



Sessions, Tracks, and All That Jazz

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posted to the [newsletters](#) on June 2, 1999, but the version below has been revised for Easy CD Creator 5

(Important: Everything that follows applies to discs written with [Easy CD Creator](#), but NOT to discs written with [DirectCD](#).)

First, some definitions (adapted from the [glossary](#)):

Track: Every time you write to CD, you will create at least one complete track. A session may contain one or more tracks (multiple tracks within a single session will usually be audio).

Session: A recorded segment of a compact disc which may contain one or more tracks of any type (data or audio). In data recording, there is usually only one track per session, but there may be multiple sessions on a disc. In audio recording, all audio tracks should be in a single session. A lead-in and lead-out are recorded for every session on a disc.

Lead-In: An area at the beginning of each session which will contain the session's Table of Contents (this shows the number of tracks, their starting locations, and the total length of the data area).

Lead-Out: An area at the end of a session which indicates that the end of the data/audio has been reached. IMPORTANT: Writing the lead-out closes the session. CD-ROM drives and CD audio players cannot see the data/audio in a session until the session is closed.

Track-at-Once: A method of writing data to disc. Each time a track (data or audio) is completed, the recording laser is stopped, even if another track will be written immediately afterwards.

Disc-at-Once: A method of writing CDs in which one or more tracks are written in a single operation, and the disc is closed, without ever turning off the writing laser.

(For more details on TAO, DAO, etc., read [here](#).)

So, now that you know all the definitions, let's take a close look at the Advanced recording options you can access in Easy CD Creator after you click the Record button, but before recording actually begins (click the Options button in the Record CD Setup dialog and look at the Record Method section in the lower right area of the extended dialog box):

Track-at-Once

Don't Finalize Session

Use this option ONLY for audio discs. The session lead-out is not written, which implies two things:

1. You can still add more (audio) tracks within the same session.
2. You will NOT be able to play back the disc on a CD-ROM drive/CD audio player until you finally do close the session (that is, write the session lead-out). You may be able to play it on your CD recorder.

Note: It is theoretically possible to write multiple data tracks within a single session, but you don't want to do this, because CD-ROM drives and CD recorders will only read the first data track in a session.

What do you do when you've added all the tracks you want? You can close a session/disc at any time and make the disc playable by:

1. Put the disc in your CD recorder.
2. Select CD Information from the CD menu.
3. If the disc contains one or more tracks in an open session, the Finalize Session button will be available. Click it.

Finalize Session. Don't Finalize CD

You would usually use this option only for data. It leaves you the possibility of adding another track/session of data on a disc (assuming there is room), thereby creating a multisession disc. For more information on multisession, read [here](#).

Audio CD players only look at the tracks in the first session on a disc, so if you record more audio tracks in sessions after the first session, you will not be able to play them on a CD player.

Finalize CD

You can use this option with data or audio, at any time when you are adding data/audio to a disc which already contains previous tracks/sessions. The assumption is that you are now ready to complete this disc and will not want to add anything to it in future.

Disc-at-Once

This option can be used with data or audio, requires a blank disc, and means that you will never be able to add data or audio to this disc in future.

Allow another recording

Also known as [Session-at-Once](#).

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