



User's Guide



Pilot Karaoke 

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Unlocking Power CD+G Burner

How do I unlock Power CD+G Burner?

If you purchased this software from Pilot Karaoke, you were emailed your unlock code at the time your order was processed.

If you need to purchase an unlock code for any Power Karaoke or Pilot Karaoke product, please visit <http://www.pilotkaraoke.com/p-13-power-cdg-burner.aspx>.

When you locate your unlock code email, open it and press **CTRL-A** to highlight all text and then **CTRL-C** to make the text accessible to Power CD+G Burner. Now open Power CD+G Burner and click the **Unlock** button in the upper right corner of the window. You should see your name, email, and unlock code already filled in. When you click **OK** your software will unlock. If the fields are not automatically filled in, attempt the above procedure again, or enter the information manually. Your name, email, and unlock code must match **EXACTLY** for the software to unlock.

When the unlock code is accepted all limitations will be removed and you will see your name in the **About** box.

What are the limitations of the evaluation version?

The unregistered version of Power CD+G Burner allows you to fully evaluate the software, but has some limitations:

- Only 5 tracks per CD are permitted.
- Only first minute of the track will be written to CD.
- In rip mode only first minute of the track will be read from CD.
- 'Unregistered copy' text will be displayed at the top of the window.

The unlocked version does not have these limitations.

I'm New, Please Help!

This section is intended for people who are new to this process. If you know what the difference between ripping and burning a CD, and are familiar with what an mp3 file is, you can skip this section.

The difference between ripping, burning, and copying...

Now that you have this handy software capable of ripping, burning, and copying Karaoke discs, just what does this mean to you? The following is a quick overview:

Ripping

To rip a CD, DVD, CD+G, etc means to take the digital information stored on the CD, DVD, etc, convert it to a format more suitable for use on your computer (such as mp3, mpeg, mp3+g, etc) and then copy it to a folder on your hard drive.

After you have successfully ripped a CD or CD+G you will have a digital file for every track on the CD, stored in a location on your computer. You can now use various software programs to play, process, and even burn these tracks to a CD.

Burning

Burning is the process of writing data to a CD or DVD. It is referred to as “burning” because the LASER in the drive literally heats the surface of the CD or DVD in a very precise manner, permanently storing the data onto the CD.

Copying

Copying a CD+G, CD, or DVD, etc will create an exact duplicate of the source disc. It is quite useful for creating backup copies of discs, but does not allow you the flexibility of rearranging tracks, etc.

You can achieve the same results by ripping your tracks from one or more CDs to a hard drive, and then burning the tracks to a disc, but the copy process will effectively accomplish this in one step.

CD+G Format

The CD+G format is a CD based format that uses a special section of a CD disc for storing graphics data. (The “G” in “CD+G” stands for “Graphics”). With karaoke, this special graphics data is used for storing the lyrics of a song.

CD+G discs have been around for a very long time. It takes a special CD player to decode the graphics data on a CD+G disc. The Power CD+G Burner software, when used with a compatible drive, can burn this graphics data as well. This allows for a very simple and economical way to make CD+G mix discs, copies, etc.

MP3+G (or CDG+MP3) Format

MP3+G is a digital karaoke format. It is also known as MP3+CDG or CDG+MP3. The format is comprised of two separate files. One is an MP3 file which stores the musical data and the other is a CDG file which contains the graphics (or lyrics) data.

MP3+G is one of only a few recognized standards for digital karaoke music storage. It is a desired way to store these songs because the files are “compressed” to take much less space than they originally did when stored on a CD. This format allows for the digital storage and archiving of vast numbers of songs and can be used for the hosting of a completely digital karaoke show!

Other Digital Karaoke Formats

Power CD+G Burner supports two other formats: BIN and CDG+WAV. There are also other formats as well such as MP3+MCG (by CAVS) which are beyond the scope of this document.

BIN

The BIN format is very close to an exact copy of the data stored on your CD. BIN files are large and contain both the music and the graphics data. They are much larger than MP3+G files, but have absolutely no loss as they are completely uncompressed. (The MP3 format, compresses the music data into a much smaller file, but there is some “loss” of data. Depending on how “compressed” the mp3 file is, there may be so little loss that the human ear would not be able to detect a change between a BIN file and an MP3 file.

WAV+CDG

This format is similar to MP3+G except that the music file is in the WAV format rather than the MP3 format. The WAV file is an older form of digital music storage that does not offer the same compression benefits as MP3 (which results in much larger files) but some audio editing software may only work with WAV files.

