



Washington Area Computer User Group



DVDs of Quality: The Burning Issues

By Bill Walsh

What makes good, long-lasting DVDs: Use quality DVD media – Use a quality DVD recorder, with updated firmware – Record at less-than the top-rated speed for the media; determine optimum speed with media analysis software – Properly handle and store the media



Our thanks to author Robert Bruce Thompson for the following:

May 16, 2006 – Scanning DVD+RW re-writeables

<http://www.ttgnet.com/daynotes/2006/2006-20.html>

June 5, 2006 – Various recorder and media issues

<http://www.ttgnet.com/daynotes/2006/2006-23.html>

June 12, 2006 – Commentary on scanning writeable CD discs

<http://www.ttgnet.com/daynotes/2006/2006-24.html>

June 21, 2006 – Commentary on expected lifetime of discs

<http://www.ttgnet.com/daynotes/2006/2006-25.html>

August 14, 2006 – Experiments with media burn speeds

<http://www.ttgnet.com/daynotes/2006/2006-33.html>

(Mr. Thompson's preference for DVD+Rs is Verbatim media with codes MCC-003 (8x)/MCC-004 (16x), and Taiyo-Yuden media. Robert has written considerable comments on computer technology and other issues on his website at <http://www.ttgnet.com/>)

digitalFAQ.com blank DVD media guide -

<http://www.digitalfaq.com/media/dvdmedia.htm>

DVD Identifier software - Read manufacturer and other info directly from your DVDs: <http://dvd.identifier.cdfreaks.com/>

Plextools media analysis software comes bundled with Plextor drives; various flavors of this software can be found at - <http://www.plextools.com/info/info.asp>

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Nero CD-DVD Speed software - <http://www.cdspd2000.com>

National Institute of Standards and Technology 50-page pdf guide on the care, handling, and storage of digital media –

<http://www.itl.nist.gov/iad/894.05/docs/CDandDVDCareandHandlingGuide.pdf>

NIST one-page summary pdf guide -

<http://www.itl.nist.gov/iad/894.05/docs/onepage.pdf>

CD-DVD marking pens by Staedtler -

http://www.staedtler-usa.com/Lumocolor_cd_dvd_pen_us.Staedtler