

CD recorders

There are recorders which can record directly onto CD. They again are able to record at high sampling rates (44,100 Hz). Because they burn directly to CD you do not have to redigitise, and it's easy to make copies of your recordings. You can add track marks to the recording. You can record from several different inputs (that is, you can have several different microphones) and the channels can be merged or split. They are thus a good choice for hi-fidelity recording.

Again, however, there are cons. The machines are somewhat fragile and not very portable. They aren't run off batteries, so you will need a good power supply. They are also rather expensive, over US\$1,000 (compared to about \$600 for a portable DAT or compact flash recorder, and \$250 for a good minidisc recorder). They are somewhat unintuitive to use, and the disks need to be finalised before they can be ejected from the machine. This takes about two minutes, which means that you cannot quickly switch discs to continue recording. The model we used in class in 2005 needed five keys to be pressed before recording started. There have also been problems reported with occasional "misfinalising" of CDs which resulted in data loss. Finally, when they are copied to a computer the audio needs to be ripped: the CDs cannot be copied directly.

Therefore, I recommend using a solid-state recorder rather than a CD recorder, since they are cheaper, produce good recordings, and are easier to use.