

Instant DVD Recorder

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User's Guide

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Overview

Welcome

The Instant DVD Recorder makes it possible for you to quickly and easily burn videos direct-to-disc, i.e. from your video source directly to a DVD – without complicated intermediate storage on your hard disk!

You simply have to connect your video source, start Instant DVD Recorder and after just a few steps your burned DVD will be completed.

Instant DVD Recorder makes it possible for you to burn videos to your DVD from various devices: whether its a TV card, a DV camcorder or an analog video source - the Instant DVD Recorder creates a DVD with the video you choose.

In addition, you can decide whether you would like to be guided by the Direct-to-Disc Wizard through the individual settings in an easily understandable way or instead save even more time by performing all of the necessary settings directly in a single window.

And now have lots of fun with your Instant DVD Recorder!

System requirements

Your system needs to satisfy the following requirements for problem-free operation of your Instant DVD Recorder:

Computer software

- Windows XP Professional Edition
- Windows XP Home Edition
- Windows 2000 Pro with the latest Service Pack

Computer hardware

Processor

A Pentium 4® with 2.2 GHz or a comparable processor for a YUV source for full DVD quality (720 x 576 and 720 x 480), 2.6 GHz or more for a DV source for full DVD quality

Main memory

At least 512 MB

Hard disk

IDE hard disk with Master Mode drivers and at least 650 MB free storage space

Graphics card

DirectX 9-compatible graphics card

Sound card

DirectX 9-compatible sound card

DVD burner

Online Help

When you use the Instant DVD Recorder, you have Online Help available to you at any time. Simply press the **F1** key to start it.

Or you can start Online Help using the Start Menu:

- Click on the Windows Start Menu.
- Move the cursor to **Programs**. The program menu then appears.
- Move the cursor to **Pinnacle Instant DVD Recorder**. This opens the menu.
- Move the cursor to **Help** and then click on the menu item **Online Help**.

Online Manual

You can consult the Online Manual for questions about how the Instant DVD Recorder functions or operates. The Manual is installed automatically and can either be printed out or read directly on-screen.

To open the Online Manual you need Adobe AcrobatReader.

To start the Online Manual:

- Open the **Windows Start Menu** by clicking it with the mouse.
- Move the cursor to **Programs**. The program menu then opens.
- Move the cursor to **Pinnacle Instant DVD Recorder**. The menu then opens.
- Move the cursor to **Help** and click on the menu item **Manual**.

Installing and Starting the Instant DVD Recorder

Installing the Instant DVD Recorder

To install the Instant DVD Recorder:

- Insert the Instant DVD Recorder CD-ROM into your CD-ROM drive. The Setup program is started automatically if *Autorun* has been enabled for the CD-ROM drive.
- If *Autorun* is not enabled, then double-click the **setup.exe** file on the CD-ROM in the **Setup** directory or double-click the file **autorun.exe**.
- Select the desired language. You will be welcomed by the program.
- Now enter the program serial number. The serial number is located on the Instant DVD Recorder CD-ROM or its cover.
- If you accept the terms of the license agreement, then click **Yes**. Installation of the Instant DVD Recorder is not possible unless you accept the terms of the license agreement. If you choose not to accept the terms of the license agreement then please return the product to your retailer immediately.
- Now follow the installation instructions displayed on-screen until the installation has been completed.

Starting the Instant DVD Recorder

The Instant DVD Recorder will be set up on your computer as a separate program group.

You can start the Instant DVD Recorder simply by clicking on the Desktop shortcut or by using the Start Menu:

- Open the **Windows Start Menu** by clicking it with the mouse.
- Move the cursor to **Programs**. The program menu then opens.
- Move the cursor to **Pinnacle Instant DVD Recorder**. The menu then opens.
- Click on the menu item **Instant DVD Recorder** and the Instant DVD Recorder will be started.

Creating a DVD


The Direct-to-Disk Wizard

The Start Window

The Start Window of the Direct-to-Disk Wizard opens after the Instant DVD Recorder has been started.



