

Explanation of DVD Disc Types

There are a number of different types of recordable DVD discs available. Each of the of disk types have there own characteristics which makes their uses slightly different. The description below is a brief summary of discs available.

DVD -R and DVD +R

These are the one of the most widely used type of DVD; these discs can only be written to once only. They cannot then be erased and re-used. Once finalised, the DVD can be played in most DVD players.

DVD-RW

DVD-RW Disks can be re-used many times. This means that both individual recordings and the entire disc can be erased (formatted) and re-written. DVD-RW discs must be 'formatted' before use as this prepares them for the recording process. They must be finalized in order for them to play on standard DVD Players in the same way as DVD-R and DVD +R. Once finalised it is not possible to edit the recordings. The disk will have to be re-formatted and re-recorded from the beginning to make and changes.

DVD+RW

DVD + RW disks are similar to the DVD -RW. They can be rewritten many times, and must be formatted before use, it can be finalised (Top Menu Created) to play on most DVD Players. *The Top Menu is the menu that will be displayed when the finished DVD is inserted into player.* This disk type differs from DVD –RW in that it can be written in several separate sessions. You can in effect update the disk by adding to it and then writing a new top menu again.

DVD RAM

DVD RAM disks are similar in principle to writing to a hard disk. Recordings made on DVD RAM are saved on Video Recording format (VR) which means the material can easily be edited, partially deleted, sections copied and divided etc. Chapters can also be written where chosen. The Ram Disk is can be re-written many times (around 100,000 times) DVD RAM is the most versatile of the formats, but it has one disadvantage, only a selected number of players and recorders can play the disks as they cannot be finalised.

Recording Modes

The recording mode controls the size and quality of the recording. They are as follows:

XP – Maximum Quality – 1 hour per disc

SP – Good Quality – 2 hours per disc

LP – Reduced Quality – 4 hours per disc

EP – Low Quality – up to 8 hours per disc.

FR – Flexible Record - Fits a recording onto a DVD using variable sample rates where the recording is between 1 and 8 hours. A good example of this mode is when recording a film that is two and a half hours. Flexible record will adjust the sample rate to best fit the film onto one disk.