



DVDA-Author Qt GUI how to

The new Qt5 graphical user interface aims at facilitating disc authoring.
This webpage documents version 19.08r2 of the GUI built with Qt5.15.0.

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Full view

Just before burning a DVD, the full view of the interface consists of four zones:

- a directory view (top left), which is used to select files to be imported
- a central tab, with an AUDIO tab for DVD-Audio and a VIDEO tab for DVD-Video.
- a log window (lower half)
- a project manager (leftmost panel).

This panel can only be opened after launching a pre-recorded .dvp project file. This can be done by selecting the menu option *File > Open project* or

the first icon .

Name	Date Modified
MLP	20/08/2019 00:38
Wav format	27/06/2019 02:00
a1_16_44_ffmpeg.mlp	20/08/2019 00:38
a1_16_44.wav	22/06/2019 23:04
a1_16_48.wav	22/06/2019 23:04
a1_16_88.wav	22/06/2019 23:04
a1_16_96.wav	22/06/2019 23:04
a1_16_176.wav	22/06/2019 23:04
a1_16_192.wav	22/06/2019 23:04
a1_24_44.flac	20/08/2019 00:38
a1_24_44.wav	20/08/2019 00:38
a1_24_48.wav	22/06/2019 23:04
a1_24_88.wav	22/06/2019 23:04
a1_24_96.wav	22/06/2019 23:04
a1_24_176.wav	22/06/2019 23:04
a1_24_192.wav	22/06/2019 23:04
a2_16_44_ffmpeg.mlp	20/08/2019 00:38
a2_16_44.wav	22/06/2019 23:04
a2_16_48.wav	22/06/2019 23:04
a2_16_88.wav	22/06/2019 23:04
a2_16_96.wav	22/06/2019 23:04
a2_16_176.wav	22/06/2019 23:04
a2_16_192.wav	22/06/2019 23:04
a2_24_44_2.flac	20/08/2019 00:38
a2_24_44_joined.wav	09/07/2019 05:57
a2_24_44_sox_aiff.wav	17/08/2019 22:47
a2_24_44_sox_wav.wav	17/08/2019 22:47
a2_24_44.aiff	20/08/2019 01:43
a2_24_44.au	22/06/2019 23:04
a2_24_44.flac	22/06/2019 23:04
a2_24_44.mlp	20/08/2019 01:43
a2_24_44.wav	20/08/2019 00:38
a2_24_48.wav	22/06/2019 23:04
a2_24_88.wav	22/06/2019 23:04
a2_24_96.wav	22/06/2019 23:04
a2_24_176.wav	22/06/2019 23:04
a2_24_192.wav	26/06/2019 05:07
a3_16_44_ffmpeg.mlp	20/08/2019 00:38
a3_16_44.wav	22/06/2019 23:04
a3_16_48.wav	22/06/2019 23:04
a3_16_88.wav	22/06/2019 23:04
a3_16_96_y0.wav	22/06/2019 23:04
a3_16_96.wav	20/08/2019 01:43
a3_24_44.wav	22/06/2019 23:04
a3_24_48.wav	22/06/2019 23:04
a3_24_88.wav	22/06/2019 23:04
a3_24_96.wav	26/06/2019 05:07
a4_16_44_ffmpeg.mlp	20/08/2019 00:38
a4_16_44.wav	22/06/2019 23:04
a4_16_48.wav	22/06/2019 23:04
a4_16_88.wav	22/06/2019 23:04
a4_16_96.wav	22/06/2019 23:04
a4_24_44.wav	22/06/2019 23:04
a4_24_48.wav	22/06/2019 23:04
a4_24_88.wav	22/06/2019 23:04
a4_24_96.wav	22/06/2019 23:04

Figure 2: directory viewer


same in the following tracks.

Discs and AOB files can only be played from start.

To play group X of a disc, select the ATS_0X_1.AOB file under the AUDIO_TS directory.

If the group is large, and this file reaches the 1GB limit of DVD-Audio specifications, playback will stop at the end of this group, possibly in the middle of a track.

To avoid this, it may be preferable to play the disc (or the filesystem in the directory view) at the root. The root is just above the AUDIO_TS directory.

All .AOB files under this root will be played back continuously until the "Stop" icon  is clicked.

Authoring a disc: standard import operations

1. Choosing the zone

Files can be imported to either or both **zones** of the DVD: the Audio zone, which creates a DVD-Audio disc, the Video zone, which creates a DVD-Video disc

with mainly audio content and possibly both of them for a *hybrid* DVD-Audio/Video or *universal* disc.


