

Appendix A: Backing Up Your Project Files

At the end of every recording session, I back up my project files. It doesn't matter whether I'm running late or whether I'm so tired that I can barely keep my eyes open—I always back up my files. Why? Because there once was a time when I didn't think much of making backups. I would do it occasionally—just to be safe—but I never thought I'd run into any trouble. Then one day I went to boot up my PC, and *poof!* My hard drive crashed, taking a lot of important files with it, including a project that I had spent weeks working on. Believe me, after that experience I never took file backups for granted again, and you shouldn't either.

Backing up your files really isn't difficult, and it doesn't take much extra time. This is especially true if your project includes only MIDI data. Project files containing only MIDI data are usually very small, and you can back them up by copying them to a floppy disk, just like you would any other small files. On the other hand, you might need to handle project files that contain audio data a little differently because of their larger sizes. For larger project files, you can use a CD-RW (CD-ReWriteable) or DVD-RW (DVD-ReWriteable) disc and make a quick backup copy that way.

Backing Up with Pyro 5

If you have a bunch of files to back up, you'll definitely need to use a CD or maybe even a DVD. In Chapter 13, you learned about using Cakewalk's Pyro 5 to create an audio CD from your SONAR project. In case you didn't know it, you can also use Pyro 5, along with your CD-R or DVD-R drive, to back up data files. The procedure is a bit different from creating an audio CD, but it's not difficult. To create a data CD with Pyro 5, follow these steps:

1. Start Pyro 5 and click the Data CD/DVD tab to display the data burning screen, as shown in Figure A.1. The top half of the screen shows all of the resources available on your PC. This includes your Windows desktop, the hard drives, and all the files stored on your computer. The left pane is the Folders view, and the right pane is the Files view. The bottom half of the screen represents your new data CD. The left pane is the Data CD Folders view, and the right pane is the Data CD Files view.

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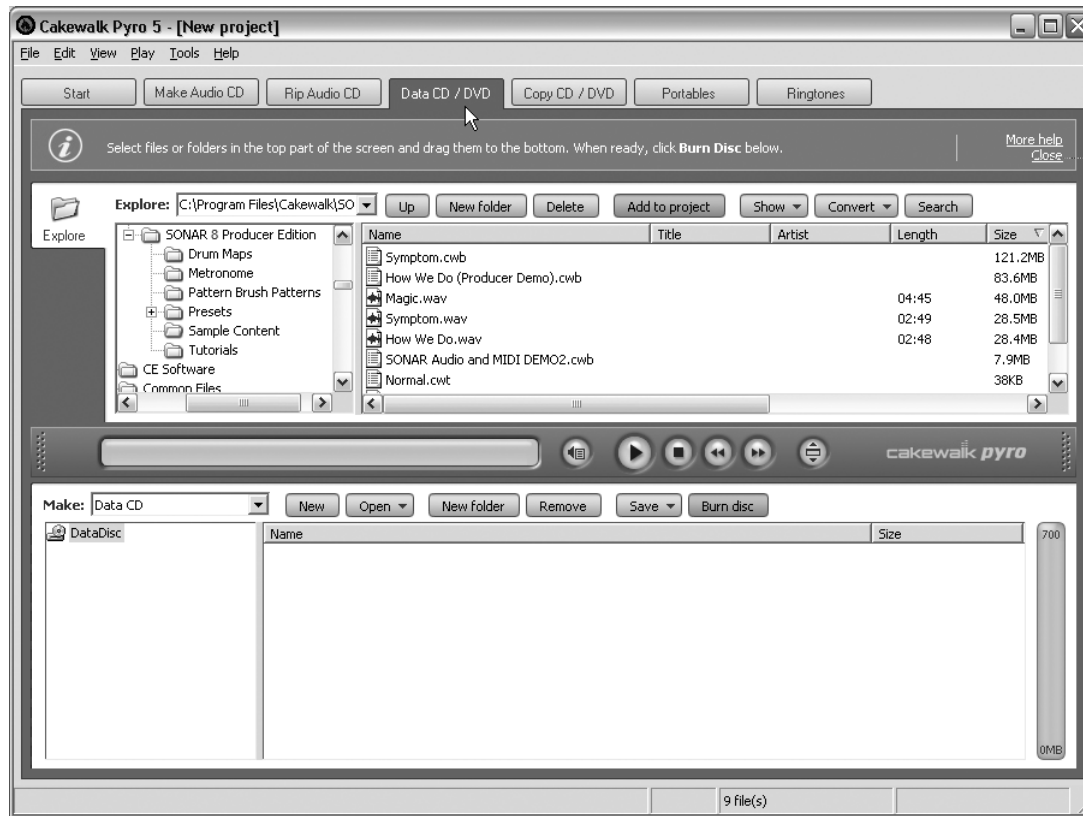


Figure A.1 Click the Data CD/DVD tab to access the Pyro 5 data CD functions.