Other General Information

This section contains some other information that can help you to make the best use of the remainder of this manual.

Compilation (or Mix) Discs

Just what exactly is a compilation or mix disc?

A compilation disc is a special disc you can burn with this software that has all your favorite songs from several different discs. In other words, you can take one or more songs from a number of different discs and burn them onto just one disc! You are limited only by the capacity of the disc (74 or 80 minutes depending on the blank media you purchase). Please see the ***Create a Compilation of Songs from Various CD+G Discs (Mix Discs)*** section for details on how to do this with power CD+G burner.

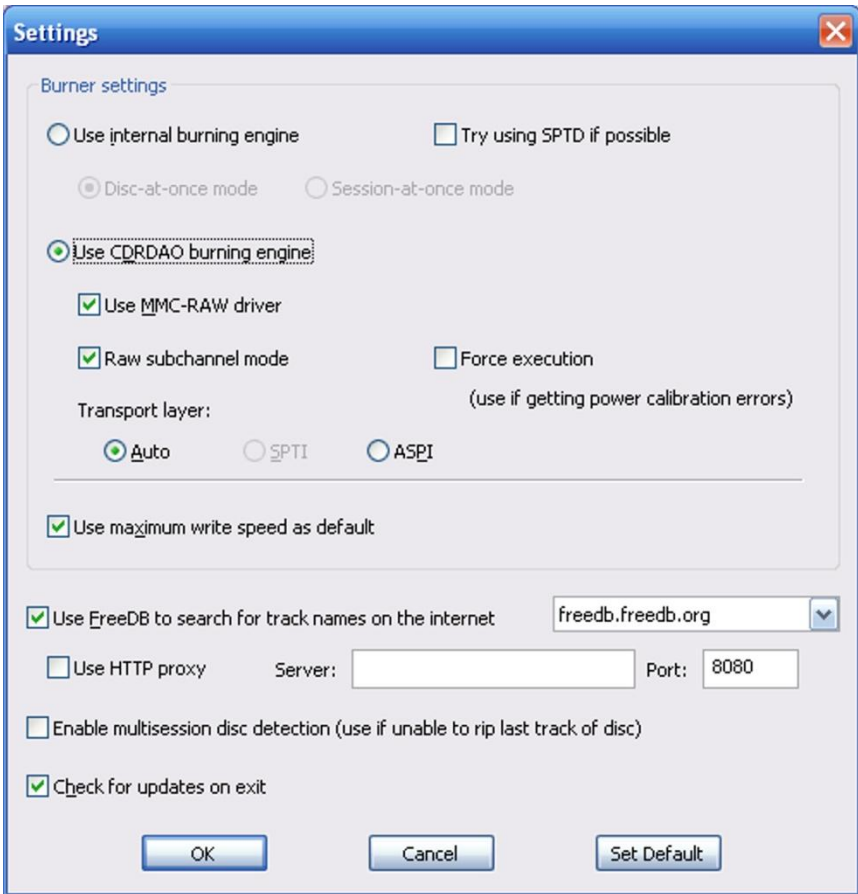
Hard Drives and Folders

Your hard drive is the part of your computer that can permanently store data (programs, music, etc). Computers have both permanently installed hard drives (for storing your operating system files and other data) and you can use portable hard drives which are primarily used for storing data such as music or movies, etc.

Your hard drive is organized into several folders. The “root” folder (or directory) is the base folder with all other folders falling under the root folder. Some examples of common folders are “Program Files”, “My Documents”, etc. In Windows, you can create any number of folders or sub folders for storing karaoke music. We recommend creating a separate folder for each karaoke disc your rip. (Consult Windows Help for details on how to do this.)

Adjust Burn Settings

Before attempting to copy a CD+G disc, or burn tracks from your hard drive, click **Settings** on the bottom of the Power CD+G Burner window and adjust them to match this screenshot:



These settings work to burn discs that are compatible with professional and home karaoke players. If you do not have a CD+G compatible drive from Pilot Karaoke, then you can try the **Use internal burning engine** with the **Disc-at-once** mode selected, but the discs produced will not work correctly in most professional karaoke players.

In some instances, you may see a power calibration error when attempting to burn a disc with these settings. If this occurs, select **Force execution** and that should fix the problem.

If you are not using a drive from [Pilot Karaoke](#), and these settings are not working for you, then your drive is not CD+G compatible.

