

Formatting Your Disc

All discs must be initialized (or formatted) before they can store data. DLA can perform either a *Quick* or *Full* format of your discs. The following table describes the fundamental differences between the two.

Comparison of the different types of formatting

Quick Format	Full Format
Faster (generally taking less than 60 seconds)	Depending on the speed of the drive and the size of your media, this can take up to 180 minutes
Can be performed on all CD and DVD write-once discs and on previously formatted rewriteable discs.	Only available for CD-RW and rewriteable DVD media
Must be initially performed for all write-once media	Must be initially performed for all CD-RW and rewriteable DVD media
Will not repair disc errors	Repairs some errors by preventing data from being written on damaged sections of the disc

Caution: Formatting a disc makes all previously recorded data inaccessible. Once the Format operation is started, it cannot be cancelled.

▼ To format a disc:

1. Insert a disc into your recorder drive.
2. In **My Computer**, right-click your recorder drive.
 The **Use with DLA** option in the popup menu should have a check mark beside it. If this option is not selected, follow the steps in [Using DLA With Your Recorder Drive](#) before proceeding.
3. Click **Format**.
 DLA's *Format* dialog box appears. The options available to you will depend on the type of recorder drive you have.
4. Set the options in the *Format* dialog box.
 - a. Type a name for your disc in the **Volume label** text box.
 - b. Select either **Quick** or **Full** Format by clicking beside the option you prefer. DLA can perform either a *Quick* or *Full* format of your discs.
 - c. If you have an EasyWrite CD-RW drive, you will have the option to create an EasyWrite disc by placing a check mark beside **Enable EasyWrite**. (See [Using DLA with EasyWrite Drives](#) for more information.)
5. Click **Start**.
 If you selected Quick Format or you selected Full Format and your drive supports background formatting, you will be able to use your disc within minutes. If not, you must wait until formatting is complete before you can write files to your disc.

Other Topics:

- [Using DLA With Your Recorder Drive](#)
 - [Adding Data to Your Disc](#)
 - [Making Discs Compatible](#)
 - [Using DLA with Windows XP](#)
 - [Using DLA with EasyWrite Drives](#)
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