

SOFTWARE REVIEW

Package: Roxio Toast V. 8"
Publisher: Peachpit Press
Review by: Brian Sandilands

I have been using Toast V. 6 for some time and was pleased to get the chance to check out V. 8.

In summary Toast 8 has many more features than Toast 6 but most of them are for video or TV applications that I rarely use. However, if you are into video, this program is a must.

As I am not a power user, I do not get as much out of v. 8 as a more sophisticated user would. For example the ability to record BlueRay discs does not help me as I do not have a \$1,000 to spend on a BlueRay recorder or the ability to buy BlueRay 50 GB recordable discs at high costs.

What I did use and enjoy is the ability, as before, to burn data, video or music to CD's and DVD's quickly and easily. It will burn these as Mac and/or PC's. You can also burn an audio CD as standard redbook or the higher capacity MP3 system. MP3 will play on your computer or a special MP3 player in you auto and will give you 10 hours of music on each recordable CD with little loss in quality. iTunes also has this feature.

In use, the new look of Toast 8 is very intuitive and has a neat display showing progress as a percentage an time. It appears quicker than version 6 but I did no direct comparisons.

Toast 8 is now native on Intel Macs but will run on G 4 computers and later. It will not run on G 3's

Disc cataloging is a very useful feature that indexes the contents of the discs you have Toasted, making it a simple task to find that one track on your thousand CD's.

Disc Cover enables you to create professional images on your discs.

One of the extras you get with Toast 8 is Sound Studio 2.1 (current version is 3.55) that will save you \$60 for the older version. I have used this program extensively to burn my vinyl records to my hard drive and burn CD's. Again, you can burn them as 'redbook' or MP3.

The ability to compress a 9GB movie onto a single sided 4.8 GB DVD is a very useful feature with little loss of quality.