

PUTTING MUSIC ON CD VS. DVD

DVDs can store considerably more data than CDs. For this reason, DVDs are attractive options for backups. Backups can include digital music. However, DVD may not be the best option for music you want to hear on your favorite player.

Most CDs store up to 700 megabytes of data. Single-sided DVDs can store 4.7 gigabytes. That's a significant difference. Double-sided or double-layered DVDs can hold even more. One DVD would certainly accommodate five CDs' worth of music.

However, a DVD would limit your listening choices. It would only work on a DVD player. CD players and CD-ROM drives cannot read DVDs. DVDs require a higher quality laser, which is found in DVD drives. Individual pits representing data on a DVD are much smaller than those on CDs.

A more feasible answer might be an MP3 CD. This is simply a CD loaded with compressed MP3 files rather than standard CD audio. Many CD players can read MP3 CDs.

Most MP3 files are one-tenth the size of their standard CD audio equivalents. So an MP3 CD offers plenty of space for your music. The compressed files technically have lower quality sound than standard audio. However, most people cannot hear the difference.

You may encounter special audio formats such as Super Audio CD and DVD-Audio. Although these formats use DVD media, the space is used mostly for audio enhancements including higher bit rates and surround sound.

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