Just select the appropriate AUDIO or VIDEO tab in the main tab before importing files.

2. Selecting files


The directory view can be used to select directories or files. You can add most common audio formats, including wav, aiff, flac, ogg and mlp.

On selecting a directory, all supported audio files will be added recursively to the input tabs later on.

3. Importing files

Then press the "Right arrow" or "Import" button  to add the selection to the central tab.

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

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).

4. *Drag-and-dropping files*

Alternatively to importing files from the tree view, you may also opt for dragging and dropping files from your favorite file system explorer.

Just click on the tab of the destination group and drop files into the application.


5. *Option Video import*


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

Then press the Video button  in the toolbar.

Extracting audio from a disc


If you do not want to create a DVD-Audio disc but instead extract audio from an existing DVD-Audio structure, first select the AUDIO tab in the main import tab,

then the DVD-Audio directory or disc containing the audio to be extracted in the directory view on the left, then click on the "Import" button 


Check the resulting tab then click on the  "Burn" icon. When AOB files are imported, this icon triggers audio extraction, not disc burning.

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.

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 .

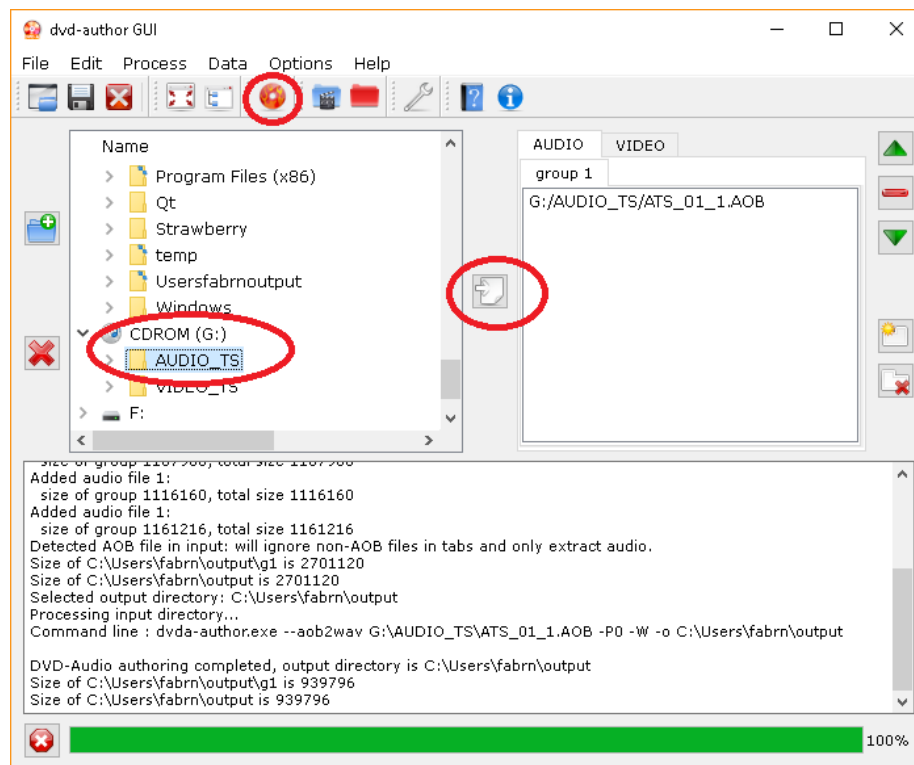



Figure 3: decode-cd

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.

Managing files

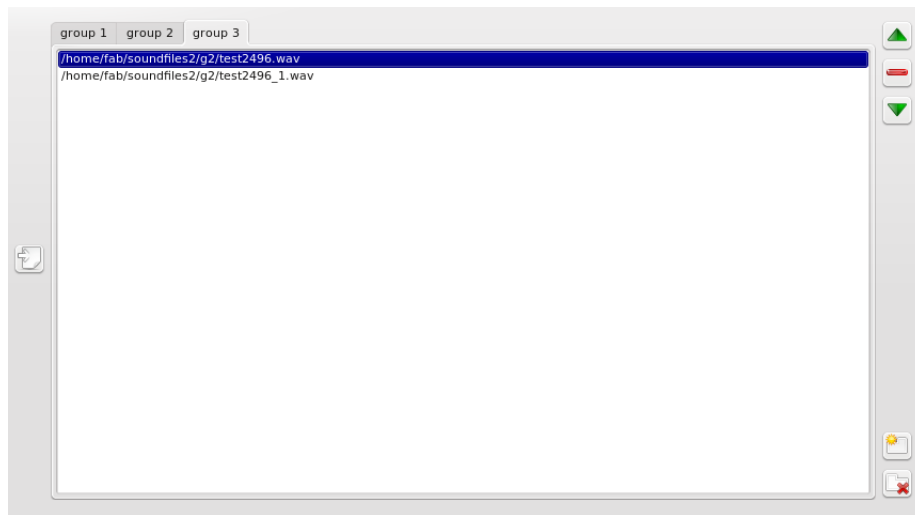





Figure 4: project maker

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

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):

