

Tips for Maximizing the DNA Testing for Genealogical Pursuits

By Denise Sproed, RN, BSN

There are three basic tests used for genealogy today:

1. Autosomal DNA (at-DNA) – most genealogically useful; matches to all your cousins, as distant as 10 generations but in a consistent random manner (called random recombinant DNA)
2. Y-DNA – matches to the male ascendant line – often provides clues to the surname or to family groups within a surname study
3. Mitochondrial DNA (mt-DNA) – matches to the maternal ascendant line (mothers mother, etc)

There are three major companies that currently are providing the Autosomal DNA test (at-DNA)

1. [Family Tree DNA](#) (offers all three tests)
2. [Ancestry](#)
3. [23andMe](#)

and one comparison provider: [Gedmatch](#)

Once the autosomal DNA (at-DNA) test has been performed, it is most genealogically helpful if the raw data is uploaded to [Gedmatch](#) where comparisons for Chromosome Mapping can be done amongst test results for people who tested at any of the three companies. [Gedmatch](#) provides a list of your closest 2,000 matches as well as other tools. This document will provide you with screen shots of the steps to follow to upload from the various test companies. You will only need to upload one test result, even if you tested at multiple companies as you are one individual and multiple results fills the match lists of others with multiple entries for one person.

There are additional resources that provide helpful tools you may want to explore

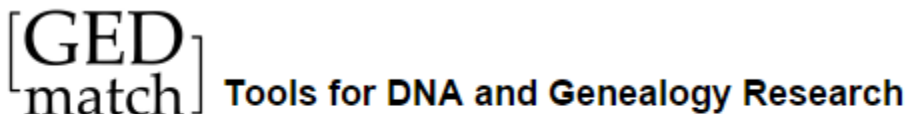
1. [DNAGedcom.com](#) provides a utility for downloading files that are useful for Chromosome mapping from [Family Tree DNA](#) and also [23andMe](#)
2. [Autosomal Segment Analyzer](#) is a tool at DNAGedcom.com
3. [Jeff Snaveley's Ancestry Tool](#)

Following are hyperlinks to the steps for each companies upload steps. Click on the hyperlink to move elsewhere in the document.

[Steps to Upload data to Gedmatch](#)

(This is a website supported by donations, if you find the site useful, please consider donating to support the site)

1. Go to www.Gedmatch.com and register to create an account



Log In

2. Click on Not Registered? Click [HERE](#)

Not Registered? Click [HERE](#)

3. Follow the steps that follow for [Family Tree DNA](#), [Ancestry](#) or [23andMe](#) to get your data
(Click on CTRL & the hyperlinks above for each company to jump to the steps for that testing company in this document)

Steps to Transfer Test Results from Family Tree DNA to Gedmatch

1. [Log in to your Family Tree DNA](#) account

FTDNA Login

Returning Customer

Kit No. or Username

Password

LOG IN

2. Use your Mouse Pointer to select '[Download Raw Data](#)' under your Family Finder test



[Matrix](#) | [Advanced Matches](#) | [Download Raw Data](#) | [Learn More](#)

3. Mouse Click on the Orange Arrow
 - a. Select the [Build 36 Raw Data Concatenated](#)

FAMILY FINDER - DOWNLOADS

[Feedback](#) [Refer Friends & Family](#)

Download Your Data



Raw Data & Print

Reports

Read before you download: We are committed to protecting the privacy of our customers. By downloading any raw data or reports, you hereby indicate that you are the owner of that data or have permission to download the data, and you further indicate your understanding that Family Tree DNA cannot in any way guarantee the security or privacy of your downloaded data. Furthermore, you understand that by uploading your raw data to a third party application and linking it to your name, Family Tree DNA kit number, email address, or any other identifying information, the security of your raw data and record is further put at risk and may lead to the violation of Family Tree DNA Privacy Policy. By downloading your raw data, you assume the liability for any breach of privacy and release Family Tree DNA from any privacy violation that results either directly or indirectly from the downloaded raw data and/or upload to a third party application.

