

How to Copy CDGs™

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RE: The Computer-Karaoke Guide

"I'd been thinking about making the plunge and purchasing the package for a few days. Not knowing what I'd get and whether I'd be able to use it then I thought, 'Why not! It's just a few pounds to lose but there's the possibility of so much to gain'. So I went ahead.

Amazed is an understatement. Getting up and running was very straight forward. The help was outstanding. A little later and I realized that literally every karaoke song in existence is there available for me to download. I already have a small but increasing in size collection to offer back to the rest of the members.

Funny really. There was me just a few hours ago wondering if I'd get value for money and here I am now with a small collection that exceeds in monetary value my initial package purchase price.

Remarkable!

Thanks to all involved.

Tony in Hull. UK

Introduction

This guide contains the information **you need to know** if you plan to copy karaoke discs. **Like all of my guides, you must follow it step-by-step.**

“Karaoke Disc”, “CDG”, & “CD+G” are interchangeable terms. They are all the same thing: A CD plus Graphics to make up a music disc that also displays graphics (song lyrics).

Most karaoke enthusiasts who own a PC have no idea how to *correctly* rip and burn a karaoke disc (CDG). About 5 years ago, I was one of those people. Using any CD burning software, it was fairly simple to rip the music. Ah, but the *graphics (song lyrics)* – this was another issue. Every disc I made had music, but there were no graphics when I played it in one of our karaoke systems. I didn’t know the graphics were part of a sub-code (special track) written to the disc during original production. Once I was able to identify what the problem was, it was time to locate a solution.

I tried dozens of programs until I ran across CDRWIN. Finally, a program that claimed to extract **and** copy karaoke tracks. I found the program at Golden Hawk Technology’s website. When I read their Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), it was now apparent I *also* had to have a **compatible drive**. Well, lucky for me, mine was indeed compatible and we’ll find out shortly if *your* drive is CDG-compatible.

NOTES: When installing programs on a PC running Windows XP, you must be logged in with Administrator privileges. All screenshots may look slightly different than what’s shown on your screen, depending on which version of Windows you have and the color scheme being used. *These screenshots are from a PC running WinXP using the “Classic” theme.*

PRINT THIS GUIDE! The screenshots may look better printed than on your monitor and it’s only 13 pages. ☺

Questions you may have:

- “Some karaoke disc publishers have implemented copy-protection. How do I get around this?”
- “What if my drive is not CDG-compatible?”
- “Do I need special discs to create CDGs?”
- “Will my properly created discs work in any CDG player?”
- “Will my discs play in a regular CD player?”
- “How fast should I burn when creating CDGs?”

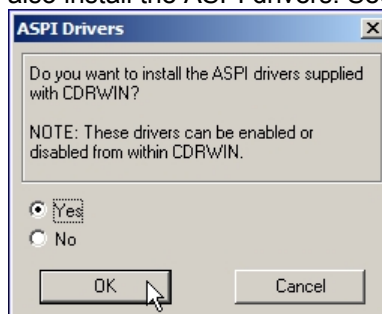
Answers: All of these questions are addressed in this guide. ☺

Downloading and Installing CDRWIN

First, download CDRWIN v3.9k from the following link and **“SAVE” it to your Desktop:**

Click here. (You should be able to click it and begin the download. If not, this is a setting issue with Acrobat Reader.) **NOTE:** There is another “CDRWIN” program from a different company floating around on the Internet – it is totally different and does not copy CDGs.

Next, double-click **cdr39k-e** to install. **Best bet:** Allow it to install in the default directory, C:\CDRWIN3, and answer “Yes” when asked if you want to also install the ASPI drivers. See image below:



Checking Compatibility

To run CDRWIN, go to *Start Menu >> (All) Programs >> Golden Hawk Technology >> CDRWIN*.

The first screen reminds you the program is in “Demonstration Mode”. It is fully-functional, but is limited to 1x recording speed.

Click “OK” at this window:



NOTE: Do not contact Golden Hawk for any reason! They make a terrific program, but are not experts when it comes to copying CDGs. Furthermore, unlock keys are FREE (see “Last Page” for details).