Here you can decide whether you want to have the Wizard guide you through the various settings in an easily understandable way or whether you would prefer to perform all of the necessary settings directly in Advanced Mode.

 We recommend that let the Wizard guide you through the program at the beginning and only later perform the necessary settings in Advanced Mode after you have become familiar with the Instant DVD Recorder.

- If you want to be guided through the program by the Wizard, then click the option **Let the Wizard Guide Me (recommended)**.
- If you prefer to switch directly to Advanced Mode, then click the option **Go Directly to Advanced Mode**.

- If the Pinnacle Studio software has been installed on your PC, the **Studio 9** button appears in the Start Window.
Clicking on this button starts the Studio 9 software directly, thereby letting you process your video sequences.
- If you don't want to have the Start Window displayed the next time you call up Instant DVD Recorder and would prefer to have the Direct-to-Disc Wizard or Advanced Mode displayed directly - depending on your selection - then activate this option by clicking **Don't Show This Screen Next Time**.
- After you have made your selection click **Next**. Depending on your selection, you will now be guided to the [next window of the Direct-to-Disc Wizard](#) or to [Advanced Mode](#).



After the burning operation is completed you can specify whether you want to go directly to the Direct-to-Disc Wizard or to Advanced Mode the next time you start the Instant DVD Recorder.


Window 1: Selecting a burner and inserting the DVD

If you selected **Let the Wizard Guide Me (recommended)** option in the [Start window of the Direct-to-Disc Wizard](#), then the next step will be that the Wizard will guide you to **Window 1: Select Burner**:



DVD burner display

Any DVD burners available on your system that are suitable for recording will be displayed in the upper section of the window.

- If more than one burner is available, then open the list of burners by clicking  and select the device you want. If only one burner is found by the Instant DVD Recorder, then this will be used automatically for creating the DVD.



If no device is displayed in the DVD burner display, check whether a suitable DVD burner is included on your system and whether it is properly connected.

- If you want to store your video on the hard disk and you have selected your hard disk in the DVD burner display, then you can choose the destination folder for your video by clicking on **Browse**.

Output media display

Underneath the DVD burner display the Wizard tells you which output medium is supported by the DVD burner which you selected (for example, DVD-R and DVD-RW).

- Please insert an appropriate DVD into your burner.

You can use an empty DVD or you can also reuse a DVD if it is rewritable.

The Instant DVD Recorder now automatically checks whether the inserted DVD is suitable for the burning operation and if so prepares it for recording. In this case, you will be asked in a dialog window to agree to the operations for preparing the DVD - for example, deletion of already existing data. Please note that this may take several minutes before the Instant DVD Recorder displays a corresponding message.

- Please follow the instructions provided by the Wizard in case the inserted DVD is not yet ready for the actual burning operation and further operations are necessary, e.g. deletion of old data.



Please note that the next steps for successful DVD recording are only possible if a suitable DVD has been inserted at this stage of the Wizard.

- Click **Next** and the Direct-to-Disc Wizard will guide you to [Window 2: Select video source](#).


Window 2: Select video source

In this window you can select the video source and prepare it for DVD recording:



Video source device display

The video sources that are available and suitable for recording are displayed in the upper section of the window.

- If more than one video source device is available, then open the list of corresponding video sources by clicking  and select the desired device. If only one video source is found by the Instant DVD Recorder, then it will be used automatically for creating the DVD.

Now the video that is imported from the video source is displayed in the preview window.

This allows you to make certain that the video source device is properly connected. In addition, you can correct the settings of the video source for the DVD recording (for example, to set the right channel or to look for the position intended for recording on the video).



In the event that no device is shown in the video source device display or no video appears in the preview window, then check whether a suitable video source is included on your system and whether it has been properly connected and started.

Please note that DVD recording is not possible without a properly connected video source.

- You can make additional driver settings for your video source device by clicking on **Options**. For this please consult the documentation for your video equipment.

