



# Tools4Movies

## DVD Catalyst Free

### User Guide



Watch your favorite movies and TV shows on your device in great quality for free. **DVD Catalyst Free** converts your DVDs and video file collection so you can watch them on your device wherever you want, whenever you want, all with a single click.

If you are looking for the easiest way to put your movies on your device, you have found it.

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## 1. Before you start

**DVD Catalyst Free** is designed to be as simple as possible. Most questions we receive in regards of issues with our other software products is directly tied to people clicking around without actually noticing what they change, and as a result, they run into complications.

**DVD Catalyst Free** was designed as a completely free entry-level conversion utility, and because of this, we eliminated the need to adjust options and settings. There is nothing to change that would affect compatibility with playback of the created videos on your device. It just works.

Because of the simplicity of **DVD Catalyst Free**, you miss out on certain features such as quality- and file-size adjustment, black-border removal and more, but if you are just looking for a way to watch your movies on your device, there is nothing out there that provides an easier way of accomplishing this. It's free, and if you decide you want more, you can always upgrade to either **DVD Catalyst Free+** or to our flagship product, **DVD Catalyst 3**.

Unlike most other "free" DVD conversion tools available on the internet, **DVD Catalyst Free** is not a trial version, does not require you to sign-up for a mailing list, and does not put watermarks in your video files. There are no strings attached, does not install spyware, adware, toolbars or anything like that.

## 2. How does it work? (Quick Start)


Start **DVD Catalyst Free** by double-clicking on the icon on your desktop:




The program will start up with a splash-screen, after which it loads the main program:



If you want to convert a DVD, you can insert it now, and it will be recognized automatically, otherwise,

click on the  button at the bottom left to have DVD Catalyst Free look for DVDs.

If you want to convert one or more video files, you can drag them onto the program, or click on the

 button at the bottom left to select them individually.

After you have added your video content, the DVD(s) or video file(s) are briefly accessed by **DVD Catalyst Free** to obtain some information that is needed for the actual conversion process.



If you are converting a movie DVD, the longest play-time track (the movie) is automatically enabled, however, if you are converting a TV show DVD, you want to enable checkmarks for all the episodes.



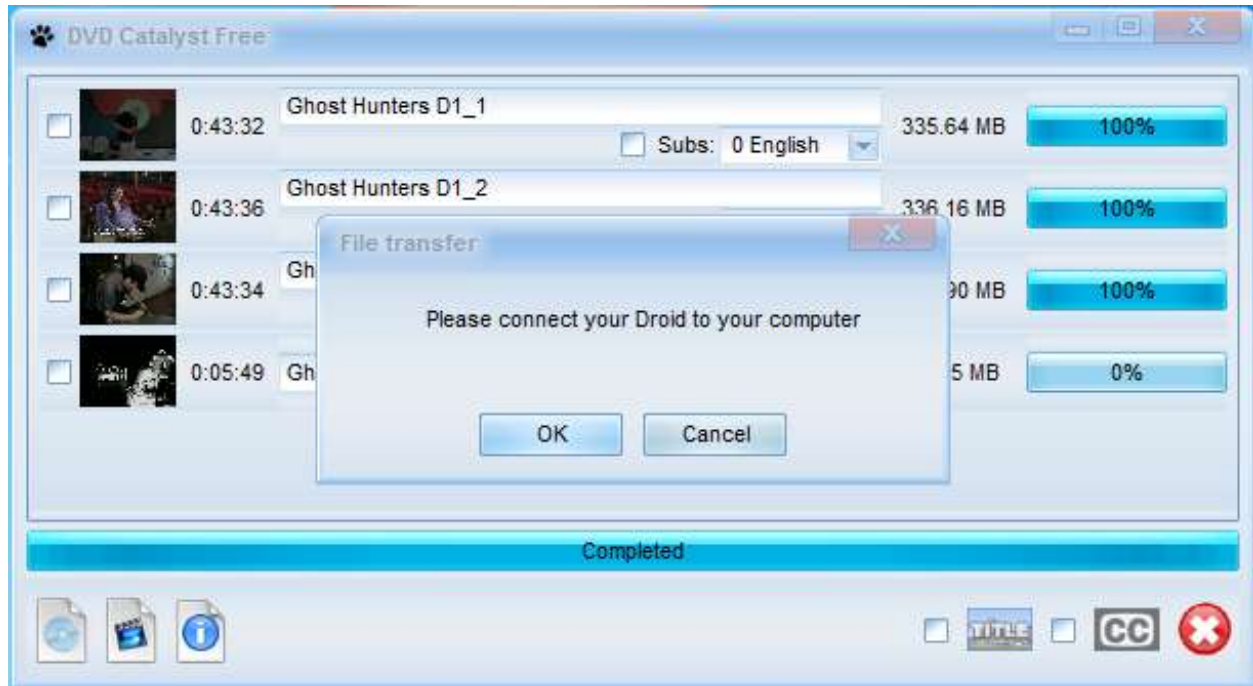
Now all that is left is to just click on the arrow button at the bottom right to start the conversion. A folder selection dialog will ask you where to save your files. Do NOT save them directly to your device or a memory card of some sorts, as this will make the conversion quite slow. Once the conversion is complete, **DVD Catalyst Free** will offer to transfer the files to your device anyway.

