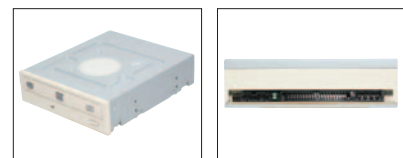




LiteOn Breaks The Speed Record... Again!

LiteOn 20x DVD/CD Writer & Rewriter

BY MUZAFFAR ISMAIL



The LiteOn 20x DVD/CD Writer & Rewriter is the company's answer to the market's ever increasing speed limit for DVD burners. Whereas before, the current title holder was the 18x DVD rewriter, this time LiteOn has upped the ante to 20x.

At first glance the 20x DVD/CD Writer & Rewriter looks and feels like no other internal optical drive we've seen to date. At a mere 0.9kg, it is exceptionally light and is a bit smaller than most typical internal drives. The drive comes with three optional bezels; black, metallic silver and off-white beige. The front interface looks very typical with the usual single rectangular eject button and DVD+R/RW labeling. There is no audio jack, highlighting the fact that this is a dedicated burner and not a player. Installation was simple and straightforward.

This 20x DVD/CD Writer & Rewriter can read and write practically all formats from Dual and Double layer DVD9 8.5GB discs to DVD-RAM and CD-ROM media. It can push the speed limit a little higher for 16x DVD media by burning at 20x. This means burn time can now go below the speed limit of 8 minutes for DVD media. Other media are more or less the same with a 32x increase for CD-RW and

8x for Dual Layer media. DVD-RAM read and write speeds were also improved and is definitely more stable than previous incarnations. LightScribe media however is not supported, but for this speed it is hardly necessary to have a labeling system built in.

Performance-wise the 20x DVD/CD Writer & Rewriter works steadily and silently with virtually no noise at all. The lighter parts seem to have increased the speed at no cost to performance as the burn quality was still top notch. All tests went smoothly with normal test speeds being improved in some areas by 1 or 2 minutes!

The 20x DVD/CD Writer & Rewriter comes bundled with the Nero 7 Essentials software suite. To many of us this is a bit of overkill, as instead of just the Nero burner software a whole host of other graphics and player software are also included. Our recommendation is to install what you need only, even though most of the software is quite good in its own right.

Overall, the LiteOn 20x DVD/CD Writer & Rewriter is a steady, silent and exceptionally light DVD/CD burner. The new blazingly fast

speed will hold it in good stead with any user and the steady reliability will be welcome by all. For now, the industry standard for DVD media is holding steady at 16x but as time goes by, faster speeds may be attained. Just like CD-R media before this, speeds may well go into the 50x or we may soon see DVD-burners incorporating Blue-ray Disc or HD DVD capability. Regardless, if you're looking for a good and fast DVD/CD rewriter then this is the burner for you.

SPECIFICATIONS

DVD-RAM	DVD 9	DVD 5	Type	Price
Yes	Plus / Minus	Dual	Internal	RM 135

Model : 20X DVD/CD Writer & Rewriter

Interface : ATAPI/E-IDE

Write Formats : DVD+R (20x), DVD+RW (8x), DVD-RW (6x), DVD+R (Double Layer) (8x), DVD-R (Dual Layer) (8x), DVD-RAM (16x), CD-R (48x), CD-RW (32x), Photo CD, CD-DA, CD-Extra, CD-Text

Read Format : As above with DVD-ROM (16x), CD-ROM (48x)

O/S : Windows XP/2000/SPE

Dimensions/Weight : 145 (W) x 41.3 (H) x 170 (L) mm / 0.9kg

Warranty : One-year

Contact : Integrity Micro Distributors Sdn Bhd

Telephone : (03) 2274 6692

URL : www.liteonit.com

Available at

PLAZA LOW YAT
shopping centre

HWM'S VERDICT

Physique: **9.0**

Features: **8.5**

Speed: **9.0**

Performance: **9.0**

Value: **8.5**

9.0

Out of 10

**A steady, stable and light
20x DVD rewriter**



Bundled faceplates and Nero software

Tests:

Using Nero 7			
Data Size	Media	Write Speed	Time (Min : Sec)
0.7GB	CD-R	48x	02:45
0.7GB	CD-RW	32x	03:23
4.5GB	DVD+R	8x	08:17
4.5GB	DVD-R	8x	08:20
4.5GB	DVD+RW	4x	13:57
4.5GB	DVD-RW	2x	30:04

* For CD test, 700MB of data composed of 200MB of 60MP3 files and 500MB of data is used to burn. For DVD test 4.5GB is composed of multiple 700MB test data.