

BASIC SETTINGS FOR VEGAS 4 VIDEO CAPTURE

YOUR COMPUTER

Depending on your video camera you will need an OHCI IEEE1394 compliant interface (FireWire) or a USB2 port. Note that some cameras have separate systems for video and still capture. The most common arrangement is to have FireWire for video and USB for stills. In these cameras you CAN'T use the USB port for video capture. Check with your own manuals as standards evolve all the time.

THE VIDEO CAPTURE PROGRAM

The Vegas video capture program is separate from Vegas Video. Although you can use it from within Vegas via the **File/Capture Video** menu item, it's quicker to capture your video without running Vegas, because you don't then need to wait for Vegas to load. However, to use the capture program separately you need to create a shortcut to it.

Use My Computer (or Windows Explorer) to show the files in C:\Program Files\Sonic Foundry\Vegas 4.0 and locate the icon for "Vidcap 4.0" (assuming Windows Explorer is not set to display files and you have Vegas 4.0, rather than Vegas 3.0). Click right on this icon, hold down the right mouse button, and drag to your desktop. Release the mouse button and then click on **Create Shortcut(s) Here** (in Windows XP this is **Copy Here**). This creates a shortcut to the program on your desktop

ACCESSING THE VIDEO CAPTURE SETTINGS

Run the Video Capture program by double clicking on its shortcut.

SETTING PREFERENCES (only need to do this once if you save the vidcap file after capturing)

Go to Options, Preferences and the General tab

Turn On Make sure that DV device control is enabled (ticked) – **Note: If you are capturing from an analog source turn this setting OFF**

Go to Options, Preferences and the Disk Management tab

Click on the Add Folder button and use the Browse window to locate the E:\Capture folder that you made when setting up Vegas. (If you haven't done that, then locate the root folder of the E: drive and click on the New Folder button and make the E:\Capture folder.) The folder will appear in the Capture Folders area. Make sure that it is selected (ticked).

Note: You can add as many folders as you like to the Capture Folders area – so if you want a separate one for each project that's up to you. Just make sure that the correct folder is ticked so that you know where your captured files will be.

Go to Options, Preferences and the Capture tab

Decide whether you want Video Capture to attempt to split the incoming video stream into clips and tick or untick "Enable DV scene detection" accordingly. If you turn this item on, make sure that the minimum clip length is set to a short value. The scene detection in Vegas Capture depends on your use of the pause button during video capture. It detects scenes by looking at the absolute time of the recording as measured by the camera's built in clock. This is NOT the same as the timecode used for frame detection.

Turn On All other items except
De-interlace image when capturing stills
Turn Off Stop capture on dropped frames.

Other Settings

You can leave all other settings at their defaults.

CAPTURING VIDEO

Capturing Live Video

Connect your camera to the computer's firewire port. Leave it switched OFF.

Run Vidcap40

Turn the camera ON into CAMERA mode. If you are using Windows XP you will be asked which application to use – choose "Take No Action".

The video preview window will go live and you will see the live input from your camera.

Click on the Capture Video button to start capturing.

Click on the Stop button on the Transport control bar to stop the capture.

Capturing Video from Tape

Connect your camera to the computer's firewire port. Leave it switched OFF.

Run Vidcap40

Turn the camera ON into VCR or VTR mode. If you are using Windows XP you will be asked which application to use – Choose "Take No Action".

You will see a "Verify Tape Name" dialog box. Enter a name for your tape.

If necessary choose "Don't capture any clips right now" and then click on the OK button.

The preview window should say "Device stopped"

You can use the tape deck controls to rewind and cuse the tape as necessary.

When you are in the right position, click on the Record button.

Click on the Stop button to stop.

Capturing Stills

To capture a still, make sure that the image you want is in the preview window (either from live video or from tape).

Note: The size of image captured (measured in pixels) is dependent on the actual size of the preview window. You can see the number of pixels in the status bar on the bottom line of the windows. If you want to capture a still at standard resolution, make sure that the preview window is large enough.

Click on the Capture image button.

Rename the image file as desired.

Getting the Video into Vegas Video for Editing

By capturing video separately as described here, you will have to use **File/Import Media** from the main menu in Vegas to get the files into Vegas for editing.