# DVDA-Author Qt GUI how to

The new Qt5 graphical user interface aims at facilitating disc authoring.
This webpage documents version 19.06r5 of the GUI built with Qt5.12.4.
Some of the pictures of this HTML page are obsolete and will soon be updated.

It may optionally launch mkisofs after dvda-author. In this case, the output will be an .iso file that may be burned by common tools.
Almost all command lines switches of the processing application are implemented.
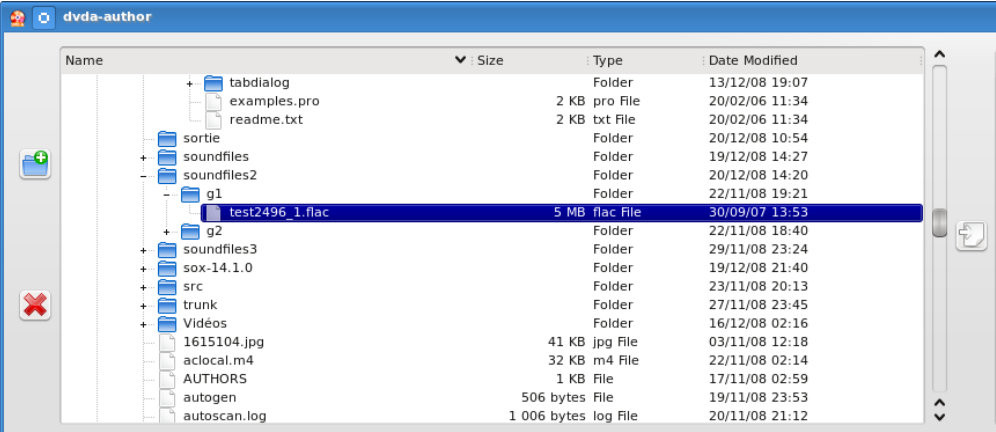
Full view

On launching a dvda-author project file (.dvp), the full view is as below (here under Windows):
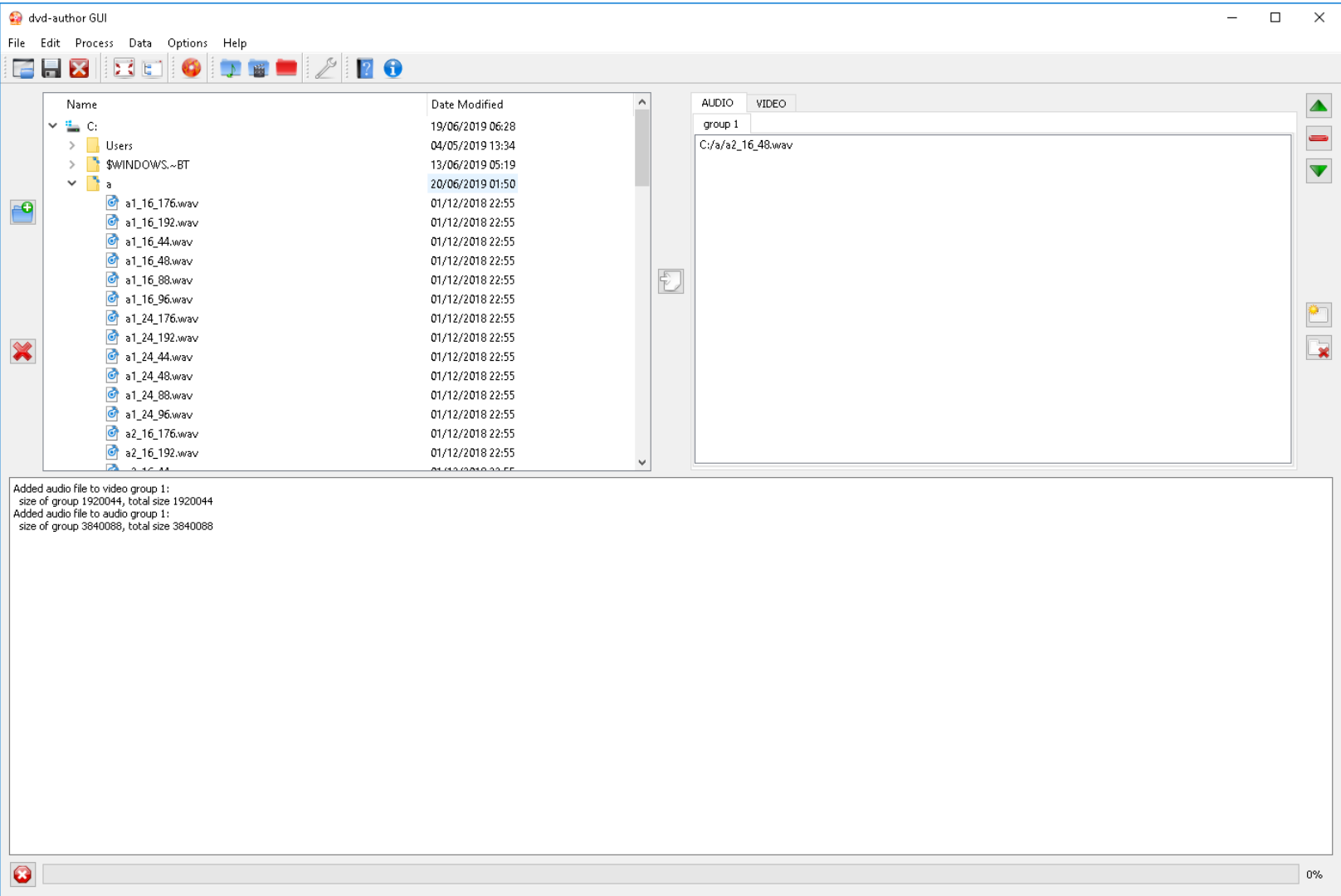
The interface consists of four zones:

