

Rating CD-R Drives

Rating CD-R Drives								
Product	Price*	Bundled Software	SCSI Card Provided?	Recording Speed	Performance	Usability	Technology	Verdict
Yamaha CDE100 Yamaha (800) 543-7457	\$2,995	None**	No	4X	**** 1/2 Produced flawless CDs in our tests. Only one to pass post-gap check.	**** Powerful features, nice toolbars add to ease of use.	**** The mechanism behind other CD-R drives.	**** Fast hardware, cheap even with the software cost.
Philips CDD522 Philips (800) 777-5674, (719) 593-7900	\$1,900	WinOn-CDtoGo	No	2X	*** Average 2X drive, passed all but post-gap check.	*** 1/2 Easy to create CDs, software similar to File Manager.	*** Biggest buffer for smoother recording.	*** 1/2 Excellent software usability, but only 2X. Good bargain.
Smart and Friendly CD-R4000 Smart and Friendly (818) 994-8001	\$3,800	Corel CD	Yes	4X	*** 1/2 Fast recording, but failed post-gap check.	*** 1/2 Easy to use, with wizards and tutorial, but	**** Yamaha mechanism inside.	*** Fast hardware, complete but expensive package.

Rating CD-R Drives

Pinnacle Micro RCD-1000 Pinnacle Micro (800) 553-7070, (714) 789-3000	\$1,795	Pinnacle Micro RCD-1000 software	Yes	2X	** 1/2 Failed post-gap check and had trouble playing on some 4X drives	*** 1/2 Software based on top-rated Easy-CD Pro with backup program.	** Large buffer, fast access, but still only 2X.	** 1/2 Would be the best bargain except for failed 4X compatibility.
Personal Archiver JVC; (714) 261-1292	\$1,695	Personal Archiver 3.0	Yes	2X	** Failed post-gap check, difficulties on some 4X drives.	* 1/2 Can't create mixed-mode CDs.	** Large buffer, fast access, but only 2X.	** Slow drive, software is too limited.
PlayWrite 4000 Microboard; (800) 646-8881	\$2,995	CD-Record 2.12	No	4X	** Produced poor audio tracks, failed post-gap check.	** Difficult to transfer files.	**** Yamaha mechanism inside.	** Not suited for multimedia CDs.
Personal Scribe 1000 Meridian Data (800) 767-2537, (408) 438-3100	\$6,195	Personal Scribe 2.1	No	4X	**** Fast recording, but failed post-gap check.	* Crude DOS software, lacks features such as simulation.	**** Yamaha mechanism inside.	* 1/2 Poor usability, list price is gouging.
* Estimated street price unless noted otherwise								
** Tested with INCAT's Easy-CD Pro 3.0 (\$500)								