

5

BURNING A VIDEO DISC



If you have images from a digital video camera, a collection of video files stored on your hard disk, or a DVD that you want to copy, Nero gives you the option of burning your video files to a CD or DVD.

Copying a DVD

If you have at least one DVD drive for reading and a rewritable DVD drive too, you can copy the contents of an entire DVD to a blank DVD. To copy a DVD, follow these steps:

1. Insert the DVD that you want to copy into your DVD drive.

NOTE *If you try to copy a copy-protected DVD, Nero displays a dialog box to inform you that it can't copy it.*

2. Insert a blank DVD in your DVD rewritable drive. (If you insert a rewritable DVD that already has some data stored on it, Nero can erase it prior to burning your DVD.)
3. Start the StartSmart menu.
4. Click the **Copy and Backup** category.
5. Click **Copy Disc**. The Nero Express window appears, as shown in Figure 5-1.



Figure 5-1: The Nero Express window lets you choose the source and destination drives for copying your DVD

6. (Optional.) If you click the **More** button, you can click the **Simulate** check box to test whether Nero Express can copy your DVD successfully before you waste time trying to copy a DVD that can't be copied.
7. Click the **Source drive** list box and click the drive that contains the DVD that you want to copy.
8. Click the **Destination drive** list box and click your rewritable DVD drive.
9. Click the **Burn** button.

Copying Part of a DVD

Rather than make an exact duplicate of a DVD, you may only want to copy part of its contents. In that case, Nero lets you select which parts of a DVD to copy and even gives you a choice of whether to copy it to a CD or DVD. While a CD can hold much less data than a DVD, storing video files on a CD can be convenient for people who don't have a DVD player but still want to view your movies.

To copy parts of a DVD, follow these steps:

1. Insert the DVD that you want to copy into your DVD drive.
2. Insert a blank CD or DVD into your CD or DVD rewritable drive. (If you insert a rewritable CD or DVD that already has some data stored on it, Nero can erase it prior to burning the disc.)
3. Start the StartSmart menu.
4. Click the **Photo and Video** category.
5. Click **Convert DVD-Video Movies to Nero Digital**. The Nero Recode window appears.
6. Click **Import Titles**. An Import Title dialog box appears, as shown in Figure 5-2.

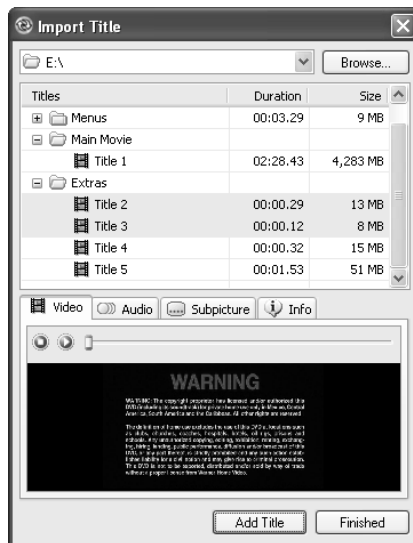


Figure 5-2: The Import Title dialog box lets you choose which parts (titles) of a DVD you want to copy

7. Click the video file that you want to copy. (To select more than one video file, hold down the **CTRL** key and click each video file that you want to add. To select a range of video files, click the first file you want, hold down the **SHIFT** key, and click the last file you want. Nero selects the first and last files, along with every file in between.)
8. Click **Add Title**. Nero Recode adds your chosen files.
9. Click **Finished**. Nero Recode displays your chosen video files, as shown in Figure 5-3 on the next page.
10. (Optional.) Drag a video file up or down in the Nero Recode window to rearrange the order of your video files.
11. (Optional.) Drag the **Video Quality** slider left or right. Decreasing the video quality creates a smaller file.

