

California Computer Care

News,
Views,
Tips and
Cool Techniques
for CCC Members

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News Flash!

ComputerWare

Returns to
San Rafael!

**Grand
Re-Opening
September 8**

Same Place
New Ownership

Record Your Own

Music, that is. One good thing that came out of getting sick was finally having the time to start and finish a project that I have been wanting to tackle for over a year.

Perhaps, like me, you have quite a few vinyl record albums that you never listen to because it's just too much trouble to take them out, handle them carefully, clean the surface of the record and the stylus on the turntable, play them and then carefully store them away. It's just so much easier to play a CD! If you feel this way, why not record your vinyl records onto CDs?

Here's what you need: A Mac (of course!), a CD-R or CD-RW drive, a cable (more about this later) and software. Fortunately, you already have the Mac (if it is vintage 2001, it probably already has a CD-RW drive in it), and the software is free.

If you don't have a new Mac, but do have an external CD-R (CD wRitable) or CD-RW (CD ReWritable) drive, you are set. If you don't, I recommend drives made by APS http://apstech.com/prod/index.cfm?cat=2#CD_RW. APS makes the best, most reliable drives. APS sells their drives directly from their web site, or call (800) 395-5871.

Software. You need to decide: AIFF or MP3? AIFF is the standard music recording format and will produce CDs that will play in any CD player. This compatibility is great, but because of the large size of AIFF files, you will only be able to fit one vinyl record album on each blank CD.

The MP3 format creates much smaller file sizes. With MP3 you can fit up to 15 vinyl record albums onto one CD. MP3 saves lots of time, effort and money. However, the disadvantage of MP3 is that the CDs you create will only play on computers and somewhat rare MP3 compatible CD and DVD players.

If you decide on AIFF for compatibility, you'll need two pieces of software. The first software that you must have is recording software to turn your Mac's hard drive into a tape recorder. I recommend the free utility *Sound Recorder*. *Sound Recorder* does a great job of recording stereo sound from microphones, tape recorders, records or whatever. If you've ever used a tape recorder, *Sound Recorder* will be a snap.

The other piece of software that you will need is the CD burning software that came with your Mac or CD-R drive. If you have a Mac with a built-in CD-RW drive, then the marvelous *iTunes* is what you will use. If you bought your CD-R or CD-RW separately, it probably included Adaptec (now Roxio) *Toast* for burning CDs.

To create MP3 based CDs, you'll need to add AIFF to MP3 conversion software. Fortunately, *iTunes* does this job as well. Unfortunately, *iTunes* requires Mac OS 9 to run. If you have an older version of Mac OS, you can use the free utility *BladeEnc* to convert AIFF files to MP3.

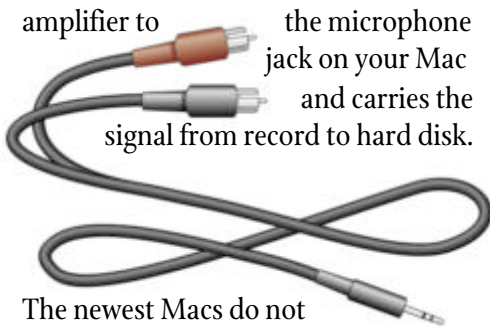
All of the software you need can be downloaded free from the internet:

- 1) iTunes 1.1: <http://www.versiontracker.com/moreinfo.fcgi?id=9688&db=mac>
- 2) Sound Recorder 1.0: <http://www.versiontracker.com/moreinfo.fcgi?id=4136&db=mac>
- 3) BladeEnc 1.4: <http://www.versiontracker.com/moreinfo.fcgi?id=676&db=mac>

For your convenience, a CDROM with all of this software is available from California Computer Care for \$10.00.

The cable. To complete your setup for recording, a special cable is needed to connect your record player or turntable to your Mac. This cable is available from any good

electronic supply store such as Radio Shack (Specialty Y-Adapter-3 Ft., part #42-2475, \$4.99). This cable connects from the output of your receiver or amplifier to



the microphone jack on your Mac and carries the signal from record to hard disk. The newest Macs do not have a microphone jack so that they can maintain digital purity in the musical signal. For these Macs, you will need a Griffin *iMic* adapter. MacZone has them here:

http://www.zones.com/cgi-bin/zones/zbs/scripts/product/product_summary_page.jsp?id=241568

MacZone part #00135779, \$34.95.

That takes care of the necessary parts.

Next month, I'll describe the recording process.

Thanks to all—

For your concern and nice comments. My illness is past and I am back to normal in health and activity.

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Like an
auto club
for your
computer.

OS X Update

The new Mac operating system, OS X (ten) is due to be released in a new 10.1 version in September. As it is always best to wait for the first .1 update with any new software, OS X 10.1 *may* now be ready for the average user.

Enhancements in Mac OS X 10.1 include a dramatic speed up, more customizability, improved Finder views, DVD playback and authoring support and myriad tweaks and adjustments.

The Mac OS X 10.1 upgrade will be a huge file; too large to download and so, will be distributed on CDROM.

Apple has begun factory installing OS X on all new Macs. Most users will not even notice as Mac OS 9.2 is also installed and is the default operating system. Users will have to purposefully chose to change to OS X by using the *Startup Disk* control panel.

New OS X applications are appearing regularly including *Macromedia Freehand 10* (a great graphic design application), *OMNIWeb 4* (my favorite web browser) and *Suitcase 10* (font management). Lots of utilities and development tools are showing up as well.

I'm using Mac OS X about half the

time, especially for web browsing and experimentation. Printing is still my main problem as my printers are unsupported. I'll be buying an OS X compatible printer as soon as one comes with the software in the box (instead of having to download it from the internet) so that I can evaluate what the average consumer would buy.

August Tip—

New From our Friends at Microsoft

Word 2001 Disk Full Error

If you have File Sharing enabled and attempt to save a *Word 2001* document more than 60 times in a single session, you'll receive a Disk Full error and won't be able to save your document to a local disk. If File Sharing is disabled, you can save up to 250 times before you receive this error.

Should you be stuck in such a situation, you can quit *Word*, relaunch it, and begin saving, but you'll lose any changes made since the last save. However, if you're on a network, you can use the *Save As* command to save the document to another volume on the network.