2. In the Folders view, choose the resource or disk drive that contains the files you want to burn to CD. For example, if you have some files or a folder of files on your Windows desktop that you want to save, click Desktop in the Folders view. The Files view will then display a list of all the folders and files available on the desktop.
3. In the Files view, select the files or folders you want to burn to CD. To select multiple files, hold down the Ctrl key as you click the files with your mouse.
4. Click the Add to Project button in the top half of the screen to add the selected files to your data CD project. The files and/or folders will be added to the Data CD Folders view and the Data CD Files view respectively, as shown in Figure A.2.
5. To delete a file or folder from the data CD project, click it to select it and then click the Remove button.

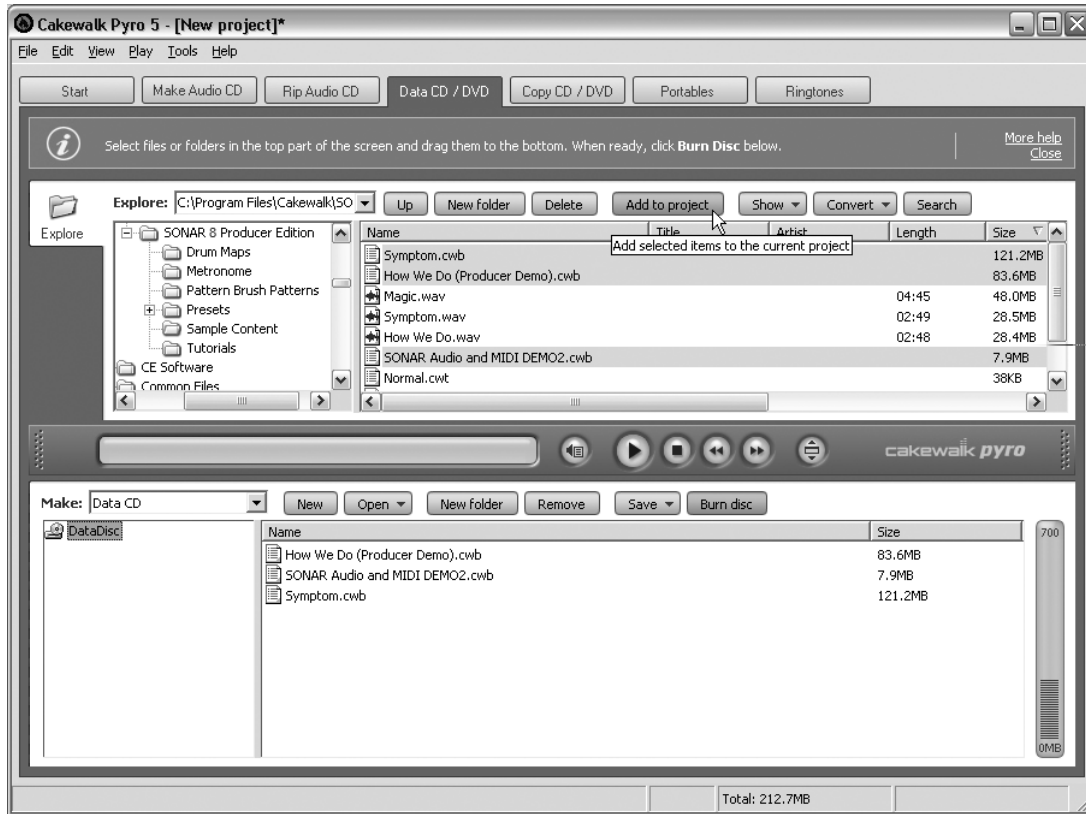


Figure A.2 Click the Add to Project button to add files or folders to your data CD project.