- a directory view (top left),
- a project maker (top right),
- and a log window (lower half)
- plus a foldable project manager (left panel).
  This panel can only be opened after launching a .dvp file.
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Directory view
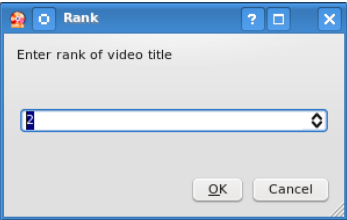

Standard input operations

The directory view can be used to select directories or files. If you select a full directory (like soundfiles2 in the above screenshot),

it must comprise subdirectories g1, g2, ..., up to g9 (as many subdirectories as there are groups). Then press the Input button in the

toolbar (see below). The equivalent command line is: -i input_directory

Should you omit this step, the GUI will look for audio files in a directory named input/ adjacent to the GUI executable.

Optionally, you can add a video input directory, which must contain all VIDEO_TS files (with extensions IFO, BUP and VOB, as with command line -V video/).

Then press the Video button in the toolbar. An input dialog will pop up to request the rank (starting from 1) of the video title

linked to in VIDEO_TS ; you may use arrow buttons to increase or decrease the rank, or simply enter it manually:

If you do not want to create a DVD-Audio disc but instead extract audio from an existing DVD-Audio structure, first select the DVD-Audio directory or disc,

in the directory view, then click on the Input button.

Standard output operations

You can also select existing directories as output directories. If the directory is not empty, a dialog window will warn you that it will be

erased then recreated. Then press the Output toolbar button. The equivalent command line is: -o output_directory

Should you omit this step, the GUI will output a DVD-Audio file structure in a directory named output/ adjacent to the GUI executable.

To avoid overwriting an existing directory, you may choose to erase it manually (with all its subfolders and files) by pressing the cross icon .

It may also be useful to create an empty new directory with the add directory icon

In this case, an input dialog will pop up requesting a directory name.

Alternate audio input method

You can select an audio file in the trew view then click on the import file icon on the right side. Repeat the operation

with other files to be placed in the same group. Then use the project maker to create the audio list of each group, as indicated below.

This method can only be used for encoding operations (from audio files to DVD-Audio structure). It can be combined with the standard input method described above.