The Family Finder raw data file contains your DNA results code (A, C, T, G, etc.) for each of the thousands of locations tested. It is most useful for those advanced users who wish to compare specific segments of their DNA with others. [More Info.](#)

Because they contain the results for thousands of SNPs, Family Finder autosomal DNA and X-Chromosome raw data files are large. They have been compressed for faster download. There are many free programs available on the internet for extracting GZIP files. [More Info.](#)

Build 37 Autosomal Raw Data
(GZIP, CSV)



Build 36 Autosomal Raw Data
(GZIP, CSV)



Build 37 X Chromosome Raw Data
(GZIP, CSV)



Build 36 X Chromosome Raw Data
(GZIP, CSV)



Build 37 Raw Data Concatenated
(GZIP, CSV)



Build 36 Raw Data Concatenated
(GZIP, CSV)



4. Be sure to notice where the file is being saved to on your computer. If you do not know where the file

was saved, look in your downloads folder for files named '36-(Name)-Chrom_Autoso.csv.qz' where (Name) is replaced by the profile name. (*Macintosh users read additional instructions at Gedmatch*)

5. Return to www.Gedmatch.com and select the Menu option for Generic Upload Fast

Raw DNA file Uploads

- Generic Upload **FAST**
- 23andMe *fast & easy*

Do NOT open or un-zip raw DNA data files before uploading.

6. Scroll down and fill in the data fields below your email address (which automatically corresponds to your registration) – be sure to mark YES for making that data available to compare – click on the Browse to find the file on your computer where you saved it

Your Log-in Email Address will be associated with this kit:

Name of Donor:
Please use real names here. It will not be displayed if you also enter an alias below.

Alias (optional):
If you don't want your full name displayed, you may substitute an alias. Otherwise, leave this blank. If you enter an alias here, it will be shown on report pages instead of the name you entered above. The alias should either be similar to your full name, or the same as the 'screen name' that you use on forums. GEDmatch site administrators reserve the right to remove any alias that is not appropriate in their opinion.

6 digit FTDNA kit number of DNA donor:
(GEDmatch will add the prefix 'F' to what you enter here)

Sex of the donor? ☐ Male ☐ Female

What is your Mitochondrial haplogroup (if known)?

Males Only: What is your Y haplogroup (if known)?

Please acknowledge that you authorize this data to be made available for comparisons in our public database:
(You will not be able to make comparisons if it is not in the public database) ☒ Yes ☐ No

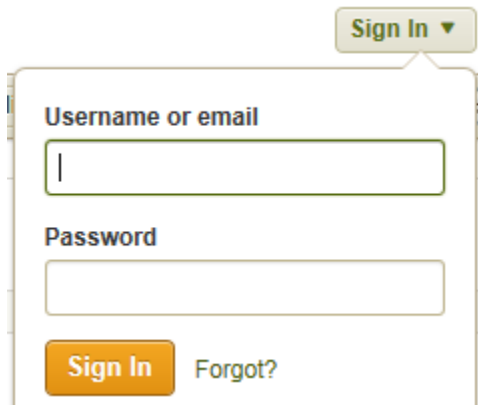
Click on "Browse" to find the compressed raw Autosomal DNA data file on your computer. No file chosen

Click "Upload" to send your Autosomal DNA data file to GEDmatch

7. Click 'Upload' and the lower left of your screen may show upload (**%) as it uploads; after a brief delay numbers will appear with green 1,2,3 and proceed to 23 as each chromosome is uploaded – wait patiently for the number 23.
8. After a few minutes you will see your assigned a Gedmatch Kit ID (a number with an T in front) – your kit will now begin processing. It will be available for one to one comparisons but you will need to check back in a 24-72 hours for complete processing and your one to one Match list to be available.

