Creating Disc Labels on Your Notebook Using LightScribe

Document Part Number: 383416-001

February 2005

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LightScribe is a direct disc-labeling technology that provides a simple way to create precise silk-screen-quality labels for discs. All you have to do is burn, flip the disc, and then burn again.

Creating a label uses the LightScribe-enabled optical drive of your computer with enhanced disc-labeling software, and specially coated CD or DVD discs (sold separately).

A LightScribe-enabled optical drive uses an optical laser to burn an image into the thin dye coating on the label side of a LightScribe disc. There is no ink to smear, no paper to curl, and no sticky adhesive to cause problems. LightScribe discs are identified by the LightScribe logo on the retail packaging and on the inner area of the disc itself.

Frequently asked questions

■ **How do I know if I have a LightScribe drive?**

It will display the LightScribe logo (shown above).

■ **Can I upgrade my current DVD-RW drive to work with LightScribe media?**

You cannot upgrade your current optical drive to be LightScribe capable.

■ **What do I need to use LightScribe?**

Burning a label with LightScribe requires three things:

❏ A LightScribe-enabled optical drive

❏ LightScribe-enhanced software

❏ LightScribe discs (sold separately)

■ **How long does it take to burn a LightScribe label?**

The time required varies according to the image mode (Draft, Normal, and Best) and the surface area setting (narrow band with curved text, medium band with curved text, or the full disc surface). Using Draft or Normal imaging modes provides a shorter burn time, but also results in a lighter label. In most cases, the less area you use, the less time it takes to finish burning the label.

When beginning the burning of the label, the LightScribe software provides the estimated amount of time it will take to complete the label. A progress bar shows the remaining time during the burning process.

■ **Where are LightScribe discs sold?**

LightScribe discs are available at major computer and consumer electronics retail outlets, and through online shopping.

■ **Can LightScribe burn a color label?**

Currently, LightScribe technology creates a grayscale image, similar to a black-and-white photograph.

■ **Can I use my PC for other things while I am burning a LightScribe label?**

Yes. LightScribe does not require your attention during the label burning process. You can continue using your computer for other tasks while the label is being burned.

■ **Will the LightScribe image fade or darken over time or with exposure to light?**

LightScribe discs are optimized to ensure that the label surface lasts. Some minor fading may occur over time. To ensure the longest life for both the label and data, keep optical discs out of direct light.

■ **Is the LightScribe surface/coating safe to handle?**

Yes, the LightScribe discs are safe to handle, like other optical discs.

■ **Can I re-do a LightScribe label?**

The LightScribe label is permanent and not erasable.

■ **What happens if I forget to flip the disc over before burning the label?**

The LightScribe software notifies you that the disc is not recognized and prompts you to flip the disk over. The disc must be placed label-side down in the optical disc tray.

■ **Is the LightScribe disc hot or dangerous to handle immediately after the label is burned?**

No, the LightScribe disc is safe to touch as soon as the label burning process is complete.

Tips and tricks

Before you begin, take a moment to review these helpful suggestions:

- **Choose a design that fits your needs.** The LightScribe software that came with your PC has a number of pre-designed templates for any occasion.

- **Use your own text, photos, or designs.** Open your favorite graphic design application, create your artwork, and save it in .bmp, .tif, or .jpg format. From your LightScribe software, select the file as a background and complete your label by adding any desired text.

- **Make each CD or DVD a work in progress.** You can add new text and pictures (for example, more song names or file names) to a previously burned label. Simply load the label design you originally used to burn the label, clear the existing text and graphics to avoid duplicate information being burned, then add the new label information and burn again.

- **Preview your label.** To make sure the label is exactly the way you want it, use the Print Preview function (if available) or print the label out on paper to see it before burning.

- **Cut down on your label burning time.** Switch from Best to Normal mode: you'll burn fewer tracks per inch, which takes less burn time but creates a lighter image. Or use the Title or Content templates instead of Full Disc. Because LightScribe burns from the center of the disc to the outside edge in concentric rings, Title and Content templates save time by confining your label to a narrower band. For the same reason, using circular text instead of straight text can also speed up burn times.

- **Go for contrast.** A high-contrast photo or graphic stands out better than a picture in mostly soft middle tones. Use your software's preview feature to see how the graphics you use look on disc.

- **Keep using your PC.** While the label is being created, you can continue to use your PC for other activities. The LightScribe software indicates the time remaining to burn the design.

- **Avoid sudden shock or vibration.** While the disc is labeling, avoid any sudden shock or vibration to the PC.

- **If you are using a notebook, avoid sudden loss of power.** While the disc is labeling, keep your notebook AC adapter and power cord plugged into a working electrical outlet.

Installing LightScribe software

Before you can create a LightScribe label, you must install the required software.

If you are using a notebook, install the software included on the *HP DVD Writer* disc in the "Required for Setup" bag that is included with your notebook. Insert the disc and follow the on-screen instructions.

Creating a LightScribe label

Burning a label with LightScribe is a separate process from burning data, music, or picture files onto a disc. Depending on the LightScribe software you use, you can create a label before or after you burn files onto the disc.

✎ To burn the label after burning disc content, you must flip the disc over and place it label-side down in the optical disc tray.

