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LiteOn SOHW-1673S

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 \$79.00

Scores

Performance ★★★★★

Feature ★★★★★

Value ★★★★★

Overall ★★★★★

Overview

Verdict:

While not the cheapest drive here, the LiteOn SOHW-1673S offers good value and those interested in media back-ups should definitely take note.

The LiteOn SOHW-1673S is the latest writer to come from the Taiwanese optical drive giant.

Offering up 16x write speeds to DVD+R and DVD-R media and a dual layer media write speed of 4x, it is thoroughly modern offering.

The SOHW-1673S is equipped with LiteOn's Smart-X technology, which aids in the extraction of data from CD or DVD media. In essence, Smart-X looks over the media and depending on how good or badly maintained the disc is, will read at a speed that guarantees extraction without errors.

This makes it a good choice for users interested in making back-up copies of their existing CDs and DVDs.

Smart-Burn on the other hand works with the drive's 2MB of buffer memory to prevent buffer under-run errors. We were pleased to find Cyberlink's Power DVD (DVD playback software) in addition to Nero's near ubiquitous writing software, as this adds further value to the LiteOn's package.

The LiteOn was a screamer when it came to writing to DVD+RW media, as it completed our full burn in 14 minutes and four seconds. This was the fastest time in the test, with HP's DVD 530i coming in second. The drive however took exception to our choice of DVD-RW media and finished with the slowest time in the group test at 29 minutes and 28 seconds.

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