About Rip Settings

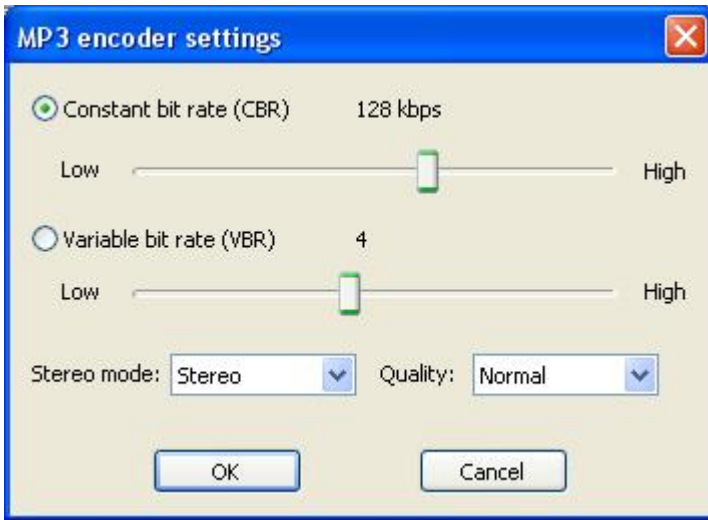
Before copying or ripping CD + G discs, you should give some thought to the settings you use for ripping. They are available at the bottom of the Rip tab.

Output Format

There are three choices here:

- **BIN:** This is the native format for files stored on CD. It has the advantage that it will be an exact copy of the track on the CD, but the disadvantage that it will be very large in file size (30-50 MB). This can be useful if it is very important that no loss in audio quality occur during the ripping process.
- **CDG+MP3:** The audio will be encoded in the mp3 format which is very high quality depending on the settings you choose (see below). This format will rip each track into two different files, one will be an .mp3 file and one will be a .cdg file. The .mp3 contains the audio and the .cdg contains the lyrics. The total size of the ripped files will be about 3-5 MB depending on the compression settings you're using.
- **CDG+WAV:** This is similar to the cdg+mp3 format except the audio will be ripped into a .wav file. This is a non-compressed audio format and will render large file sizes, but may have some uses if you plan to edit the audio tracks with other software.
- **ZIP:** This is simply the CDG+MP3 option compressed and combined into a "zip" archive file. Considering most karaoke software can now directly read these zip files, this is the overall best choice, unless you know your software can't recognize this format.

MP3 Format Settings



You can find this by clicking **Settings...** directly to the right of the **Output format** combo box. These settings will affect the quality and file size of the mp3 audio file created when ripping these tracks. We recommend using the settings you see above. 128 kbps is generally considered CD quality audio. You can select a higher bit rate, but you'll use more disk space on your hard drive. You can select a lower bit rate, but you may start to notice differences in the output from the original CD.

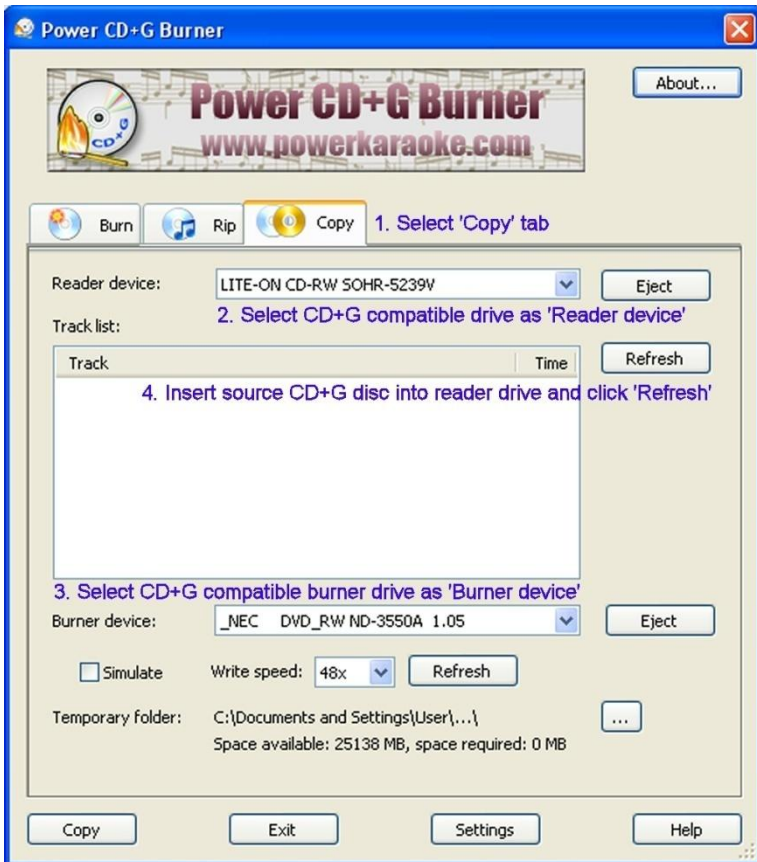
Reading Speed

The speed you select here will depend on how fast your computer is and if it can keep up with your drive.

