

# The South Bay Mug

# MAGINTOSH

A Monthly Cupful For South Bay Apple Mac User Group Members, Aug. 2007

## MACHinations

A personal view from Bob

### Toast your discs

All Macs ship with CD drives that will burn (record) CDs. Many have DVD burning drives, single or dual layer. Burning to a CD/DVD is easy. In OS 10.4 Select File>New Burn Folder. Drop files in the Burn Folder, click the Burn button and you'll be prompted to insert a blank disc.



iTunes, iPhoto and iDVD also make burning easy. This may meet your needs, but if you want to go beyond basic burning you'll need more powerful medicine.

Toast by Roxio, roxio.com, is king of disc burning software and Toast Titanium 8, recently released, is a giant step up in it's support for all types of media — Music DVDs, HD video and DivX video.



It seems like it does everything. There's so much that I've only been able to try a few of it's functions. Drag and drop to the Toast window to create music, data or video CDs or DVDs — single or multi-session. Toast will convert DivX video files into standard DVDs or create your own DivX disc. Blu-ray (25-50 GB) disc burning is supported.

If you want to copy a scratched or unreadable disc, there's hope. Toast will attempt to re-read or bypass damaged areas to create a clean, readable copy.

In addition to the main Toast program Toast 8 comes with some additional programs.

- Spin Doctor is a basic, but capable audio recorder. It will help you set up your equipment, record from vinyl records or cassettes, filter out noise, split tracks, add song information and one-click burn to CD/DVD. It doesn't save in MP3 format but you can import into iTunes for that.

- Disk labeler with LightScribe creates attractive labels from a huge collection of templates. It prints to labels or direct to disc if you have a compatible printer. It also creates jewel case covers and booklets.
- DiskCatalogMaker creates searchable catalogs of disc contents.
- DejaVu is a backup program, a preference pane in System Preferences, that can hand off files to Toast for burning, spanning multiple discs if needed.
- Motion Pictures HD creates stunning slide shows in many different formats (traditional and HD) from your photos with music and that can be burned to a DVD to play on a Mac or PC or brought it into iMovie to create a DVD movie.

Roxio's Jam for pro-audio recording and Popcorn for high-end DVD recording, were separate programs but many of their capabilities are now included in Toast 8.

If you have a TiVo (personal video recorder) you can now transfer content to DVD, iPod or Playstation. You need a TiVoToGo™ compatible TiVo digital video recorder connected directly to your Mac or to your home network — via wired or wireless connection. It does not work with a DIRECTV® DVR with TiVo. However one of our members has successfully transferred video content from his DTVDVR using the ADC PYRO A/V link, analog to DV video converter, that many of you bought. EyeTV is an analog TV tuner that lets you watch TV on your Mac and record it to your drive. Toast will burn it to DVD, DivX or a Blu-ray Disc. Backup an entire 9 GB, unprotected DVD to a standard 4.7 GB DVD disc. Fit-to-DVD™ compression uses all available space to maximize video quality.

The documentation seemed a bit sparse with many things not explained. Roxio's web site helps but doesn't answer everything. Otherwise, Toast 8 is a winner.



**Bob Brooks**  
Helping Beginners  
310-545-8060  
SBAMUG@gmail.com