

FOR VIDEO PROFESSIONALS IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE

Government★Video

PRODUCTION | AV SYSTEMS | EDUCATION | LAW ENFORCEMENT
 JULY 2005 • governmentvideo.com

PRODUCTION

BY CHUCK GLOMAN

Primera helps you send in the clones

Disc duplication made easy with BravoPro

These days, almost every video professional needs to make CD or DVD copies of his work. If you need to make more than one or two copies on a regular basis, a CD/DVD duplicator can make the job user-friendly and allow you to do the work in house rather than farming it out.

One machine that can help you is the BravoPro Disc Publisher from Primera Technology. As a

PRODUCT Review

side note, I purchased BravoPro's smaller sibling, the Bravo, for my school. Thousands of discs later, it's still a happy camper. But the BravoPro is light years ahead of that model.

Incorporating two DVD+R/-R Plextor 16x drives, the copying speed is doubled over the 8x speed of the Pioneer drive in the Bravo, and having two DVD drives makes life even faster. The same drives also handle CDs at 48x and Double Layer DVD+R.

The fastest DVD media I had available was 8x — when 16x is the norm, the completed discs will be popping out the machine almost as soon as you put them in. The same machine also prints an inkjet label onto the disk at a whopping 4800 dpi. Basically, it's a duplication facility in a small package.

Right To Work

Right out of the huge box, the BravoPro could not be easier to set up. Insert the CD-ROM into your PC Pentium III (or 4) or Mac OS X and the



The BravoPro Disc Publisher from Primera Technology can handle 100 discs at one time.

process begins. Every step is explained in detail, including when to plug in the USB 2 cable. After you calibrate your printer, you can begin. The BravoPro has a much larger footprint than the Bravo and Bravo II, but it does so much more (and faster). Even the cool looking smoked plastic colored cover looks more modern.

Primo DVD 2 is the same software used in Primera's other units, and it took me less than 30

seconds to explain the process to my students. My computer was a Sony Vaio, Pentium 4, 2.0 GHz Processor, 512 MB SDRAM, and no USB 2 ports. The Bravo uses a USB 1.1 and IEEE 1394 as the input, but the BravoPro uses only a supplied USB 2 cable.

Plugging the BravoPro into my Sony's USB 1 port worked, but performance suffered. I was instructed often by pop-ups that my computer

did not have a USB 2 port (there's nothing like having that fact rubbed in, by your own computer no less). USB 2 is faster than IEEE-1394, which probably explains why the older unit was light years slower than the BravoPro.

I began by duplicating an 18-minute DVD (1.054 GB). It took 22 minutes, 28 seconds to make a temporary backup on the hard drive. I only wanted two copies, but it's still a good idea to have a temporary copy on the hard drive than tying up one of the drives.

Where the BravoPro excels is that now you have far more choices in your duplication. My Sony Vaio had two DVD drives, and the BravoPro also has two. You may load up to 50 blank discs on the right bin and the robotic arm will load both DVD drives one at a time. This doubles the speed of your job.

If that weren't nifty enough, you can use the BravoPro in the "Kiosk Mode" by loading 50 blanks in the left and right bins and use the supplied, lower hung, center container and 100 discs will collect there — talk about automation. The entire robotic disc grabbing process is must faster than the old models but with more jerky movements. The process on the Bravo II was slow and fun to watch. The BravoPro does it so quickly, if you blink you might miss it.

The robotic arm loaded both drives and the time bar slowly plodded through the burning process with both drives burning simultaneously, with the time bar showing the time for both. It took 37 minutes, three seconds to eject two DVD

Professor Gloman's Report Card

PRIMERA BRAVOPRO CD/DVD DUPLICATOR

MSRP: **\$3,995**

Functionality: **A**

Ease of Use: **A+**

Speed of Duplication: **A-**

Cost vs. Value: **B-**

Extra Point: **An ideal duplication system for PC or Mac, but only if you have USB 2.**

copies of my master — extremely slow.

In a last ditch effort to speed things up with my Sony and the old USB 1 port, I tried copying a DVD from one drive to another without making a temporary copy on the hard drive. The process was no faster.

Speedy Recovery

I lugged the BravoPro to the university and hooked it up to a Dell Dimension 2400, Intel Celeron Processor, 2.40 GHz, and 256 MB DDR SDRAM. The big difference with this computer is that it has USB 2 ports.

Talk about speed. I needed an additional seven DVD copies of that same 18-minute video. This time it took four minutes, 12 seconds to make a temporary copy on the hard drive and using both drives, four minutes, five seconds to make two DVDs. When the literature says USB 2, that's what you need to use.

Sure Thing CD Labeler is the printing software supplied with the BravoPro. Loading the software

is simple — and in exactly two minutes, I had an inkjet printed DVD at 4800 dpi. Discs can be printed faster by lowering the print resolution and level of saturation in the printer driver. In the past you could get approximately 100 discs printed at the high resolution before replacing the cartridges. Not only has Primera increased quantity, but printing speed and clarity have improved as well.

The only thing that didn't work perfectly (once I started using USB 2) was in the Kiosk mode. When the completed discs slide out of the center compartment, mine didn't fall neatly into the 100 capacity tray. Instead, they slid sideways and jammed halfway down the tray. I'm sure this was my placement and alignment, but if I had gone away during duplication and expected to see 100 discs waiting for me when I returned, I would have found them on the floor.

At a list price of \$3,995, the BravoPro is more costly than other models. But if you routinely require larger numbers of duplication and printing, it's a smart option. ■

Chuck Gloman is an award-winning producer/director of photography with more than 800 commercials to his credit. He is also a member of the faculty at DeSales University. Contact him at chuck.gloman@desales.edu.

MORE INFO

Primera Technology

www.primera.com