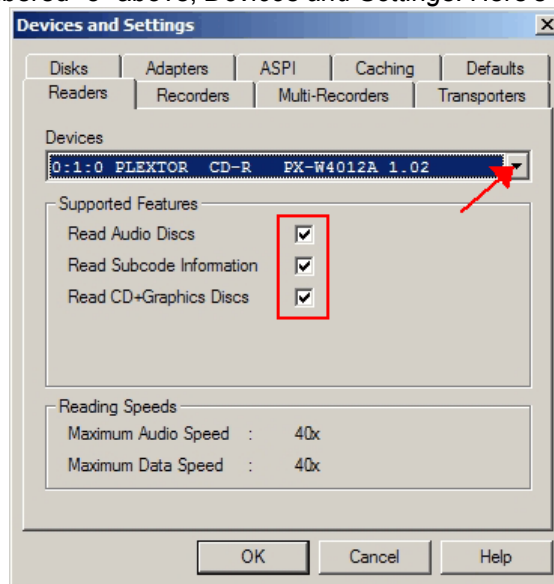
Here’s your next screen:



I’ve numbered the four (4) buttons/options discussed in this guide.

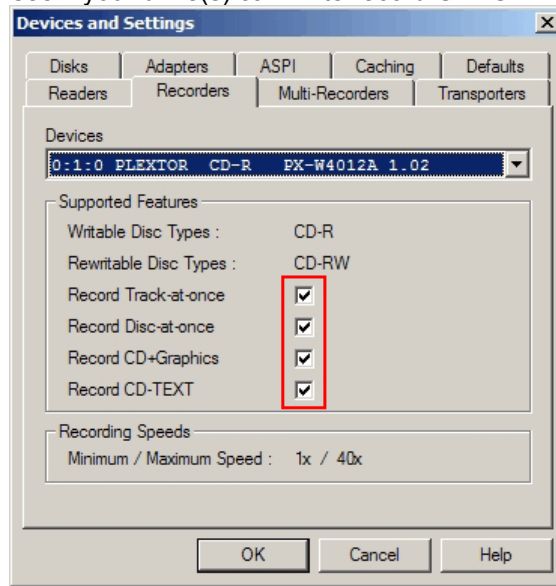
Note: This screenshot used v3.9F

Start by pressing the button numbered “3” above, *Devices and Settings*. Here’s the screen you will see:



If you have multiple CDROM drives, that red arrow shows where you can choose the one to check.

All three (3) boxes will be checked **if** your drive can READ karaoke discs. **You cannot change the status** – either they are checked or they are not. Some drives can read, but not write, CD+Graphics – and vice versa. Next, click the “Recorders” tab to see if your drive(s) can write/record CD+G:



Again, these are either checked or they are not – **you cannot change them**. Click “OK” to exit “Devices and Settings”.

Non-Compatible Drives

Most CD-writers on the market today, as well as those installed in new computers, are **not CDG-compatible**.

If *your* drive is not CDG-compatible, you can **either**:

- Download original karaoke tracks produced by **any** CDG publisher and **create your own** karaoke discs. I've written a step-by-step booklet that shows you how to make CDGs using **any** CD-writer, including DVD/CD combo drives. This is one of several **free** bonuses to all new customers. All bonus guides **include** the necessary programs (no limitations, no registration required). **..OR..**
- Replace your drive inexpensively. The best ones are all made by **Plextor** and cost the same as non-compatible drives.

Ripping CDG Tracks with a Compatible Drive

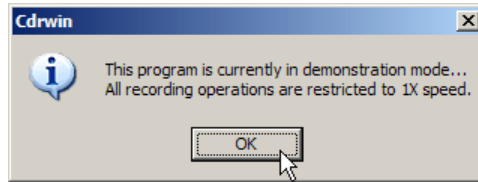
First, Place a karaoke disc (CDG; CD+G) in your CD-writer.

