

The Old Shoebox Newsletter

October 16th 2008 Copyright by Marlo E. Schuldt <http://heritagecollector.com> Vol. 2 #18

The **BIG** Screen Experience

A New Way to Make Family History Informative and Fun - *For ALL Ages*



Our grandchildren learn about their great grandparents in a new way - on Digital TV



The grandchildren enjoy seeing themselves on a LifeStory Storybook page.

Good Luck and Have Some Real FUN!



These were not staged photos. My grandkids really enjoyed seeing each other, the trips we have been on together and the great grandparents no longer with us. However they can still see their grandparents and great grandparents and hear their voices, and learn from them.

Thankfully, this new TV medium and computer technology now makes it possible for our young children and future generations to get to know us and their ancestors on a personal level!



This is real family history!

P.S. I'm having great fun and it was definitely worth the time, effort, a little frustration and money to get this working - *please do it for your kids and grandchildren. They will love you for it!*

Using Heritage Collector Suite with a High Definition TV



In February 2009 we will be entering the new age of High Definition Television. Some of us will purchase one of these new high definition TVs.

If you make the correct choices you will be able to connect your computer to your big screen so you can start enjoying family history slideshows, video clips and photos on your new home entertainment system.

Fortunately the days of the boring old silent home movies are now gone forever!

I can't wait to show my friends, who recently returned from Hawaii, how beautiful their photos of orchids look on the big screen. Many of the photos are more breath taking on the big screen

My next project will be to create a slide show with sound and narration of a trip we took to Yellowstone Park with the kids and grandkids.

Best of all, I won't have to waste the time and effort it takes to make and burn a DVD.

YEA! Just turn on the big screen and laptop and away we go to Yellowstone, Hawaii, our last biking trip or a family history excursion!

However, I will use Heritage Collector's new TV DVD capability to share slide shows with my kids, grandkids and relatives.

Look For Bargains on Big TVs and Notebook Computers

Have some fun window shopping at Wal-Mart, Best Buy, Costco, Amazon, and electronics or furniture stores. You don't ever have to leave home, just go to Amazon or other Internet sites to shop around and see what's available.

- √ Projector
- √ DLP / Rear Projection Big Screen.
- √ Plasma,
- √ LCD

Each has advantages and disadvantages. Projectors and DLP projection TVs are light weight but have a bulb that will eventually burn out. They are still a very good value and have a large viewing area for less money.



Plasma Screens can develop screen burn-in if your children play games on it. Plasma screens are not designed to display static images for long periods of time. However, newer Plasma screens have improved.

LCDs have a little different display medium and are typically more expensive than Plasma screens. They usually have a higher native resolution than a Plasma.

Consider your budget, room size, space and how you plan to enjoy a big screen system. Both my sons chose 57 inch rear projection systems. Their systems are big, beautiful,

unbelievably clear and bright and only weigh about 90 pounds. High definition TV is out of this world both in color and clarity.

Laptop or Desktop Computer With a Dual Display Card. Most laptops come with a dual display card as standard equipment. Hang on to that old laptop. It might be fast enough and have a big enough hard drive to do the job. At least give it a try before buying a new laptop unless you need an excuse to convince your spouse that it's time to upgrade.

Video Cable and Adapter. You will need a video cable and probably an adapter to connect the computer to the big screen. Check BEFORE you purchase to be sure the big screen has the connectivity built in and the kind of input jacks that will work with your computer.

Audio Cable. Go to Radio Shack or another electronics store and pick up an inexpensive audio cable to plug into the headphone jack of your computer and then into your input jack of your sound system and you will have big sound for just pennies.

Home Network - Optional. This can be really fun since it allows you to share and use the photos, video clips, audio and other files on the other computers in your home. It's not expensive. Windows XP comes with the home network software you need. If you don't want to run wires, purchase a wireless router that will allow you to access the network or the Internet from anywhere in your home (including the big screen). Sounds Expensive? No, since most new laptops come with a wireless network card as standard equipment or you can add a wireless card to your older desktop or laptop.

