How to Fix a Damaged VHS Tape

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INTRODUCTION

VHS tapes have currently been surpassed by other forms of video, such as CDs or digital storage on computers or smartphones. Since they are no longer manufactured, VHS tapes that contain movies, home videos, or any other media can be permanently lost and unviewable if they are damaged. This guide will show you how to fix a damaged VHS tape so most of the video can be viewed again, or converted to a modern digital format for safekeeping.

TOOLS:

Phillips #0 Screwdriver (1)
Scissors (1)
Scotch tape (1)

Step 1 — How to Fix a Damaged VHS Tape

- Remove the screws at the bottom of the VHS case using a Phillips #0 screwdriver.

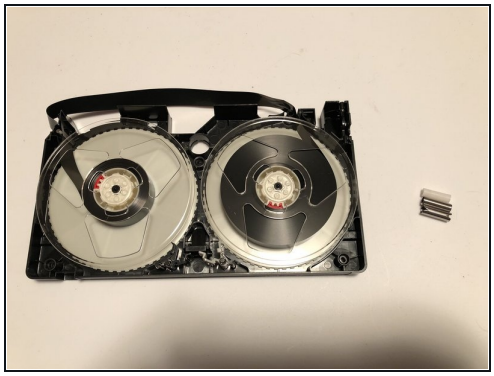
Step 2

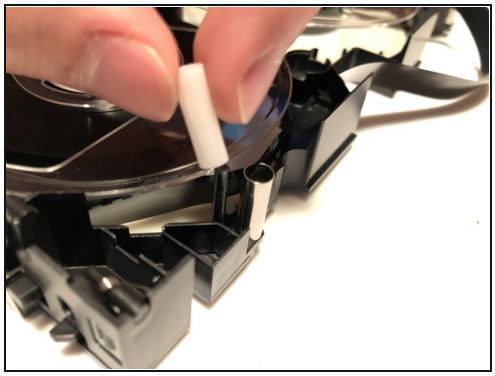
- Lift open the cover of the VHS.

Step 3

- Remove the top cover of the VHS case.

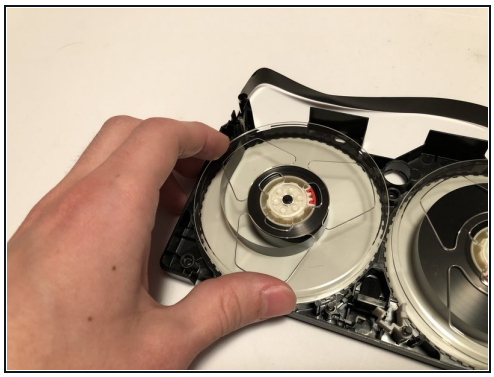
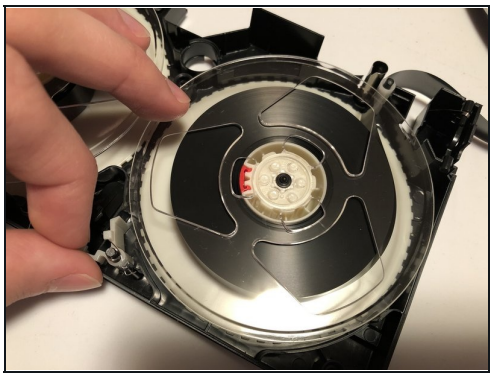
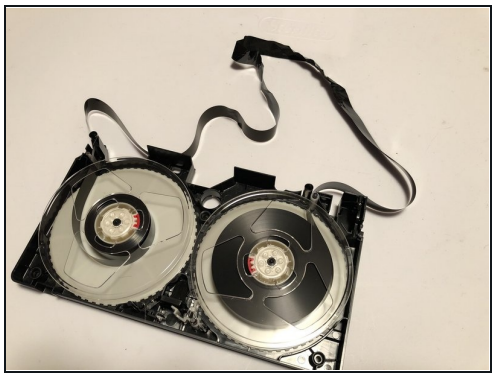
Step 4