Next, press the button numbered “2” as seen here:

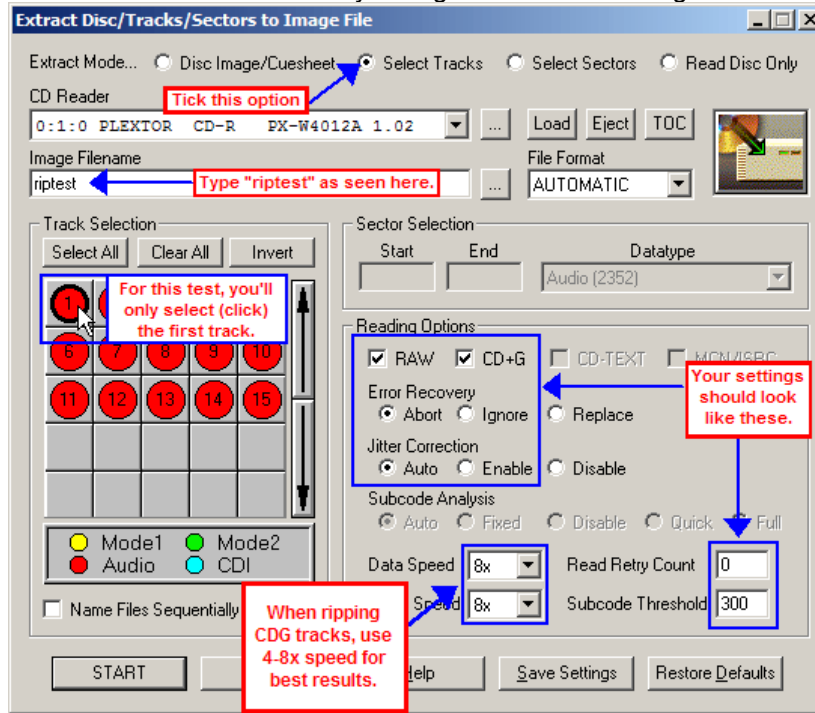


Note: This screenshot used v3.9F

Click "OK" when this box pops up:



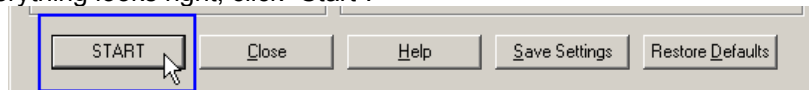
Check over the next window and make all necessary changes before continuing:



Make sure yours looks just like this before continuing!

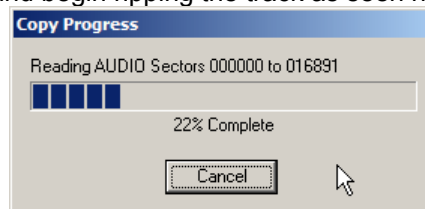
Note: If the last track is YELLOW while the others are all red, that disc uses a copy-protection scheme. For this test, choose another disc that has **only RED** numbered circles for **all** tracks. If **none** of the tracks have any color, see the section titled "Copy-Protection Schemes".

When you're **sure** everything looks right, click "Start":

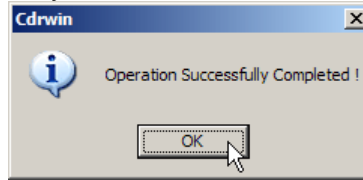


ERROR – If you receive an error message, please go to the "Troubleshooting" section.

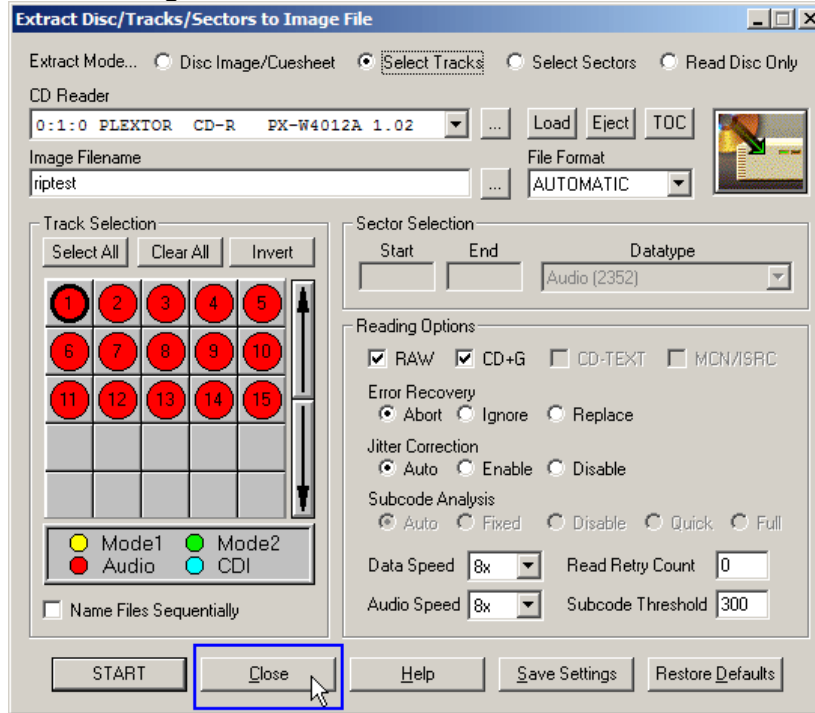
CDRWIN will analyze the disc layout and begin ripping the track as seen here:



