

Harrow Camera Club

Burning Files to CD using NERO

This advice assumes a requirement to burn a set of files, all or mostly image files, to a CD for submission to a photographic event.

The Nero burn process allows you to add new content alongside anything previously burnt to the same CD, or you can remove (make invisible) any previous content. A CD may therefore be reused for many events in succession, and it is very important that:

- Content is always burnt as one or more folders, and not as individual files, so that the root directory of the CD only has folders.
- All the folders are named so that they are very clearly identifiable as associated with the individual photographic event.
- Folder name example: HCC Exhibition 23 September 2008

In this way, anyone opening the CD will see only a list of folders, and will also be easily able to find the one matching the event documentation.

Procedure:

1. Insert a CD-R disk into the CD drive. If the CD already has files, cancel any Autoplay attempt. A blank CD will not Autoplay.
2. In a suitable place, such as 'My Pictures' (XP) or 'Pictures (Vista), create a new folder, and name it for the event. (See the above reason for using a folder, and an example of the name.)
3. Copy all the files for the event into this folder. That usually means image files, sized and named according to the rules of the event organiser, and may include a text file with the author's details and a list of the image files in their event sections.
4. Start Nero Express. (Express is the simplest flavour to use, rather than full Nero, or Nero Startsmart.). Select that you want to make a Data Disk.
5. Nero reads the disk and displays the current contents via the index of the most recent recording. When using the disk for the first time, this display will be empty.
6. You can keep old content, as long as it will be clear which folder is your entry for the new event. Or, preferably, select each item of the contents, and click Delete to remove it, until the contents display is empty.
7. Click Add to get a browser window, and browse to the folder which contains the files you want to submit to the event. Select the folder and click Add, or double click on the folder. Close the Add browser window.
8. The contents list now shows your list of folders (the one for the new event, and any old ones).
9. Make sure you have ticked to request future reuse of the CD (multisession). Also tick to request verification of the data after burning.
10. Click Next, and then Burn this set of files. The disk is ejected after burning and verification.

You can repeat this process to burn another folder, or you can burn more than one folder at a time. At (2) create the separate folders in the same parent folder. At (7), add all of the folders to be burnt.

Burning a Slideshow. There are extra requirements if you want to burn a slideshow which will autoplay on inserting the CD.

1. Delete any previous content, and only add one new folder to burn.
2. Only include image files. Any other content defines the CD as mixed, which may not Autoplay as a slideshow.
3. Autoplay options are not fixed, and may be disabled on some computers. Any Autoplay options are not guaranteed, and should be tested in advance.
4. The files will Autoplay in alphabetic order of filename. Make sure the filenames work in the required order. File names of '001' '002' etc are suitable, but all must be the same length ie, not '1' '2' ... '10' ...
5. If the slideshow is interrupted, and also at its end, then the slideshow is unlikely to be repeatable unless the CD is ejected and reinserted to reactivate Autoplay.