

# K-tools FURNACE

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**Koncd is the KDE Tool of the Month. With this cdrecord front-end, you can burn CDs easily.**

"I've had my fingers burned before" - this saying may have gone through your head more than once if burning data or audio CDs under Linux has been giving you a hard time. But, like so many things, there has been progress on the burner front, too. With *Koncd* the perfect home-baked CD is just a few mouse clicks away.

There really is nothing more to it than an easy-to-use graphical user interface for the programs *cdrecord* and *mkisofs*, with which command line fetishists have already been enjoying going for the burn under Linux for some time now. The latest version of the program can be found either on our CD or at <http://www.koncd.de/>.

## Stoke the fire

After installing your new burner software, you will find an entry in the *K* menu, *Applications/KOnCD*, with which you will be able to start the program with ease in future. But before you actually shoot off, you should first check a couple of things which could stand between you and your home-burnt CDs.

If you would like to use *koncd* as a normal user, you will in all probability founder for the lack of execution rights over *cdrecord*. Because this program can usually only execute *root*. So change the permissions - as Superuser - as follows:

```
chown root /usr/bin/cdrecord
chmod 4711 /usr/bin/cdrecord
```

Also, for safety's sake, test whether *cdrecord*

recognises your burner and the CD-ROM drive. To do this, enter the following in the console:

```
cdrecord -scanbus
```

*cdrecord* should then reward you with an output as in Box 1.

Should you have an ATAPI burner rather than a SCSI device, you will need to select the ATAPI-SCSI emulation in the kernel. In the most common distributions this is present as a module, which you can simply load in with the command

```
modprobe -k ide-scsi
```

That's about it. Now take a deep breath, and start the program.

### Box 1: Cdrecord scans the bus

```
Cdrecord 1.9 (i686-pc-linux-gnu) Copyright U
(C) 1995-2000 Jörg Schilling
Linux sg driver version: 2.1.38
Using libscg version 'schily-0.1'
scsibus0:
  0,0,0  0) *
  0,1,0  1) *
  0,2,0  2) 'TEAC  ' 'CD-ROM CD-532SU
` '1.0A' Removable CD-ROM
  0,3,0  3) 'YAMAHA  ' 'CRW4260      2
` '1.0j' Removable CD-ROM
  0,4,0  4) 'EXABYTE  ' 'EXB-8200    2
` '2600' Removable Tape
  0,5,0  5) *
  0,6,0  6) *
```

## Burn, baby, burn

The main window (Figure 1), looks - to put it politely - a bit on the lean side, but as with everything in life, with *koncd* it's the inner values that count. And it certainly has them, because with *koncd* you can not only copy or burn audio CDs, but also master CDs, produce multi-session and bootable CDs, burn on-the-fly or delete CD-RWs.

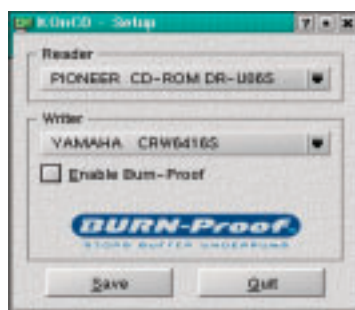
First click on the *Settings* button, to check whether burner (writer) and CD drive (reader) have been set correctly. If not, adjust the devices using the pulldown menu.

After that, it's up to you what you want to do.



[left]  
Figure 1: Cleared up

[right]  
Figure 2: The burner and writer should match



For now we shall make your mind up for you and decide that you want to copy a CD.

## The double whammy

To do this, click in the start window on the *Copy CD* button, after which you will immediately be confronted with a window as in Figure 3. A whole lot of settings, but: What do they mean?

Before you plunge with me into the options jungle, it's best to start with the simple things in life, er, programs. The control button *Erase CDRW* only concerns you if you can use rewriteable CDs. With *None* that's exactly what happens, the CD is not deleted. The setting *All* deletes the complete CD, which - depending on the speed of the burner - can take one or two minutes. With *Fast* you delete only the TOC, ("Table Of Contents") from the CD, *Track* erases the first track on the CD, and *Leave open* does not close the last session.

In the pulldown menu *Speed* you can adjust that of the burner. One little tip, especially when burning audio CDs, you should not squeeze the maximum from your burner. Because the faster you burn, the less precise the track becomes, and in the worst case scenario it can happen that instead of music you hear nothing but crackling.

