

LESSON 185

DVD READ/WRITE DRIVES

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

One of the reasons that DVD rewritable drives haven't yet "clicked" in the computer market places is a lack of a uniform standard on these drives or the disk media they use. The language and terminology can get very confusing. Here's what you'll need to know in order to make sense of it all.

DVD-ROM -	This is a read-only drive
DVD-R -	Record once. Movies can be played on most recent models of consumer DVD players.
DVD-RAM -	Record, erase repeatedly. Useful for data storage. Recorded movies can't be played on most consumer DVD players.
DVD-RW -	Record, erase repeatedly. Mainly for movies. Compatible with most recent consumer DVD players.
DVD+RW -	Record, erase repeatedly. Useful for both data storage and movies. Compatible with most consumer DVD players.

Three standards, DVD-RAM, DVD-RW and the new DVD+RW compete for market supremacy and are keeping prices high.

Dell, Sony, Phillips Electronics, Mitsubishi, Rico, Thompson Multimedia and Yamaha, adopted by Hewlett-Packard, will also support the DVD+RW standard.

Expect to pay about \$15.99 per disk for DVD+RW media. That's not bad, considering that disks for DVD-RAM and DVD-RW drives are more expensive.

For now, you'll need a digital camcorder and a high-end PC' with a Fire Wire fast port to really get gain anything from having a DVD+RW drive.

The real question is whether or not the PC DVD+RW drive can copy DVD movies. While illegal to do so, it may be as easy as recording a DVD movie to your hard drive and then onto a DVD+RW disk. Copy write violations are serious and can result in large fines and even jail time. Not a very good idea

