

USEFUL ADVICE RE CD's

With thanks to Corinne and David Lawson USA

There are many ways to "burn" a CD, and CD. Players vary greatly in how tolerant they are of the many formats. Players designed expressly for audio playback are the most picky. Newer portables and boom boxes tend to be more flexible letting you use more modern formats.

- ✚ To insure your performance CD is compatible with the most CD players possible, here are things to try:
- ✚ Use only CD-R discs; avoid CD-R/W discs. Although some software will let you "burn" a CD-R/W like a CD-R, the special dye on the CD-R/W surface will confuse older players not designed for this type.
- ✚ Burn at the slowest speed allowed by the disc and the burner. A given type of CD-R stock will have several burn "speeds" it can be written at. The burn software (CD writing program) will tell you which speeds are available; choose the lowest. This ensures the data written on the surface is as sharp and crisp as possible, and give those older/simpler players the best chance of focusing on it.
- ✚ In the burn software, make sure to use the "Audio CD" format. Don't use the "Data" or "Mixed Data/Audio" formats. Older CD players don't know what those are and will be unpredictable.
- ✚ Also in the burn software, don't use the "Multisession" mode, and make sure the disc is set to "Finalize" or "Close Session". "Disc at Once" is also a term used for this. Some burn software might have an option called "High Compatibility Mode"; use it.

And of course:

- ❖ Make sure the disc is clean before burning.
- ❖ Don't touch the surface.
- ❖ If you see a speck, blow on it (avoid spitting!), or use a corner of a clean tissue to flick away a stuck piece of dust.
- ❖ Always clean in the radial direction (from centre out to edge).
- ❖ Don't clean in a circular direction.
- ❖ But mostly, don't touch it at all before burning; best just to pick another disc if the one you have needs anything more than a flick to clean it.