

The VCD-Header trick

v2.0.x

Guide by Oermens



Some DVD players just can't play SVCD... but in this case and if you are lucky your DVD player may be able to play VCDs that use the "VCD-Header Trick".

By changing the "Header" of a SVCD MPEG-2 video file into the one of a "VCD2.0 MPEG-1 non standard" file and by using it as standard VCD2.0 file, you may be able to play MPEG-2 files with your home DVD player. (Note: MPEG2 has a much better video quality than MPEG1...).

- [The VCD-Header trick](#)

The VCD-Header trick

The trick explained in this guide was found in the excellent "[VCDHelp forum](#)". It's always a good thing to search through the topics of this forum (there is always something that can help you, or you can help with.).

Principle :

Some DVD players just can't play SVCD... but if you are lucky your DVD player may be able to play VCDs that use the "VCD-Header Trick". By changing the "Header" of a SVCD MPEG-2 video file into the one of a "VCD2.0 MPEG-1 non standard" file and by using it as standard VCD2.0 file, you may be able to play MPEG-2 files with your home DVD player. (Note: MPEG2 has a much better video quality than MPEG1...).



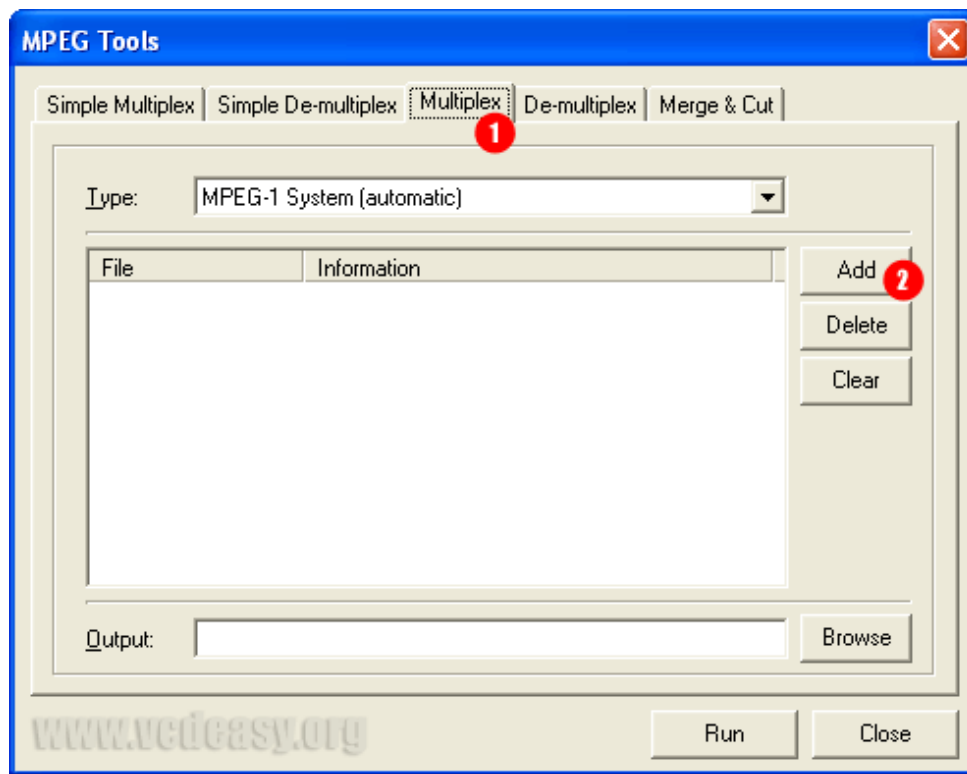
Warning: The VideoCDs you will create with such modified files will be "non standard" in the sense that if you change your home DVD player you may be unable to read them in the future...

