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Lite-On EZ-DUB SHW-160P6SU

REVIEW DATE: 07.11.06

✓ Editor's Rating: ●●●●○

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BOTTOM LINE

The Lite-On EZ-DUB is a great external optical drive equipped with two handy function keys for making multiple DVD copies on the fly.

PROS

Inexpensive. Fast and easy-to-use function buttons.

CONS

A little bulky.

PRICE

[\\$110.00](#)

By Cisco Cheng

As you can imagine, external DVD drives are much easier to use and install than their internal cousins. You just plug the drive into a free [USB](#) or [FireWire](#) port on your PC, load some copying software, and you're ready to go. The Lite-On EZ-DUB SHW-160P6SU takes this simplicity one step further by offering quick push-button recording functionality.

Basically, the EZ-DUB is a typical DVD optical drive wrapped inside a protective housing. Oval shaped, it weighs 3.7 pounds with its bundled AC adapter, which makes the drive a pain to lug around. You'll also need the included USB cord to connect it to your PC.

SLIDESHOW (5)



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The drive's most distinctive features are two buttons, Dub and File, located on top of the unit. The Dub button lets you burn your CDs and DVDs at the

touch of a finger. When you press it, the EZ-DUB writes an image of the source disc to a file on your PC's hard drive and then prompts you to insert the blank media of your choice. I tried every single DVD format I knew, including DVD±DL media, and all of them worked perfectly. The File button launches an application that lets you easily drag and drop files from your hard drive onto a DVD. Both functions will require a software installation, which Lite-On provides in the form of a CD.

Also included is a full edition of Nero 6.6, perhaps the best disc-burning suite on the market. You can use Nero as a more advanced alternative for burning and editing your CD and DVD media. Lite-On also bundles a copy of PowerDVD 6.6, a software decoder for watching DVD movies.

RELATED LINKS

- [Product Guide: DVD Burners](#)
- [External Hard Drives](#)
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My test results were on a par with the EZ-DUB's speed specifications. Ripping a 4.5GB DVD movie that's not copy-protected took only 5 minutes 8 seconds—17 seconds faster than the [Sony DVDirect](#). Burning DVD+R and DVD-R discs ran a little over 6 minutes, which is typical for a 16X drive. Finally, burning DVD+R and DVD-R dual-layer discs still takes a long time, nearly 30 minutes for an 8.5GB image. Dual-layer DVDs are still rather expensive, though I've seen online sites selling them for \$2 to \$2.50 apiece; single-layered DVDs go for 25 cents to 50 cents apiece.

One bit of buying advice: Watch out for another older Lite-On model currently floating around called the EZ-DUB SHW-1673SU. It does not support DVD-R DL media and burns DVD+R DL media at 4X instead of 8X. The SHW-160P6SU I review here is the newer drive that supports all these features. It's the one you want.

The Lite-On EZ-DUB SHW-160P6SU lists for an affordable \$109.99, but you should be able to find it on retail sites for under \$100. I like it for its solid performance, good software package, and simple operation.

See how the Lite-On EZ-DUB SHW-160P6SU measures up to other burners in our [DVD burner comparison chart](#).

Test Results

For ripping and burning times, check out the [Lite-On EZ-DUB SHW-160P6SU's test results](#) .