CD Storage Capacity As you add or remove files and folders from your data CD project, be sure to keep an eye on the gauge located to the right of the Data CD Files view. This gauge shows you how much room you have left on the current data CD. Most CDs can store up to 740MB, but some can go as high as 800MB. You need to read the label on your blank CD to determine how much it can store.

6. Repeat Steps 2 through 5 until you've finished adding all your files or folders to the project.
7. To give your data CD a name, click DataCD in the Data CD Folders view to select it and type a new name for the CD. The name for a data CD can be up to 11 characters and can only contain letters, numbers, or underscore characters.
8. Put a blank disc in your CD burner and then click the Burn Disc button located above the Data CD Files view to display the CD Burning Options dialog box (see Figure A.3).

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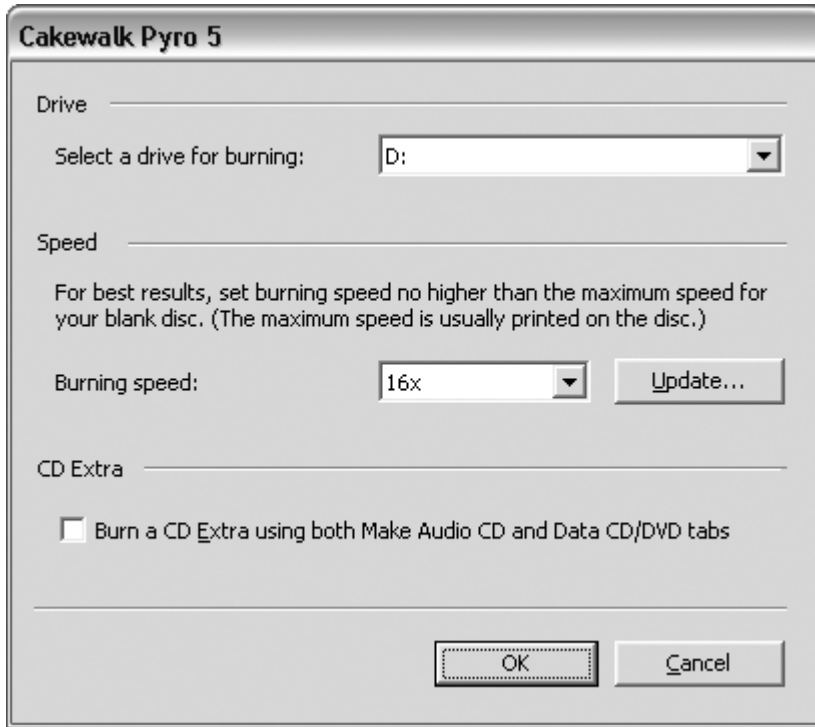


Figure A.3 Use the CD Burning Options dialog box to choose the drive and the burning speed you want to use.

9. Choose the drive you want to use from the Select a Drive for Burning drop-down list. If you have only one CD burner attached to your computer, it should already be selected.
10. Choose the burning speed that you want to use from the Burning Speed list. If the list doesn't look accurate, you can have Pyro scan your drive; simply click the Update button.

CD Burning Speeds When you choose a burning speed, be sure to read the label on the blank disc you are using to determine its maximum speed rating. Some CDs are created to withstand high burning speeds, and some are not. If you choose a speed that is higher than what your disc can withstand, it might not burn correctly.

11. Click OK. Pyro will show you its progress as it burns your new data CD.

Backing Up with Windows XP

Windows XP provides built-in CD burning capabilities for data CDs, as well as audio CDs. If you are using Windows XP, you can back up your project files to CD using the following procedure:

1. Insert a blank CD-R or CD-RW disc into your CD recording drive. If Windows XP opens a CD Drive window, just click Cancel.
2. In Windows XP, choose Start > My Computer to open My Computer (see Figure A.4).