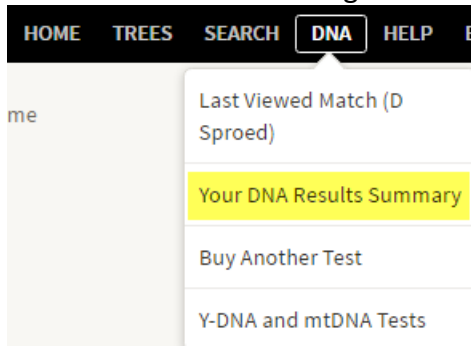
Steps to Transfer Test Results from Ancestry to Gedmatch

1. [Log in to your Ancestry DNA](#) account

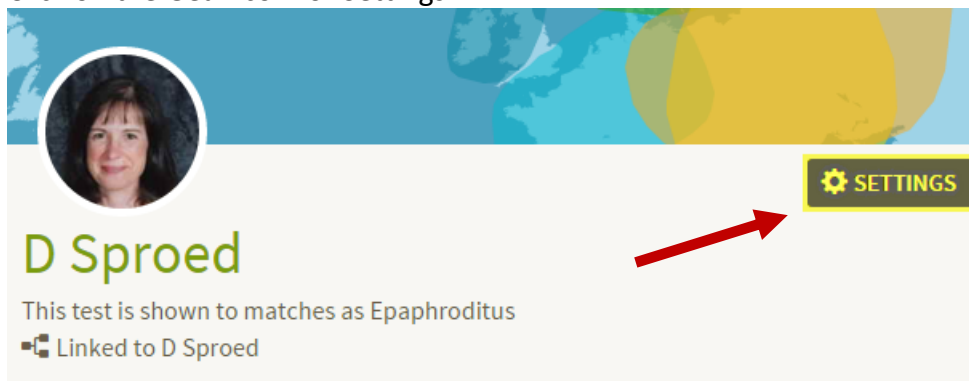


A screenshot of the Ancestry DNA login page. At the top right is a 'Sign In' button with a dropdown arrow. Below it is a login form with two input fields: 'Username or email' and 'Password'. Below the password field is an orange 'Sign In' button and a 'Forgot?' link.

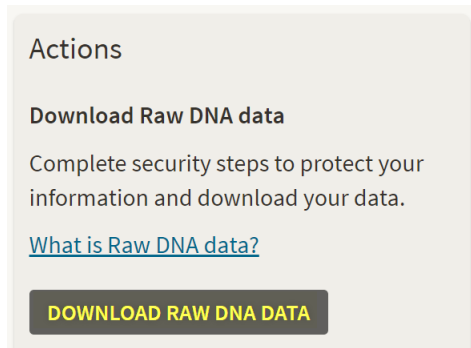
2. Select Your DNA Home Page from the DNA drop down Menu



3. Click on the Gear icon for Settings



4. Click on the GET STARTED button under Download your raw DNA data



5. Enter your password to confirm you want the data, check the box and click CONFIRM

Download Your Raw DNA Data

Please enter your Ancestry account password.

You'll receive a confirmation email and download instructions at the email address associated with your Ancestry account.

.....

[Forgot password?](#)



I understand that after my DNA data is downloaded, the downloaded copy will not be protected by AncestryDNA's security measures. When I download my raw DNA data, I assume all risk of storing, securing, and protecting my downloaded data.



The downloaded data is subject to the [AncestryDNA Terms and Conditions](#) and [AncestryDNA Privacy Statement](#).

CONFIRM

CANCEL

6. You will then need to check your email address after you see the following (sometimes takes 30")

Download Your Raw DNA Data



Almost there...

Please check your inbox for an email from us. Then follow the instructions to begin your download.

7. When you open your email click on the CONFIRM data download



Raw DNA Data Download Confirmation

Please confirm your request to download the raw DNA data
for **D Sproed** by clicking on the button below:

Confirm Data Download

8. You will be taken to another screen within Ancestry where you again confirm you want to download by clicking on the next button

Download DNA Raw Data

Your raw DNA data is for your personal use and is intended for genealogical research and general information only. It is not intended to be used for medical, diagnostic, or health purposes or for legal proceedings. Once you receive the downloaded raw DNA data, that downloaded copy will not be protected by our security measures. Please take precautions to protect your data.



DOWNLOAD DNA RAW DATA

Click the button only once and do not close the browser window.

9. Some browsers you select where the file goes and others it defaults to your DOWNLOAD folder on your hard drive and may look like the following (with whatever data you did the download)



dna-data-2015-01-25

10. Return to www.Gedmatch.com and select the Menu option for Generic Upload *Fast* – scroll down

Raw DNA file Uploads

- Generic Upload *FAST*
- 23andMe *fast & easy*

Do NOT open or un-zip raw DNA data files before uploading.

11. Fill in the data fields below your email address (which automatically corresponds to your registration) – be sure to mark YES for making that data available to compare – click on the Browse to find the file on your computer where you saved it – you are looking for the file named ‘dna-data-2017****’

Your Email Address will be associated with this kit:	
Name of Donor: Spelling should EXACTLY match spelling used on the Ancestry.Com site including capitalization, initials, periods, etc.	 YOUR REAL NAME
Alias (optional): If you don't want your full name displayed as it is listed by Ancestry.Com, you may substitute an alias. Otherwise, leave this blank. If you enter an alias here, it will be shown on comparison result pages instead of the name you entered above. The alias should be similar to your full name, and should be long enough so that there aren't conflicts with other users of this site. You should choose an alias that your matches will recognize as being the same as your full name, if somebody is contacted about you. Site administrators reserve the right to remove any alias that is not appropriate in their opinion.	 CREATE AN ALIAS OR LEAVE BLANK
Sex of donor:	☐ Male ☐ Female
What is your Mitochondrial haplogroup (if known)?	FILL THESE IN IF YOU HAVE THE INFORMATION, OTHERWISE LEAVE BLANK
Males Only (or females with a male sibling who has been tested): What is your Y haplogroup (if known)?	
Please acknowledge that you authorize this data to be made available for comparisons in our public database: (You will not be able to make comparisons if it is not in the public database)	☐ Yes ☒ No VERY IMPORTANT TO SAY "YES" HERE
Can we provide your email address to your matches?	☐ Yes ☒ No SAY "YES" HERE IF YOU WOULD LIKE FOR YOUR MATCHES TO BE ABLE TO CONTACT YOU
Click on "Browse" to find the raw DNA data file on your computer.	
ZIPPED FILE	Choose File No file chosen
Upload	
MAKE SURE YOU WAIT FOR THE NEXT SCREEN, AND THE PROGRESSION DISPLAY THAT SHOWS AS EACH CHROMOSOME IS PROCESSED. THIS PROCESS TAKES SEVERAL MINUTES. IF YOU DON'T WAIT FOR IT TO FINISH, YOUR DATA WILL NOT BE USABLE.	

12. Click 'Upload' and after a brief delay numbers will appear with green 1,2,3 and proceed to 23 as each chromosome is uploaded – wait patiently for the number 23.

13. After a few minutes you will see your assigned a Gedmatch Kit ID (A*****) – your kit will now begin processing. It will be available for one to one comparisons but you will need to check back in a week or two for complete processing and your one to one Match list to be available.

Steps to Transfer Test Results from 23andMe to Gedmatch

1. Sign in to your account at 23andMe

Sign in

sign in

2. Next look for **TOOLS** and then **Browse Raw Data**

TOOLS

RESEARCH

All Tools

DNA Relatives

Your Connections

Share and Compare

Find Genetic Counseling

Forums

Browse Raw Data

Raw Data Opt-In

Your data belongs to you – it's all here!

- Explore your uninterpreted DNA for all genes, markers, and SNPs.
- Download your data so you can use it wherever you want.

There are some limitations to how you should interpret this raw data:

- The data has undergone a general quality review, however only select data (that are included in PGS reports) have been individually validated for accuracy.
- The data is suitable only for research, educational, and informational uses.
- The data is not suitable for medical or other uses.

Your raw data could include sensitive information.

- By using this tool you could discover sensitive health information about yourself or family members with whom you share DNA.

I understand

3. Click on **I UNDERSTAND** after reading through their awareness points

Your Raw Data

Search for specific genes and markers (SNPs) of interest.* You can view or **download** your data at anytime in its raw, uninterpreted format (your A's, T's, G's, and C's).