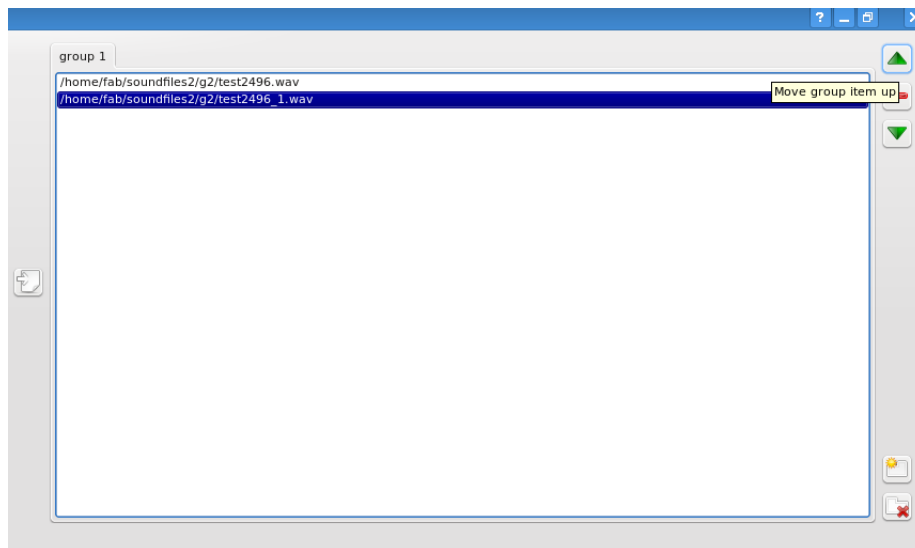



Figure 5: up&down

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 



Menu and Toolbar





Figure 6: buttons

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 
- Play 
- Stop 

data buttons:

- 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 project manager

On opening a project file (with .dvp extension), the interface shows the parameters of the project on the left of the file explorer.

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.

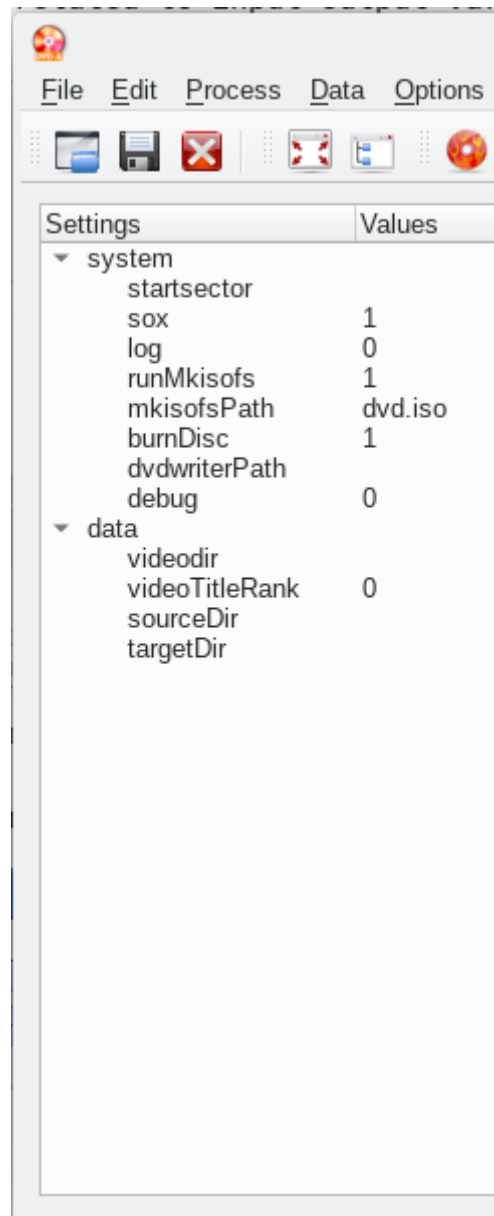




Figure 7: Project manager

To display a project manager, you should first load it by pressing on the Open project button .