Project maker
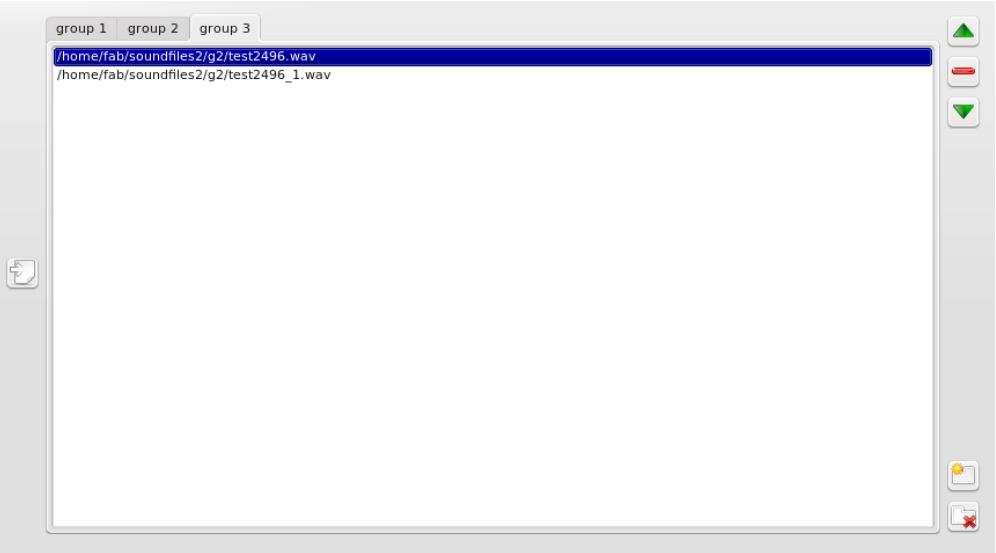
Click on the tab corresponding to the group that you would like to create.

In the tree view select any number of files (you may have to press on Ctrl and/or Shift as is ususal).

You may import as many as 99 files per group from the tree view by clicking on the import file icon (even more if your files have same audio characteristics).

Alternatively to importing files from the tree view, you may also opt for dragging and dropping files from your favorite file system explorer (Windows view below:)

drag and drop

Just click on the tab of the destination group and drop files into the application. The list will appear in the list view of the right tab.

The main window will show the name of the first file in the list of dropped files.

The read minus icon on the right may be used to withdraw a selected file from the audio list.

Use the up and down arrows to move a selected file within the same audio group so that it is played sooner (up arrow) or later (down arrow):
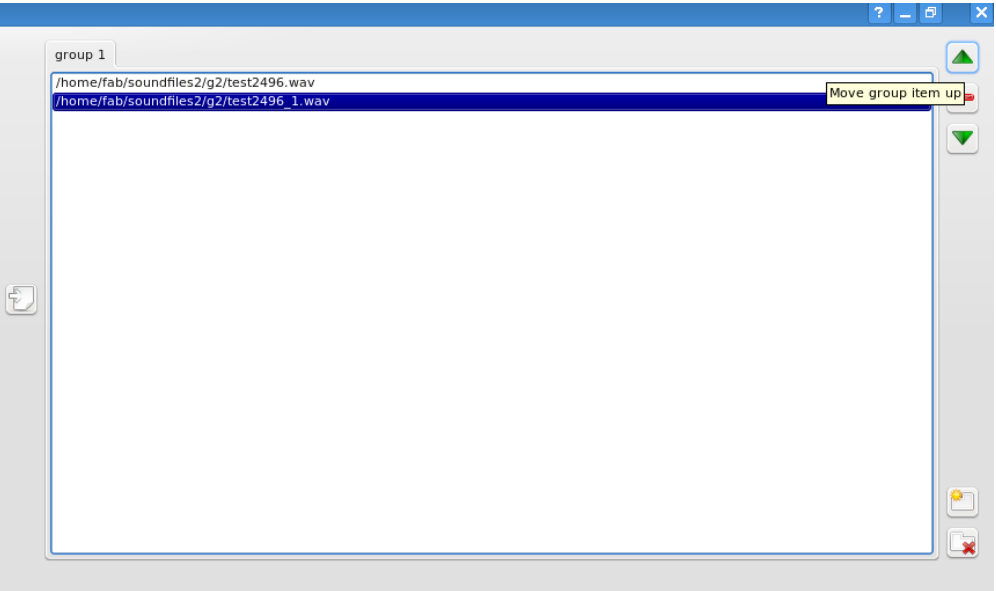
Create as many groups as are necessary (with a maximum of 9) by clicking on the Add group icon