4. In the Next screen look for the hyperlink word **DOWNLOAD** to click on

[See a log of updates and changes to the raw data download](#) ✓

**This is an advanced view of all the uninterpreted raw genotype data, including data that is not used in 23andMe general quality review; however, only a subset of markers have been individually validated for accuracy. As such, the data feature is suitable only for research, educational, and informational use and not for medical, diagnostic or other use.*

Choose between downloading data for all DNA (chromosomes 1-22, X, Y, and mitochondrial), only the Y chromosome, or only mitochondrial DNA:

All DNA

For security please re-enter your password:

password

Download Raw Data

5. Select All DNA, enter your password and click on Download Raw Data
6. The default is usually sending that file to your Download folder. Look there so you know the name of the file.

7. Next look in your DOWNLOAD folder on your hard drive – the data will likely be named
Genome_Your_Name_Full_#####
8. Return to www.Gedmatch.com
 - a. If your test was done before August 2017 select the Menu option 23andMe fast & easy and follow those steps to enter your email and password, it will do the steps for you.
 - b. If your test was completed in August 2017 or later scroll down to Genesis Beta and click on that link to follow the instructions (23andMe's new chip is not compatible with the old upload).

Raw DNA file Uploads

- [Generic Upload FAST](#)
- **23andMe fast & easy**

Do NOT open or un-zip raw DNA data files before uploading.

Genesis Beta
A peek at the future:

- Accepts raw DNA data from companies previously not compatible with GEDmatch®.
- New algorithm with lower thresholds and better accuracy

Welcome

- [Find more about Genesis Beta](#)

9. Fill in the details for your Match Identity

Your Email Address will be associated with this kit:

Name of Donor:
Spelling should EXACTLY match spelling used on the Ancestry.Com site including capitalization, initials, periods, etc.

Alias (optional):
If you don't want your full name displayed as it is listed by Ancestry.Com, you may substitute an alias. Otherwise, leave this blank. If you enter an alias here, it will be shown on comparison result pages instead of the name you entered above. The alias should be similar to your full name, and should be long enough so that there aren't conflicts with other users of this site. **You should choose an alias that your matches will recognize as being the same as your full name, if somebody is contacted about you. Site administrators reserve the right to remove any alias that is not appropriate in their opinion.**

Sex of donor: ☐ Male ☐ Female

What is your Mitochondrial haplogroup (if known)?

Males Only (or females with a male sibling who has been tested): What is your Y haplogroup (if known)?

Please acknowledge that you authorize this data to be made available for comparisons in our public database:
(You will not be able to make comparisons if it is not in the public database)

Can we provide your email address to your matches?

[YOUR REAL NAME](#)

[CREATE AN ALIAS OR LEAVE BLANK](#)

☐ Male
☐ Female

FILL THESE IN IF YOU HAVE THE INFORMATION, OTHERWISE LEAVE BLANK

☐ Yes
☒ No

VERY IMPORTANT TO SAY "YES" HERE

☐ Yes
☒ No

SAY "YES" HERE IF YOU WOULD LIKE FOR YOUR MATCHES TO BE ABLE TO CONTACT YOU

Click on "Browse" to find the raw DNA data file on your computer.

[ZIPPED FILE](#) No file chosen

Click "Upload" to send your DNA data to

MAKE SURE YOU WAIT FOR THE NEXT SCREEN, AND THE PROGRESSION DISPLAY THAT SHOWS AS EACH CHROMOSOME IS PROCESSED. THIS PROCESS TAKES SEVERAL MINUTES. IF YOU DON'T WAIT FOR IT TO FINISH, YOUR DATA WILL NOT BE USABLE.

10. Locate the file on your hard drive and select UPLOAD
11. Click 'Upload' and after a brief delay numbers will appear with green 1,2,3 and proceed to 23 as each chromosome is uploaded – wait patiently for the number 23.
12. After a few minutes you will see your assigned a Gedmatch Kit ID (M*****) – your kit will now begin processing. It will be available for one to one comparisons but you will need to check back in a week or two for complete processing and your one to one Match list to be available.