After you have selected the location of where you want to store your files, the conversion will start.

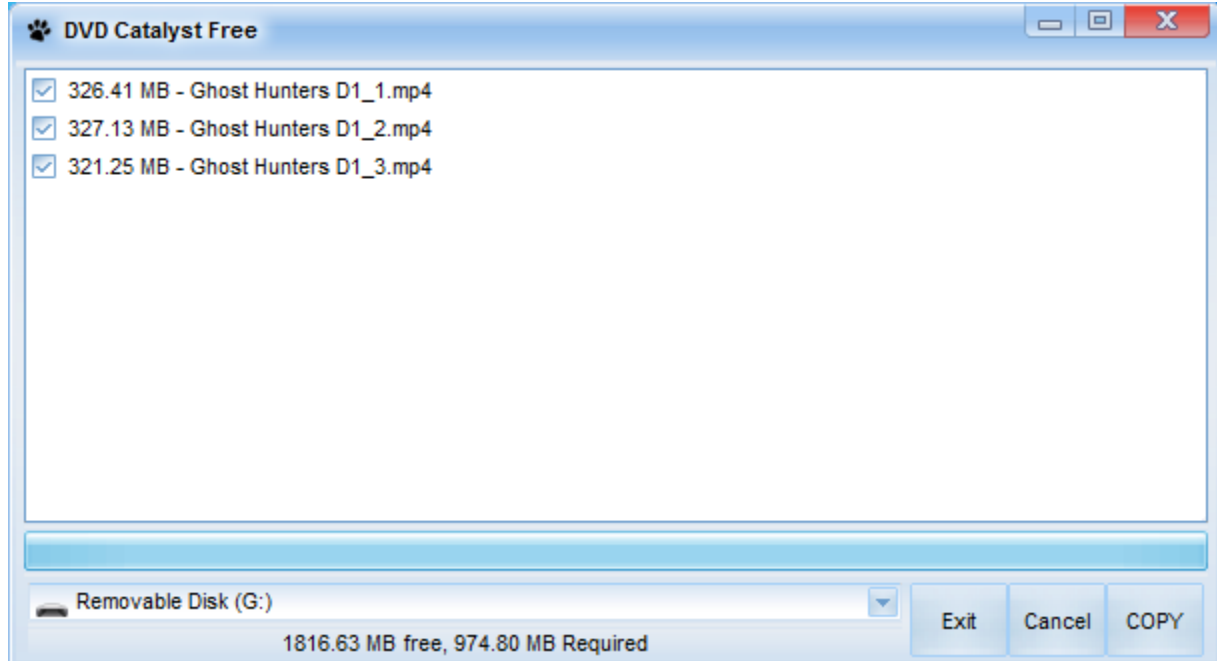
Depending on the speed of your computer, and how many items you are converting, it can take some time before everything is finished. **DVD Catalyst Free** is a bit slower with DVDs when compared to **DVD Catalyst Free+** and **DVD Catalyst 3**, so if you are concerned about speed, give the trial version of **DVD Catalyst 3** a try and see if that works better for you. Besides the faster speed for DVD conversions, it includes all the options you will ever need for your conversions.



Once the conversion is complete, **DVD Catalyst Free** will ask you to connect your device to your computer.

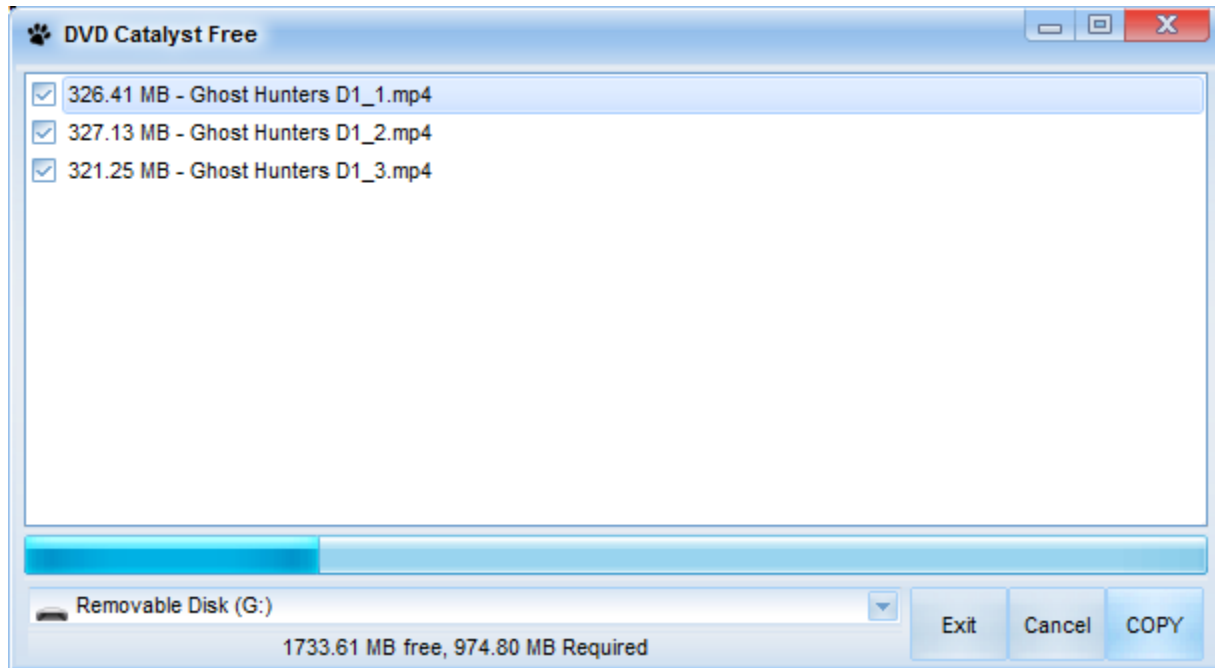


Once connected, click on OK, and a list of the files that were created during the conversion is shown.



In the dropdown at the bottom, your device should be displayed, if not, make sure you select the proper drive letter for it in the dropdown. Checkmark the files you want to transfer to your device, then click on the Copy button to transfer them to your device. If there is not enough room, remove checkmarks from

some of the files to make sure it all fits. You can only copy files over when there is enough room for the ones you have selected.



Once complete, disconnect your device, and the files are available for playback using the media player on your device.

### 3. Detailed Instructions (Step by Step)

#### Step 1: Start DVD Catalyst Free

Start **DVD Catalyst Free** by double-clicking on the program icon.



The program will display a brief splash image, while loading the program.



## Step 2: Adding video content



Clicking this button will have **DVD Catalyst Free** scan your computer drives for DVDs, and when it finds one, it will scan it for video content. If you have multiple DVD drives, and they all contain a DVD, all will be scanned.