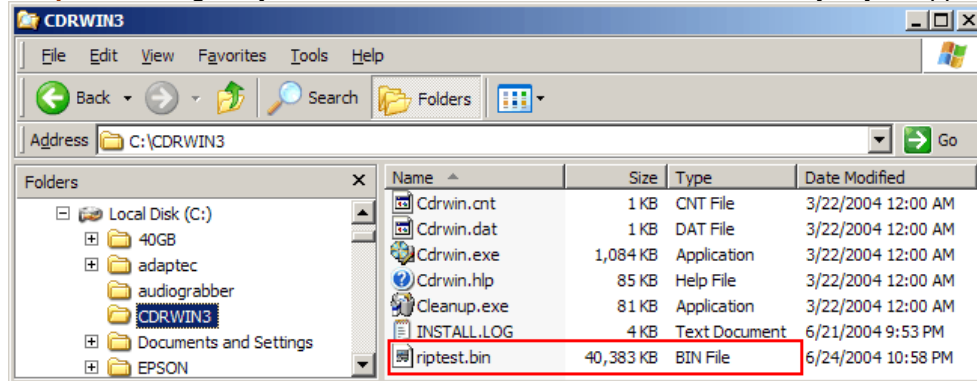
After the track has been successfully ripped, you will see this box. Click “OK”:



You’ve just ripped a karaoke song from a CDG! Click the “Close” button as seen here:



Open **Windows Explorer** and go to your “C:\CDRWIN3” folder. You’ll see the track you just ripped:



Karaoke tracks are ripped to a “.bin” (binary) format. If you’ve ever extracted songs from a music CD, you’ll notice the file size is comparable.

Shameless Plug: Just as you can convert “.wav” to “.mp3”, **The Computer-Karaoke Guide™** includes programs to compress “.bin” files by over 85% and play them on your PC in either format (“.bin” or compressed) – and they play exactly the same, including lyrics! ☺
Pick up your copy [here!](#)

Recording CDG Tracks with a Compatible Drive

Remove your CDG and place a blank CDR in the same drive. Do **not** use re-writable discs (CDR/W) when recording karaoke tracks. Also, no special CDRs are needed! Use the same recordable discs you would use for any other media (music, data, etc.)

Bob's recommendations:

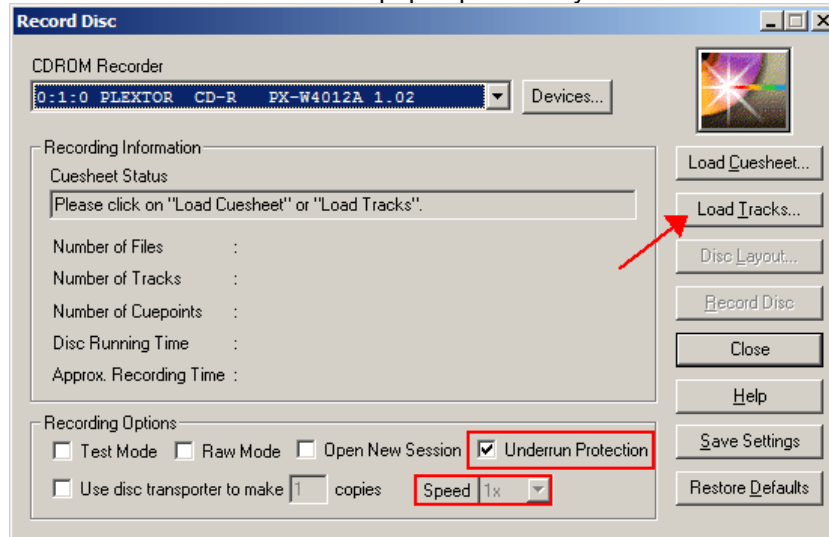
1. Use CDRs with no color on top, but rather have the brand name etched. Memorex, Verbatim, and Imation can be purchased like this. If you can't **see** the top when shopping, don't buy them.
2. Use discs that can record much faster than what you'll use them for (e.g. Use 48x speed CDRs even though you only record karaoke tracks at 8-10x speed).

