

# Battery-powered burning

## Portable CD Writer

Ever run out of space on your Compact Flash card, SD card or other removable memory card when you don't have access to a computer to transfer your images? Chances are this has happened to you, and it can be frustrating for the amateur or – worse still – disastrous if you happen to be a professional photographer caught short on location.

Enter the Apacer Disc Steno CP100, a portable, battery-operated CD writer that can burn

the data being written to ensure no valuable images are lost due to a bad write, but it does double the amount of time needed to record the data. Of course the exact time it takes will vary depending on how many files are to be written. We tested the Disc Steno using a 128MB SD card filled with images and found the entire process only took just over two minutes. Using the device with the supplied, rechargeable lithium-ion battery should yield about 60 minutes of operation according to the Apacer documentation – more than enough time to fill a number of CDs.

The unit can also operate as an external CD recorder when connected to a PC via the supplied USB 2.0/1.1 cable – in this instance you'll need to install a third-party software bundle to record CDs. On our test-bed PC running Windows XP Professional, no drivers were needed to install the Disc Steno and a driver CD is included in the bundle for users of Windows 98 and Windows 2000.

Quality of construction is excellent and Apacer have seen fit to include everything you could possibly need when travelling with the Disc Steno: there's a carry bag, an AC adapter and a handy charger to plug into a car cigarette lighter.

It's hard to find fault with the Disc Steno: it's well designed, comes with everything required to use it (apart from a digital camera) but, above all, it does what it's supposed to do quickly and without fuss. For anyone who has ever needed extra storage space for their digital photography while on the road, the Disc Steno should prove to be the perfect companion.

■ Scott Bartley



**SANS PC:** Quickly and easily burn your digital photos direct to CD from your memory card – without a PC.

images from just about any type of card without the use of a computer. The entire device isn't much larger than an ordinary CD walkman or other portable optical disc drive and yet it contains card readers for Compact Flash (Type I and II), IBM Microdrive, Secure Digital, Multimedia Card, SmartMedia, Memory Stick and even the newer xD cards when using a suitable adapter. Using the device is simple; insert the memory card, press the Record button and insert a blank CD-R. The Disc Steno uses multisession recording so you can keep adding files to a single CD until it is full. For the paranoid user there is also an option to record with "error checking" turned on. This verifies

## APACER CP100 DISC STENO

★★★★★

The Disc Steno is a great device that every digital photographer should consider.

**RRP incl GST:** \$699

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