You may delete a selected group by clicking on the Delete group button

The project maker is only necessary if you use the Alternate audio input method, selecting each audio file in the tree view.
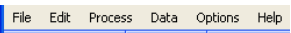
Menu and Toolbar

The toolbar contains the following buttons:

- file buttons
  - Open project
  - Save project
  - Exit button
- edit/show buttons
  - Full screen/Normal screen
  - Display/Close project manager
- process buttons
  - Burn
- data buttons:
  - Input
  - Video
  - Output
- and standard interface buttons:
  - Options
  - Help

A Menu displays the same commands/options as the toolbar buttons:

You can use keyboard shortcuts (e.g. under Windows, Alt+F followed by S to save a project).

The Open/Close project manager button ![icon] will display (or close) a lateral window which shows both system settings and data settings.
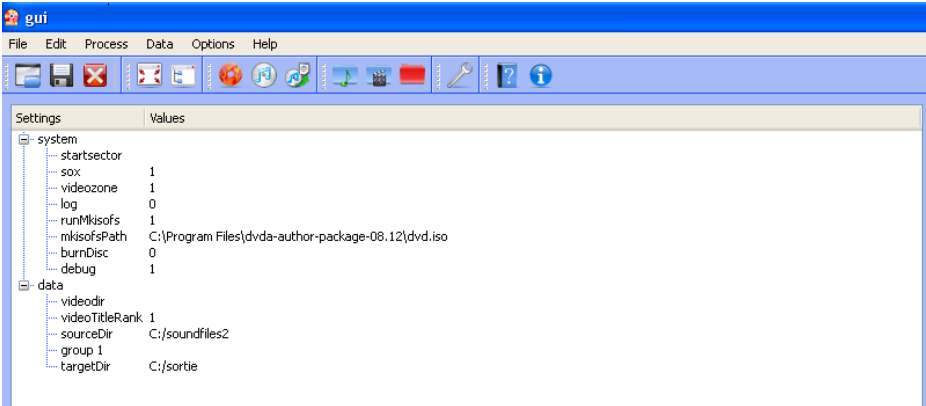

System settings are all session-specific variables, which are collected by the Options dialog (see below).

Data settings are related to input-output variables (like audio files or target output directory).You can expand or collapse the data by pressing on the +/- sign.

To display a project manager, you should first load it by pressing on the Open project button ![icon]. The project manager window will automatically open and all files initially listed in the project maker tab widget (top right) will be displayed.

Should you like to save both session-specific system settings and input/ouput data, create a .dvp project file by pressing on the Save project button ![icon]. An XML file will be created with all necessary information.

To burn a disc, use the Burn button ![icon] on the left of the command zone. You need to have an ISO image of the disc before burning your DVD-Audio. If this is not the case, a pop-up dialog will

remind you of creating the ISO file as required:
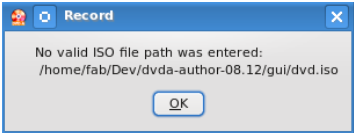
To create a DVD-Audio disc press on the Burn icon. You can deselect ISO file creation and burning in the options dialog to just create the file structure under the default output repertory (in you home directory), or under the selected Output directory.

Log messages

The lower part of the interface is a log window that displays information on what is being done by the GUI or processed by dvda-author, notably