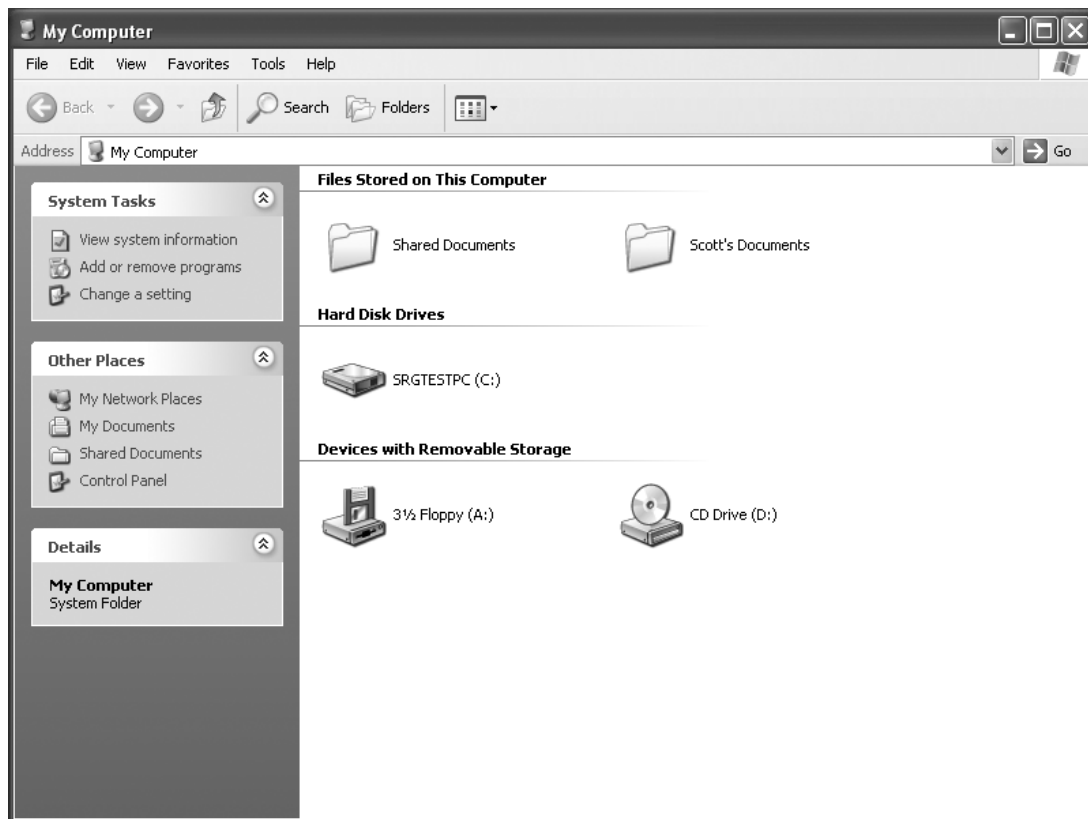


Figure A.4 Use My Computer in Windows XP to select your project files.

3. Double-click the hard disk icon and navigate to the location of your project files. Then select the files that you want to back up.
4. On the left side of the window, you'll see a section called File and Folder Tasks (see Figure A.5). Click Copy This File (for single files) or Copy the Selected Items (for multiple files).

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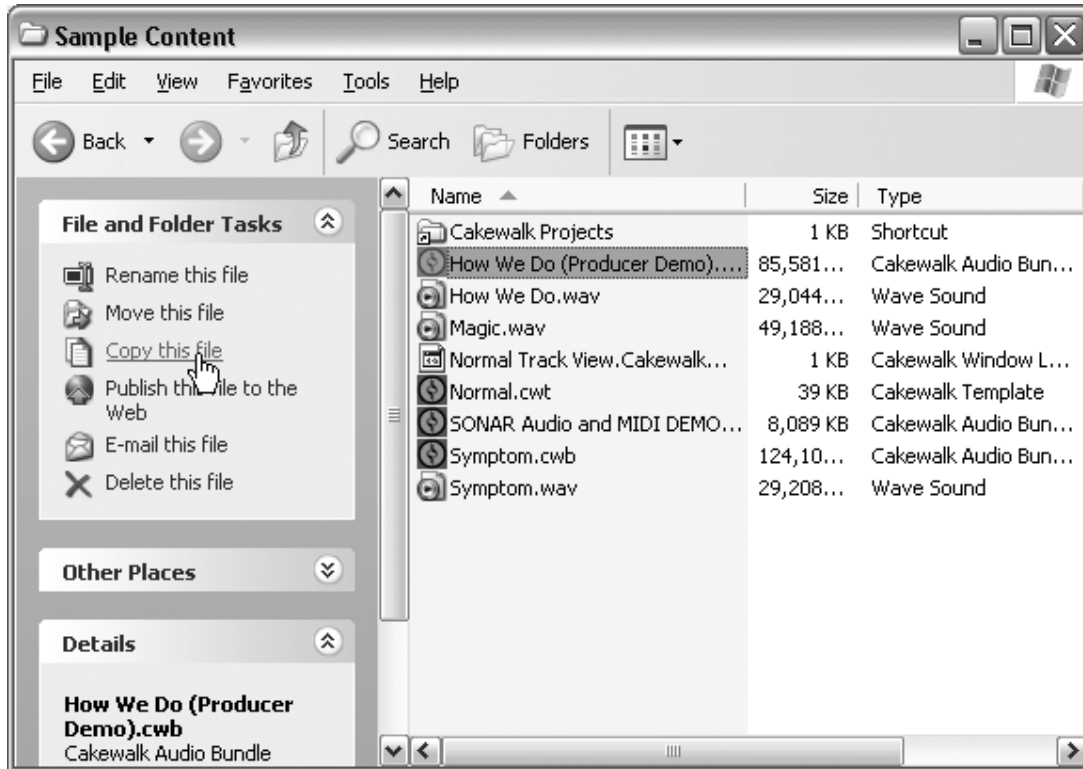