Shop Around. My oldest son purchased his rear projection big screen and saved over \$800 dollars purchasing through Amazon.com and the shipping was free! [Get the added warranty.](#)

The Process

Be brave! This is not rocket science and you CAN do it - I did it in five steps!

- ✓ Connecting the Laptop / Computer.
- ✓ Connecting to the Big Screen.
- ✓ Big Screen Settings.
- ✓ Computer Display settings.
- ✓ Audio, Network and the Internet.

1. Connecting the Laptop / Computer



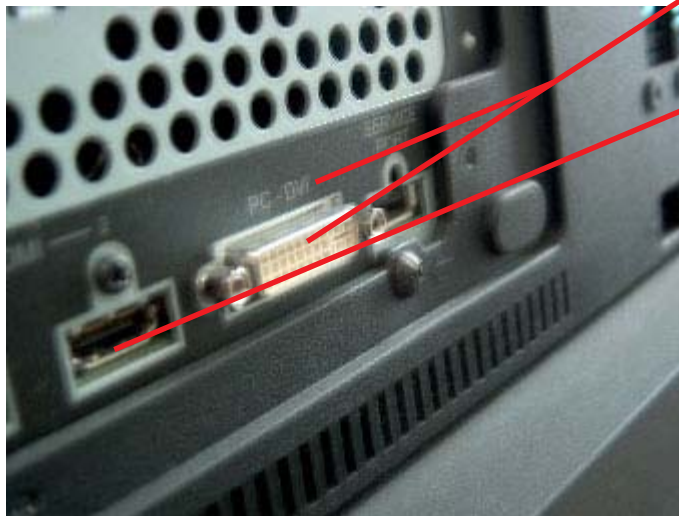
This is simple. Just connect a standard video cable to your laptop computer as shown in the photo.

Newer notebook computers come with an HDMI connection that will give you better resolution and true high definition quality on your big screen.

Look for an HDMI connection if you are purchasing a new notebook computer. This will give you higher quality and will not cost extra in a new computer.



2. Connecting to the Big Screen.



Locate the white PC / DVI connector on the back or bottom of the big screen.

You may be able to connect directly using an HDMI connector depending on the connections provided by your digital TV.

Consult your manual or ask a qualified technician or call the customer support number listed in your TV manual if you need help.

Caution - Please Note

The instructions listed above are for reference purposes and not intended to replace the manual or instructions that came with your computer or big screen TV. Consult and verify the information contained in this document with your TV or computer manual before connecting any cables.



DO NOT purchase HDMI or DVI cables or converters from the store where you purchase your big screen TV or from local electronics stores. You will pay outrageously high prices!

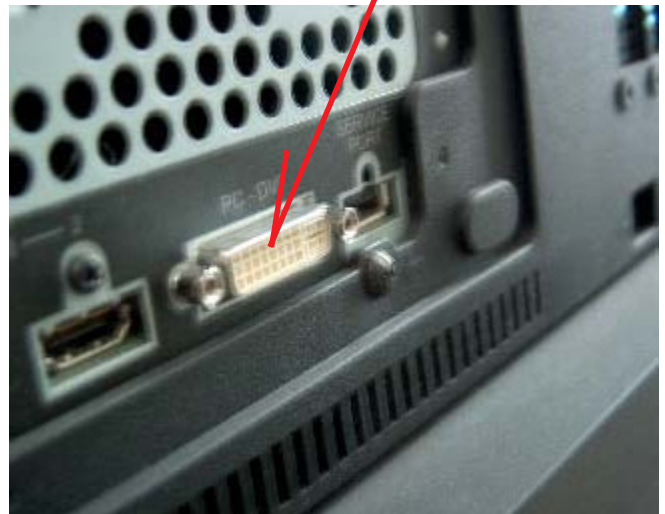
Search the Internet for "Cable" or "HDMI." You will be surprised to find a cable for \$8-10. Otherwise you will be paying \$25 - \$49 from the store. According to my sources, some of the big, expensive, gold plated connectors are not worth the increased cost. In other words, you will not be able to see any noticeable difference.