But now to the options: If you select *Dummy Mode*, the burn procedure is not really executed. With *ISO-Size* Koncd uses the size details for the standard CD, one click on *Ignore medium size*, and Koncd won't even think about it - which can be quite useful when overburning. *Eject CD after write* automatically ejects your brand-new CD after the burn procedure. With *No fixating* no table of contents is created. Warning: Unfixed multi-session CDs are not readable in some CD-ROM drives. Finally with *Force Mode* Koncd cheerfully carries on burning even if errors crop up during the process.

Now all you need to do is click on the *Start* button, to start the burn procedure and watch *koncd* go to work. The first status message then shows the progress of the burn procedure while second keeps tabs on the buffer memory of the burner. If this falls to 0 per cent, the burn procedure is interrupted. If so, try it at a lower burn rate - it's a good thing there's the *Dummy Mode* option...

## The sorry remnants

If you want to clear data from your hard drive to CD (repeat after me, "backups are good!") - you have to proceed slightly differently. In this case, select the *Master CD* button from the root window, and prepare yourself for even more options (Figure 4).

You have already met one or two of the options, so at this point we will just introduce the newcomers.

A click on the button next to the *Source-Dir* field opens the Koncd file manager, in which you can assemble the data you want to burn. The file manager is split into two windows: On the left you

will find the local directory structure and on the right the window belonging to the ISO image directory, that is all the directories and files which are to be burnt onto the CD later.

The assembly is simple. Create the directories you want, then in the left window mark the files or directories to be saved and in the right window the directory, into which they are to be burnt. One click on *Add* and your selection is added. A final click on *OK* brings you back to the root window. The ISO image you have created should now be in the input field *Image-File*.

If you can do without bootability on your CD, the *Bootable CD* field need concern you no further. Otherwise specify the boot image file here which is to be burnt onto the start of the CD, in order to make it startable. What's more important for most people may be the field *Image Type*. If you want to read the CD under both Linux and Windows 9x or NT, then choose the type *Rock-Ridge+Win9x/NT* (Figure 5).

The options on the right side under *CD Identification* are more to do with cosmetic features. In the field *Volume-ID* you can give your new creation a name. Under Windows this appears in the Explorer under the respective drive letter. *Publisher* and *Preparer* would be suitable spots for your name. Since both these entries are to be stored in the table of contents of the CD, this can be very sensible when it comes to copyrights. In the field *App-ID* enter for example the date when you burnt the CD.

The items in the *Options* area are much more important. The options *Create CD-Image* and *Write CD* must be selected in order to burn the CD. If you deselect *Write CD*, only an image file will be created, which you can burn later or with another program. A click on *Bootable CD* helps you with a bootable CD, *Multisession* makes Koncd burn the CD in multi-session mode, meaning you can add more data to the CD later on.

The item *Leave image* leaves the image file created on the hard drive, instead of deleting it after burning. It makes sense to get rid of this disk space guzzler if you want to burn several CDs with the same content. But now, at last, it's high time to light a fire under your burner. ■

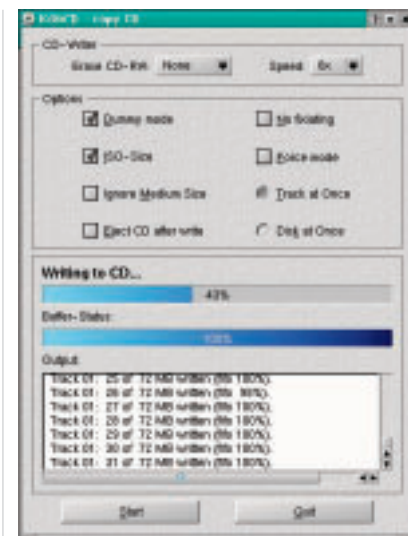


Figure 3: Copy your data!

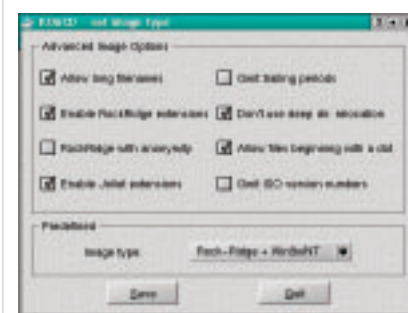


Figure 5: The best of both worlds

Figure 4: When mastering a CD there are even more options to watch