

FilmCAN – Downloading FAQ's

What films or media can I download through FilmCAN?

Our monthly **Podcast** (a collection of short films, alternative media, interviews, and film festival coverage) is free. You can even subscribe to it for automatic updates via iTunes and similar software by [clicking here](#).

We also offer a growing number of Canadian and international feature films, short films, and alternative media. Browse our **Distribution Page** for summaries, reviews, and other writing on films and artists, and then download something that peaks your interest.

Where can I watch FilmCAN downloads?

IPOD (OR OTHER PORTABLE VIDEO PLAYING DEVICE): mpeg4 files are designed to be played on iPODs and similar video devices, on all monitors and cell phones, and often (using video cables or a device like Apple TV) out of the player and through a projector or television.

COMPUTER: mpeg4 files can be played on both Macintosh and Windows computer platforms, using **Quicktime** or **Windows Media Player**, and a variety of other video viewing software.

CELL / MOBILE: mpeg4 files can be played on most new video cell phones. Because of current competing technologies and the small size of memory cards, however, your cell may not be compatible with some mpeg4 files. We are constantly updating our format compatibility as standards evolve, so check back with us often.

Tip: If necessary, you can often download a conversion program for free (try googling the name of your cell's video format, eg. "convert mpeg4 to 3G" – to find one) and do the conversion yourself.

TV / DVD UNIT: You can burn your downloaded movie to a recordable DVD for screening through most home theatre units, or anything a DVD player can connect with and play through (including a projector).

How do I open the file or play the movie?

After purchasing your film(s) you will receive an email with a link to download your file.

1) Follow this link and download/save the file to your desktop (typically the default location) or another folder of your choice.

Tip: If you are having trouble locating the file on your computer, do a search for the name of the movie, as all one word (eg. trainsofwinnipeg).

2) Double click the file and it should load into your regular media player.

Tip: If you like you can also drag and drop the file into an application such as iTunes, where it will then be listed for easy future playback access.

If you would like to screen the movie on your home DVD/TV player unit, follow these additional directions:

1) Locate the file on your harddrive.

2) Using a DVD burning program (such as Toast or any PC burning program), burn the file to a recordable DVD as a Video Disc (not data).

How much space will a movie take on my HardDrive? How long will it take to download?

You can download an mpeg4 quality feature film (see the chart below for average download size and time estimates) in about 1-2 hours on a high-speed internet connection.

Quality Level	Max Frame Size & Avg. Bit Rate	File Size (per 30mins)	Est. DL Time (per 30mins)	Can be played on:	Price per feature (CDN)
mpeg4 (h.264)	640x480 1.5MBps	300MB	20-30 mins	iPOD, computer, cell, DVD	only \$ 8.99

What does MPEG4 (h.264) quality look like?

Pretty good. For a look at MPEG4 (h.264), download the free [Filmcan Podcast](#). Basically we recommend mpeg4 for viewing that doesn't leave the realm of a 2" to 30" screen – be it a cell, iPOD, laptop, or monitor.

Do you sell any films by mail?

Sorry, we are solely a digital service. Download a film and burn a DVD of your own if you like, or try contacting a film's distributor in your country for further information on DVDs.

Why can't I download/access some films that are listed?

You may live (or currently be) outside of the region(s) that FilmCAN has the rights to distribute a film within. We make an effort to acquire world rights on all films, but often this is unfortunately not a possibility. If you're residing in Canada you shouldn't have a problem; we recommend loading up on films before you travel abroad.

Don't these digital files alter the design of many directors, who's films – be they experimental, documentary or fiction – were made with a large audience and live, high resolution projection on a large canvas in mind?

Probably. But, in many cases, at least you get to see the film in some format. As well, by offering films in this manner we hope to encourage filmmakers to contemplate the possibilities of a new contemporary canvas for film access and interaction. Furthermore, with the drop in price and rise in quality of home video projectors, large screen viewing can often be accomplished via both computer, iPOD device or even burned DVDs.

Are these files virus free?

Yes, unless someone hacks us.

For any further questions, please email: info@filmcan.org