Clicking this button will display a browse dialog you can use to select video files you already have on your computer, such as AVI, DIVX, MKV and more.

If **DVD Catalyst Free** is running, and you insert a DVD, it will automatically recognize it, and automatically start the scanning process. In addition to using the buttons, you can also just drag & drop files and folders onto the program, and whatever is supported by **DVD Catalyst Free** will be sorted out. If your folders contain other types of files, such as pictures and documents, those will just be ignored.



Clicking this button will bring up the guide you are reading now.

### Step 3: Select/change your video content



When you add content to **DVD Catalyst Free**, it will be briefly accessed by the program to obtain information required for the actual conversion process. In addition, a small screenshots is created of the video to display in the conversion list.

For video files, every file (or every video file in a folder) you add will be scanned. All the files that are found during scanning are automatically enabled for conversion.

For DVDs, by default, the first track is scanned (which provides information about the rest of the DVD's video contents) and if different, the longest track (usually the movie) is scanned as well. After scanning is complete, the longest track is enabled for the conversion. If you are converting a TV DVD, you have to enable the checkmarks for the tracks you want to convert. Enabling the checkmark will trigger scanning of the track.

During scanning, tracks that are shorter in playtime than 4 minutes are ignored. This filters out things like trailers and special features, while letting things like episodes and movies show up.



At this point you can make some changes to the conversion. You can change the name of the file name used to create the file, change the audio language (if available) underneath the name, and enable/change the subtitle language.



This enables the Closed Captions subtitle for the conversion. If your DVD has support for this (check the back of the DVD box to see if it has the same CC logo) Closed Captions, intended for people with hearing issues, provide more detailed, descriptive subtitles than the standard subtitles that just show the spoken words.



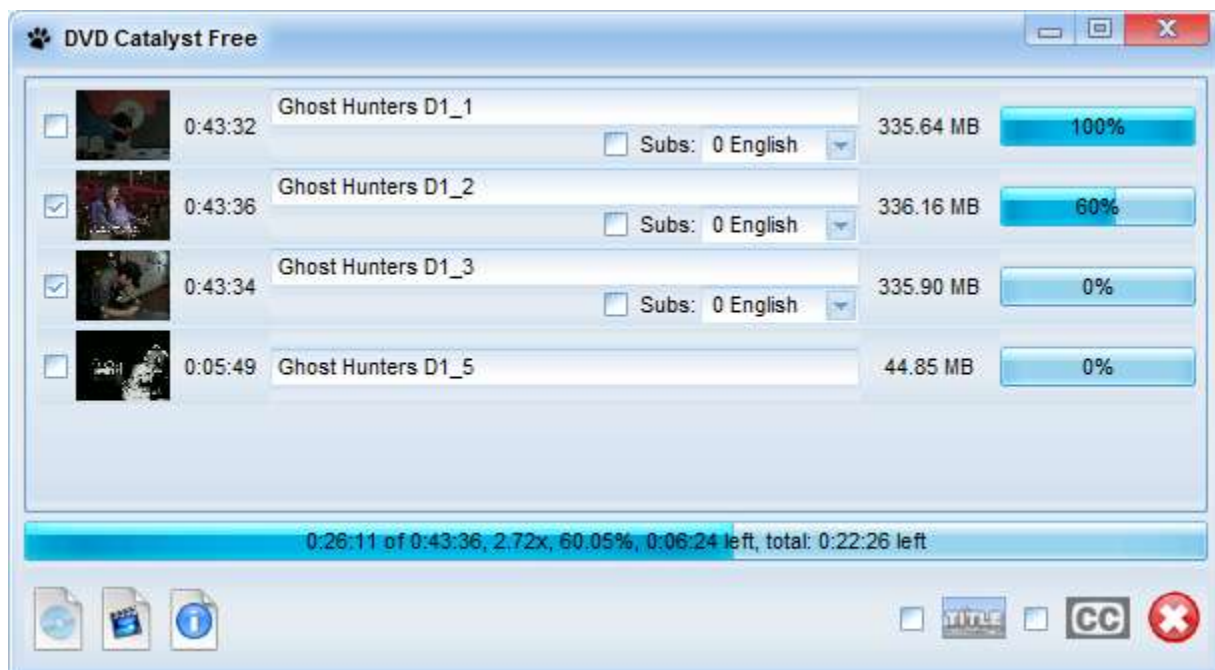
By enabling this checkmark, **DVD Catalyst Free** will put the filename you used in the conversion list at the beginning of the movie. If your video player creates thumbnails to display your collection, this can help you tell the difference between your videos.

