

Compiling an Audio CD

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Introduction

This document will describe how to compile an audio Compact Disc (CD) for personal use, using a computer equipped with a CD ReWritable (CD-RW) drive and CD writing software. By following the steps outlined in this document, you can create audio CDs for use in all standard CD players and CD-ROM drives.

When creating audio CDs, make sure not to violate any music copyrights. Copying music for personal use is generally permitted under law. For more information, review the article “Copyright or Copywrong?” at <http://www.zdnet.com/products/stories/reviews/0,4161,2611145,00.html>.

Required Items:

- A computer with the following items installed:
 - CD-RW drive
 - CD-ROM drive (optional; this will make it easier to copy songs from audio CDs).
 - CD writing software (usually included with the CD-RW drive. The software demonstrated in this document is Ahead Software Nero 5 Burning ROM.)
- Blank CD Recordable (CD-R) media (Do not use CD ReWritable (CD-RW) media for audio CDs since they may not work in other CD drives.)
- Collection of audio CDs and/or mp3 files

Launching the Software

Before launching the CD writing software, close all other programs running on the computer. Do not start any other applications during the CD writing process. The presence of other programs in the computer’s memory can prevent the successful creation of audio CDs.

1. Click on the “Start” button on the computer.
2. In the menu that appears above “Start,” click once on “Programs.”
3. From the “Programs” menu, select “ahead Nero.”
4. From the “ahead Nero” program group, select the “Nero – Burning Rom” shortcut. (See Figure 1 below).
5. (Optional) Connect to the Internet at this time. This will make it possible to access CD track lists from the Internet, making manual data entry unnecessary.