Labels can be a simple title with a contents list, or you can get more creative by adding backgrounds and images.

You can design and create the label with InterVideo DiscLabel or Sonic Express Labeler. The following sections provide instructions for creating LightScribe labels

■ With InterVideo DiscLabel.

■ With Sonic Express Labeler.

■ After burning a disc with iTunes (available with select versions of LightScribe software only).

Using InterVideo DiscLabel to create a LightScribe label

1. Click **Start**, **All Programs**, **InterVideo DiscLabel**, and then click **InterVideo DiscLabel** again.

2. Select a template style from the Template menu and click **Apply**.

3. Double-click the title text box, if present, or click **Add Text**.

4. Type the text into the Rich Text Edit window, and then click **OK**.

5. With the text box selected (click the box once), use the Text toolbar to modify the font, color, and other text properties.

6. Double-click the list text box, if present, or click **Add List** to add a list of contents to the label.

7. Click **Add** to add a row to the list.

8. To enter text for a list item, move the cursor over one of the item boxes (Title, Artist, or Length); click the box; and then enter text.

9. Repeat steps 7 and 8 for each item you want to add to the list of contents.

10. Click **OK** when you are finished with the list.

11. Select a background for the disc label:

    ❏ Click the **Theme** menu and choose one of the provided theme images. Click **Apply**.

    – or –

    ❏ Click **Edit Background** and then click **Change Background** to add a background image to the label. Follow the onscreen instructions to browse and select an image file. InterVideo DiscLabel supports .jpg, .bmp, and .png image files.

    ✎ If you use a color image or theme, LightScribe burns it as a grayscale (monochrome) image.

12. Click **Add Image** and follow the on-screen instructions to browse to and select an image file.

13. Click and drag the image to the desired area on the label. You can resize the image by clicking and dragging the sides or corners of the image.

    ✎ To remove an image from the label, click the image and then press **Delete** on your keyboard.

14. When you are satisfied with the appearance of your label design, click **LightScribe Print**.

15. Click **Print**, insert the LightScribe disc (label-side down) in the disc tray, and then click **OK**. The estimated time to complete the label is displayed, along with a progress bar. You can continue to work on your PC while LightScribe is burning the label.

    ✎ A sudden bump or vibration of the computer during the labeling process may affect the quality of the label.

Using Sonic Express Labeler to create a LightScribe label

1. Click **Start**, **All Programs**, **Sonic RecordNow!**, and then click **Express Labeler**.

   ✎ You can also open the Express Labeler from within RecordNow! by clicking **Label Disc**.

2. Make sure that **Disc Label** is selected in Step 1: Select Project.

3. Click **Text** and then enter text for the Title and Subtitle.

4. For each line of content description, click **New** and enter text for the information you want to include, and then click **OK**.

5. Select a label template by clicking **Layout** and choosing a layout.

6. If desired, select a background by clicking **Background**. Select one of the provided backgrounds or click **More** to find one of your own images to use as a background.

   ✎ If you use a color image, LightScribe burns it as a grayscale (monochrome) image.

7. When you are satisfied with the appearance of your label design, insert the LightScribe disc (label-side down) into the disc drive tray and then click **Print**.

8. From the Disc Label menu, select **LightScribe 12cm Disc**.

9. Select a Contrast Level and then click **OK** to begin burning the label. The estimated time to complete the label is displayed, along with a progress bar. You can continue to work on your PC while LightScribe is burning the label.

   ✎ A sudden bump or vibration of the computer during the labeling process may affect the quality of the label.

Creating a LightScribe label with iTunes (select versions only)

iTunes works with Sonic Express Labeler to conveniently burn labels on a data CD or audio CD from iTunes. The playlist you create in iTunes to burn a disc is automatically imported into Express Labeler so that this information is available for you to use on your LightScribe label.

✎ To use Express Labeler from iTunes, the data or music tracks in the playlist you are using must fit on a single CD.

1. Click **Start**, **All Programs**, **iTunes**, and then click **iTunes** again.

2. Burn a data or audio CD with iTunes. When the burning process is complete, click **Yes** on the Create LightScribe Label window.

3. Make sure that **Disc Label** is selected in Step 1: Select Project.

4. Select a label template by clicking **Layout** and choosing a layout.

   ✎ The various layouts show different amounts of playlist information. Some show only the playlist title, others show the playlist title and track names. You can edit the playlist information by clicking **Text** to open the Edit Text window.

5. If desired, select a background by clicking **Background**. Select one of the provided backgrounds or click **More** to find one of your own images to use as a background.

   ✎ If you use a color image, LightScribe burns it as a grayscale (monochrome) image.

6. When you are satisfied with the appearance of your label design, insert the LightScribe disc (label-side down) into the disc drive tray and then click **Print**.

7. From the Disc Label menu, select **LightScribe 12cm Disc**.

8. Select a Contrast Level, and then click **OK** to begin burning the label. The estimated time to complete the label is displayed, along with a progress bar. You can continue to work on your PC while LightScribe is burning the label.

   ✎ A sudden bump or vibration of the computer during the labeling process may affect the quality of the label.

Restoring LightScribe software

To restore or reinstall LightScribe software on your notebook, insert the *HP DVD Writer* disc and follow the instructions on the screen.