If the read speed is set to high, you may notice the lyrics will not rip properly. (I.e. you may see choppy or missing words, etc). Most new computers should be able to rip at MAX speed, but if you know your computer is older, try a lower speed to start with, possibly as low as "4x".

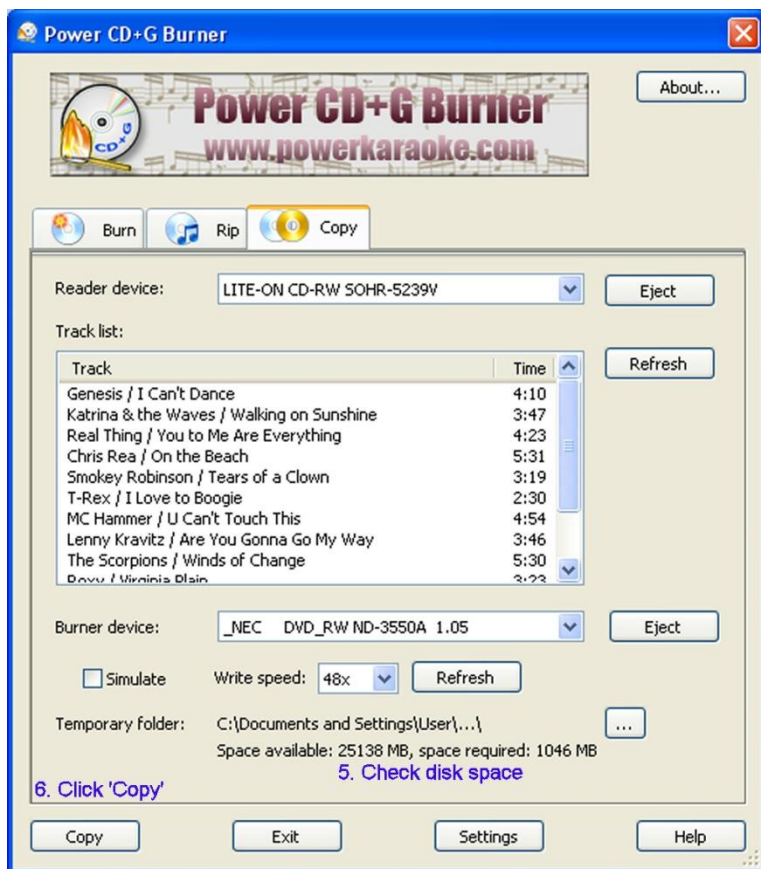
Copy a CD+G Disc

1. Select **Copy** tab
2. Select source drive in **Reader device** combo box.
3. Select destination drive in **Burner device** combo box. (Source and destination can be the same drive, you will be asked to replace source CD with a blank one.)
4. Insert CD+G disc to copy and click the **Refresh** button.

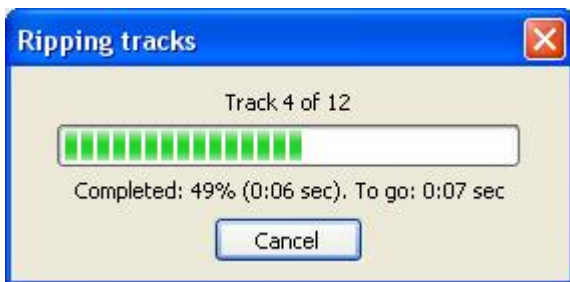


Track list should appear.

5. Make sure that there is enough disc space in temporary folder. If not, make some space or select a folder from a different drive.
6. You are ready to go -- click Copy.