Click the button numbered "1" as shown here:



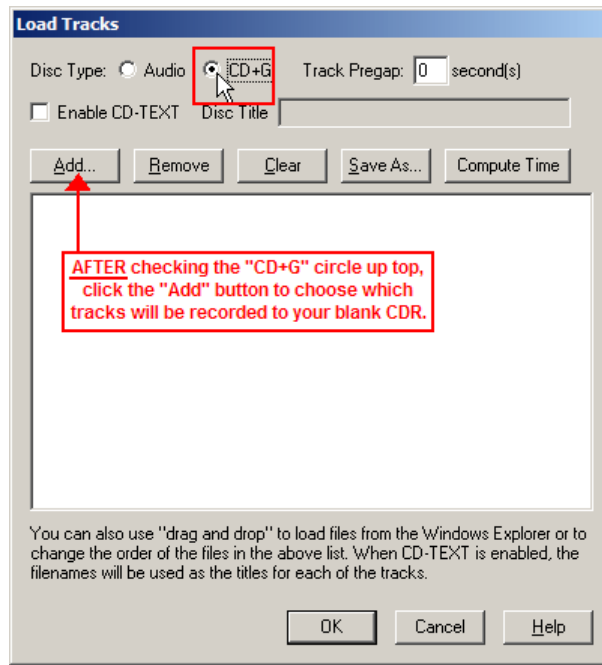
Note: This screenshot used v3.9F

Click "OK" when the "demonstration mode" reminder pops up. This is your next screen:



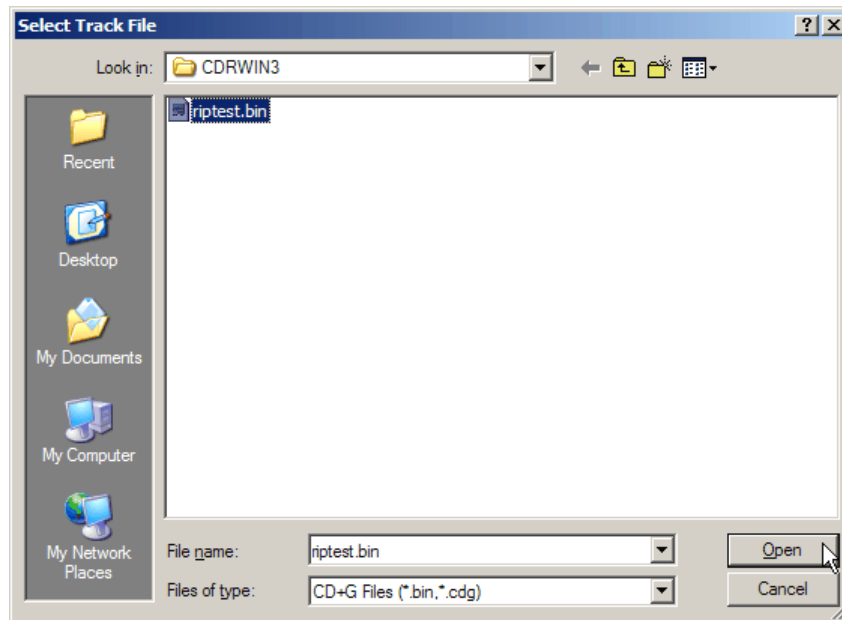
Speed **cannot** be changed while CDRWIN is in "demo" mode. Check "Underrun Protection" if your drive supports it (check your CD-Writer's documentation). Click "Load Tracks" as seen above.