Figure A.5 Choose the appropriate option in the File and Folder Tasks section.

5. In the Copy Items dialog box, select your CD recording drive and click the Copy button.
6. A balloon message will pop up in the Windows XP Taskbar with the message "You have files waiting to be written to the CD." Click the balloon to open a new window for your CD recording drive (see Figure A.6). The right side of the window will list the files to be burned.
7. On the left side of the window, you'll see a section called CD Writing Tasks. Click Write These Files to CD to open the CD Writing Wizard (see Figure A.7).
8. Enter a name for the CD in the CD Name field and click Next. Windows XP will burn your file to the CD.
9. Follow the remaining prompts and click Finish when you are done.

File Splitting Sometimes, you might find that you have a project file that is too big to fit on a single CD. Project files containing audio can get quite large, especially if they contain many audio tracks or you are using a high bit depth (such as 24-bit) or a high sampling rate

(such as 96kHz). In this case, it would seem that you have no way of storing your file on a data CD. Well, if you use a file-splitting utility, you can get around this limitation.

A file-splitting utility will take your file and divide it into smaller files that can be burned to multiple CDs. These smaller files represent different sections of your one large file. If you ever need to access the file again, you can copy the smaller files from the CDs to your hard drive and then use the utility to combine them into the larger file.

Take a look at the following Internet site for a list of some of the available file splitting utilities: <http://www.download.com/3120-20-0.html?qt=file+splitter&searchType=vdl-20>.

