

CAMP News

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Capital Apple Mac Performa User Group



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Watch Jeff Frankel Overcome Frustration!

Or more properly, watch Jeff *show* you how he overcame his frustration with iCal and Address Book, two of the weaker members of the Lion pride. Jeff will present iCal alternatives [BusyCal](#) and [Fantastical](#), and Address Book alternative [Cobook](#). To experience all the heart-stopping action, join us at in the Senior Room at Buker Community Center, 22 Armory Street, Augusta at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 8.

Ripping Video Tracks With Handbrake

Jeff Frankel, Editor

[Handbrake](#) is free, open-source, multi-platform software for extracting video tracks from DVDs. The application's big drawing card is its ability to extract said video tracks from many commercial, copy-protected DVDs. Handbrake has long been touted as an ideal tool for copying DVD video off a disk you own directly from a laptop's optical drive to its hard drive, as a means of reducing the battery draw while watching a movie on an airplane flight, for example.

I wanted to copy workouts from a DVD I own onto my

MacBook Air to use when traveling. The Air doesn't have an optical drive, but other Macs in my house do. Using Handbrake on my 2010 Mini, I was able to extract the tracks to the Mini's hard drive and transfer the tracks to the Air over my LAN. I then added the tracks to iTunes for easy access.

Although Handbrake offers a variety of presets, the program is still more than a bit daunting to people like me who are not well versed in video editing. I highly recommend a Macworld [how-to guide to Handbrake](#) by Jonathan Seff that was the key to my success. I offer two observations on the article:

- If you're not interested in playing your extracted video

on an iPhone or iPad, choosing the Normal preset instead of the Universal preset recommended in the article will save you gobs of disk space.

- Pay attention to the discussion of deinterlacing. I ripped with and without this option, and enabling deinterlacing made a noticeable improvement.

Note that Handbrake doesn't copy an *entire* DVD—menus, scene selections, extras, bonus tracks, etc. If that's your objective, I recommend a Macworld [article](#) by Christopher Breen that reviews the options. And for the legality of it all, see this [third Macworld article](#). ☀