7. Power CD+G Burner will now read tracks from a CD+G disc. This may take a while.



8. After reading phase is complete you will be asked to insert blank CD into destination drive.



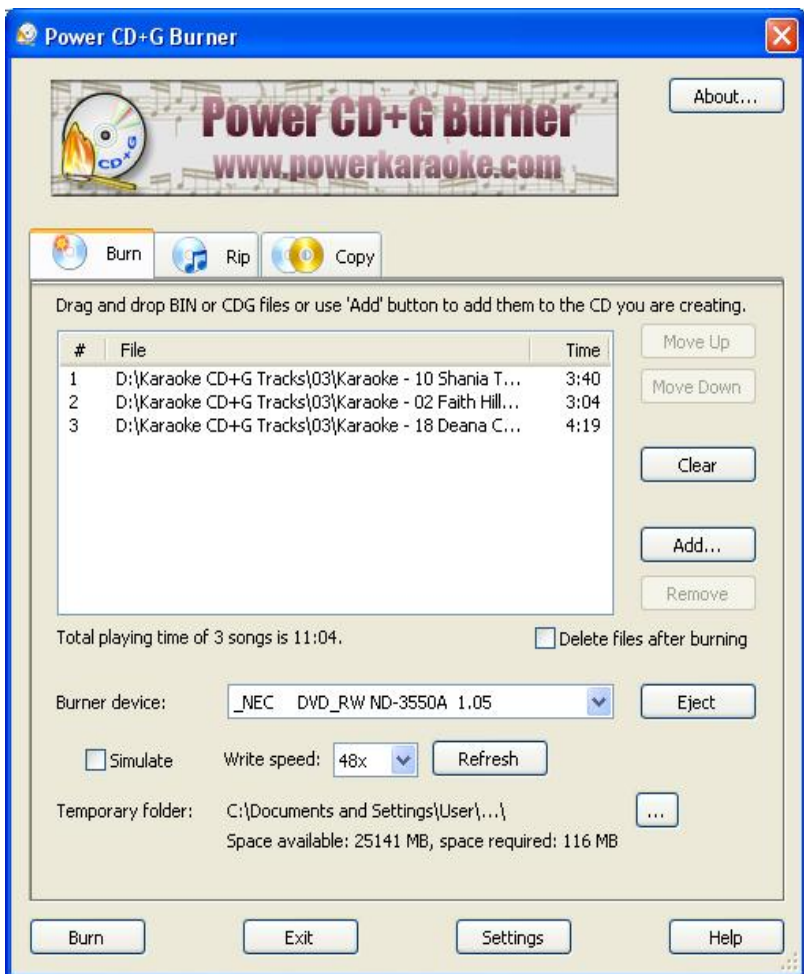
9. Now Power CD+G Burner will create image file and burn a copy of CD+G disc. If burning phase is causing problems, please see Troubleshooting.

Create a Compilation of Songs from Various CD+G Discs (Mix Discs)

1. Select **Rip** tab.
2. Select source drive in **Reader device** combo box.
3. Make sure that **Add files to the burn list** option is checked.
4. Select **BIN** as **Output format**.
5. Insert first CD+G disc and click **Refresh** button. Track list should appear.
6. Choose tracks you would like to put on your compilation disc by selecting them on the list.
7. Click **Rip**.



- When the rip process is complete, you will be taken to **Burn** tab. If you would like to add more songs repeat steps from one to seven for the remaining discs.



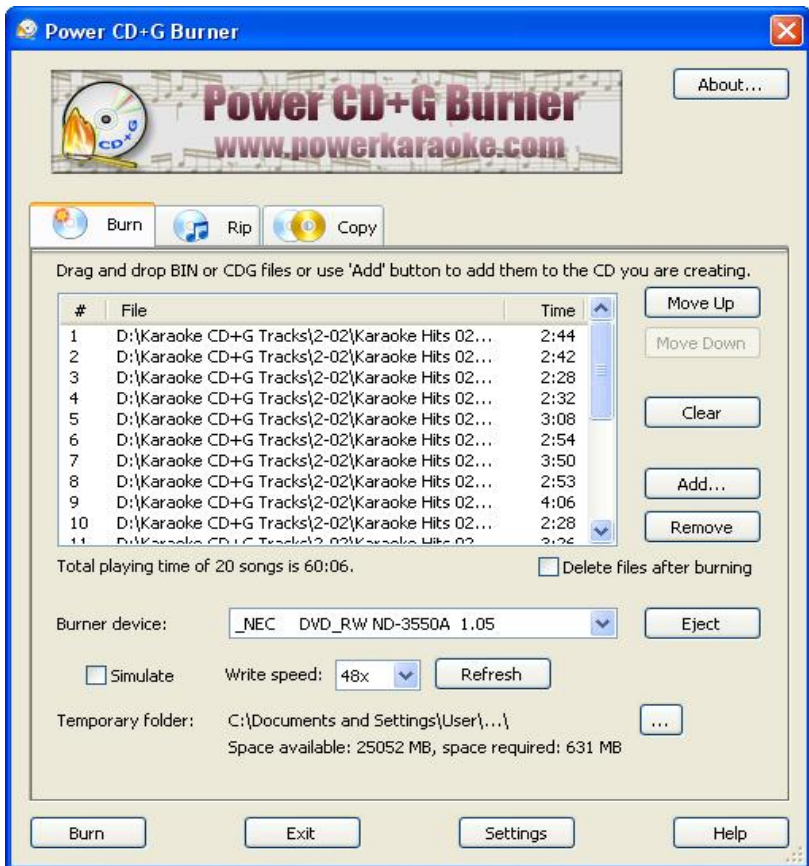
9. Now you are ready to burn your compilation disc.
10. Select burner device (it may be the same as reader drive.)
11. If you do not want to use the files you have ripped in steps 1-7 after compilation is done, select **Delete files after burning**.
12. Insert a blank Music CD-R into burner drive.
13. Click **Burn**.
14. If burning phase is causing problems, please see the troubleshooting section.