directory sizes. Below are a few messages generated while authoring a project with the project maker:
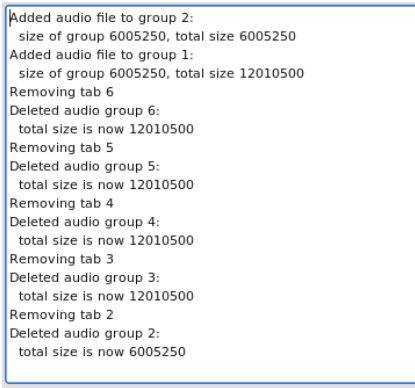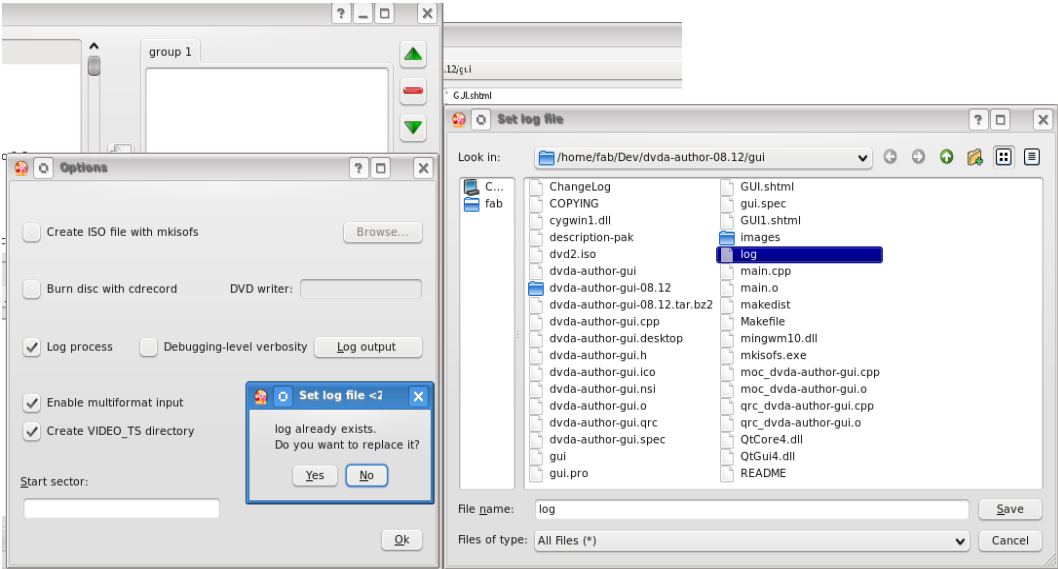

Options

An options dialog will pop up on pressing on the Options button in the command zone.

To enable log file creation, check the Log process checkbox then press on the Log output button to select a log.

If the log file already exists, the new log will be appended to it and a confirmation dialog will appear (KDE linux view):

Alternatively, enter a new filename in the file dialog window.

To enable ISO file creation, check the run mkisofs checkbox then press on the Browse button to select an existing filename (the new iso file will

overwrite the old one) or enter a new iso filename in the file dialog window.

Enter the path to your DVD writer in the DVD writer line after checking the "Burn with cdrecord" box. If you have installed a distribution-specific version of cdrecord, this path may well be a standard path (like /dev/scd0 under GNU/linux Ubuntu), depending on the version of cdrecord you own.

If, more reliably, you have installed the original version by JÃ¶rg Schilling, you have to enter a device code (like 2,0,0). To know which kind of path you should use, you can test cdrecord --devices on a command line window and see if it works (distribution-specific versions). Otherwise test cdrecord -scanbus to know about your buses (Schilling version).

These settings will be preserved on exiting the application and automatically restored when the GUI is launched again.

The Full screen button ![icon] maximizes the size of the application.

The icon automatically toggles to the Show normal icon ![icon] when the window is maximized.

If you press again on the same button, the size of the window will be changed back to normal size.

Progress bars

A progress bar will display the real-time percentage of expected ouput that was already processed by dvda-author.

If mkisofs is run, another will appear to indicate progress of ISO file creation below the first progress bar.

If you burn your disc with cdrecord, a third bar will appear to indicate progress of DVD burning. This is an estimation for 18x ; for slower writers, the bar may be ahead of real-time burning.

If the burning process appears frozen, reset your writer and open/close your tray. Wait for a while then launch again by pressing on the "Burn" icon.

You need not reprocess your DVD filestructure to start burning again.

You can kill any process by pressing on the Stop process button ⊗ on the left of the progress bar.

mkisofs processing was killed (SIGKILL)
ISO disc authoring failed
mkisofs crashed

⊗   100%

⊗   55%

Last Modified: