TECHNICAL INFORMATION BULLETIN

KODAK PHOTO CD Discs

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How can I create a KODAK PHOTO CD Disc using my computer and CD-writer?

Kodak provides PHOTO CD Discs creaton software for the only to professionals who have a PHOTO CD workstation. This is done to maintain the quality standards of PHOTO CD Discs. The critical component of the PHOTO CD workstation is the high-resolution scanner that creates the digital image from a Photographic negative or print. For this reason, making a PHOTO CD on your own is not straightforward. For more information, you may want to check out Ted's Unofficial Kodak PHOTO CD Homepage at: http://www.tedfelix.com/PhotoCD/

I burned my photos on CD-R, but they won't play on my KODAK PHOTO CD player.

KODAK PHOTO CD players were designed to read image files in the .pcd format only. KODAK PHOTO CD players cannot recognize image file formats written by common authoring packages (for example, JPEG, TIFF, BMP). KODAK PHOTO CD players can also read audio files.

Can I convert .jpg format image files to .pcd format image files?

Kodak provides the software to create .pcd files only to professionals who have a PHOTO CD workstation. This is done to maintain the quality standards of PHOTO CD Discs. The critical component of the PHOTO CD workstation is the high-resolution scanner that creates the digital image from a photographic negative or print. With the KODAK PHOTO CD workstation, the image file is created as a .pcd file. It is not converted to a .pcd file.

Where can I learn more about KODAK PHOTO CD Products?

For more information about PHOTO CD Products (including the location of a service provider near you) please visit the Kodak PHOTO CD Product Information site at: http://www.kodak.com/go/photocd

What is the file size of an image on a Kodak PHOTO CD?

The file size of an uncompressed digital image on a Kodak PHOTO CD Master Disc is 18MB. Negatives are scanned with a resolution of 2k by 3k yielding 6 million pixels. Each pixel is composed of three bytes of information (one for each of the primary colors), resulting in 18 million bytes per image. For storage on a PHOTO CD Disc, this raw data is compressed to an average file size of 4.5MB. You can find more information about compression here: http://www.kodak.com/global/en/service/faqs/faq1001a.shtml

I make my own PHOTO CDs and want to view them on my T.V. My DVD player won't play them; where can I obtain a KODAK PHOTO CD player?

While it is possible to write image files in several different file formats to a blank CD-R, a true PHOTO CD is written in the .pcd format. The software to create .pcd files is provided only to professional KODAK service providers.

The KODAK PHOTO CD player has been off the market for many years. It is true that most DVD players do not play image files. You can write your images to a blank CD-R using the Video CD file format. Video CD version 2.0 supports high-resolution still images. Be aware that not all authoring software packages support this Video CD option, and not all DVD players are compatible with CD-R media.

Can I view pictures recorded on a PHOTO CD on my computer monitor?

Yes, as long as you have a CD-ROM XA drive and a PHOTO CD Disc-enabled image software package. Your imaging software must be capable of reading the PCD file format (IMAGE PAC File Format). The capability of imaging software to read, edit, etc. PCD files varies. For more information, visit: http://www.kodak.com/go/photocd (especially, PHOTO CD FAQs, Software That Supports Images).

I own a KODAK PCD 225 writer and a high-resolution scanner. How can I purchase the software to begin making my own PHOTO CD Discs?

The software that originally shipped with the KODAK PCD 225 writer has been discontinued and is no longer available. While this software allowed images of various file types to be written to CD-R media, it did not have the capability to convert images files to the .pcd file format. The only way to create a KODAK PHOTO CD disc is to own a KODAK PHOTO CD workstation. A search of authoring software providers will help you understand which packages will let you write images through your PCD 225 writer to CD-R media. (The PCD 225 is a 2X write/2X read CD-R recorder that requires a SCSI card. It is supported by ROXIO Easy CD Creator, versions 4.0 and 5.0 for example.)

I had my slides scanned onto a KODAK PHOTO CD Disc. I can see the images, but what software do I need to view the other files on the disc?

The additional files on a KODAK PHOTO CD Disc (in addition to the image pacs) provide information to PHOTO CD players, CD-I players and computer systems about the image files. These files contain very detailed binary information about image sizes, locations, etc. and are not useful to the user.

Why can't I make a backup copy of my PHOTO CD Disc?

Every KODAK PHOTO CD disc has a disc application code, unique to PHOTO CD Products, embossed (pressed) into the disc at the time of manufacture. When you attempt to copy a PHOTO CD, the recorder checks to see if the blank disc bears this application code. If it doesn't, the recorder refuses to make the copy. The purpose of the code is to make sure that only PHOTO CD Product certified systems write to PHOTO CD Discs. In this manner, Kodak can certify the quality of the stored images. Unfortunately, it interferes with customers making legitimate backup copies.

You can still backup your images. Use your authoring software to copy just the image files from your PHOTO CD disc (those files with the .pcd extension). Although the resulting disc does not play on your PHOTO CD player, you can access the image files from your computer for display, processing, printing, etc.

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