First, make a normal MPEG-2 file (for example with [TMPGEnc](#) using its SVCD-templates). You normally only have to add this file to VCDEasy in order to create a SVCD 1.0... But this is exactly what some home players can't play... The idea is to use the MPEG-tools in [TMPGEnc](#) to multiplex this MPEG2 file for SVCD (with a "MPEG-2 Super VideoCD [VBR]" header) again but this time just with a different header (the "MPEG-1 VideoCD [non standard]" header). If the multiplexing is done right, VCDEasy will recognize the file as a MPEG-1 video file, you then will be able to create a VCD 2.0 (with a MPEG2 file in fact... hoping your player will be able to play it...). Note that PowerDVD will recognize this file as MPEG-2 file (while playing, do a right click on the video, choose "Show information" in the pop-up menu)

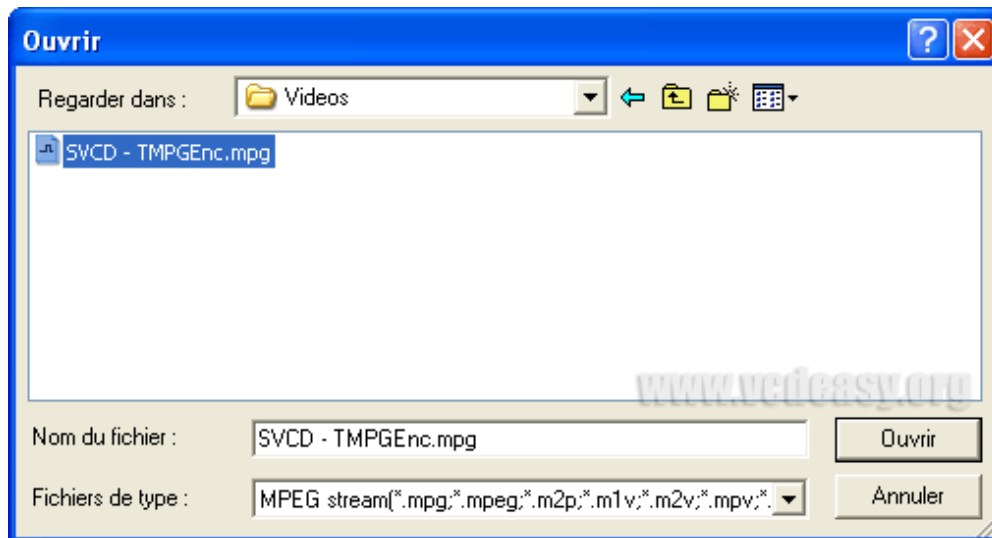
Also, not all home players can play VCD's like this. But mine (JVC XV-521BK) does, while it can not play SVCDs.

Start [TMPGEnc](#), and close the wizard if there is one.