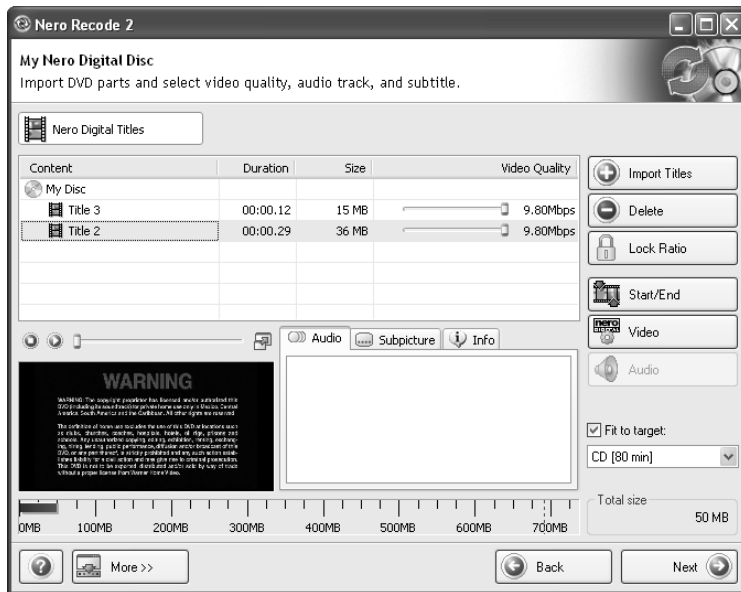


Figure 5-3: Nero Recode displays your chosen video files

12. (Optional.) Click a video file and click the **Lock Ratio** button. (The aspect ratio determines the vertical and horizontal size of a video file when it appears on a screen.)
13. (Optional.) Click the **Start/End** button. Nero displays a Set Start/End Frames dialog box, as shown in Figure 5-4. Drag the frame sliders until you see the frames you want to see first and last in the two panes. Click **OK**.
14. Make sure a check mark appears in the **Fit to target** check box.

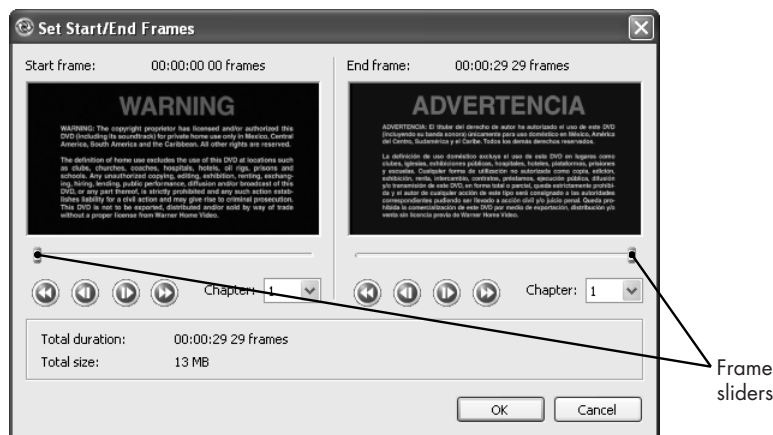


Figure 5-4: The Set Start/End Frames dialog box lets you define which frames should appear first and last in a video file

- Click in the **Fit to target** list box and choose a destination for your video files, such as CD or DVD.
- Click **Next**. Nero displays the burn settings, as shown in Figure 5-5.



Figure 5-5: Nero displays the burn settings for your chosen video files

- Click in the **Destination** list box and choose the CD or DVD rewritable drive where you inserted a blank CD or DVD.
- Click the **Burn** button. (Nero may display a dialog box informing you that you can improve the video quality of your video files if you encode your files again. You can select some or all of your video files to encode, and then click **OK**.) When the burning is done, a dialog box appears, asking whether you want to save a log file of the burn process.
- Click **Yes** or **No**.
- Click **Next** and then click **Exit**. The StartSmart menu appears again.

Creating a VCD or Super VCD

Basically, a VCD is just an ordinary CD that contains video instead of data or music. The Super VCD standard is a new and different format that stores more video at better quality on an ordinary CD. Although they are not as well known as the DVD format, VCD and Super VCD are two video formats for storing and playing video on ordinary CDs.

Philips and Sony introduced the VCD standard in 1993, but most countries had already adopted video cassette recorders (VCRs) instead. However, the VCD format became popular in Asia, which had yet to adopt VCRs. As a result, VCD players are nearly as common in Asia as VCRs are in North America. Because a single VCD can hold only approximately 70 minutes of video, most full-length movies require two VCDs with VCDs offering video quality similar to video cassettes. Curiously, one of the most popular uses for VCDs has been in karaoke players.

