

Tips for Maximizing the DNA Testing for Genealogical Pursuits

By Denise Sproed, RN, BSN

There are three basic tests used for genealogy today:

- **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)
- **Y-DNA** – matches to the male ascendant line – often provides clues to the surname or to family groups within a surname study
- **Mitochondrial DNA (mt-DNA)** – matches to the maternal ascendant line (mothers mother, etc)

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

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

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.

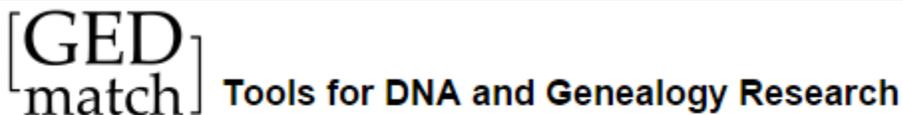
The other recommended step, if your test was done at Ancestry or [23andMe](#) is to use the free Autosomal Transfer to get your data into the match 'pond' at [Family Tree DNA](#). The steps below tell you how to get the file from where ever you tested. Following is the link to upload that same file into [Family Tree DNA](#). [Family Tree DNA using the Autosomal Transfer](#) [Free]. If you wish to use the Chromosome Browser, upgrade for \$19. You can also upload to [MyHeritage](#) [Free]. The messaging system may not remain free on MyHeritage but you can see your match list free.

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 <https://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

Family Ancestry
Family Finder
See the percentage breakdown of your origins as well as your ancient origins, and connect with your autosomal DNA relatives on all of your ancestral lines within the last 5 generations.

Results Completed: March 14, 2013

Matches myOrigins Matrix **Data Download** Chromosome Browser

3. Mouse Click on the Orange Arrow - Select the **Build 37 Concatenated**

FAMILY FINDER - DOWNLOADS

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 FamilyTreeDNA 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, FamilyTreeDNA 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 FamilyTreeDNA Privacy Policy. By downloading your raw data, you assume the liability for any breach of privacy and release FamilyTreeDNA 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 37 X Chromosome Raw Data (GZIP, CSV) **Build 37 Concatenated Raw Data (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 '37-(Name)-Chrom_Autoso.csv.qz' where

(Name) is replaced by the profile name. (*Macintosh users read additional instructions at Gedmatch*)

- Return to <https://gedmatch.com/> and select the Menu option for Generic Uploads

Upload your DNA files:

- [Generic Uploads \(23andme, FTDNA, AncestryDNA, most others\)](#)

- 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
 - recommend you OPT IN to help Law Enforcement solve Cold cases
 - 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

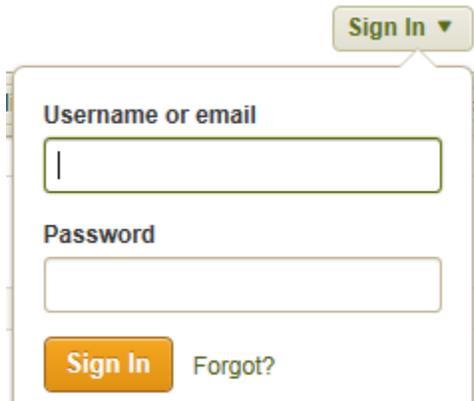
Click on "Browse" to find the compressed raw Autosomal DNA data file on your computer. No file chosen

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

- 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.
- 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.

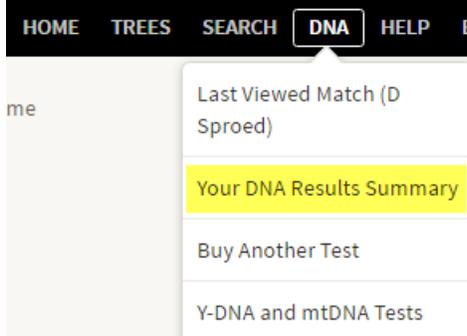
Steps to Transfer Test Results from Ancestry to Gedmatch

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

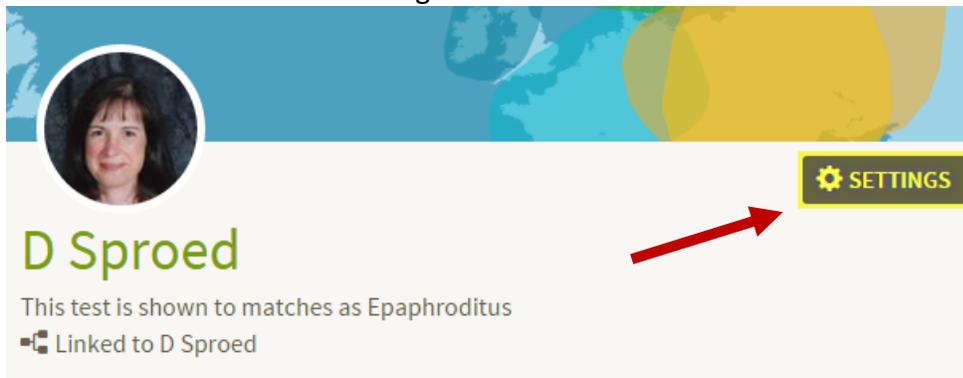


A screenshot of the Ancestry DNA login page. At the top right is a "Sign In" button with a dropdown arrow. Below it is a form with two input fields: "Username or email" and "Password". At the bottom of the form is an orange "Sign In" button and a "Forgot?" link.