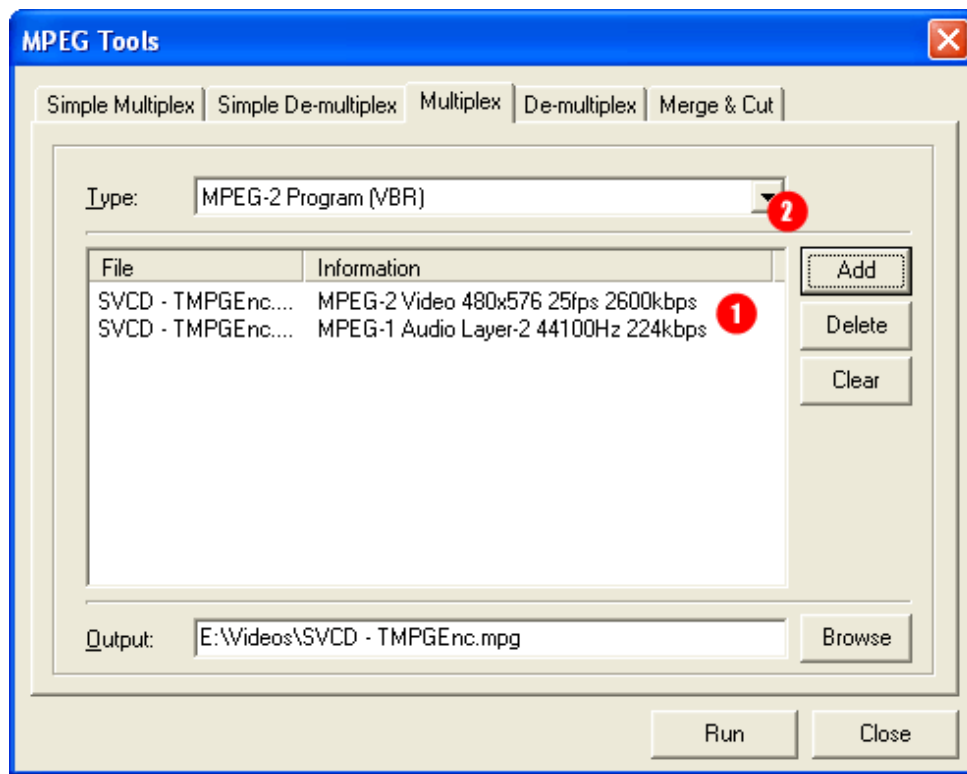
Select "MPEG Tools" in the "Files" menu.



- 1 Select the "Multiplex" tabbed page
- 2 Click on "Add" to open your file-browser and then select your MPEG2 file

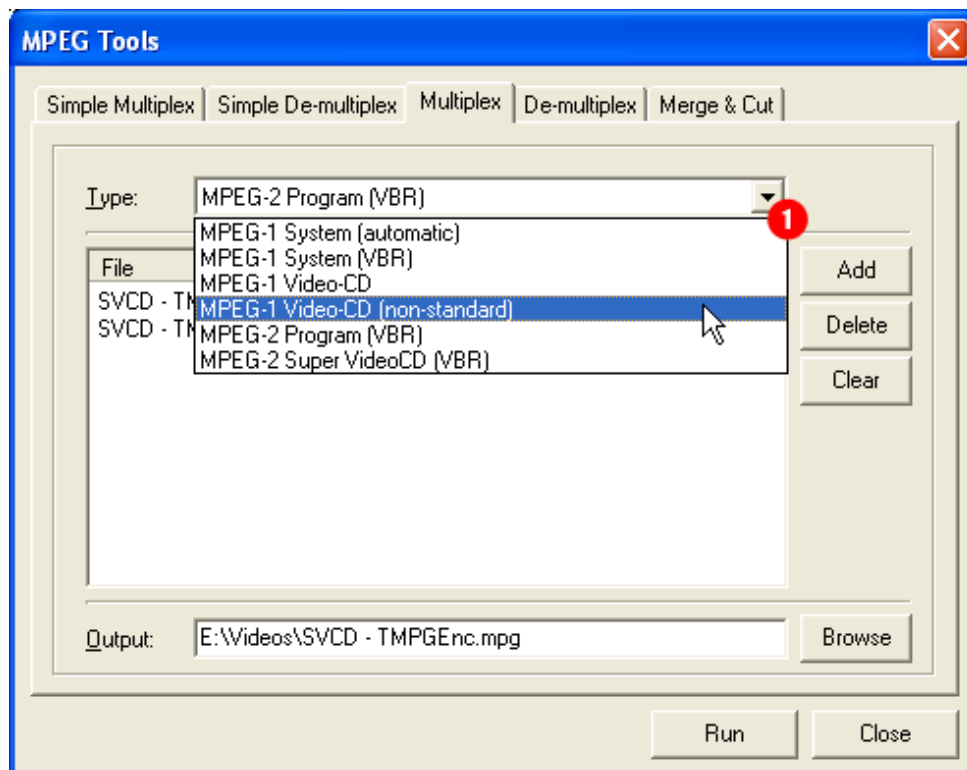


You should then have something like this

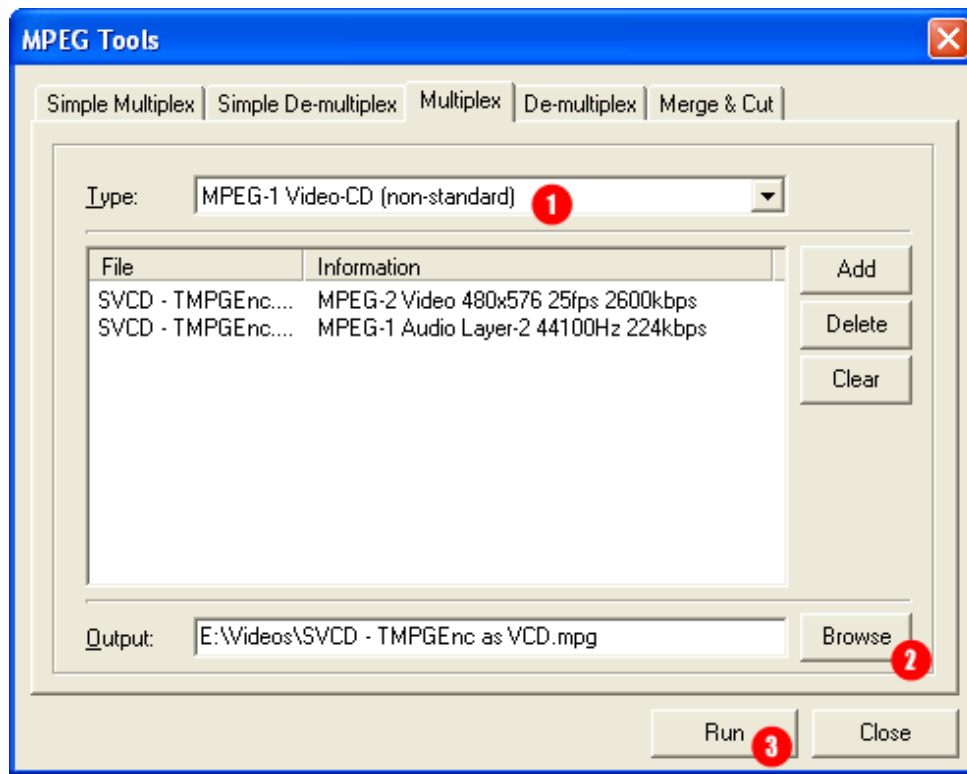


1 You can see here the video stream, and the audio stream

2 Note that "MPEG-2 Program(VBR)" is selected in the "Type" drop down list. This is the original header of this file... And this is what we have to change...



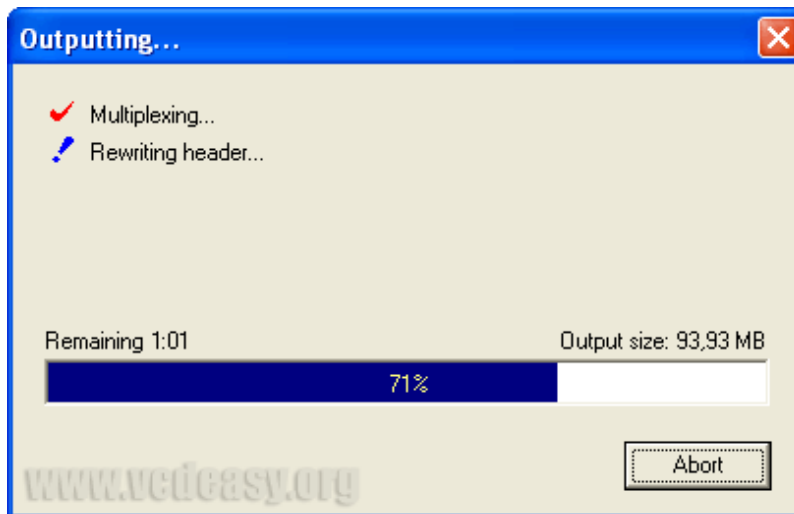
1 Choose "MPEG-1 Video-CD (non-standard)" in this "Type" drop down list



