

How To Connect Your Laptop To The TV

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Introduction

Have you ever wanted to connect your laptop to the TV? That would be great wouldn't it? Because you could then enjoy your movies and video in on a huge TV screen instead of a small, miserable laptop screen.

Now, connecting a laptop to a TV is not difficult at all. But yet friends and visitors to my website keep asking me this question again and again. That's when I decided I had to publish this report to help the masses out there enjoy their videos on the TV.

This report will show you 5 simple steps for hooking up your laptop to the TV. It's really is simpler than it looks, so read on and find out more.

Step 1: Inspect Your Laptop and TV

To stream video from the laptop to the TV, what you first need to do is to inspect both your laptop and TV. The manuals are a good place to start. What you want to do is to identify the connectors located on the back of these devices. Usually, there are five basic types of jacks involved - RCA, S-Video, VGA, DVI or HDMI. Don't worry about those acronyms, we'll run through them below.

Step 2: Understand the Connectors

Let's understand what the different types of video connectors are before we proceed.

- **Composite/phono plug (RCA).** This is also called a phono connector and is used for analog video and audio components. You will see three round, colored sockets - red and white for audio and yellow for video. Just get a three-prong cable (from a computer or electronics shop) and connect the RCA laptop to the TV.



A RCA connector

- **S-Video.** S-Video connectors is slightly more advanced, and uses a four-prong round plug (usually yellow in color). To connect a laptop to a TV via S-Video, simply plug the single S-Video connector to the TV. You can use your laptop's existing sound system for audio.



A S-Video connector

- **Video graphics array (VGA).** For this type of 15-pin connector, you need a PC-to-TV Converter to connect that laptop to the TV. You plug the VGA cable from the source into the converter. Then, from the converter, use an S-Video or RCA cable and connect it to the TV.



A VGA connector

- **Digital video interface (DVI).** A DVI port is rectangular in shape, with 24 pins arranged in three horizontal rows for digital video. The audio cables are separate and usually make use of RCA white / red plugs. You will usually find DVI ports on Macintosh laptops.



A DVI connector

- **High-definition multimedia interface (HDMI).** The HDMI port is half the size of the DVI port. It is also rectangular and has 19 pins. The good thing is that it provides both digital audio and video. You will find these connectors on newer laptops and TVs.



A HDMI connector

Step 3: Buy a Proper Connector

Now that you understand the various types of connectors from a laptop to the TV, you need to purchase the correct cables to connect the two. Remember, if your laptop has RCA but the TV has S-Video, you will need to get a RCA to S-Video cable (a laptop to TV cable ready available from electronics shops).

If you have a TV with a HDMI port but the laptop has a DVI connector, then you need a DVI-to-HDMI cable for the video and also a pair of RCA analog stereo cables for the audio. If your laptop has S-Video and the TV also has S-Video, you can just directly connect the two with a S-Video cable for video. Get a separate RCA analog right / white cable for the audio (or just use your laptop's audio system).

There are many other combinations I can think of, but the idea is the same - whenever ports do not match, you can by adaptors and cables to make any connection. Ok, you're almost there - one more step and you will be able to seamlessly stream video from your laptop to the TV.

Step 4: Tune the Display

With the laptop and TV properly connected, you now need to tune the display on the TV. The key thing to note here is that if the screen resolution and aspect ratio of your laptop and TV are not the same, the picture on the TV will be distorted.

Make sure both screen aspect ratio and pixel resolution of TV and laptop are compatible. What you can do is to adjust both picture ratio and resolution with on the

Display Settings of the Control Panel in the PC laptop. You might need to refer to your laptop manual to get information on settings and options for video output.



A display setting for nVidia video card – different video cards have different control panels

Step 5: Enjoy That TV Display!

With all the above steps done, you're ready to get a cup of coffee, kick back and enjoy your favorite movie clip or videos on the big TV screen. For the best results, you should get a large, flat panel LCD TV for this purpose. It'll cost ya though, but prices are coming down.



Enjoy your movies on that big screen TV!

Conclusion

And that's it! Now you know how to stream video from your laptop to the TV using connectors and cables. It's not that difficult once you figure out what connectors there are, and what cables to buy. So until next time, best of luck and enjoy your laptop video stream!

By the way, if you have any ideas or suggestions on how to improve this report, do feel free to drop me a note at: <http://www.best-laptop-guide.com/about-me.html>.

Gary Hendricks runs a website about laptops. To learn more about laptops, laptop accessories and access a wide variety of how-to articles, be sure to visit his website at <http://www.best-laptop-guide.com>.
