



## **How to Buy Disc Duplication Equipment**

There are two main options when it comes to the duplication of discs. The first is outsourcing the duplication of discs. This is beneficial to some because someone else takes care of the duplicating and printing. The drawbacks to outsourcing are long lead times, larger minimum orders and in smaller quantities the higher cost per disc.

Another option is to purchase your own duplication equipment. This lets you produce your discs in-house. You'll eliminate long lead times and can burn and print the exact number of discs you need, when you need them.

### **Types of Duplicators**

Two types of duplication and printing solutions are available: (1) a tower duplicator with a CD/DVD AutoPrinter or (2) a fully-automated CD/DVD disc publisher.

A tower duplicator is an upright box that includes a stack of drives for recording and one drive for the master disc. In this case, discs are usually pre-printed by an automated CD/DVD printer. A CD/DVD printer prints directly onto the surface of CDs and DVDs. This is a good choice for someone that requires many copies immediately after an event such as a worship service.

Fully-automated CD and DVD disc publishers can be a better choice for those without immediate time constraints. A CD and DVD publisher integrates both a recorder and printer in one machine. First, the discs are burned by the built-in, high-speed recorder. Then, the discs are printed. The entire process is automatic and "hands-free."

The idea behind CD and DVD publishers is it is a one-step system where anyone can start a job, walk away and the publisher equipment does all the work for them. The key is finding one that is fast, reliable, cost-effective and produces an end-product with a professional look that everyone feels comfortable handing out to their customers, members, etc. Producing a high-quality, full-color disc speaks volumes about your organization.

### **Capabilities and Capacities**

There are many options when it comes to the amount of discs you want to produce hands-free. The most popular brands of automated disc publishers have either 20, 50 or 100 disc capacities.

Speed of the duplicator is another factor to consider. Some disc publishers offer faster robotics which allows you to burn and print discs at a faster rate. Be sure to check out the recordable speeds that are allowed by the system. Different interfaces are available to help speed up the process, too. USB 2.0 is the most widely used. A new ultra high-speed interface called eSATA is just starting to become available on some brands of automated disc publishers. The eSATA

interface transfers data from 6 to 10 times faster than USB 2.0, allowing discs to be burned at the maximum drive speed ratings.

When deciding on a duplicator, you need to consider what types of media you need to burn now and what you may need to burn in the future. With the growing popularity of the high-definition Blu-ray™ disc format, many are now purchasing duplicators that have the capability to also burn this type of media.

Duplicators are also available with networkable software and the compatibility to work with both PCs and Mac. These are all things to think about when comparing duplicators and seeing what they all have to offer.

### **Cost**

It is important to mention prices of duplicators have come down dramatically over the past five years. Previously, prices were so high only production studios and large corporations bought their own duplicators. But no longer since fully-automated CD and DVD disc publishers now can be purchased for less than \$1500. With this low cost, owning your own duplicator can pay for itself in no time.

The list of uses for CD and DVD duplication equipment is endless. Once you're burning and printing discs in-house, you'll likely wonder how you ever got along with out it. Regardless of which brand, model and capabilities you choose, the immense versatility of a duplication system is a highly cost-effective way to save time and money and present a professional looking disc.