Summary

Using a VGA cable connected to a notebook to a DVI input on a big screen TV



Video cable (VGA) attached to an adapter to be plugged into the big screen. You may also be able to buy a special cable that has the right connections on both ends eliminating the use and extra cost of an adaptor.



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Summary -

An HDMI Cable Connected to a Notebook computer to a DVI Input on a Big Screen



Notebook Computer HDMI input.



HDMI Cable



Video cable (HDMI) attached to the DVI adapter that will be plugged into the big screen.



You may need to purchase an adapter to connect the video cable that connects to the big screen.

You can also purchase a HDMI to DVI cable.



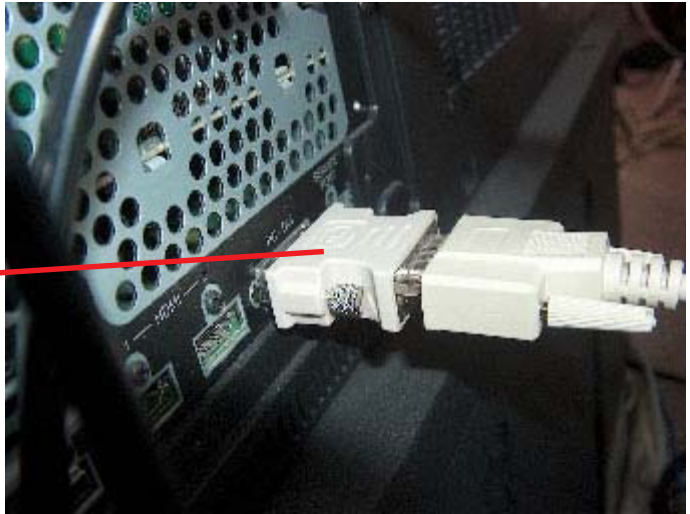
Caution - Please Note

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Use caution connecting cables to your big screen. Ground yourself by touching a metal object or the back of the TV (not a connector on the TV) before inserting a connector. A static electric shock can damage your set. Connect cables with the TV turned off.

Connection from the notebook computer to the big screen using a cable and adaptor.



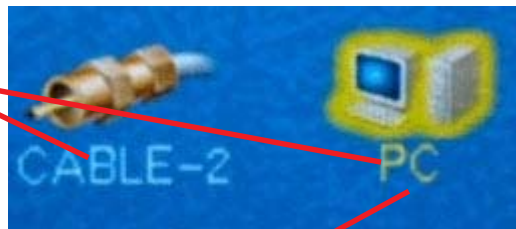
3. Big Screen Settings.

The next step is to set up the TV to accept the input from your computer. Your display settings may not look the same as this tutorial.

Please note. We are using a Mitsubishi 1080P DLP HDTV for the screen shots in these instructions. Your remote, setting and icons will look different.



On the remote, click the INPUT option or button that allows you to change or select the desired input device - DVD player, cable, etc. In this example, we selected PC input.



Our display looked like this after moving and selecting the PC input connection. Press the Enter button on the remote and your TV is now ready to accept the input from your computer.

Some TV and computer systems will automatically “sense” the connection to the computer if the big screen turned on before you turn on the computer. Other systems may work opposite. So do a little experimenting and see what works best with your big screen and computer.

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4. Computer Display Settings.

You are almost there! Just one more step.

This step may be a little challenging for some of you. However, if you are lucky the TV and notebook may automatically sense the connection and make all the necessary settings for you. Some computers and TVs may bring up help screens to walk you through the process.

Try turning on the computer first and then turn on the TV. Other systems may work better if the TV is on first and then turn on the computer.

Get some help! What are friends for? You are not on a trip and lost; ask for some help! it's so much easier and who cares if they think you are high tech challenged - you'll get more free help from the egotistical types anyway.

I'm certain you have a son, daughter, grandchild, neighbor or colleague at work that would love to see your new setup and might be really intrigued at what you are attempting to do. SO ASK - offer to do a show and tell with some fresh cookies and milk.

OK, so you are the timid type. Just ease into the request. Do the Tom Sawyer trick and start painting the fence while they watch or listen. Next, tell the uninterested party (that will soon change) you'd like to hook up your NEW big screen to your computer. If their facial expression changes and a little grin or smirk starts to form, that's the green light. Go for it. ASK For Help or some morale support!

Money always talks. If you want to watch just call in an expert. However, as my dad once said, "You only call the plumber once!" I'll translate my dad's cryptic and inspired advice. As the installation of your big screen and computer progresses, take notes, photos or whatever you need so that you can do it all by yourself the next time.

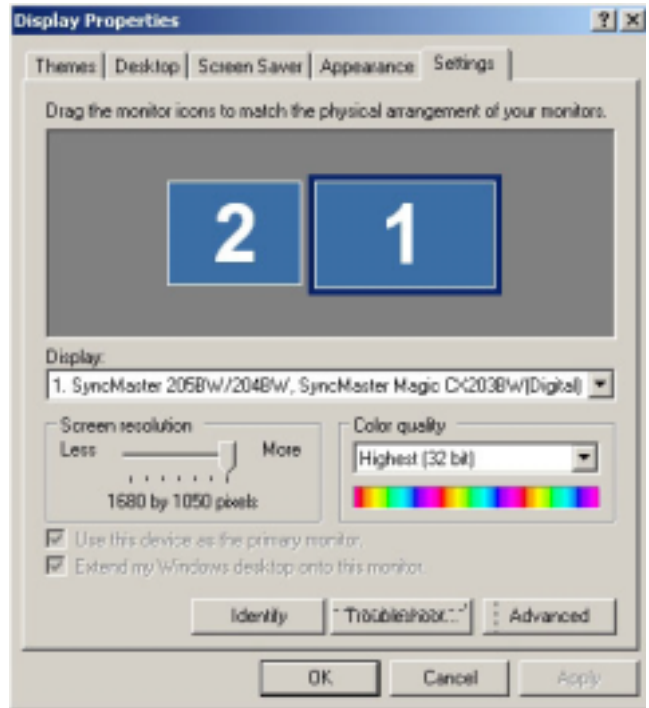
It's not that bad. Here's what you need to do.

This is not much different than hooking up a

projector to your laptop.

1. Go into the control panel on your computer and select Display. When you click on the icon, you will see something like the following display.

Note: Your computer must have a display card that can output to TWO displays. Otherwise you will only see



ONE blue rectangle representing one monitor option.

You may need to make changes to the settings so that your big screen will share or have the same images as your computer.

Some display cards (Nvidia) allow you to make and save special settings that you can click each time you want to use the big screen. This is very helpful if you want to use your laptop for other things.