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 <https://gedmatch.com/> and select the Menu option for Generic Upload *Fast* – scroll down

Upload your DNA files:

- [Generic Uploads \(23andme, FTDNA, AncestryDNA, most others\)](#)

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.	<input type="text"/> 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.	<input type="text"/> CREATE AN ALIAS OR LEAVE BLANK
Sex of donor:	<input type="radio"/> Male <input type="radio"/> Female
What is your Mitochondrial haplogroup (if known)?	<input type="text"/> 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)?	<input type="text"/>
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)	<input type="radio"/> Yes VERY IMPORTANT TO SAY "YES" HERE <input checked="" type="radio"/> No
Can we provide your email address to your matches?	<input type="radio"/> Yes SAY "YES" HERE IF YOU WOULD LIKE FOR YOUR MATCHES TO BE ABLE TO CONTACT YOU <input checked="" type="radio"/> No
Click on "Browse" to find the raw DNA data file on your computer.	Click "Upload" to send your DNA data to
ZIPPED FILE <input type="button" value="Choose File"/> No file chosen	<input checked="" type="button" value="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, YOU 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.

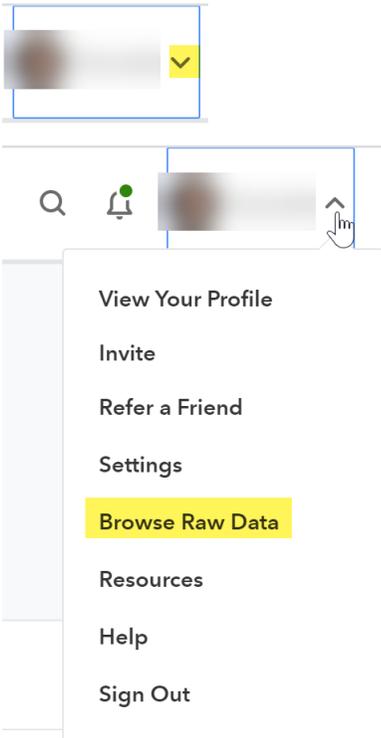
Steps to Transfer Test Results from 23andMe to Gedmatch

1. Sign in to your account at 23andMe

Sign in

sign in

2. Next look for **your profile in the upper right**, click on the **caret** and then **Browse Raw Data**



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

Browse

Download

Download Raw Data

As part of your 23andMe service, we provide full access to your raw genetic data to browse or download and do with as you please. Before downloading, however, you should be aware that there are some risks that you should know about.

Important warnings to consider:

- In the Next screen scroll down to click on Submit Request to click on

Request your raw data download

Click the link below to submit a request to download your raw data file. When it is ready, we'll send you a message to the email address linked to your account. You can also check this page for the status of your request.

If you upload your raw data to a third party application or service, keep in mind that your raw data is not validated for accuracy and the interpretation, reports or other claims that the third party makes may not be accurate. Your data also may not be maintained in a secure or private manner by third parties.

I understand the limitations and risks associated with uploading my information to third party sites.

[Submit request](#)

Your download request is in progress

On [REDACTED], you submitted a request to download your raw data. When your raw data download is ready, we will send you an email to the email address linked to this account.

Didn't make a request? Contact [Customer Care](#).

- You will then receive an email with a green link to actually download the file

Your 23andMe raw data download is ready!

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your raw data download request. Click the link below to download your 23andMe raw data.

Note that once you've downloaded your raw data, you are responsible for its storage and security. If you didn't request to have your data downloaded, or have any questions, please contact Customer Care.

[Download Raw Data](#)

- Clicking in the email green box will return you to the 23andMe website where you can click **DOWNLOAD RAW DATA**

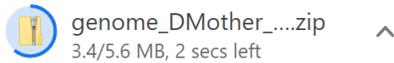
Download Raw Data

As part of your 23andMe service, we provide full access to your raw genetic data to browse or download and do with as you please. Before downloading, however, you should be aware that there are some risks that you should know about.

✓ Your raw data download is ready!

Download raw data

7. The default is usually sending that file to your Download folder. Look there so you know the name of the file.



8. Next look in your DOWNLOAD folder on your hard drive – the data will likely be named Genome_Your_Name_Full_#####

9. Return to <https://gedmatch.com/> (make sure you are still logged in)

Upload your DNA files:

- [Generic Uploads \(23andme, FTDNA, AncestryDNA, most others\)](#)

10. Fill in the details for your Match Identity

Your Email Address will be associated with this kit:

Name of Donor: YOUR REAL NAME
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.
 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. 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, YOU DATA WILL NOT BE USABLE.

11. Locate the file on your hard drive and select UPLOAD

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 (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.