Burn CD+G Disc from Files on Your Hard Drive

1. Select **Burn** tab.
2. Add files you would like to burn. You may do it using one of two ways:
 - Drag BIN, CDG, or ZIP files and drop them on Power CD+G Burner window.
 - Click **Add** button and select the files you would like to burn (TIP: When adding with this method, if you would like to add all files in a folder, press CTRL-A on the keyboard to automatically select all files in the current directory in the order they appear in the folder.)

Power CD+G Burner supports three types of files:

- **BIN** files (they contain both graphics and audio).
- **CDG** files, also known as **MP3+G** (CDG files contain graphics only, audio needs to be in MP3 or WAV file with the same name, located in the same directory as CDG file).
- **ZIP** files containing CDG and MP3 files.



- If you would like to change the order of the songs on the disc, select the song you would like to move and use **Move Up** and **Move Down** buttons to change its place.
- Power CD+G Burner needs temporary disc space to create an image file. If there is not enough space please free some or select different drive for temporary folder location.

Now you are ready to burn your disc.

- Select burner device.
- Insert a blank Music CD-R disc into the burner drive.

7. Click **Burn**.

Burn process consists of two phases: image file creation and actual burning. If burning phase is causing problems, please see the *Troubleshooting* section.

Rip CD+G Songs from CD+G Disc to Hard Drive

1. Select **Rip** tab.
2. Select source drive in **Reader device** combo box.
3. Select appropriate output format. You may use: (*See About Rip Settings section for more information.*)
 - **BIN** (audio and graphics in the same file) - BIN files are largest, but are not compressed.
 - **CDG+MP3** (graphics in CDG file, audio in MP3 file) - smallest, also known as MP3+G.
 - **CDG+WAV** (graphics in CDG file, audio in WAV file) - about the same size as BIN.
4. Choose appropriate output folder. Your files will be saved there.
5. Insert CD+G disc and click **Refresh** button. Track list should appear.

Power CD+G Burner uses FreeDB online database to display song titles. Please note that to use this feature you need to be connected to the internet and you must allow Power CD+G Burner to access the web if you are using firewall.

Note: Not all CD+G discs are available in FreeDB database.

6. Choose tracks you would like to put on your compilation disc by selecting them on the list.



7. If the CD+G disc was found in FreeDB database, you may use additional fields to define the filename in **Output filename mask**:
- **{Song}** will be replaced with track name, so if you define 'CD1 - {Song}' as a filename mask, files 'CD1 - Track 01.bin', 'CD1 - Track 02.bin', etc. will be created. If track name is retrieved from FreeDB server, this will usually be artist name and song title.
 - **{Album}** will be replaced with the album name retrieved from FreeDB server.
 - **{TrackNumber}** will be replaced with the track number (with a leading 0 for tracks 01 - 09).

- {Artist} will be replaced with artist name (artist name has to be separated by '/' [slash] from track title).
- {Title} will be replaced with title (title has to be separated by '/' [slash] from artist name).
Note: to use {Artist} and {Title} markers each track name needs to be of the following format: Artist name / Song title (most FreeDB entries follow this rule)

8. Click Rip.

Power CD+G Burner Window

Burn mode

The main window of Power CD+G Burner gives you full control over the burning process.

File list

Use this list to arrange songs on a CD. You may add songs (CDG and BIN) by dropping them on the Power CD+G Burner window or by using the **Add** button. **Add** button allows you to add several files at once.

Note: Unregistered version of Power CD+G Burner allows only 5 tracks per CD. Full version does not have this limitation.

