

[ tube ]  
Film Playback  
Film Download

This handbook is a work-in-progress.  
We would appreciate any comments or suggestions for improvement.  
Thank you!

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[ Table of Contents ]

[ Intro ].....	3
[ Which films are being offered? ].....	3
[ Login ] .....	3
[ Why do I have to register? ] .....	3
[ Why do I need BitTorrent? ] .....	4
[ BitTorrent Software ] .....	4
Important: Adjust preferences .....	4
[ Downloading films ] .....	5
[ Playing purchased films ] .....	5
Which player can I use to watch the films? .....	5
[ Contact ].....	6

## [ Intro ]

[ tube] is the name of the software Kulturserver developed for purchasing and downloading films from the Kulturserver network in only a few easy steps. Once you have completed the initial registration, all subsequent downloads can be made with only a few mouse clicks.

**Please note that in order to download a film, you must first install the BitTorrent software.** Please see below for more about BitTorrent.

Because of their large file size, a fast broadband Internet connection such as DSL is essential for downloading the films.

## [ Which films are being offered? ]

[ tube ] plays back a two-minute preview of each uploaded film in order to give viewers a first impression of the film's content and style. The preview is automatically generated and is shown in compressed form.

All films downloaded to a hard drive are in the same quality as they were delivered by the filmmakers.

## [ Login ]

All unregistered visitors must sign up when using the portal for the first time. Members of the Kulturserver network (ex. members of the AG DOK, BVR, etc.) can use their existing accounts to login.

To register go to <http://onlinefilm.org/-/film> and click on the "setup / edit your account" link on the right. If you have forgotten your login information (user name / password), please drop us a line at: [redaktion@kulturserver.de](mailto:redaktion@kulturserver.de).

## [ Why do I have to register? ]

Your registration ensures both you and us a secure transaction when purchasing films at onlinefilm.org. With your clear buyer identification, your personal film portfolio is noted in the data base. This authorizes you to purchase the films for personal use. It also enables you to access the ONLINEFILM mediatheque to replace any films you might have lost due to computer failure without having to pay for them a second time.

## [ Why do I need BitTorrent? ]

Watching videos on a computer requires a large amount of data, which can rarely be downloaded in one single package. Such large downloads should also not hinder parallel work on the computer. The BitTorrent software offers not only optimal downloading conditions but other advantages as well. The software can be downloaded from the Internet for free, and is a prerequisite for downloading films over the Kulturserver network. See below for information about where to download a BitTorrent client from the Internet.

The BitTorrent client has other advantages as well: every computer within the BitTorrent network provides a small portion of its capacities in order to maximize the speed and stability of film downloads for all users. Each individual user can determine the extent to which he or she wishes to contribute to this network. This guarantees a sensible use of everyone's Internet connection even with large volumes of data.

## [ BitTorrent Software ]

BitTorrent software is available free of charge in the Internet. Below are two popular BitTorrent clients we recommend for their quality and ease of use.

<http://www.bittorrent.com/download>

This is a small client which requires a bit of getting used to. Its very technical interface is functional without many extras.

<http://www.getmiro.com/download>

Miro delivers two functions in one and is easy to handle for beginners. It is available for PC and Mac and functions as both a BitTorrent client and player. However, this complex software is very slow in its handling and requires some time to start.

### **Important: Adjust preferences**

With both BitTorrent clients, we strongly recommend deactivating the automatic program start. The software should be used only when needed or set to run in the background on your computer. This saves your computer's resources from being unnecessarily drained.

By default the download process is usually activated with most BitTorrent clients. By adjusting the preferences and deleting the pre-programmed channels (especially important with Miro!), you can prevent your Internet connection from becoming overly taxed and minimize the strain on your system.

When closing the BitTorrent software, please check whether or not the client symbol is still in your menu bar. It is often necessary to also click on the client symbol in order to stop all background activity and quit the program.

*[... ] At a later date, we will make additional recommendations for adjusting the client's preferences in order to optimize its use.*

## [ Downloading films ]

We recommend taking the following steps in order to download a film.

1. Install the BitTorrent software.
2. After clicking on the "download film" button, a small reference file will be downloaded onto your computer. This contains all the technical information needed to download the film. Please be patient: this file is being created extra for your system and it could take up to 60 seconds.
3. We recommend saving this file on your desktop.
4. After downloading the reference file, open your BitTorrent program. In the dialogue box "open file," select the reference file you just downloaded.
5. Depending on your BitTorrent settings, you may have to re-confirm that you want to begin downloading the film.
6. Please note: It could take several minutes for the actual downloading of the file to begin. All the information about the file must first be gathered within the network before the file download can begin.
7. By optimizing the BitTorrent settings, you can continue working unimpaired while the film downloads in the background. (For more information about this, please see the chapter "Bit Torrent software.")
8. The BitTorrent software will show when the download is complete. You can now watch the film in high quality using your media player.

## [ Playing purchased films ]

Which player can I use to watch the films?

Miroplayer (PC, MAC)

<http://www.getmiro.com/download/>

Miro provides two functions in one and is clear and easy-to-use for newcomers. It is available for PC and Mac and is both a BitTorrent client as well as a player.

## Goplayer (PC)

[www.goplayer.com/](http://www.goplayer.com/)

*[... ] At a later date, we will provide you with more information about this and other players.*

## Burning films onto DVD

We recommend our filmmakers upload their files in the Xvid.avi (Mpeg 4) codec if possible. Such files can be easily burned onto a DVD which most modern stand alone DVD players recognize and play back for viewing on a normal TV set. Filmmakers may also upload their films in other formats which can be viewed using various computer players. In order to watch those films on a television set, however, the film file must first be converted into a readable file such as the already mentioned Xvid.avi (more about that on [www.xvid.org](http://www.xvid.org)) or MPEG2 . It is not enough to simply burn the file onto a DVD. Numerous programs are available for easily converting and burning multimedia files of all codecs onto DVDs, VCDs and SVCDs. Additional information about this can be found on the Internet.

E.g here <http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Codec>

## [ Contact ]

If you have any questions or problems, please contact either the Kulturserver editorial department or the ONLINEFILM support department. We also welcome your comments and criticisms, which are essential in helping us further improve our software.

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