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/output data, create a .dvp project file by pressing on the Save project button .

An XML file will be created with all necessary information.

Burning a disc

To burn a disc, use the Burn button  on the left of the command zone.

You need to have an ISO image of the disc before burning your DVD-Audio.

This is managed by the Options dialog (see below).

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 your 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.

1. Logging

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).

The output directory can be changed by pressing on the Browse button to select an existing filename.

```
Added audio file to group 2:  
  size of group 6005250, total size 6005250  
Added audio file to group 1:  
  size of group 6005250, total size 12010500  
Removing tab 6  
Deleted audio group 6:  
  total size is now 12010500  
Removing tab 5  
Deleted audio group 5:  
  total size is now 12010500  
Removing tab 4  
Deleted audio group 4:  
  total size is now 12010500  
Removing tab 3  
Deleted audio group 3:  
  total size is now 12010500  
Removing tab 2  
Deleted audio group 2:  
  total size is now 6005250
```

Figure 8: log window

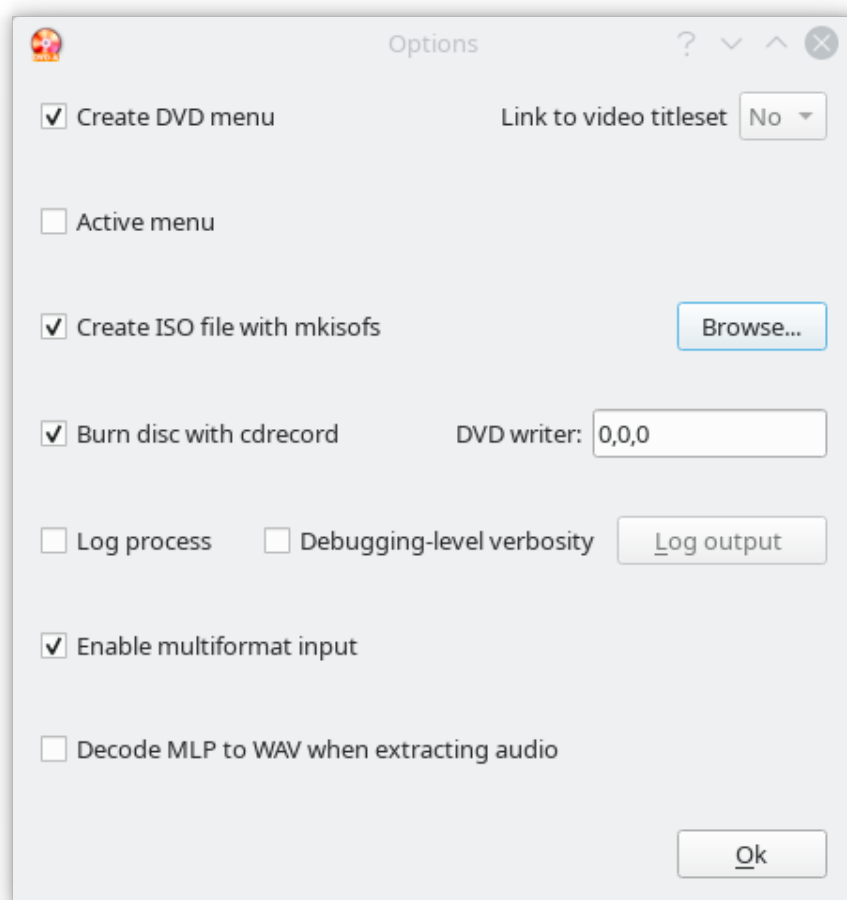


Figure 9: options dialog

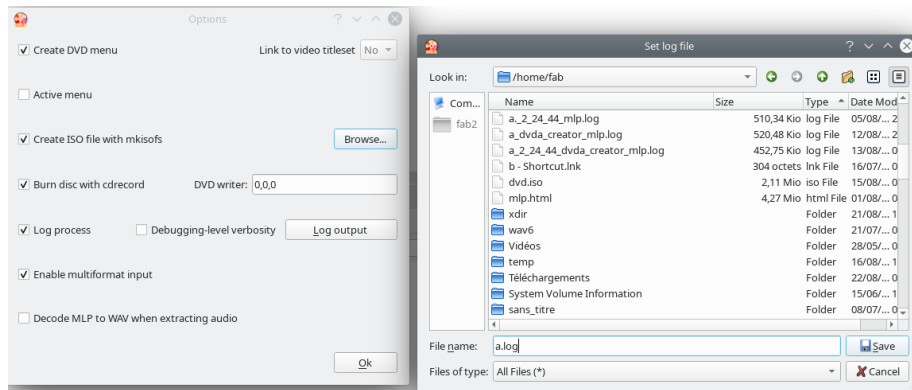


Figure 10: options

Just enter a new filename in the file dialog window and save.