## Step 4: Start the conversion



When all the content you want to convert has checkmarks, all you need to do is click on the Arrow button to start the conversion. After clicking this button, a folder selection dialog appears, asking you where to save your video files. Use an easy to find location on your computer, such as My Documents or My Videos.

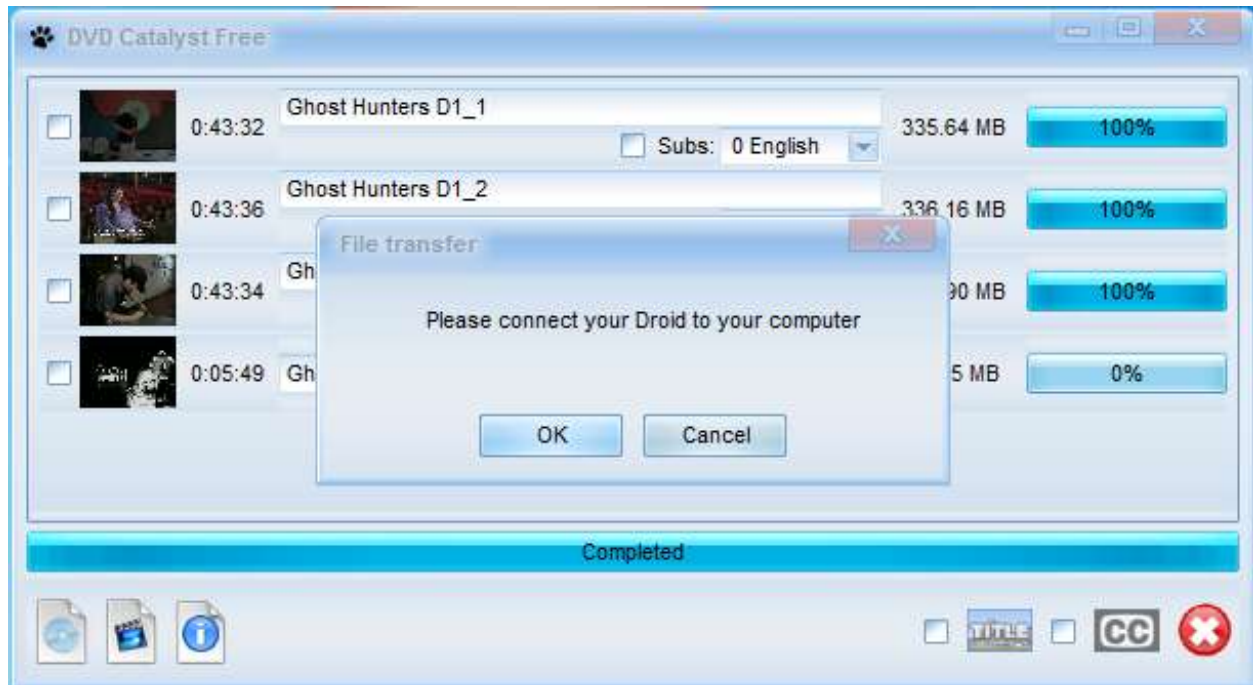
Do NOT convert directly to your device or to a memory card. Besides being a lot slower, **DVD Catalyst Free** automatically offers to transfer your video files after the conversion is complete anyway.