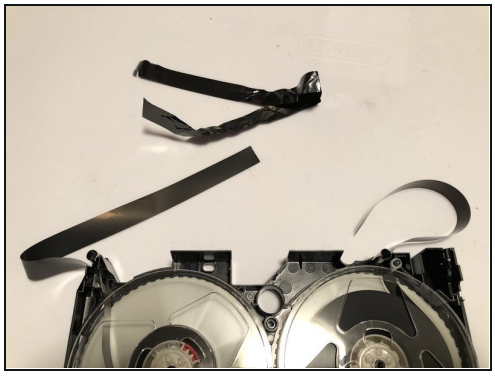
- Replace any rollers that accidently fall out of the VHS case.

Step 5

- Unroll the video tape from each side of the VHS, running it through the rollers the correct way. Do this until you reach the damaged parts of the tape.

Step 6

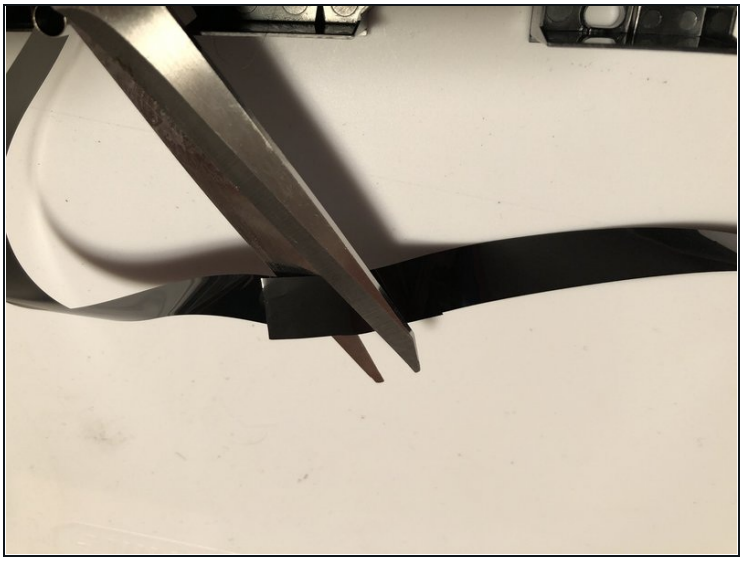


- Cut out the wrinkled and damaged parts of the VHS tape using scissors.

Step 7

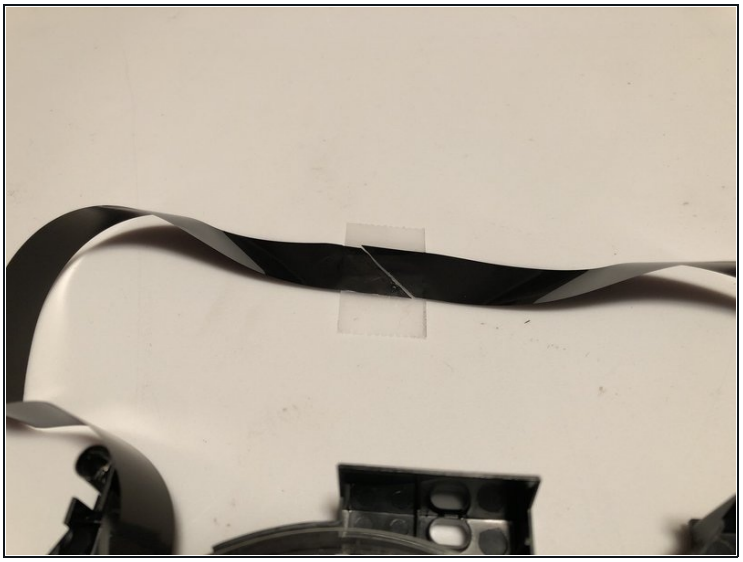
- Hold the undamaged parts of the tape over each other as evenly as possible.

Step 8



- Cut the overlapping portion of the tape at an angle.