2. Image and disc authoring

To enable ISO file creation, the mkisofs checkbox is checked by default.

Similarly the "Burn disc" box is checked by default. Uncheck if you just want to create the ISO image.

If there is only one DVD writer in the platform, it is usually automatically selected.

In some cases (several devices) it may be necessary to indicate the right DVD burner.

By default the scanbus value for cdrecord is 0,0,0. If this does not give correct results, manually change to 1,0,0 or 2,0,0 and so on.

3. Menu authoring and videozone linking

By default, a top menu in the DVD-Audio zone will be generated that allows the user to navigate between tracks and groups using a remote control.

This option can be deselected in the Options dialog.

If a menu is created, one or several track links can be created optionally to one or several tracks in the DVD-Video zone.

This is only possible if files have been previously imported to the VIDEO tab.

Then select the track to be linked to: click on the widget right to "Link to video titleset" and change the value from **No** to the rank of the track in the first titleset.



Figure 11: files in the video zone

If a track in the second titleset is to be linked to, use the widget coming second to the right and so on.

Note: The total number of audio groups in the AUDIO tab and of video links cannot be greater than 9.

The "Active menu" checkbox may be checked to allow the top menu to remain visible on playback. By default, it disappears after a track link is clicked.

4. Audio formats

By default, converting usual audio formats into wav before processing the disc is enabled.

The following formats are supported using SoX:

- wav
- flac
- oga
- aif
- aiff
- aiffc
- al
- amb
- au

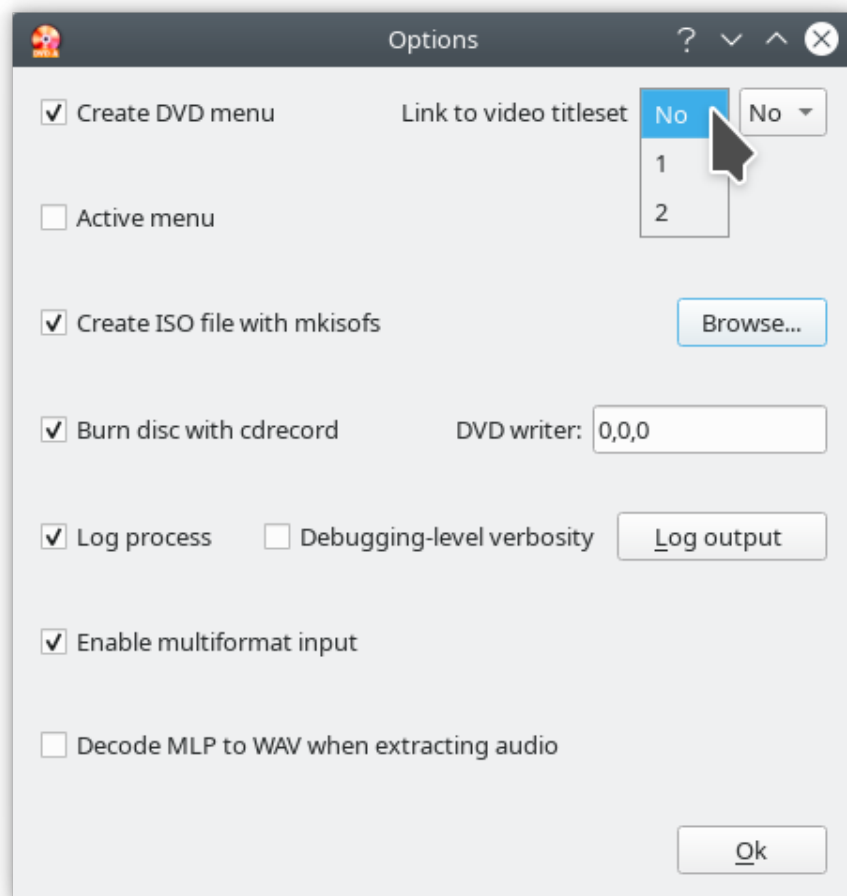


Figure 12: files in the video zone

- avr
- cdda
- cdr
- cvu
- gsm
- gsrt
- hcom
- ima
- ircam
- la
- lpc
- lpc10
- lu
- maud
- mlp
- nist
- ogg
- s16
- s2
- s3
- s32
- s4
- s8
- sb
- sf
- sl
- sln
- smp
- snd
- sndr
- sndt
- sph
- sndt
- sw
- txw
- vms
- voc
- vorbis
- vox
- wavpcm
- wv
- wve
- xa

An internal MLP (Meridian Lossless Packing) decoder is integrated using capa-

bilities developed by the **ffmpeg** project.