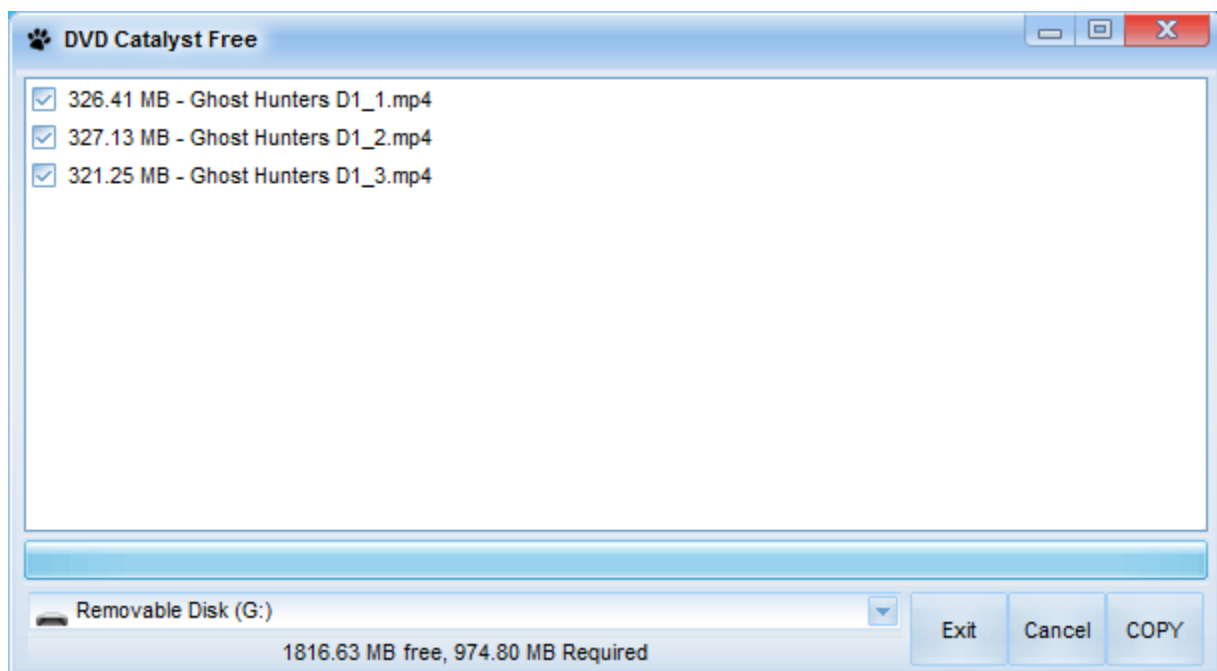
(Note, **DVD Catalyst Free** is slower with DVD conversions than **DVD Catalyst Free+** and **DVD Catalyst 3**)

## Step 5: Transfer files

After all the DVD and video content you selected has been converted, **DVD Catalyst Free** will ask you to connect your device.