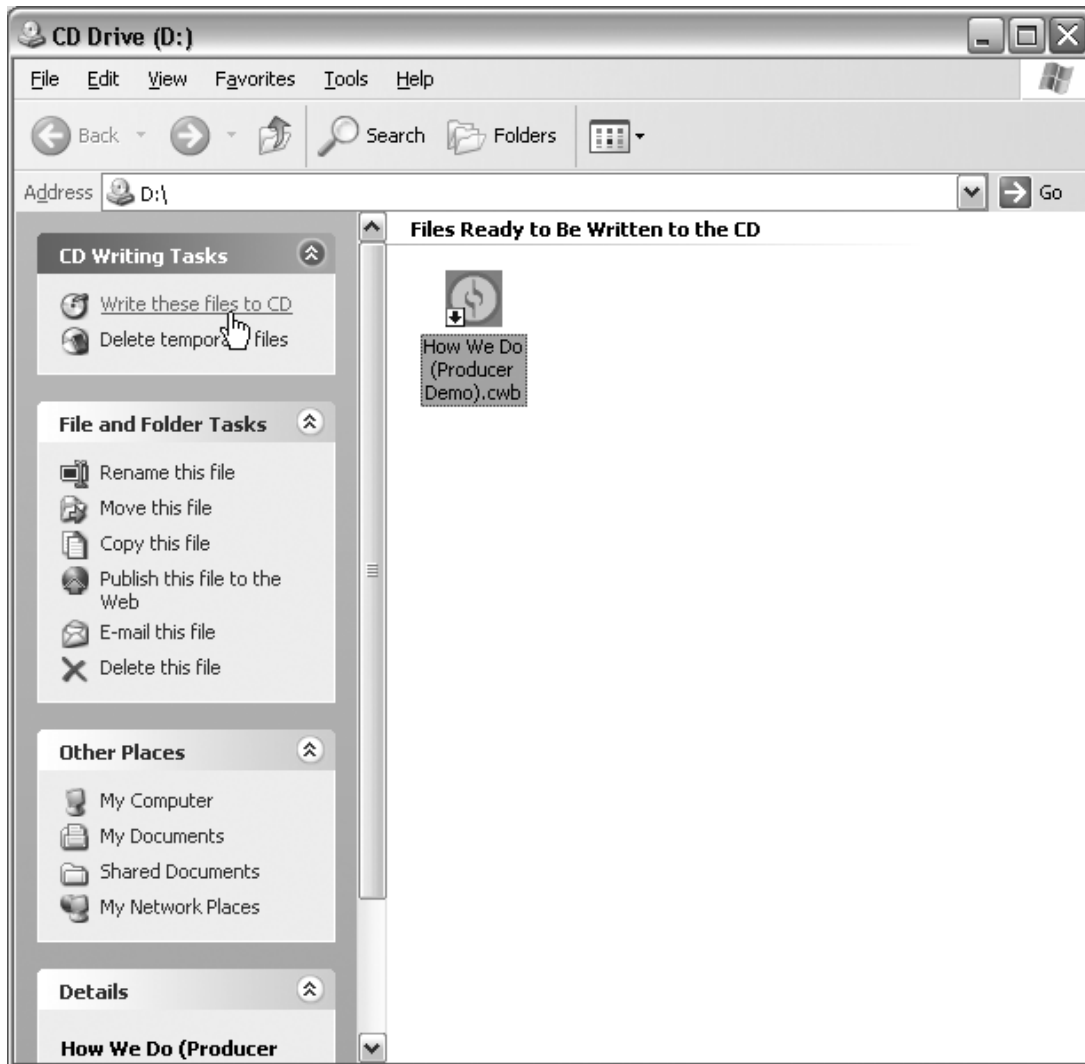


Figure A.6 The CD Drive window lists the files to be burned.



Figure A.7 Use the CD Writing Wizard to burn your files to CD.

Backing Up with Windows Vista

If you are using Windows Vista, you can back up your project files to CD or DVD using the following procedure:

1. Insert a blank CD or DVD into your burner.
2. In the AutoPlay dialog box, choose the Burn Files to Disc option (see Figure A.8).
3. In the Burn a Disc dialog box, enter a name for your new disc.
4. Click the Show Formatting Options button (in the bottom-left section of the dialog box) and then choose Mastered as the formatting option (see Figure A.9).

Live File System or Mastered By default, Windows Vista uses a new method to burn discs called the *Live File System*. This system allows you to simply drag/drop files to a disc and

use it similarly to the way we used to use floppy disks. Unfortunately, these discs will be readable only by Windows XP or Vista. So if you want your burned discs to be compatible with Mac or older versions of Windows, use the Mastered formatting option.