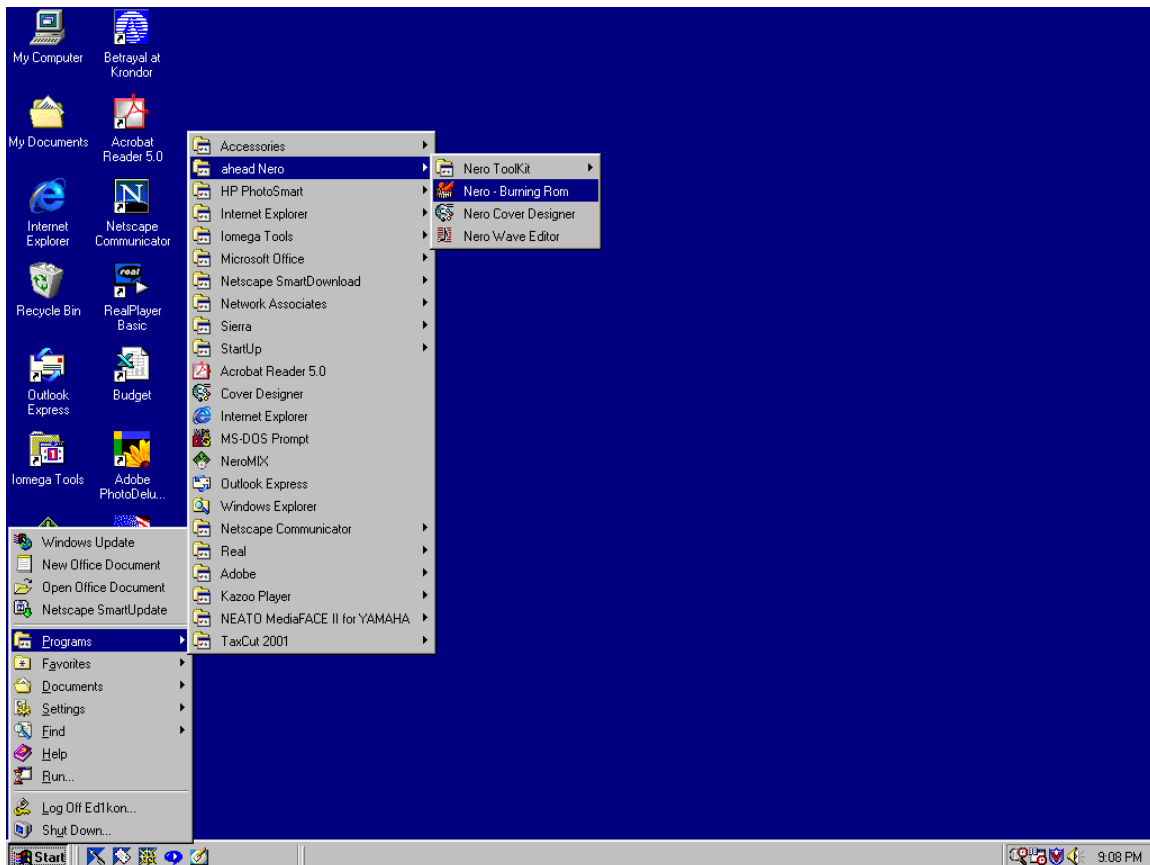


Figure 1: Launching “ahead Nero” Software

Preparing the Compilation

1. After the “Nero – Burning Rom” software launches, a “New Compilation” window appears (See Figure 2 below). Click on the icon for “Audio-CD” in the left pane of this window.
2. On the “Audio CD” tab, complete the fields for “Title (CD-Text)” and “Artist (CD-Text).”

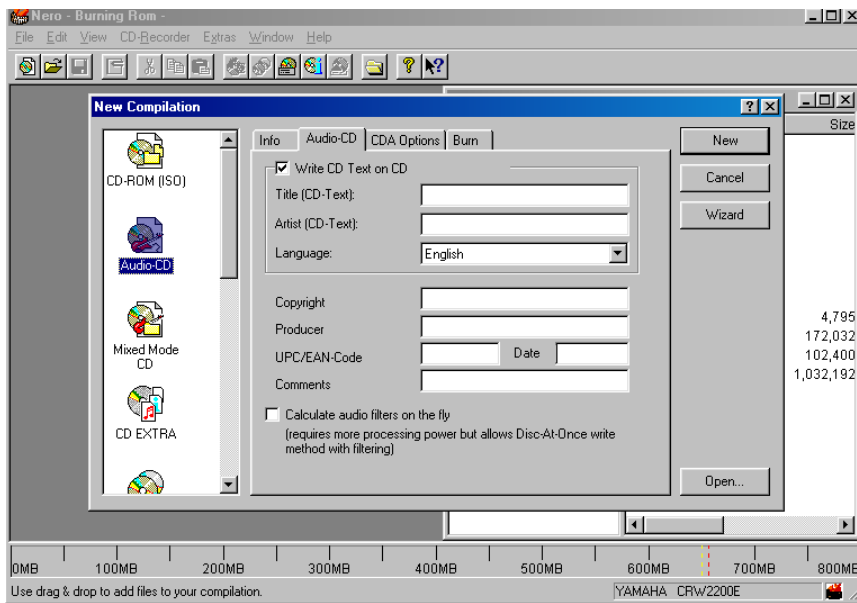


Figure 2: New Compilation

3. When done, click on the “New” button in the upper right corner of the window. The “New Compilation” window will close and two new windows will appear: “Audio1” and “File Browser.”

Adding Songs from Audio CDs

1. Insert an audio CD into the computer’s CD-ROM drive (See Figure 3 below). If the computer does not have a separate CD-ROM drive, insert the CD into the CD-RW drive.
2. Browse to the drive letter for the CD-ROM drive or the CD-RW drive in the “File Browser” window.
3. A list of all tracks on the audio CD will be displayed in the File Browser (See Figure 4 below). Click each track to copy and drag it into the “Audio1” window.
4. If the audio CD has not been previously accessed by the “ahead Nero” software, a “Nero’s title and CD database” window will appear. If an Internet



Figure 3: Inserting Audio CD

connection has been established, click the “Access Internet Database” button to download the CD information and track list. If the CD data cannot be retrieved from the Internet, click on the “Create a New CD entry” button to manually enter the data into the Nero database.

