

# ***All About Disks And Discs***

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# A "Disk" and a "Disc"?

*They're pronounced the same, but, technically speaking, there is a distinct difference between a disc and a disk*

- **Disks:** A disk refers to magnetic media, such as a floppy disk, the disk in your computer's hard drive, an external hard drive. Disks are always rewritable unless intentionally locked or write-protected. You can easily partition a disk into several smaller volumes.
  - ➔ Disks are usually sealed inside a metal or plastic casing (often, a disk and its enclosing mechanism are collectively known as a "hard drive").
- **Discs:** A disc refers to optical media, such as an audio CD, CD-ROM, DVD-ROM, DVD-RAM, or DVD-Video disc. Some discs are read-only (ROM), others allow you to burn content (write files) to the disc once (such as a CD-R or DVD-R, unless you do a multisession burn), and some can be erased and rewritten over many times (such as CD-RW, DVD-RW, and DVD-RAM discs).
  - ➔ All discs are removable, meaning when you unmount or eject the disc from your desktop or Finder, it physically comes out of your computer.

# Hard Disk Drive

(aka Hard Disk or Hard Drive)

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- Internal HD in every Mac



- Contains the System Files, Applications & the User Home Folders
- External HD for additional room and/or for backup
- Today's HD's can hold 100's of Giga Bytes of data

# Flash Drive

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- **A small, portable flash memory card that plugs into a computer's USB port and functions as a portable hard drive**
- **An excellent way to move files from one computer to another. (Replaced the Floppy)**
- **Flash Drive capacities typically go from 512 MB to several GB depending on price**

# **Floppy Disk**

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- **Out of Date but they still work**
- **With an external Floppy Disk Drive you can Read, Copy & Save files on your old floppies**
- **The Floppy capacity is only 1.44 MB**

# Disk Image

- **A large file that faithfully reproduces all contents and functionality of a hard disk, optical disk, or other storage device. For Macintosh computers, modern disk image files will end in .dmg**
  - ➔ **Can be used to transfer files from one computer to another. Downloaded software often comes as a Disk Image**
  - ➔ **Once created, it can be burned to a blank CD or DVD and is a convenient way to make copies.**
  - ➔ **If the burning process fails, the hard disk image is available for re-burning without having to access the source again.**

# Recordable CDs & DVDs

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- "Burn" (record) music, applications, documents, digital photos and video, and other digital files to recordable CD and DVD discs.
- Create music CDs & play them on a standard audio player, or create DVDs with movies and slideshows & play them on a DVD player.
- Not all Optical Disc Drives can burn all types of optical discs.
  - SuperDrive, can burn DVDs and CDs.
  - A Combo Drive, can burn only CDs
  - Both can read CDs and DVDs.
    - To see which discs your computer can burn, open System Profiler and go to Disc Burning.

# Disc Types

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- CD-R: Hold about 700 MB of information. Burn files only once. Not reusable.
- CD-RW Also Hold about 700 MB of information. Reusable: you can burn files on them, erase them, and then burn again.
- DVD-R DL (dual layer) Hold about 8.5 GB of information. Burn files only once. Not reusable.
- DVD-R, DVD+R Hold about 4.7 GB of information. Burn files only once Not reusable. DVD-R is the more common format.
- DVD-RW, DVD+RW These discs hold about 4.7 GB of information. They are reusable: you can burn files on them, erase them, and then burn again. DVD-RW is the more common format.



# **Recording Speed**

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- **The time it takes for a CD-R writer to “write” or “burn” the information to a CD-R disc.**
  - **Currently, 52X is the preferred choice of speed in the industry. 52X means it takes 52 times as fast to write the information to the disc.**
- **For example, an 80-minute recording would take 80 minutes at 1X, 20 minutes at 4X, 5 minutes at 16X, 2.5 minutes at 32X, and 1.6 minutes at 52X.**
  - **These times are general and do not account for lead in and lead out times, but they are a good rule of thumb.**

# Burning Your CD or DVD

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Get guidance from the Finder --> Help --> Mac Help. Type “burning cd” in the “Q” space. From the list that comes up, select “About burning your own CDs or DVDs”. There is lots of good information here including.

- Burning a disc quickly
- Burn Folder
- Disk Image
- Multisession burning
- Burning a Music CD from iTunes
- iDVD