Next screen:

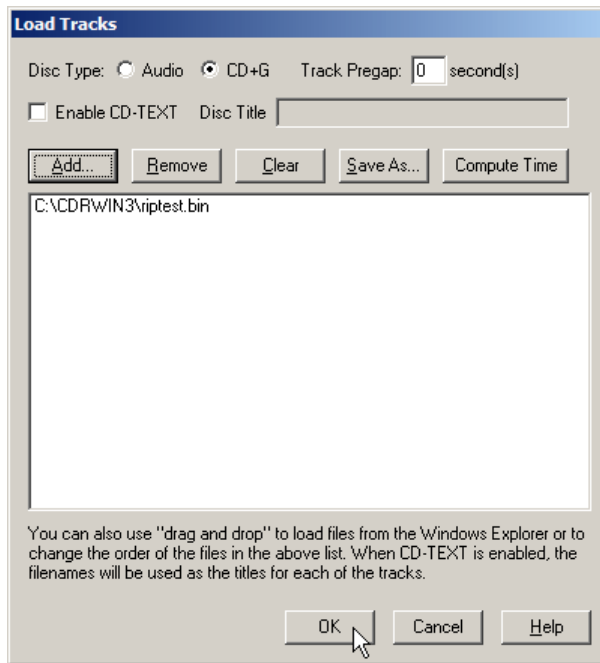


Just like the image above says, tick the “CD+G” circle, **then** click “Add”.

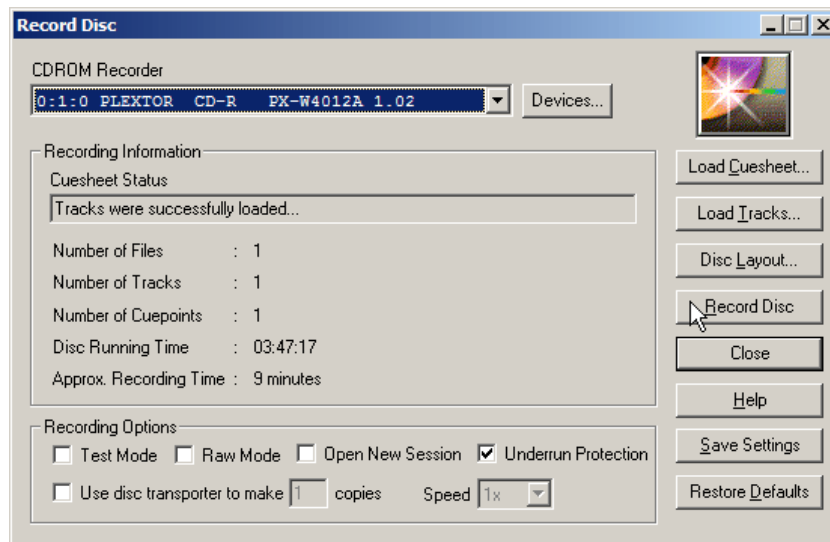
The default folder will be C:\CDRWIN3, so this is fairly simple. Just highlight (click with your mouse) “riptest” and click “Open”:



Now, click "OK" as seen below:

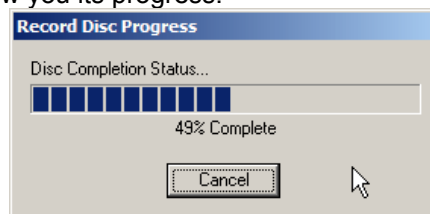


Click "Record Disc":



