

DRM-Free DVD Player & Ripper on Mac OS X

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[MPlayer](#) is a terrific [DRM-free](#) multimedia player.

It also contains [Mencoder](#), which is a great tool for ripping dvds (among other things).

[Mac Ports](#) has two versions available, [MPlayer](#) and [mplayer-devel](#) but neither of them built properly on my Mac (OS version 10.5.8).

Fortunately, the pre-built binaries at [this site](#) worked beautifully.

After downloading and unzipping them, I moved the two binary files, `mplayer` and `mencoder`, into `/opt/local/bin` so they appear in the default command-line path.

Since Apple's built-in DRM-enforcing [DVD player](#) is set to startup when a DVD is inserted, I changed the default action in the [System Preferences](#) under [Media Preferences](#) to be "Ignore" for the "When you insert a video DVD" option.

Now, I can play any DVD track with `mplayer` in [Terminal](#), like this:

```
mplayer dvd://[track number]
```

`MPlayer` also supports other playback options like subtitles, etc. (docs related to DVD playback are [here](#)).

Ripping a DVD track is more complex, but the docs have [good examples](#) to follow.

I wrote this shell script to simplify the process:

```
#!/bin/sh

# source for mencoder options:
# http://www.mplayerhq.hu/DOCS/HTML/en/menc-feat-vcd-dvd.html
# (using 11.8.5.2. NTSC DVD example)

if [ $# -eq 2 ]
then
    mencoder dvd://$1 -oac lavc -ovc lavc -of mpeg -mpegopts format=dvd:tsaf \
        -vf scale=720:480,harddup -srate 48000 -af lavcresample=48000 \
        -lavcopts vcodec=mpeg2video:vrc_buf_size=1835:vrc_maxrate=9800:vbitrate=5000:\
keyint=18:vstrict=0:acodec=ac3:abitrage=192:aspect=16/9 -ofps 30000/1001 \
        -o $2.mpg
else
    echo "mencoder_dvd_rip.sh [dvd track number] [output filename]"
fi
```

So to rip track 0 of a DVD (which is usually the main movie track), all I have to do is this in Terminal:

```
mencoder_dvd_rip.sh 0 movie
```

Archived from the original at <http://denis.papathanasiou.org/>

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