Preparing the video source





Make sure that your video source was installed using its original installation program. Also make sure that the video source works with the original recording application without any problems.

Below the preview window there are several functions available for preparing the recording: If the volume of your video source is adjustable, a slide control will appear under the preview window. You can use this to adjust both the volume and the recording level. The other control elements vary depending on the selected video source device:

TV Card








- If your video source is a TV card, then you can start a station search under **Options**. Instant DVD Recorder displays any channels found after the station search has been completed.

Now you can adjust the station desired for recording with the  and  buttons.

The program of the channel which you selected will be subsequently burned on the DVD.

DV Camcorder



- If your video source is a DV Camcorder, then you can start the video by using the  button, fast forward or rewind the video with the  and  buttons or jump back and forth to individual frames with the  and  buttons.

Thus you can precisely position the video played by the camcorder from exactly where you want to burn the video on the DVD.

Analog Video Source

No other setting options are available if your video source is an analog video source device.

- Click **Next** and the Direct-to-Disc Wizard will guide you to [Window 3: Select menu style.](#)

Window 3: Select menu style

In this window you can decide whether you want to create a menu and thus divide your DVD into individual chapters or whether you would like to burn your video film to the DVD as a single movie file with no menu.

If you choose a menu, then this window also provides you with the possibility of selecting and/or modifying a menu design. In this case a thumbnail of the first scene of each chapter is shown before a background picture. Later on, when watching the DVD, you can start the respective scene by selecting a thumbnail.



Would you like your DVD to include menus?

- If you prefer not to have your video divided into individual sections, then please select **No**. No any other settings will be required in this window.
- However, if you wish to have your video partitioned into individual chapters, then please select **Yes, create a new chapter every x minutes** and enter the time interval into the open field in minutes according to which a new chapter should begin in each case.





The Instant DVD Recorder automatically determines how many chapters will result from the chapter length which you indicated. Since partitioning into more than 99 chapters is not possible, you may be required to increase the minutes for the length of the individual chapters, thus automatically reducing the number of chapters.

Selecting a menu design

Selecting a menu design for your DVD is quick and easy once you have decided to create a menu and to partition it into chapters.

The Instant DVD Recorder offers numerous background pictures to choose from:

- At the center of the window you can find menu design templates which you can view by clicking  and  .
To select a particular menu simply click it.
- If you do not want to make any further changes to the menu design that you have selected, then you don't have to make any further settings in this window.

Changing a menu design

You can, however, customize the menu design which you have already selected:

- To do so, click the **Edit** menu button and the window for menu design will open:
You can see the preview of your menu in the lower section. In the upper section there are tabs with the individual design functions.



Selecting a background image:

- Click the **background** tab and select a background image by clicking it with the mouse. The selected background image is then displayed in the preview window.
- You can also import your own picture from your hard disk: To do so, click the **Import** button and in **Open File** select the graphic file that you want to import as a background image and then click **Open**. The image is then inserted on the left next to the background images and can then be activated by clicking it with the mouse.



Selecting a frame:

- Click the **Frame** tab and select a frame design with a click of the mouse. The frame is then displayed in the preview window.



Selecting the layout:

The thumbnail of each layout includes a colored triangle which symbolizes the various types of content:

Turquoise: Scene image frame

Light purple: Menu title (heading)

Dark purple: Scene number and title

- Click the **Layout** tab and select a layout design by clicking it with the mouse. This will be indicated in the preview window.

Abc *Selecting a text style:*

- Click the **Text Style** tab and select a layout design by clicking it with the mouse. This will be indicated in the preview window.
- If you want to change the character font for the menu title (heading), select one from the list shown on the right Character Font for Headings by clicking on

Changing the menu title:

You can give the menu you are working on a title, which will appear in the menu along with a thumbnail image of the individual scene.

- Click on the already existing menu title in the preview window and enter a new title (for example, *My Birthday*).

