

# Burning CD's, DVD's, & Blu-Ray Discs on a PC

## What Do You Need?

In order to create your own disc, you need:

- blank discs
- A disc burning drive
- Software to facilitate the process

Most computers only come with software to make certain types of discs, such as data discs, and not Audio or Video discs, which requires extra software.

## Types of Discs

### CD:

- Data CD (for backing up files)
- Audio CD (like music you buy in the store)

### DVD:

- Data DVD (for backing up files)
- Video DVD (like movies you buy in the store)
- Audio DVD (rare. music only, but typically in surround sound)

### Blu-Ray:

- Data BluRay (for backing up files)
- Video BluRay (like you buy in the store)

## Types of Blank Media

### CD (700MB / 80 mins. Music / 140 mp3s):

- CD-R (record once)
- CD-RW (rewritable in case you want to re-use)

### DVD (4.7GB / 2-6 hours video):

- DVD-R/DVD+R (record once)
- DVD-RW/DVD+RW (rewritable)

1GB=1,000MB

### Blu-Ray (25GB / 12 hours SD / 4.5 hours HD video):

- BD-R (record once)
- BD-RE (rewritable)

Dual Layer discs are available for DVD and Blu-Ray media, and will append "DL" to the end of the format name. **Example:** DVD-R DL

Dual-Layer DVDs hold 8.5GB, and Dual-Layer BluRays hold 50GB.

## Types of Disc “Burners”

A drive that allows you to create the discs is called a Writer or “Burner”, because of how they write the data.

- A CD Burner will only burn CDs. It will say CD-RW on the front of the drive.
- A DVD Burner will burn DVDs and CDs. It will say DVD-RW or DVD+RW on the front of the drive.
- Most BluRay Burners will make BDs, DVDs, and CDs. They may say BD-RE or BD-RW on the front of the drive.

**IMPORTANT!** There are also drives available that will only READ the discs, but not burn them. A Blu-Ray drive is not the same as a Blu-Ray Burner/Writer drive.

A drive that only reads discs is called a ROM drive (Read Only Media).

**Example:** DVD-ROM Drive

## What Software do I need?

### **Data Discs:**

Windows can natively make these. Just drag and drop the files to the disc drive in “My Computer”/“Computer” (or you can right-click the files and choose “Send To” and click the disc drive). Then choose “**Burn Disc**” from the left side menu, or right-click the drive, and choose to burn the data to the disc.

**Note:** you must have blank media in the drive for the burn option to show up. The “Burn Disc” option may not show up in Windows XP unless you are using a compatible drive, called “Mt. Rainier” drive.

You can also use special disc burning software, such as “Nero Burning ROM”, or “Roxio Creator”. Most burner drives come with such software.

### **Audio CDs:**

**Windows Media Player** (which comes with EVERY version of Windows) can burn a basic audio CD.

There is also special software you can buy such as **Nero Burning ROM** or **Roxio Creator** to do it. Paid software also allows you to do more things, such as make CD Labels and covers for CD cases with tracklists (like pre-made Audio CDs you buy in the store).

### **Audio DVDs:**

Making an audio DVD requires that you have special software specifically designed for such a task:

- Gear Pro Mastering Edition
- MAGIX Samplitude
- Minnetonka discWelder
- Cirlinca DVD-AUDIO Solo
- DVD Audio Extractor
- Steinberg WaveLab
- DVD audio tools package

## **Video DVDs:**

If you bought a DVD or Blu-Ray Burner in the store, it probably came with software to make those discs.

In case it didn't though, you have several choices:

### **Free:**

- DVD Flick
- DVDStyler
- Windows DVD Maker

### **Non-Free:**

- Sony DVD Architect
- Nero Vision (Nero Burning ROM)
- Ulead DVD MovieFactory

The non-free software of course gives you greater versatility and more options, but the free software will work for most basic needs.

## **Blu-Ray discs:**

There is currently no standard accepted software for producing your own Blu-Ray discs. In most cases, it is best to use whatever software your drive came with.

Some HD cameras now come with BR disc creation software, too!

Here is some software that should be able to make Blu-Ray discs:

- Nero 10 Multimedia Suite Platinum HD
- Sony Creative Software Movie Studio HD Platinum