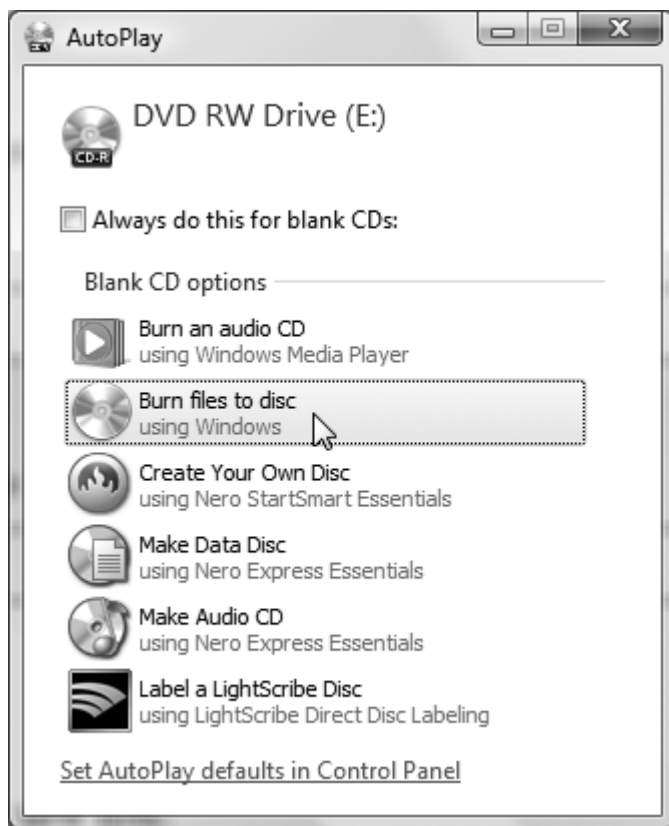


Figure A.8 Use the Burn Files to Disc option in the AutoPlay dialog box.

5. Click Next. Windows Vista opens a burning window for your new disc, which is a special holding area for the files and folders you want to back up.
6. Drag/drop or copy/paste the files/folders you want to back up into the burning window (see Figure A.10).
7. Click the Burn to Disc link in the task toolbar (see Figure A.11). Windows Vista displays the CD Writing Wizard.

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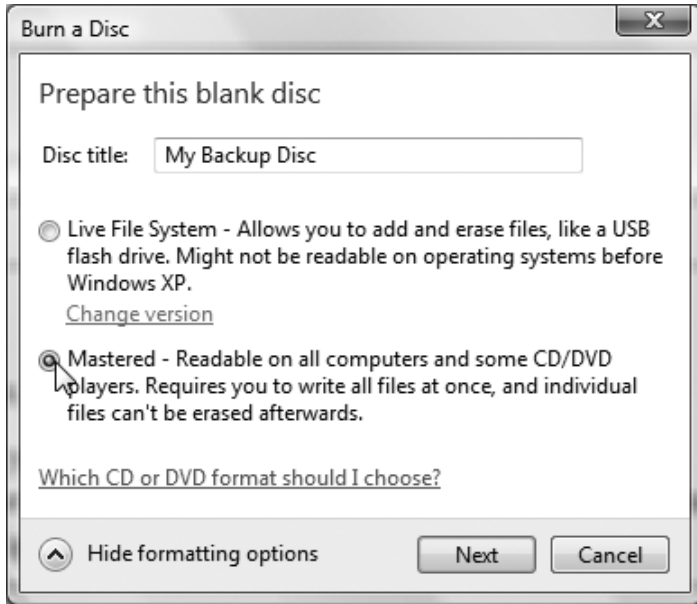


Figure A.9 Choose the Mastered option in the Burn a Disc dialog box.

