

Burning the Unburnable

an online addendum to “iMovie 4: The Missing Manual”

How to Use iDVD With a Non-SuperDrive

In the world of computing (and DVDs, for that matter), an *Easter egg* is a hidden, undocumented feature—and iDVD 4 contains a doozy of an Easter egg, one that lets you burn your discs with non-SuperDrive DVD burners. It even lets you “burn” your DVDs as disk images that rest comfortably on your hard drive until you need them—and then they play as though they’re physical DVDs. As a bonus, you can use this trick to burn to DVD-RW blanks (that is, re-usable ones) instead of just DVD-Rs.

The following steps may take you through some unfamiliar technical territory, but they’re not especially difficult.

Setting Up the Easter Egg

iDVD’s Easter egg requires that you create two special files in your Home folder. They’re called, weirdly enough, Hurz.r and Pfurz.r.

The Web is filled with elaborate instructions for creating these files—you need TextEdit, the Mac OS X Developer Tools, and comfort with typing out a few Unix commands in Terminal. But you’ll probably find it much easier simply to download the two files, already made, from the same “Missing CD” Web page where you found this document (www.missingmanuals.com/cds).

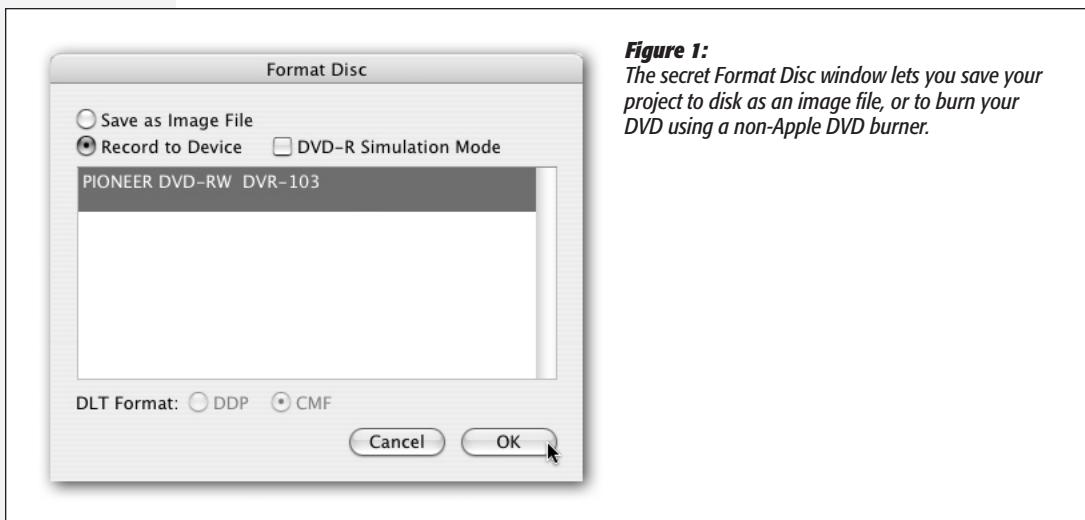
Inside the resulting downloaded folder, you’ll find the two files, Hurz and Pfurz. Drag them into your Home folder (choose Go→Home to open this folder). Do not put them into a folder *inside* your Home folder.

Tip: If you like, you can also make your two new Hurz and Pfurz files invisible. In the Terminal program (in your Applications→Utilities folder), type `SetFile -a V Hurz` (and then press Return) to make the first one disappear, and `SetFile -a V Pfurz` (and press Return) to hide the second one. They're still there, and they'll still work—you just won't have to look at them every day. (You may have to log out and log back in to make the icon hiding take effect.)

Using the Easter Egg

Ordinarily, when you burn a DVD from within iDVD, you click the Burn button once to expose the flashing yellow and black button, and a second time to begin the burning process.

But if you want to exploit your newly released Easter egg, replace that second click with a *Control-click*—and keep the Control key pressed until you see the secret Format Disc window shown in Figure 1. (If the normal Burn dialog box appears, or your DVD drive opens, click Cancel and try again.)



At this point, you have two options you've never had before:

- **To burn a DVD**, choose Record to Device, select the drive from the list of available DVD burners—even non-Apple drives show up here—and click OK.
- **To save the project as a disk-image file**, choose Save as Image File and click OK. iDVD prompts you for an image file name and a place to save it.

Creating a disk image of your DVD opens up several possibilities. First, you can treat these new disk-image files as “virtual DVDs” that sit on, for example, your laptop's hard drive; no matter where you go, you can play them in your DVD Player program without having to fuss with physical discs.

Second, you can use a program like Toast to burn the DVD onto a DVD+R drive (note the plus sign; this is not the same thing as the DVD-R drives found in Macs).

Note: If iDVD prompts you to make a second disk image after completing the first, just click Cancel.

Playing Back Disk Images

If you use the iDVD Easter Egg to build a disk image file, follow these steps to play back the image in Apple DVD Player.

1. Mount the disk image.

That is, bring its icon to the screen by double-clicking the .img file you created earlier. Inside the newly mounted “disc,” you’ll find the VIDEO_TS and AUDIO_TS folders that make up a standard DVD.

2. Open DVD Player.

You’ll find it in your Applications folder.

3. Open the Video_TS folder.

Choose File→Open VIDEO_TS Folder (⌘-O). Navigate to the mounted disc, select VIDEO_TS, and click Choose.

4. Click Play.

Use the virtual remote to navigate through your DVD project and play your videos.