing, how the process works, or which services best suit your needs, please don't hesitate to reach out — we're here to help at every step.

When you're ready, we'll walk you through the order and deposit process to ensure your memories are in safe hands.

Your stories deserve to be seen, heard, and remembered — and we're honoured to help you keep them alive.

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