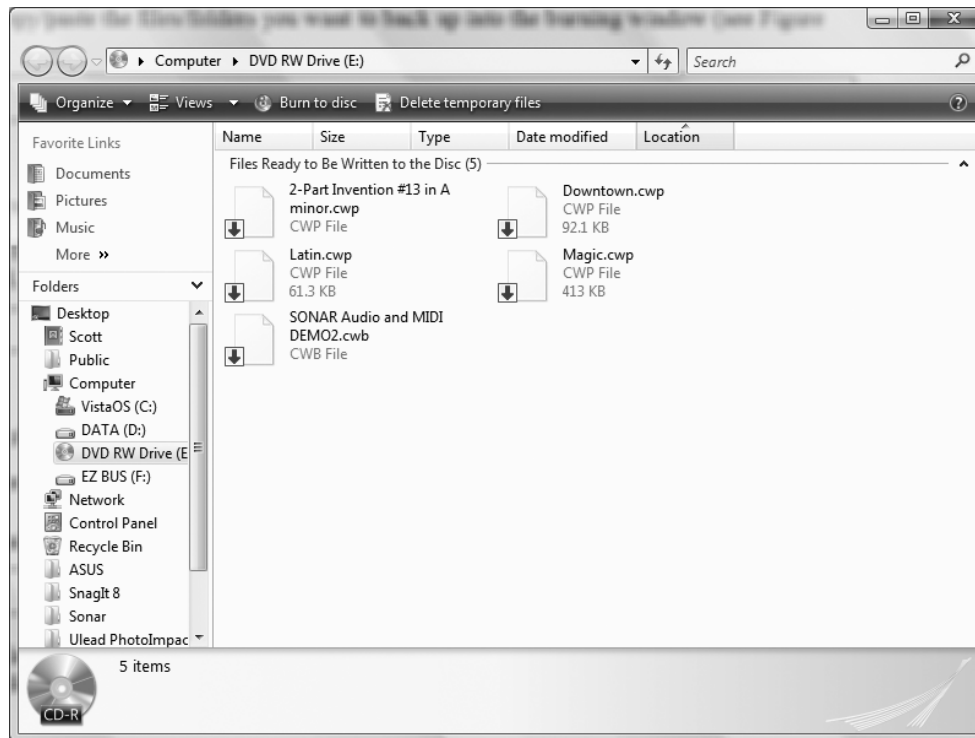


Figure A.10 Place your files into the burning window for back up.

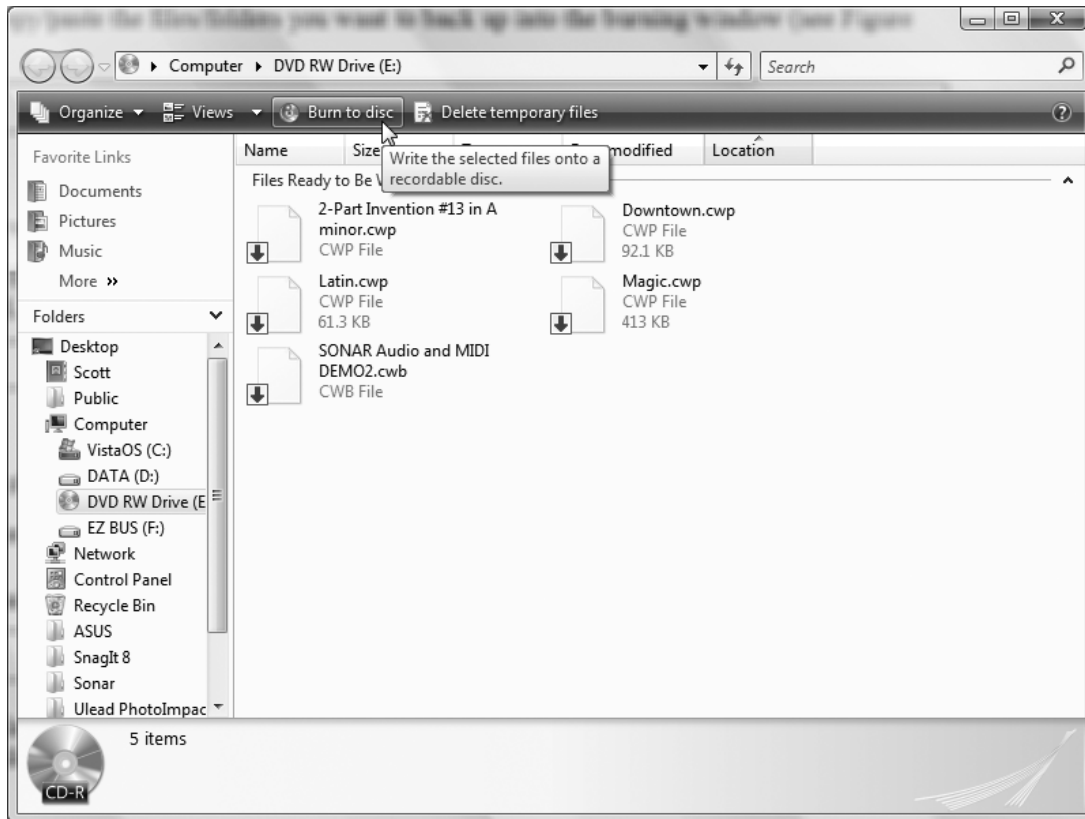


Figure A.11 Click Burn to Disc to start the CD Writing Wizard.

8. You can change the name of the disc in the Disc Title field or leave it set to your previous entry. Click Next, and Windows Vista will burn your file(s) to the disc.
9. Follow the remaining prompts and click Finish when you are done.

Now, don't you feel better already? You can rest easy knowing that all your difficult recording work won't be lost, even if your computer decides to give up on you one of these days. Believe me, it's not a fun experience.