Burner device settings

Here you can select which burner device should be used and choose the burning speed.

If you are burning with a drive available from Pilot Karaoke, you should be able to burn a disc at maximum speed as long as your computer is fast enough to keep up. Most new computers should have no problem with this. If you know your computer is older, or you are using a different burning drive, we recommend burning with lowest speed possible (this is the default setting).

If you insert the CD-R disc after starting Power CD+G Burner, you may need to use **Refresh** button to update available burn speeds.

Simulate checkbox allows to test burn process.

Temporary folder settings

Power CD+G Burner creates an intermediate image file before the CD is actually written. This file may be up to 800 MB (it depends on the total playing time of the CD), so you need to ensure there is enough free space on the disc. By default, Windows temporary folder is used.

Burn button

Click this button to start the burning process. It has two phases:

1. Image file creation - all files are encoded and image file is prepared. This process may take a while.
2. Disc burn.

After your CD+G disc is finished, you can check if it plays properly using [Power CD+G Player Pro](#). Of course, you can also check the disc with karaoke CD+G player.

(http://www.pilotkaraoke.com/04_players.htm)

Rip mode

Reader device

Select a CD+G compatible drive available on your computer, to ensure proper operation.

Track list

Use checkboxes to select tracks to save on a hard disc. Use the **Refresh** button to read a new CD. Use **Select All** and **Clear All** buttons to control the selection. Double-click the item or click the **Edit** button to edit song title.

Output folder

Power CD+G Burner will save CD+G tracks in this folder. Use [...] button to change the folder.

Output filename mask

Power CD+G Burner will save tracks using the name you specify in this field.

- **{Song}** will be replaced with track name, so if you define 'CD1 - {Song}' as a filename mask, files 'CD1 - Track 01.bin', 'CD1 - Track 02.bin', etc. will be created. If track name is retrieved from FreeDB server, this will be usually artist name and song title.
- **{Album}** will be replaced with the album name retrieved from FreeDB server.
- **{TrackNumber}** will be replaced with the track number (with a leading 0 for tracks 01 - 09).
- **{Artist}** will be replaced with artist name (artist name has to be separated by '/' [slash] from track title)
- **{Title}** will be replaced with title (title has to be separated by '/' [slash] from artist name).

Note: to use {Artist} and {Title} markers each track name needs to be of the following format:

“Artist name / Song title”

(Most FreeDB entries follow this rule.)

Output format

You may choose one of 3 output formats (See *About Rip Settings* section for more information):

- **BIN** - Single uncompressed file with both audio and graphics. Best for copying.
- **CDG+MP3** (also known as MP3+G) - Two files (.CDG and .MP3) will be created. CDG file contains graphical information, while MP3 file contains the soundtrack. Use **Settings** button to adjust MP3 compression details.
- **CDG+WAV** - As above, only uncompressed WAV files will be used for audio.

Copy mode

Reader device

Select a CD+G compatible drive available on your computer, to ensure proper operation.

Track list

Power CD+G Burner will display tracks from the CD in reader drive. Use **Refresh** button to read a new CD.

Burner device settings

Here you can select which burner device should be used and choose the burning speed.

If you are burning with a drive available from Pilot Karaoke, you should be able to burn a disc at maximum speed as long as your computer is fast enough to keep up. Most new computers should have no problem with this. If you know your computer is older, or you are using a different burning drive, we recommend burning with lowest speed possible (this is the default setting).

If you insert the CD-R disc after starting Power CD+G Burner, you may need to use **Refresh** button to update available burn speeds.

Simulate checkbox allows to test burn process.

Temporary folder settings

Power CD+G Burner creates intermediate image file before the CD is actually written. This file may be up to 800 MB (it depends on the total playing time of the CD), so you need to ensure that there is enough free space on the disc. By default, Windows temporary folder is used.

Copy button

Click this button to start copying process. It has three phases:

1. Reading tracks from source disc.
2. Image file creation - all files are encoded and image file is prepared. This process may take a while.
3. Disc burn.

After your CD+G disc is finished, you can check if it plays properly using [Siglos Karaoke Player/Recorder](#). Of course, you can also check the disc with a karaoke CD+G player.

<http://www.pilotkaraoke.com/p-17-siglos-karaoke-playerrecorder.aspx>

Power CD+G Burner Troubleshooting

General burn problems

If burn process failed, there are several things to check:

- Make sure you are using a CD+G compatible drive. The drives available from Pilot Karaoke are guaranteed to work.
- Make sure the burn settings match the **Adjust Burn Settings** section of this manual.
- If you are receiving power calibration errors, ensure the **Force execution** box is checked.
- Make sure that you are using regular a Music CD-R disc. This software does not burn DVD discs.
- Use different CD-R media (Don't underestimate this; this will fix the problem much more often than you might think).
- Use different burning speed.