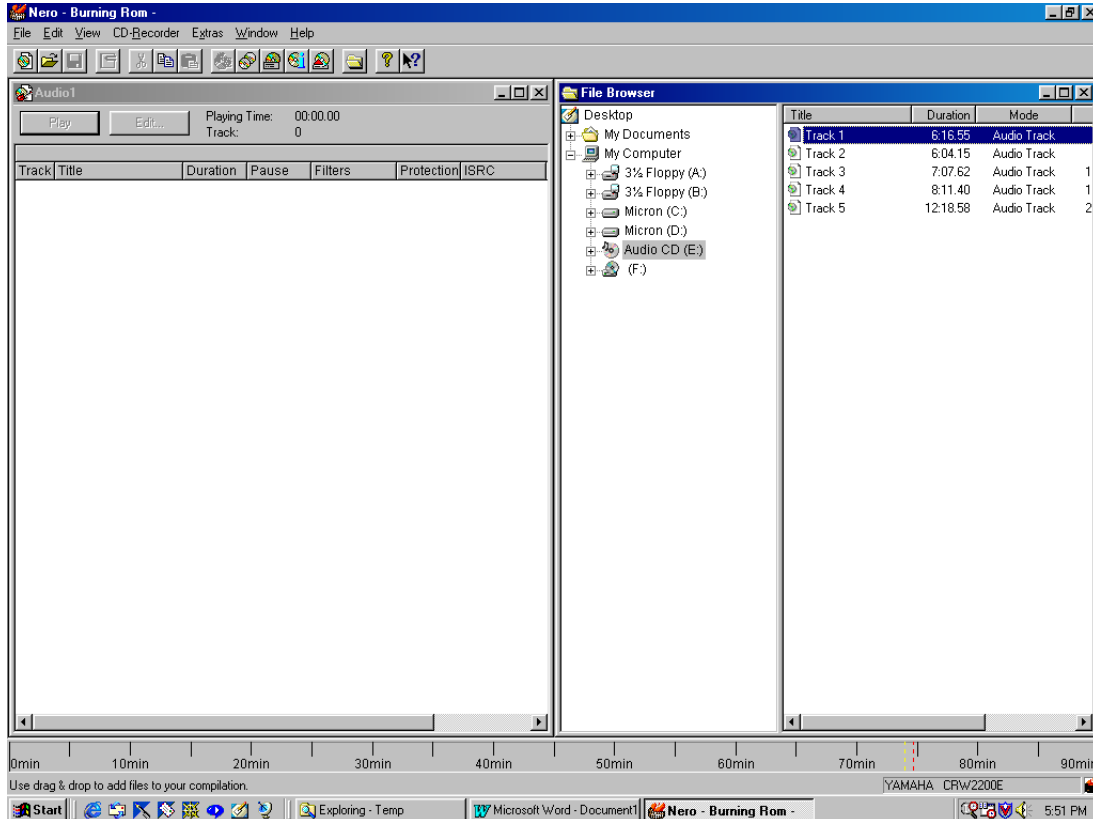


Figure 4: Viewing Audio Tracks in Browser

5. When done downloading or inputting the song data, click the “Selected CD” button to add the file to the compilation. A progress bar will appear, indicating that the audio track is being copied to the computer’s hard disk for inclusion in the compilation.
6. After adding each song, review the total time bar shown at the bottom of the Ahead Nero window to verify that the compilation does not exceed the capacity of the blank CD-R disc (e.g. 74 minutes or 80 minutes). If the compilation’s total time exceeds the disc capacity, remove a song from the compilation. To remove a song, select it in the “Audio1” window and select “Delete” from the “Edit” menu.

7. After copying all desired songs from the current audio CD, eject the CD from the computer's CD-ROM drive or CD-RW drive.
8. Repeat the above steps to add songs from additional audio CDs.

Adding Songs from mp3 files

1. Use the "File Browser" window to locate mp3 files to add to the audio compilation.
2. Click and drag the desired mp3 files to the "Audio1" window.
3. After adding each song, review the total time bar shown at the bottom of the Ahead Nero window to verify that the compilation does not exceed the capacity of the blank CD-R disc (e.g. 74 minutes or 80 minutes). If the compilation's total time exceeds the disc capacity, remove a song from the compilation (refer to step 6 under section "Adding Songs from Audio CDs" above).

