

# **A Short Course On Recordable CD's**

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CD-R is short for "CD-Recordable". Recordable CDs are WORM (Write Once, Read Multiple) media that work just like standard CDs. The advantage of CD-R over other types of optical media is that you can use the discs with a standard CD player. The disadvantage is that you can't reuse a disc.

CD-ROMs and music CDs you commonly find in stores are pressed from a glass mold. CD-R's are burned with a laser. They may look different (often green, gold, or blue instead of silver), they're less tolerant of extreme temperatures and sunlight, and they're more susceptible to physical damage. For maximum compatibility, you're better off sticking to 74 minute, 650 megabyte CD-R media. Limit your use of the higher capacity blanks to occasions when you really need the extra space.

Unfortunately, some brands of CD-R will work in some players but not others. Older players are likely to have the most trouble. There is no one single brand of media that is guaranteed to work everywhere. Why? Because the chemical dyes used to record data on CD-R discs are patented by the companies that developed them. Every company that manufactures CD-R discs had to invent its own unique dye formula. Each different dye works a little bit differently from the others, with the result that each works in some players but not others.

Each brand of CD-R media is certified for a maximum burning speed, expressed as a multiple of the standard audio playback speed; thus, a "52x" CD-R can be reliably burned while spinning up to fifty-two times faster than an audio CD spins while playing. If you burn it faster than the rated speed, the audio data won't be reliably written to the disc. This may cause the player to skip erratically through the disc, or to play up to a certain point and then stop.

### ***Helpful Links***

<http://www.oggfrog.com/howto/cds-wontplay/>

<http://www.cdrfaq.org/>