Burning was successful but I cannot play a CD+G disc on my karaoke machine

- Try lowering the burn speed. Your computer may not be quite fast enough to keep up with the burn process at the current speed.
- Try a different brand of blank disc. We recommend audio-dedicated CDs (Music CD-R's). TDK and Memorex work very well. (This will fix the problem more often that you might think)
- Do not use a CD-RW disc. Most karaoke players will not recognize these discs.

When I play a CD + G disc on my karaoke machine, I see frequent errors (missing letters or random dots)

- Make sure you are using a CD+G compatible drive. The drives available from Pilot Karaoke are guaranteed to work.
- Make sure the burn settings match the ***Adjust Burn Settings*** section of this manual.
- Try lowering the burn speed. Your computer may not be quite fast enough to keep up with the burn process at the current speed.
- Try lowering the rip speed. Sometimes the problem is not the burning process, but the ripping process. If your computer can't keep up with your drive, these errors will be typical. See the ***About Rip Settings*** section of this manual for more information.
- Try a different brand of blank disc. We recommend audio-dedicated CDs (Music CD-R's). TDK and Memorex work very well.

Hardware related problems

Power CD+G Burner does not see my burner or has problems with it

Power CD+G Burner has two methods for accessing CD-R devices known as "burning engines":

- Internal (default): This method is compatible with more drives, but will produce discs that display errors when used in most professional karaoke players.
- CDRDAO: This is the recommended method for creating universally compatible CD+G discs. If your drive will not burn a disc with this method, it is more than likely not truly CD+G compatible. The drives available from Pilot Karaoke are guaranteed to work.

See the ***Adjust Burn Settings*** section of this manual for more information on the correct settings to use for burning discs.

My CD-R drive is not detected or it refuses to work with this program.

- Keep in mind, most CD drives are not designed to burn CD+G sub codes and will not work properly with this program. Even drives that advertise compatibility with karaoke CD+G may not work correctly.
- Your drive is probably not CD+G compatible if it does not work with the CDRDAO burning engine.

I just installed my new internal drive and Windows does not detect the drive correctly.

This is almost certainly a master/slave jumper problem. New drives usually come from the manufacturer configured as the master. If you are adding a drive to your system (not replacing your current drive), you will need to change this jumper setting to slave.

I can't get Windows to recognize my external CD or DVD burner.

Ensure you are connecting your drive to a USB 2.0 port on your computer and you are running Windows XP, Service Pack 2 or Windows Vista. If you are not using Windows XP or Vista please refer to the "External DVD Dual Writer Drive - Quick Installation guide" that came with your drive for installation details.

Other Problems

ASPI is not available in my computer. Why?

Windows 95, 98 and ME come with a working ASPI manager but Windows NT, 2000 and XP do not have any ASPI manager at all. In rare situations, some other program may have replaced your ASPI manager even if you are using Win 95/98/ME.

Adaptec has many ASPI drivers available and they are free for anybody to download and install (you don't need to own an Adaptec SCSI card or software product). These drivers will also add support for ATAPI CDROM devices.

[Download Adaptec ASPI drivers for Windows 98 / Me / NT / 2000 / XP](http://www.adaptec.com/en-US/speed/software_pc/aspi/aspi_v470_exe.htm)

(http://www.adaptec.com/en-US/speed/software_pc/aspi/aspi_v470_exe.htm)

Note: These drivers are also located on your Power CD+G Burner software CD if purchased from Pilot Karaoke.

MP3 encoding is not available.

To use MP3 encoding you need to download LAME MP3 encoder. You may do this during the installation or you may use this link:

[Download LAME MP3 encoder](http://www.doblon.pl/powerkaraoke/lame_enc.dll)

(http://www.doblon.pl/powerkaraoke/lame_enc.dll)

Note: This encoder is also located on your Power CD+G Burner software CD if purchased from Pilot Karaoke.

lame_enc.dll needs to be saved in Power CD+G Burner folder (usually C:/Program Files/Doblon/Power CD+G Burner).

Acknowledgements

This document was created by Pilot Karaoke. Portions of this document are extracted from help files within the Power CD+G Burner software. These portions are used with the permission of Doblon, Inc and are edited as appropriate.

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