Warning

Using this decoder may raise legal issues in some countries (outside of the European Union).

Please make sure that using the **ffmpeg** MLP decoder/encoder is legal in your country before checking the "Decode MLP" box to activate automatic MLP conversion to WAV.

This decoder is optionally used when disc audio is extracted as indicated above. When the box is checked, discs with MLP-encoded content will be extracted both as .mlp and .wav files.

4. Playback


By default, playback uses the **ffplay** binary.

Optionally playback can be monitored using VLC.

Warning

VLC should be installed in the standard install path (/usr/bin, /usr/local/bin for *nix platforms, and C:\Program Files\VideoLan\VLC for Windows).

GUI options

The Full screen button  maximizes the size of the application.

The icon automatically toggles to the Show normal 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 output that was already processed by dvda-author.

If an ISO image is created, another will appear to indicate progress of ISO file creation below the first progress bar.

If you burn your disc, a third bar will appear to indicate progress of DVD 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.

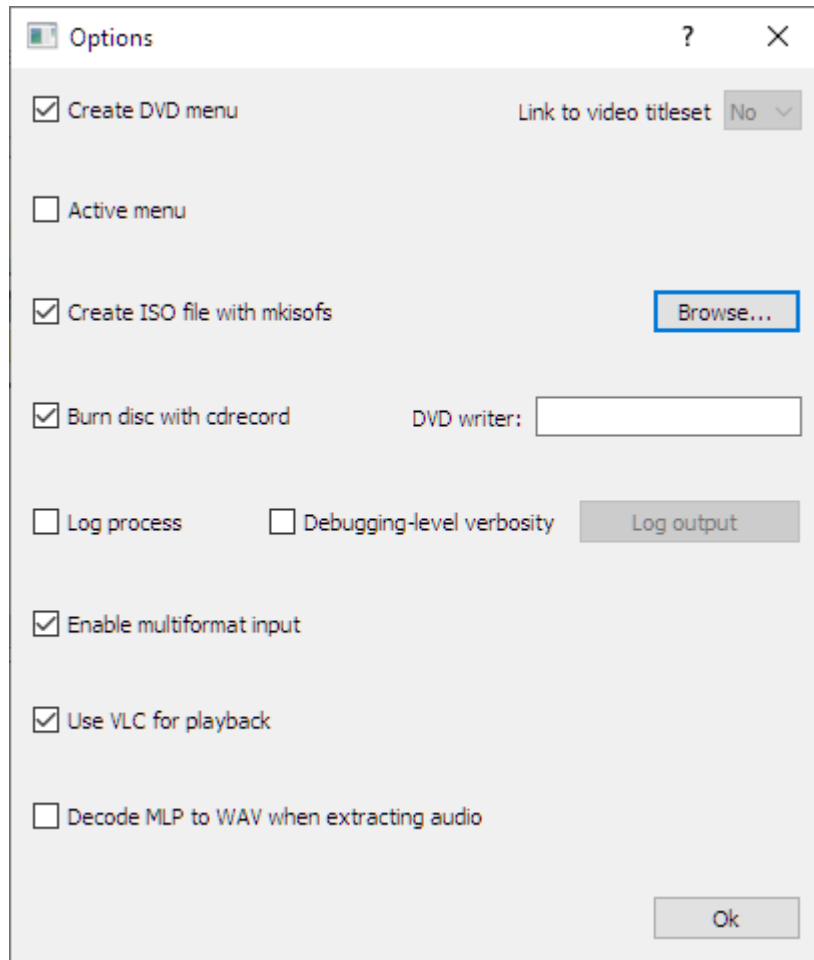



Figure 13: playback

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

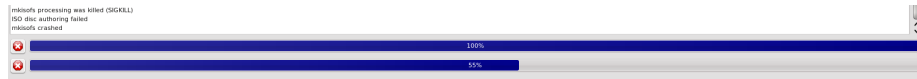


Figure 14: progress bars