1 Be sure to have "MPEG-1 Video-CD (non-standard)" selected

2 Click "Browse" to set the output file name

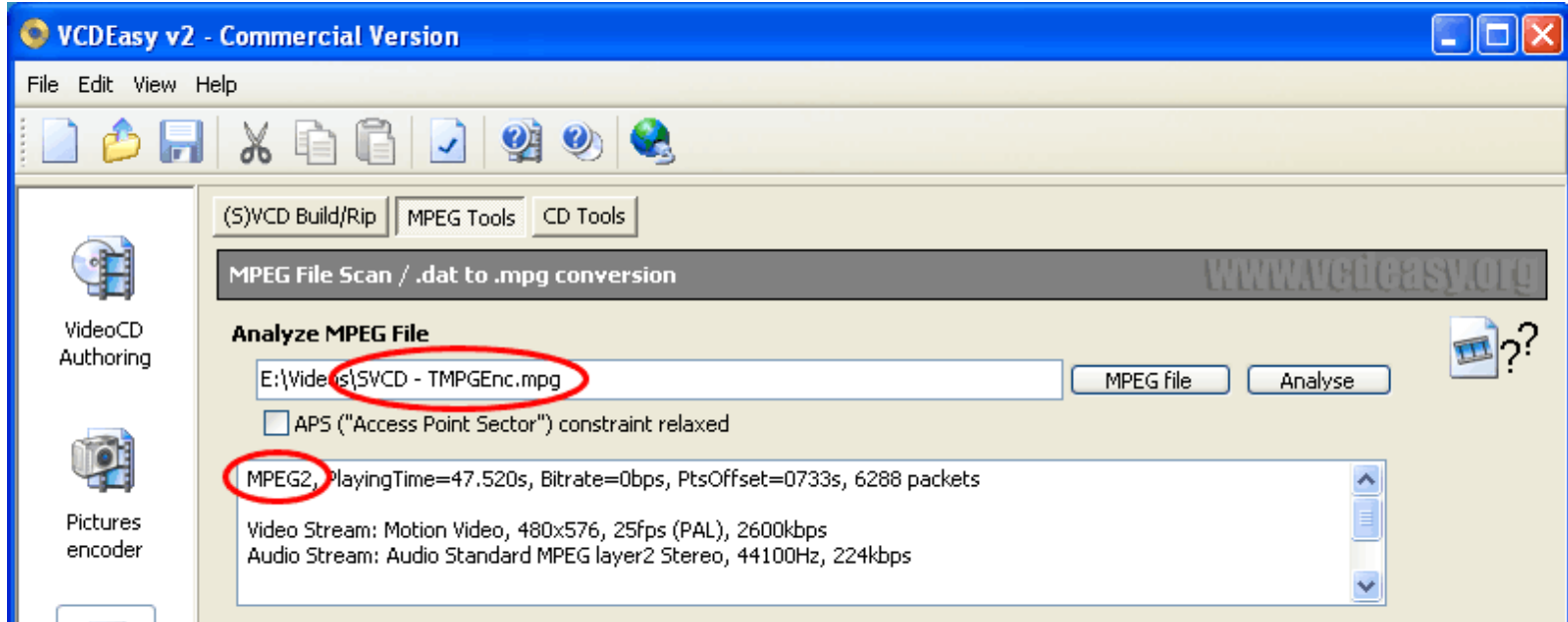
3 Hit "Run"... and wait!