When the rest of the world began abandoning VCRs to adopt the newer DVD format, the Chinese government ignored it for economic and political reasons. Economically, DVD players and discs cost much more than ordinary CD equipment. Politically, the DVD format was controlled by the DVD Consortium, a collection of non-Asian corporations that demanded royalty payments from every manufacturer of DVD players. Not wanting to adopt an expensive video format that required royalty payments, the Chinese government backed the Super VCD standard instead. While still not as popular in the rest of the world as in Asia, the Super VCD standard can still be useful for storing video on ordinary CDs inexpensively.

Super VCD provides better video quality than VCD, but despite its name, Super VCD is not a superset of the VCD standard but an entirely different standard instead. As a result, you probably won't be able to play a Super VCD disc in a VCD player.

To create a VCD or Super VCD, follow these steps:

1. Start the StartSmart menu.
2. Insert a blank CD into your rewritable CD or DVD drive.
3. Click the CD tab in the upper-right corner of the StartSmart menu. (If you don't have a rewritable DVD drive, you may not see a CD tab in the right corner.)
4. Click the **Photo and Video** category.
5. Click **Make Video CD** or **Make Super Video CD**. The NeroVision Express window appears.
6. Click **Add Video Files**. An Open dialog box appears.
7. Click on the video file you want to add. (To select more than one video file, hold down the **CTRL** key and click each video file that you want to add. To select a range of video files, click the first file you want, hold down the **SHIFT** key, and click the last file you want. Nero selects the first and last file, along with every file in between.)
8. Click **Open**. NeroVision Express displays your video files.
9. (Optional.) Drag a video file up or down in the list to change the order of the files.
10. Click **Next**. NeroVision Express shows you what the opening screen looks like, as shown in Figure 5-6.



Figure 5-6: NeroVision Express creates an opening screen for your VCD or Super VCD

11. If you want to change any part of the opening screen, such as the background or text, click the item you want to change, such as **Shadow** or **Layout**. When you are done, click **Next**.
12. Click **Next**. NeroVision Express previews your opening screen with a remote control so you can test it out.
13. Click **Next**. NeroVision Express displays the burn options, as shown in Figure 5-7.

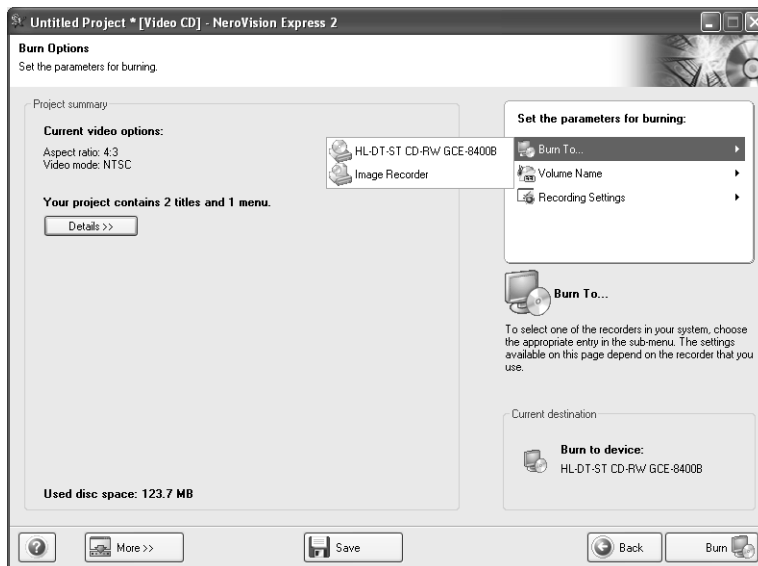


Figure 5-7: NeroVision Express displays your burn settings

14. Click **Burn To** and click the drive where you want to burn your video files.
15. Click the **Burn** button.

Once Nero finishes burning your VCD or Super VCD, you can play it back using the Nero ShowTime program, as described in Chapter 9.