Designating and saving menu designs:

- Enter a name for the menu which you have designed under **Enter Style Name** and click **OK**. Your personal menu is then inserted in the menu selection among the already existing menus and can now be selected.
- Click **Next** and the Direct-to-Disc Wizard will guide you to [Window 4: Start recording](#).

Window 4: Start recording

In this window you can adjust the recording length and quality as well as start the actual burning operation:



In the right section of the window you will see the video imported from the video source in the preview window. This allow you to correct the settings of the video source for the DVD recording and to follow the video during the recording. The available functions change depending on the video source (please refer to [Window 2: Select video source](#)).

Entering the recording time

- Please enter the recording time in minutes in the upper section of the window under **Select Total Recording Time**. Video recording is stopped once this time elapses.

Selecting the recording quality

- Select the quality for the recording in the middle section of the window under **Select Video Quality**: **Good**, **Better**, or **Best**.



Please note that less video quality requires less storage space and less computing performance; thus the maximum recording time is dependent on the video quality, i.e. better and optimum quality reduce the possible recording time. Thus the Instant Video Recorder automatically indicates the maximum recording time calculated from the video quality.

Start recording

- In order to start the recording, please click on **Start Record**. The recording begins and the **Start Record** button changes into **Stop Record**. Please note that this operation may take several minutes.

Stop recording

- You can click **Stop Record** at any time in order to stop the recording before it is completed.

