



Rear view of the SOHW-1693S



You get an additional faceplate to match your desktop color

SPECIFICATIONS

Interface	Read	Write	Re-Write	Price
E-IDE/ATAPI	CD: 48X DVD: 16X	CD-R: 48X DVD±R: 16X DVD±R DL: 4X	CD±RW: 24X DVD±RW: 8X DVD-RW: 6X	RM 250

Writing : CD-R: 48X, DVD±R: 16X, DVD±R DL: 4X, DVD+RW: 8X, DVD-RW: 6X, CD+RW: 24X

Max. Reading : CD: 48X, DVD: 16X

Access Time : 120ms

Buffer Size : 2MB

Bundle : Ahead Nero 6 OEM Suite, CyberLink PowerDVD 5

Warranty : One-year

Contact : Integrity Micro Distributors Sdn Bhd

Telephone : (03) 2274 6692

URL : www.liteonit.com

Available at
PLAZA LOW YAT
shopping centre

Trend-setting Burner

ON TEST Liteon SOHW-1693S 16X DVD±R/±RW Drive

BY friday13

Established format support

At the moment writing speeds for R and RW media seem to have taken a backstage (or have reached a practical limit), but there is still plenty of room for Double Layer to expand. Therefore Liteon's latest DVD writer makes its entrance by not offering any more improvement over 16X DVD+R and -R writing, but by providing 4X Double Layer performance, instead. The drive can handle both versions (+R and -R) of Double Layer media, and therefore can be considered to be extremely versatile in terms of media support. The only thing that it's missing is DVD-RAM support.

The venerable CD-R format is not neglected at all – the drive can burn CD-R media at a maximum 48X speed, plus it can handle CD-RW at 24X. This makes it an overall fast

performer indeed. Now you can burn a complete DVD+R or DVD-R in just slightly over six minutes at 16X – a startling improvement over 8X and 4X.

Popular software bundled

To facilitate CD and DVD authoring, this drive is bundled with Ahead's NERO OEM Suite which is arguably the de-facto standard that most manufacturers are including with their drives these days. The software should prove sufficient for most users' CD and DVD writing needs, as it can handle a wide variety of formats from regular data CDs to audio and video formats as well. As an added bonus, this drive is also bundled with CyberLink PowerDVD 5 for DVD movie enjoyment. This Liteon drive comes with two bezel sets – beige and black – to better suite the color of the

casing that you are using. Apart from the bezels, a simple user installation manual and CD audio cable are included with the drive. The front interface is simple and functional. The customary eject button is present, along with a headphone jack and volume control for audio CD playback. However no actual playback controls are present – you'll need to start the PC and use software to play audio CDs this way.

In a Nutshell

This Liteon drive provides excellent performance that'll definitely cut down on CD and DVD writing times significantly, while at the same time providing good support for various media types especially the Double Layer format. The exchangeable front bezel idea seems to have become more and more common with DVD drives today, and it's a nice thing to have.

OUR RESULTS



Items bundled with the drive

Data CD Read Speed:

Average	36.26x
Start	21.26x
End	47.77x

Audio CD Read Speed:

Average	36.30x
Start	21.12x
End	47.85x
HDD-to-DVD+R (4462MB)	6:02 minutes (@16x)
HDD-to-DVD+RW (4462MB)	7:46 minutes (@8x)
HDD-to-DVD-R (4462MB)	6:17 minutes (@16x)
HDD-to-DVD-RW (4462MB)	10:22 minutes (@6x)
HDD-to-CD-RW (665MB)	3:55 minutes (@24x)

HWM's Rating

Features: **9.0**
Performance: **9.0**
Value: **8.5**



A good performer with excellent media support, especially for Double Layer

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Overall Score Out of 10