

GEDMatch – What is it? How do I Use it?

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What is GEDmatch? • Free Website • Allows you to upload your DNA data from any testing site • Enables comparison with testers from multiple DNA companies • Autosomal tests only (not Y-DNA or Mitochondrial) • Tier One additional tools available for monthly subscribers • Different from GEDCOM Why Use GEDmatch? • Particularly helpful for sites and tests that cannot be moved or uploaded. Allows you to compare results with those from companies where you did not test • Provides email addresses for matches, which allows for direct contact. Often the only place to find that email address. • Many helpful tools that assist with your research • Continuing Innovation	GEDmatch – The Company • Started by volunteers – “in their garage” • Controversy has followed the company regarding how/who they allow to utilize the data on their site • This started with the Golden State Killer case and then additional uses for violent crimes • The uproar caused them to make all kits unavailable for law enforcement purposes, with only an <i>Opt-in</i> for that purpose. • Sold to Verigen in Dec 2019 • Divided the interface into GEDmatch and GEDmatch Pro. Pro for law enforcement only. • Ongoing changes to their terms of service. Test Indicators (older tests) A = Ancestry M = 23andMe T = FamilyTreeDNA H = MyHeritage L = Lazarus Kit
How to Get Started • Take a Test - at any of the DNA companies • Download your raw DNA file ○ If you have taken a test at multiple places, only one is needed ○ You can upload more, but results are very close. If you upload more than one you MUST identify the additional test as “private or research” - <u>do not</u> make 2 kits public for the same person ○ “Which Kit should I upload to GedMatch?” • Each Testing Company evaluates different segments of DNA • MyHeritage and FTDNA are the same, and test slightly more segments than Ancestry • Upload to GEDmatch – make security choices when you upload	Primary Tools at GEDmatch • Are Your Parents Related – Everyone can and should run this analysis. You do not need a parent to use this. Identifies if your parents have any common DNA. • One-to-Many – the most accessed analysis. This is a shared matching list showing everyone in the GEDmatch database who matches your DNA. This list is also a launching pad to other analysis. • One-to-One – if you are going to begin detailed analysis of a match you should always run this test for a clear understanding of how you match. Also gathers data needed for export to DNAPainter, etc. • GEDCOM – upload a family tree and compare with other trees loaded to the site. Allows searching for shared ancestors amongst your DNA matches. A link to WikiTree is also an option.
Additional Options • Lazarus – An automated way to create a DNA profile for someone who did not/has not tested their DNA, typically for a deceased ancestor. • Super Kits – combines one person’s tests from multiple testing companies into one kit • Admixtures - Technical term for the Ethnicity provided at all the sites. GEDmatch includes multiple admixture analysis options. • My Evil Twin – using tests from both parents, this identifies the 50% of DNA you did not receive from your parents • Ancestor Projects – find others on the site researching the same surname or in the same geography	Privacy and Law Enforcement • Law enforcement do not get access to anyone’s info the suspect doesn’t match • Do not get access to raw DNA data – ever • Base data NOT given to law enforcement from the testing companies – or GEDmatch • GEDmatch does not provide any information other than what was provided and displayed online by the matches (name or alias, email, cMs, etc..) • By itself the data in GEDmatch is only a “tip” – it is not proof of any crime. • The US Justice Department and many states have regulations on the use of consumer DNA data.

Additional Resources

GEDmatch - General

- "GEDmatch in Genealogy," *Familysearch.org*, wiki, https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/GEDmatch_in_Genealogy_Research
- Jared Smith, Genetic Genealogy Using GEDmatch, An Absolute Beginners Guide, *smithplanet.com*, blog, <http://smithplanet.com/stuff/gedmatch.htm>
- "GEDmatch Basic Access," <https://sites.google.com/view/genealogical-dna-analysis-tool/import-data-menu/gedmatch-basic-access>
- Andy Lee, "Beginner GEDmatch: What Tools Should I Use First?", *FamilyHistoryFanatics.com*, blog, <https://www.familyhistoryfanatics.com/gedmatch-tool-order>
- Louise Coakly, "Tips for Using GEDmatch," *Genie1.au*, blog, <https://genie1.au/tips-for-using-gedmatch/>
- How to Use GedMatch – part 1 – UltimateFamilyHistorians <http://ultimatefamilyhistorians.blogspot.com/2018/01/how-to-use-gedmatch-part-1.html>
- How to Use GedMatch – part 2 – UltimateFamilyHistorians <http://ultimatefamilyhistorians.blogspot.com/2018/01/how-to-use-gedmatch-part-2.html>
- ISOGG Wiki – *isogg.org* – (International society of Genetic Genealogy) a detailed site for all things genetic genealogy. Full article, history and links regarding GEDmatch - <https://isogg.org/wiki/GEDmatch>
- Dian Southard, "Is GEDmatch Safe?," *yourdnaguide.com*, blog, <https://www.yourdnaguide.com/ydgblog/is-gedmatch-safe>
- David Moberly, "Protecting Your Privacy on GEDmatch", *thehandwrittenpast.com*, blog, <https://thehandwrittenpast.com/2018/05/05/gedmatch-privacy/>

GEDmatch Tools

- **One-to-One Matching on Gedmatch** - Family History Fanatics - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7J2TGtcOYMs>
- **Auto Kinship** – Roberta Estes, "AutoKinship at GEDmatch by Genetic Affairs," *DNAXplained.com*, Blog, <https://dna-explained.com/2022/02/21/autokinship-at-gedmatch-by-genetic-affairs/>
- **Are Your Parents Related** – Kitty Cooper, "When the DNA Says Your Parents Are Related", *kittycooper.com*, Blog, 25 July 2018, <https://blog.kittycooper.com/2018/07/when-the-dna-says-your-parents-are-related/>
- **Ethnicity Admixture** - Paul Woodbury, "Introduction to Ethnicity Admixture," *Legacytree.com*, blog, (<https://www.legacytree.com/blog/introduction-to-genetic-admixture> : accessed 18 Oct 2022)
- **Multi-kit Analysis** – Andy Lee, "An Overview of GEDMatch's Comparison Matrices in Multiple Kit Analysis", *FamilyHistoryFanatics.com*, blog, <https://www.familyhistoryfanatics.com/gedmatch-matrices>
- **Tag Groups** – "GEDmatch Tag Groups", Family History Fanatics, *YouTube.com*, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M4l66ooSa1g>
- "Four Tools to use in GedMatch", Family History Fanatics, *YouTube.com*, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wCnvbh-BziQ>