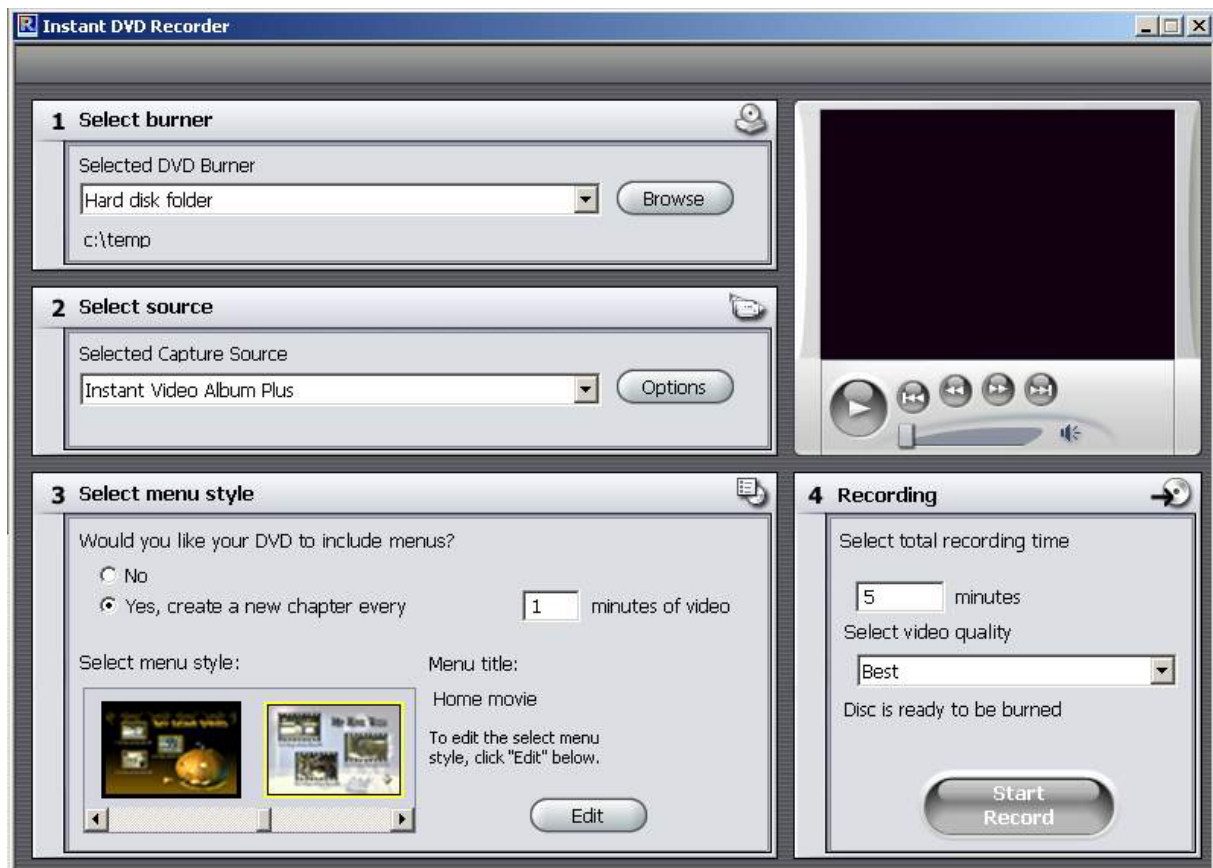


If problems occur during the DVD recording, then this is indicated by the Instant DVD Recorder.

Advanced Mode

Advanced Mode

If you have selected the **Go Directly to Advanced Mode** option in the [start-up window of the Direct-to-Disc Wizard](#), the following window will appear:



This mode gives you the option of performing all the necessary settings quickly and comfortably on a single screen. In this case, Fields 1 to 4 correspond to the four windows that you proceed through when using the Direct-to-Disc Wizard:

Field 1: Select burner

- This field displays the burners suitable for recording. If more than one burner is available, please select the device you wish to use.
- The output media supported by the selected DVD burner are then displayed. Please insert an appropriate DVD into your DVD burner.
- The Instant DVD Recorder may ask you to agree to additional steps to prepare the DVD (e.g. deleting old data on the DVD). In this case, please follow the instructions provided.

For further details regarding this field, please refer to [Window 1: Selecting a burner and inserting the DVD](#).

Field 2: Select video source

- This field displays the video source devices available. Should more than one option be listed, please select the device you wish to use.
- **Options** allows you to perform the driver settings for your video source device.
- The video being imported from the video source is displayed in the **Preview window**, enabling you to make sure that the device is correctly connected. You may also correct the video source settings for the DVD recording (e.g. programming the correct TV channel or searching for a particular position from which to start recording). The Wizard displays a variety of options below the preview window, independent of the type of video device.

For further details regarding this field, please refer to [Window 2: Select video source](#).

Field 3: Select menu style

- This field allows you to choose whether you want to divide your video into separate chapters and create a menu or burn your video onto DVD as a single movie file with no menu.
- If you have decided to create a menu and separate chapters, please define the length of each chapter in minutes.
- Go to the lower section of the field and select a menu layout.
- If you want to create a customized menu layout, please click on **Edit**.

For further details regarding this field, please refer to [Window 3: Select menu style](#).

Field 4: Start recording

- This field allows you to enter the recording time in minutes and set the recording quality to **Good**, **Better** or **Best**.
- Click on **Start Record** to begin recording.



Please note that the following conditions must be met to start a DVD recording: the DVD burner and the video source device must both be correctly connected, the incoming video signal should be visible in the preview window and you must have inserted a writable DVD into the DVD burner.

- If you want to stop the recording prior to completion, please click on **Stop Record**.

For further details regarding this field, please refer to [Window 4: Start recording](#).

Finish Recording

Finish Recording

A range of further options is displayed after the DVD recording is successfully completed:

- If you wish to restart the Instant DVD Recorder to record a DVD from a new source, click on **Start over**.
- Click on **Exit** to close the Instant DVD Recorder.
- If you recorded your DVD recording using the Direct-to-Disc Wizard, then you can select the option **Next time start in Advanced Mode** in order to go directly to Advanced Mode the next time you start the Instant DVD Recorder.

If you recorded your DVD in Advanced Mode, then you can select the option **Next time start Direct-to-Disc Wizard** in order to call up the Direct-to-Disc Wizard directly the next time you start the Instant DVD Recorder..

Congratulations on recording your own DVD using the Instant DVD Recorder!

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