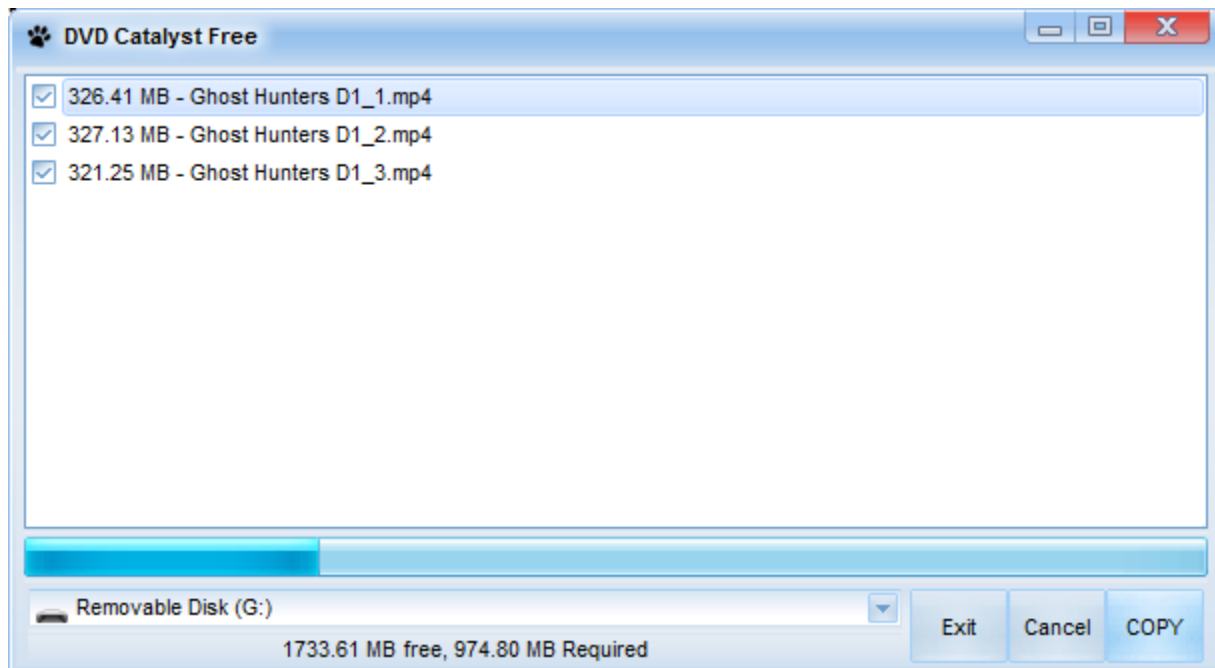


Once connected, or if you already have connected your device, click OK, and a list of created video files is shown.



The dropdown at the bottom should display the location of your device, and the amount of free space available is displayed underneath it. If your device is not displayed here, click on the dropdown to select it.

If there is enough free space available for all your converted movies, you can click on the Copy button to start the transfer to your device. If there is not enough room, remove some checkmarks of videos.



Once complete, disconnect your device, and the files are available for playback using the media player on your device.

The video transfer is just copying files from the folder you selected when you clicked on the convert-button (step 4) to the memory location of your device. The same can be achieved by using "My Computer" or "Windows Explorer"

#### 4. "Title" checkmark

For some devices such as the Droid, the build-in media library (Gallery app) creates a screenshot of its own from the video, and it does not display filenames. By enabling the "Title" checkmark, **DVD Catalyst Free** inserts the filename you specified in the conversion list at the beginning of the movie (similar to a watermark or TV station logo). Because the screenshot on Android's Gallery is taken at a random position at the beginning of a video file, the title is displayed for about 10 seconds.



The title is burned into the video, so every video player you use will display it



Unfortunately the screenshot position on Android-devices cannot be adjusted, but as you can see (sorry for the low quality screenshot), with the title displayed in the Gallery application, it's easier to select the file you want to watch. It's not perfect, but unless you install a different video player application on your Android device, this is the best solution.

## 5. Album Art

**DVD Catalyst Free** uses the “Album Art” image to insert a screenshot of the video with the file name you used in the conversion list. When you view your file using a media manager application such as iTunes on your computer, it will display this image, making it easy for you to distinguish your files.



## 6. More

**DVD Catalyst Free** was created to simplify DVD and video file conversions as much as possible. Before **DVD Catalyst Free**, the only methods available to convert your video content for free involved installing multiple applications, video and audio codecs and quite a few steps with long waits in-between these steps. Besides all this, the programs involved usually required you to read up on them to be able to figure out how to get it working, and especially when you are a first-timer, trial and error to get things right. Because we don't expect people who want to watch video on their portable device to become video-conversion wizards, we created **DVD Catalyst Free** to make it as easy as possible.

While based on our flag-ship product, **DVD Catalyst 3**, **DVD Catalyst Free** lacks any options that could cause confusion or complications. It converts DVDs and video files so they can play on your device, but that's basically it.

Once you get used to how it all works, or you become more experienced (or demanding) in video conversion, you can step up to either **DVD Catalyst Free+** or **DVD Catalyst 3**.