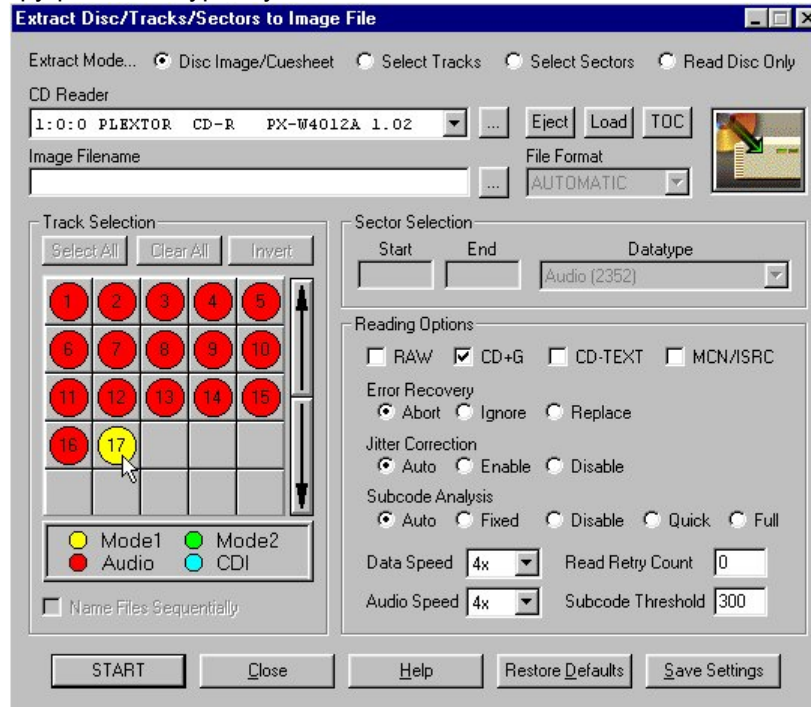
ERROR – If you receive an error message, please go to the "Troubleshooting" section.

CDRWIN will begin recording and show you its progress:



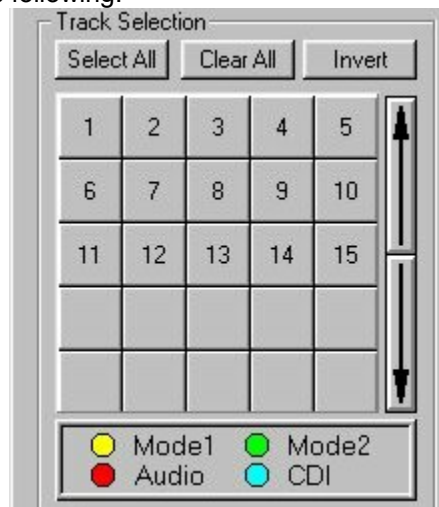
Copy-Protection Schemes

Karaoke discs using copy-protection typically have an extra track on them, as seen here:



The Computer-Karaoke Guide™ teaches you how to successfully copy tracks from this disc.

A few discs now have an additional copy-protection scheme. When you click the “Extract Disc/Tracks/Sectors” button of CDRWIN, you might see the following:



SOLUTION: *Download these tracks, and then burn them to disc. You will now have an exact duplicate of this disc, even though you didn't rip a single track from it. ☺*

Last Page

When you record (burn) karaoke discs, your best results will be obtained between 4x and 10x speed. Burning any faster can result in "pitted" graphics/lyrics and overall lower quality. The same is true when extracting/ripping karaoke tracks from a CDG. So, even if your CD-R/W drive can burn at 52x, this **does not** mean you'll get favorable results at that speed when ripping/burning *karaoke files*. Higher speeds work fine for music and data files, but **not** CDGs.

All but 3 burners **made by Plextor** are CDG-compatible, including DVD-/CD-R/W combo models. These models are **not** compatible: PX-208U(EOL), PX-504A/UF(EOL) and PX-230A/SW. **All other models are compatible.**

We started offering my "How To" guides in February 2003 and have 1,000's of customers worldwide. We absolutely **deliver** what we promise. ☺ All customer comments/testimonials are authentic and you can read several of them [here](#).

"My neighbor gave me your web address and asked me to look at it. I did and told him it sounded too good to be true. I then told him to buy it and if it is a scam I would give him half of the money he spent. This way, both of us wouldn't be out the full amount. After he got it installed he called me over and showed me what the program consisted of. First thing I did was to go home and order my own. Your program is AWESOME!!!!!"

*E. Higgs
Middleton, OH*

Consider the value of your time. It took me years to learn what I can now teach **you** in one evening. The majority of new customers are folks who have visited our sites at least one time in the past. They simply got fed up *wasting their time*. We have unique products that are a fantastic, cost-effective investment for anyone who enjoys karaoke and owns a computer. All the necessary programs are included and there are **no additional fees** for any software or karaoke song downloads. Nothing; None; Zip; Zero!

Details regarding The Computer-Karaoke Guide™ are here:
<http://www.karaokeinfo.com>

I hope you found this guide useful and have a better understanding of what's involved to **properly** copy CDGs.

See you online,



Bob Smith
KaraokeInfo®
<http://www.karaokeinfo.com>