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MSI DR16-B2

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 1kg

Suitable for Home User

Warranty 1 year/s

Price \$117.00

Scores

Performance ★★★★★

Feature ★★★★★

Value ★★★★★

Overall ★★★★★

Overview

Verdict:

A rich software bundle coupled with top performance when working with either +R or -R media balances out the MSI's above-average selling price.

The DR16-B2 replaces MSI's older DR16-B (reviewed in our December issue) as the firm's flagship DVD burner.

Compared to the older drive, the newer model offers 4x write speeds to DVD+R DL media, versus the 2.4x offered by the DR-16B. Both drives offer 16x DVD+R and DVD-R write capabilities, while DVD+RW and DVD-RW speeds also remain unchanged at 4x.

The MSI had the most comprehensive software bundle in this exam, as it included Nero for everyday burning duties, WinDVD for DVD movie playback and WinDVD Creator for authoring DVD and CD video discs.

This makes the MSI an excellent choice for home video enthusiasts and movie buffs looking to view and create DVD videos on their PCs. A 2MB buffer is present on the drive and this is backed by the company's Seamless link buffer under-run error protection technology.

Performance wise, the MSI was a screamer. While it was one of the noisiest drives in this test, its DVD+R and DVD-R write performance made up for this quite nicely. With times of six minutes one second and eight minutes and seven seconds, the MSI was the fastest burner in our entire test. Its DVD+RW and DVD-RW performance, while not the fastest in this group test, remained quite competitive.

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