**DVD Catalyst Free+** is a more powerful version of DVD Catalyst Free, and includes options such as faster DVD conversions, quality/file size adjustment and black border removal (make your movies full-screen). It utilizes a similar look so if you know how to use **DVD Catalyst Free**, you know how to use **DVD Catalyst Free+**.

**DVD Catalyst 3** is the most advanced DVD and video conversion utility available. While maintaining the simplicity of **DVD Catalyst Free** (and **Free+**) it offers a multitude of additional features, many of which cannot be found in any other application on the market.

## 7. F.A.Q

**Q:** Why are there black borders, why does the video not fill the screen?

**A:** The DVD standard specifies that DVDs have to have a resolution of 720x480. For a widescreen movie, black padding is added on the top and bottom of the video to ensure compatibility with the DVD standard.



**DVD Catalyst Free** does not (**DVD Catalyst Free+** and **DVD Catalyst 3** do though) remove the black borders during the conversion, so when you view the movie on your phone, it can look like this



**Q:** Conversions are slow

**A:** **DVD Catalyst Free** uses the video format that produces the best quality video for your device. While there are formats that are faster with conversion, the video quality of these files is quite poor, unless you increase the file size by a lot. Besides the format, conversion speed is determined by many other things, including computer processor speed, Windows-version, single-core/dual-core/quad-core, amount of memory, DVD drive speed, harddrive speed as well as DVD protection.

**DVD Catalyst Free** is limited in DVD conversion speed. Both **DVD Catalyst Free+** and **DVD Catalyst 3** are faster with DVDs.

**Q:** My movie out of order. The scenes are mixed up

**A:** Some movies have a DVD protection system that is not DVD compliant. They feature a protection system called ARCCOS, which scrambles the scene-order, and usually include a lot of fake video tracks, to confuse programs such as **DVD Catalyst Free**. These DVDs usually have playback issues on some DVD

drives as well. If you run into such an issue, have a look at the "Problem DVD" section on [www.tools4movies.com](http://www.tools4movies.com) to see if your DVD is listed.

**Q:** Digital Copies

**A:** These are video files for portable devices that come on some DVDs and Bluray discs.

Digital Copies are video files that are protected, and to be able to play them, the files need to be activated (tied to your own personal information) in order to make them playable. For MP4 files, you will have to use iTunes to activate them, and for WMV files, you need to import them into Windows Media Player on your computer. Once activated, you can transfer them only to devices that can be activated using iTunes/WMP, such as iPod/iPhone/iPad and so-called "Plays for sure" devices. For all other devices, these files will not work.

While it is possible to convert these files using other software, the method involved is similar to dubbing VHS tapes. The software plays the file on your computer, and records it at the same time. Besides a lengthy recording time, it also significantly reduces quality in most cases (depending on your computer). You achieve better results by just converting the DVD instead.

**Q:** Bluray?

**A:** No.

## 8. About

**Tools4Movies**, the developer behind DVD Catalyst Free has been developing video conversion software applications since 2003. During that time, it has changed names a few times due to some unfortunate events, one including a domain name theft by the registrar company (1&1 Internet) that was used. Over the years, our software has received many prestigious (as in REAL) awards, including winning the Smartphone and Pocket PC Magazine (now called iPhone Life) Best Software Awards 4 times.

Besides our goal to provide you with the best possible tool for converting DVDs and video files, the biggest thing that sets us apart from the rest (besides software that works as intended) is the way we provide (before and after-sales) support.

We hold ourselves to a simple rule: **Provide support the way we would like to receive it.**

Coming from a long history of IT jobs, we have been on both the giving and receiving end of the support spectrum. Company policies restricted the level of support we were allowed to provide and receive, so for our own (potential) customers we do what we can to provide the best possible assistance.

In addition, we listen to our customers. While not directly tied to **DVD Catalyst Free**, most of the features found in **DVD Catalyst 3** come from user requests and suggestions. **DVD Catalyst 3** has far exceeded our own personal needs in terms of capabilities, but whenever we or someone else runs into something that would be useful; we usually implement it into a future update.