



Black fascia



Rear view

SPECIFICATIONS

Read	Write	Re-Write	Price
CD: 40X DVD: 16X	CD-R: 40X DVD±R: 16X, DVD-R: 8X, DVD+R DL: 2.4X	CD-RW: 24X DVD±RW: 4X DVD-RW: 4X	RM490

Interface : E-IDE/ATAPI**Writing :** CD-R: 40X, DVD±R: 16X, DVD-R: 8X, DVD+R DL: 2.4X, DVD±RW: 4X, CD+RW: 24X**Max. Reading :** CD: 40X, DVD: 16X**Access Time :** N/A**Buffer Size :** N/A**Bundle :** ArcSoft ShowBiz, Sonic RecordNow, CyberLink Power2Go, LightScribe, MicroVision SureThing SE Plus CD/DVD Labeler**Warranty :** One-year**Contact :** Integrity Micro Distributors Sdn Bhd**Telephone :** (03) 2274 6692**URL :** www.hp.com.myAvailable at
PLAZA LOW YAT
shopping centre

Writing With Light!

ON TEST HP dvd640i LightScribe 16X DVD Writer

BY friday13

HP's new celebrity drive

HP's new kid on the block offers CD and DVD burning enthusiasts a new feature to occupy their time with – LightScribe technology. We first saw them on HP's desktop PCs but now you can get this novel feature separately. For the uninitiated, this technology allows you to "burn" a monochrome image on the label-side of specially prepared LightScribe DVD media.

The drive itself is nothing spectacular once your senses have been dulled by the latest high speed drives like what we've been receiving of late, but on its own it does offer fairly decent performance – 16X DVD+R writing, 8X DVD-R writing and 2.4X DVD+R Double Layer support. DVD+R and DVD-R writing is still capped at 4X, however. What HP excels in, however, is in their excellent package

and bundle. You get a nicely-detailed and multi-lingual quick start guide, user manual and software guide along with a nice assortment of software.

Not for everyone

The bundled software provided by HP requires Windows 2000 or XP in order to run, meaning you will not be able to use LightScribe technology on Windows 98 platforms (the drive will still work with third party DVD authoring software though). Another observation that we noticed is that the drive is not quite a top performer when compared to the many other 16X DVD writers available today, but to be fair it performed well enough in our tests. The important thing is that it operates reliably and works well with the various media that we threw at it including

Verbatim, Imation and Maxell discs. Every disc was written without a hitch.

One final point to mention is that as great as LightScribe sounds, it can take a long time to finish writing your label depending on what you write. While a simple title in draft or normal mode can take less than two minutes to complete, a complete label with high resolution graphics can take as long as half an hour!

In a Nutshell

HP's LightScribe DVD writer offers a unique way of labeling your personal discs that is cleaner and neater than the traditional paper label method. How much is this worth to the user? This is a personal preference that you, as a user, will have to decide. As for us, we're sold on LightScribe!

OUR RESULTS



CD bundle

Data CD Read Speed:	
Average	29.38x
Start	10.99x
End	41.72x
Audio CD Read Speed:	
Average	29.61x
Start	7.74x
End	40.48x
HDD-to-DVD+R (4462MB)	15:12 minutes (@4x)
HDD-to-DVD+RW (4462MB)	24:11 minutes (@2.4x)
HDD-to-DVD-R (4462MB)	14:54 minutes (@4x)
HDD-to-DVD-RW (4462MB)	25:55 minutes (@2.4x)
HDD-to-CD-R (665MB)	3:30 minutes (@40x)
HDD-to-CD-RW (665MB)	3:49 minutes (@24x)

HWM's Rating

Performance: **8.0**
Features: **9.0**
Value: **9.0**



Efficient performance and unique labeling system are the highlights of this drive

8.5
Overall Score Out of 10