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LG GSA-4163B

by Jason Saundalkar (jason.saundalkar@itp.com)

Specifications

Drive type

(Internal / External) Internal

Interface IDE

Buffer size 2MB

Speed 16x DVD+R,
DVD-R

Blank media N

Emergency eject Y

Weight 0.9kg

Suitable for Home User

Warranty 1 year/s

Price \$80.00

Scores

Performance ★★★★★

Feature ★★★★★

Value ★★★★★

Overall ★★★★★

Overview

Verdict:

With its refreshed pricing and class-leading DVD standard compatibility, the LG GSA-4163B has been transformed into a far more appealing buy.

We previously looked at LG's GSA-4163B in our March 2005 issue and while we were impressed

with its features, the drive's average performance and high price were, at that time, a turn off.

While not as quick as other drives on paper, the GSA-4163B does have a few tricks up its sleeve. The first is that it can read and write to DVD-RAM discs (though cartridges aren't supported).

This means users that previously used this standard before DVDs came along won't have to spend hours duplicating their discs to DVD media. The drive is fairly quick at writing to DVD-RAM media too (5x).

We also liked the fact that LG offers a standard 14-month warranty period, whereas most of the other manufacturers opt for just a one-year period. The LG is one of the heaviest in this test at 1kg though, and as it is also a full-length drive, so probably not the best choice for a small form factor PC.

The LG finished up with an average overall performance and we were a bit surprised to find that it completed both the DVD+R and DVD-R burn tests in exactly eight minutes and eight seconds. Its DVD-RW and DVD+RW performance however was not as even finishing with times of 29 minutes and three seconds and 14 minutes and 32 seconds. The GSA-4163B was however one of the more silent drives in this test.

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