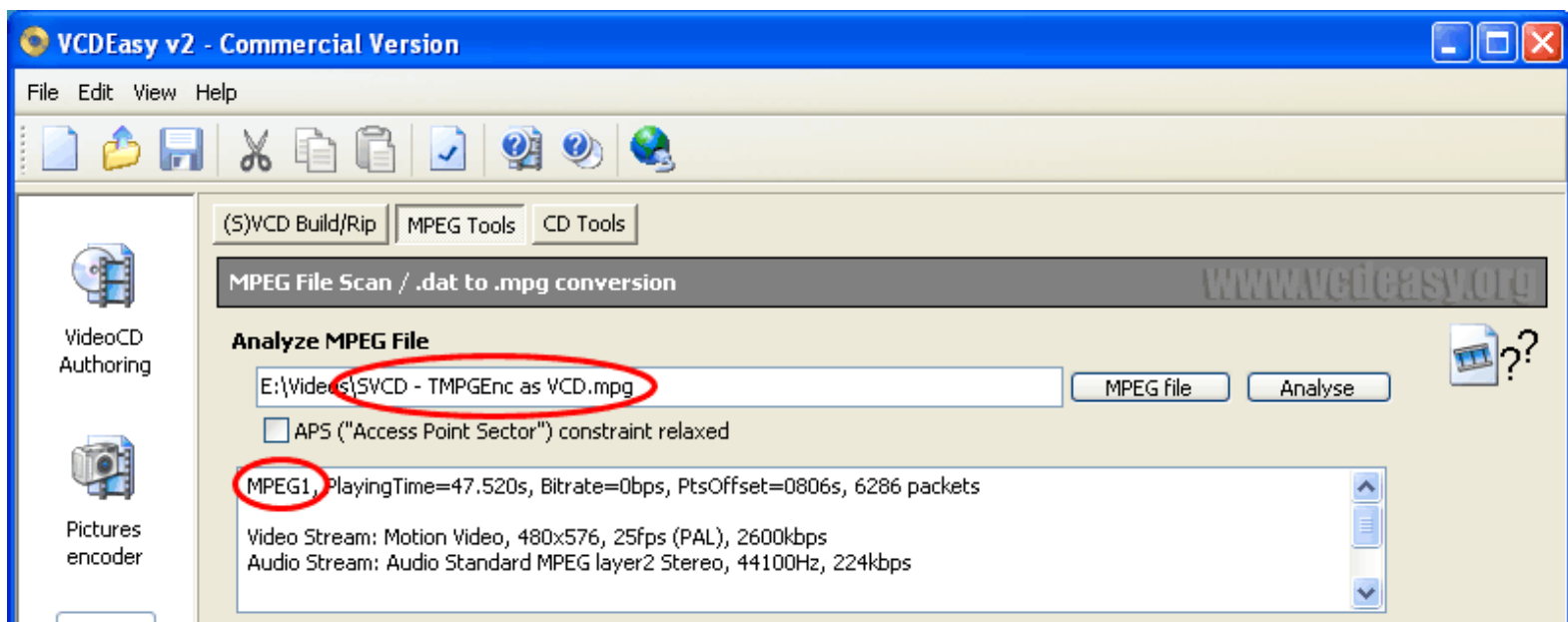
That's it! You have now created a fake VCD MPEG-1 file from a SVCD MPEG-2 file.

With VCDEasy's "MPEG Tools" page:

Before



After



Now you can proceed as written in the "How to make your first VideoCD" guide.

If you are lucky you can play VCD with the quality of a SVCD, which is normally much better.



Note that, during authoring, you can use the VCD2.0 features, but not the SVCD ones (for example: selectable subtitles & audio).



For some home DVD players, you should use "MPEG-1 Video-CD" instead of "MPEG-1 Video-CD (non-standard)" as header... even if this "VCD-Header trick" is something "non-standard" !

I have a JVC XV-521BK Home DVD player and I have to use this trick

Oermens.

<http://www.vcdeasy.org>

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