Step 9



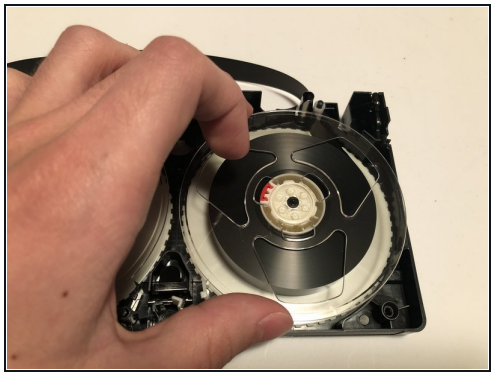
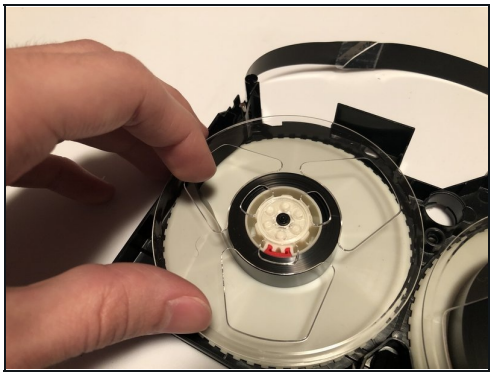
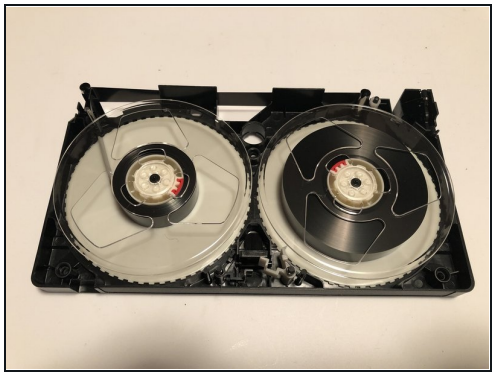
- Apply scotch tape to the dull side of the two matching halves of the VHS tape.

⚠ Potential for device damage: Do not wrap the scotch tape around the other side of the VHS tape.

Step 10

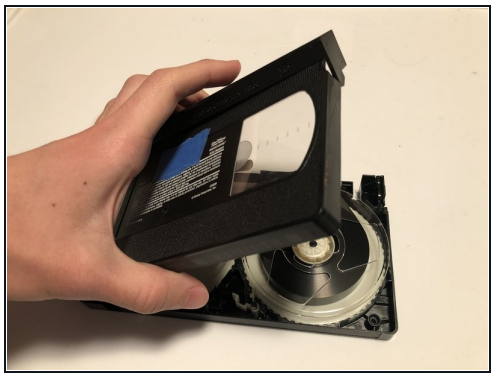
- Cut excess scotch tape to match the size of the VHS tape as precisely as possible.

Step 11

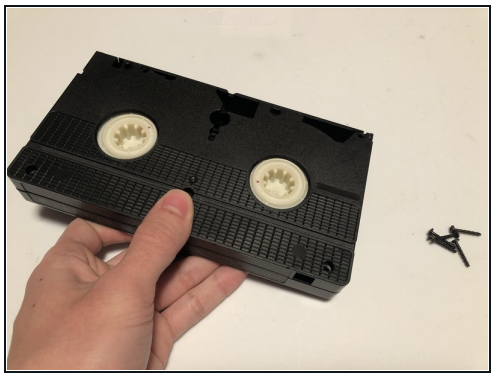
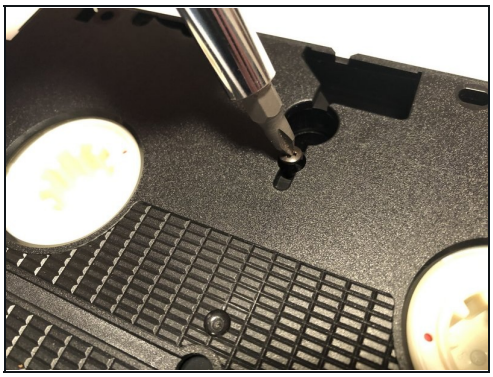
- Wind the loose VHS tape back into the case.

Step 12



- Replace the cover back on top of the VHS case.

Step 13

- Reinsert the screws through the bottom of the VHS tape.