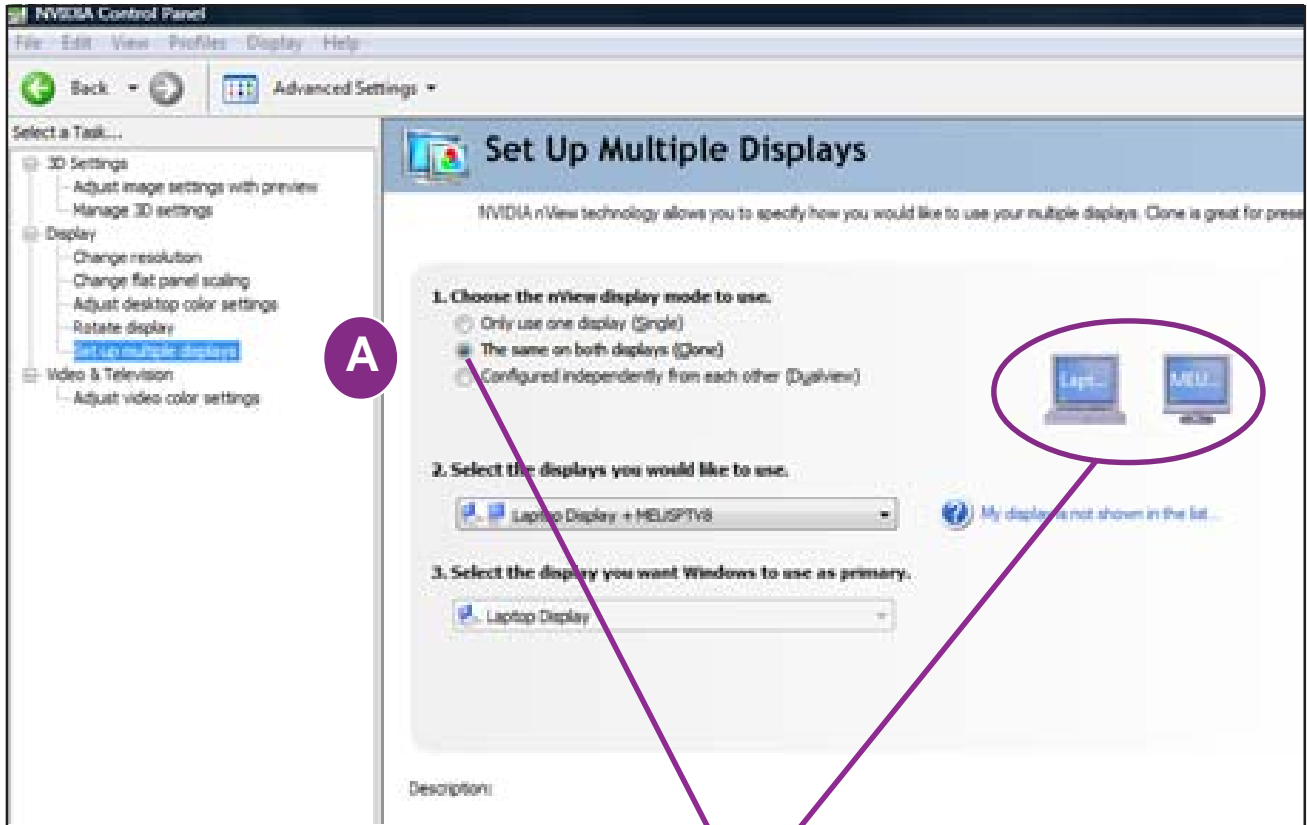
Unfortunately, I must leave you at this point of setting up the display. Each display card has a little different setup. However, if you are determined you will figure it out. If all else fails, read the manuals that came with your big screen and the display card in your computer. And you can ASK FOR HELP!

Get your big screen and computer working together. It will be FUN and it will impress everyone that sees your new entertainment system including the grandkids who will think you are cool and have entered the new age.

Best of all, you can now use Heritage Collector to show the photos, slide shows and more.

Computer Display Settings

The following display is from the Nivida display control panel used to change the display mode in Windows Vista to set the display on the computer and on the big screen.



A The display option chosen is “The Same on Both Displays.” This makes it possible to “share” or view the same display on the computer monitor and big screen. This is helpful when you need run and view the computer monitor without seeing the big screen display.

5. Audio, Network and the Internet

Connect an audio cable to the headphone jack if it's a laptop or line out if it's a desktop computer.



Radio Shack should have what you need. Make sure that the other end of the audio cable has the right kind of connector that will work with your sound system.

If you have a wired home network, plug in the network cable. You will then be able to surf the Internet with the family and they will all be able to see and participate for the first time.

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