Burning the CD

1. Insert the blank CD-R disc into the computer's CD-RW drive. (See Figure 5 at right).
2. Select "Write CD..." from the "File" menu.
3. The "Write CD" dialog box will appear (See Figure 6, below). Verify that "Write," "Finalize CD," "Disc-At-Once" and "Buffer underrun protection" are all checked.
4. Select the desired value for "Write Speed" from the drop-down box.
5. Enter the number of copies to burn in the "Number of Copies" field.
6. When done editing the write parameters, click the "Write" button in the upper right corner of the "Write CD" dialog to begin the burn process. A "Writing to Disc" dialog will appear and display the progress of the CD burning process.



Figure 5: Inserting Blank CD-R

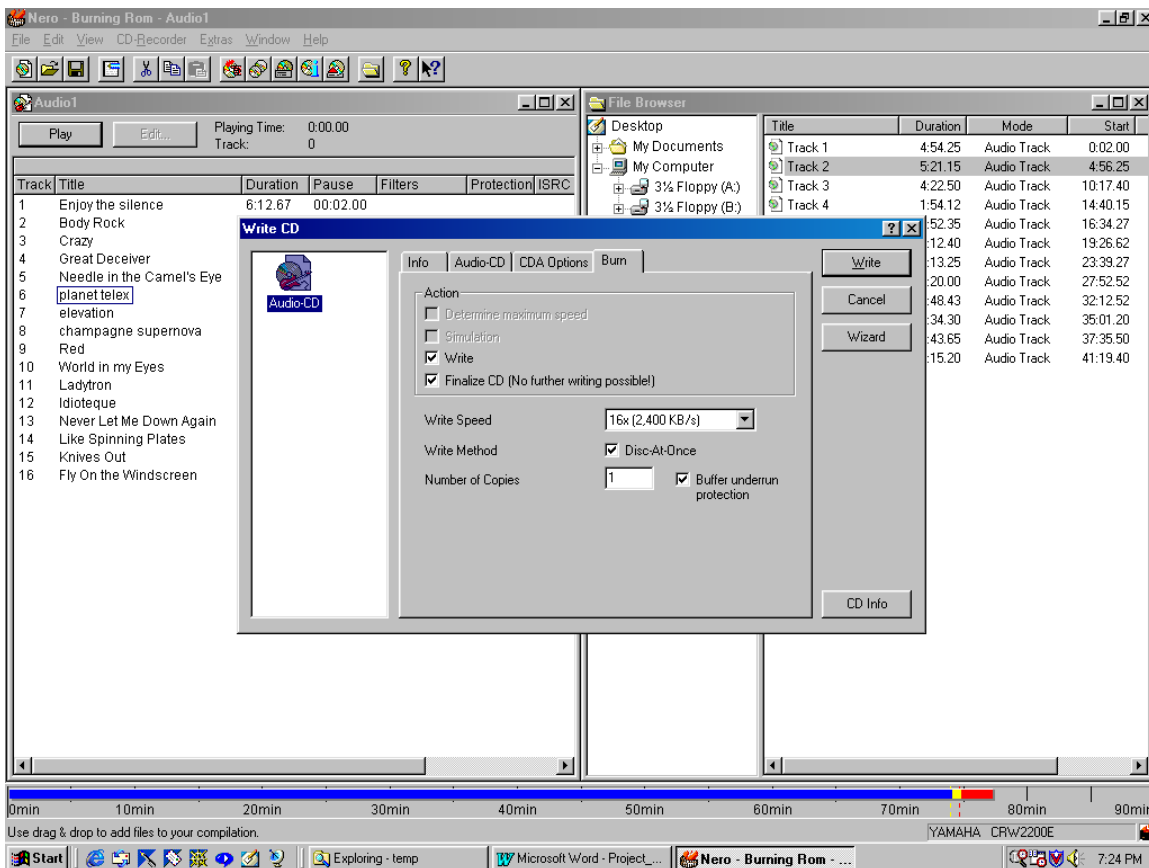


Figure 6: Write CD Dialog Box

7. After a successful disc writing, a “Nero – Burning Rom” window will appear and display the message “Burnprocess done successfully at [write speed selected].” Click the “OK” button in this window. The “Writing to Disc” dialog box will now display “Done.”
8. At the bottom of the dialog, click the appropriate button to save, print, or discard messages. The CD-RW drive will eject the finalized CD-R media.
9. Remove the completed disc from the drive.

Congratulations! You’ve just burned your first music CD!