

How to start with VCDEasy

v2.0.x

Guide by [delphi stuff](#)



This guide explains how to start with VCDEasy. With this guide, **you will start to learn how to use VCDEasy** in creating a very simple VideoCD, but you will also be able to discover the main VideoCD features of your home DVD player (VCD, SVCD, video, ability to display pictures or not,...).

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How to start with VCDEasy

Principle:

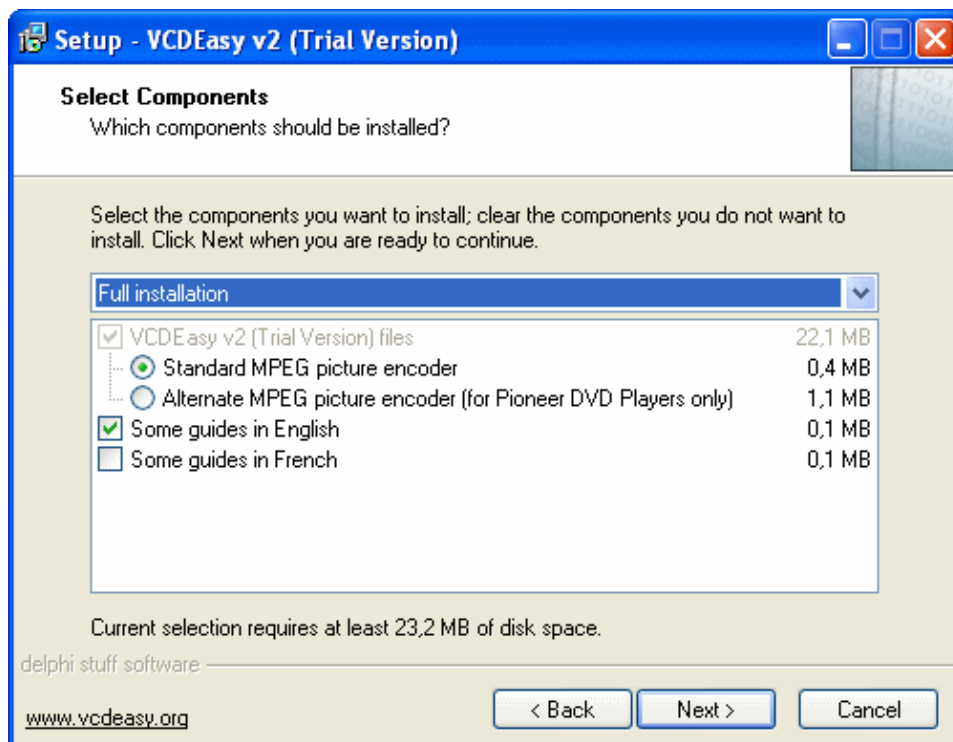
You will create a VideoCD with one picture only, in order for you to know what your home DVD player is able to play.

VCDEasy is used to encode the picture to MPEG, author the VideoCD and finally burn (or output the VideoCD as CD Image file, file ready to be burnt by another application like Nero or CdrWin).

In making two VideoCDs (one VCD 2.0 and one SVCD 1.0), you will learn some important information about your home DVD player, and finally know if VCDEasy can be useful for you.

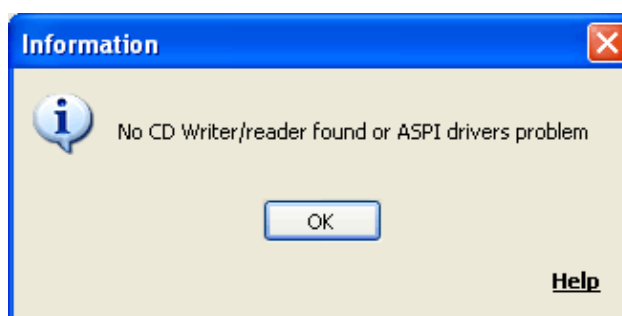
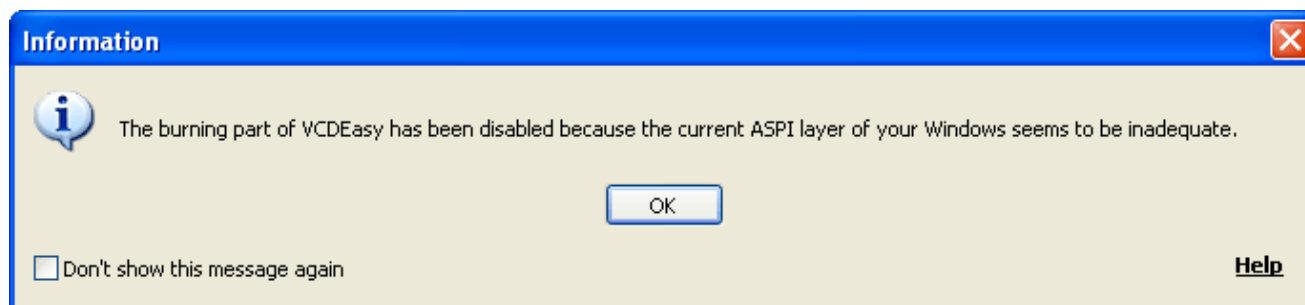
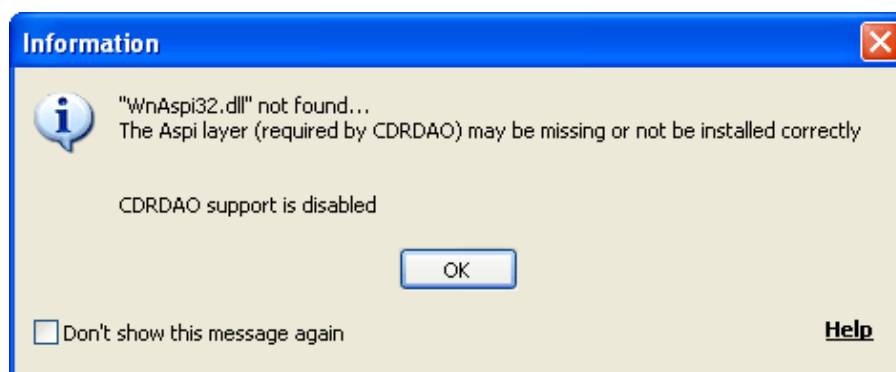
Installation of VCDEasy

Do a "Full installation":



Start VCDEasy

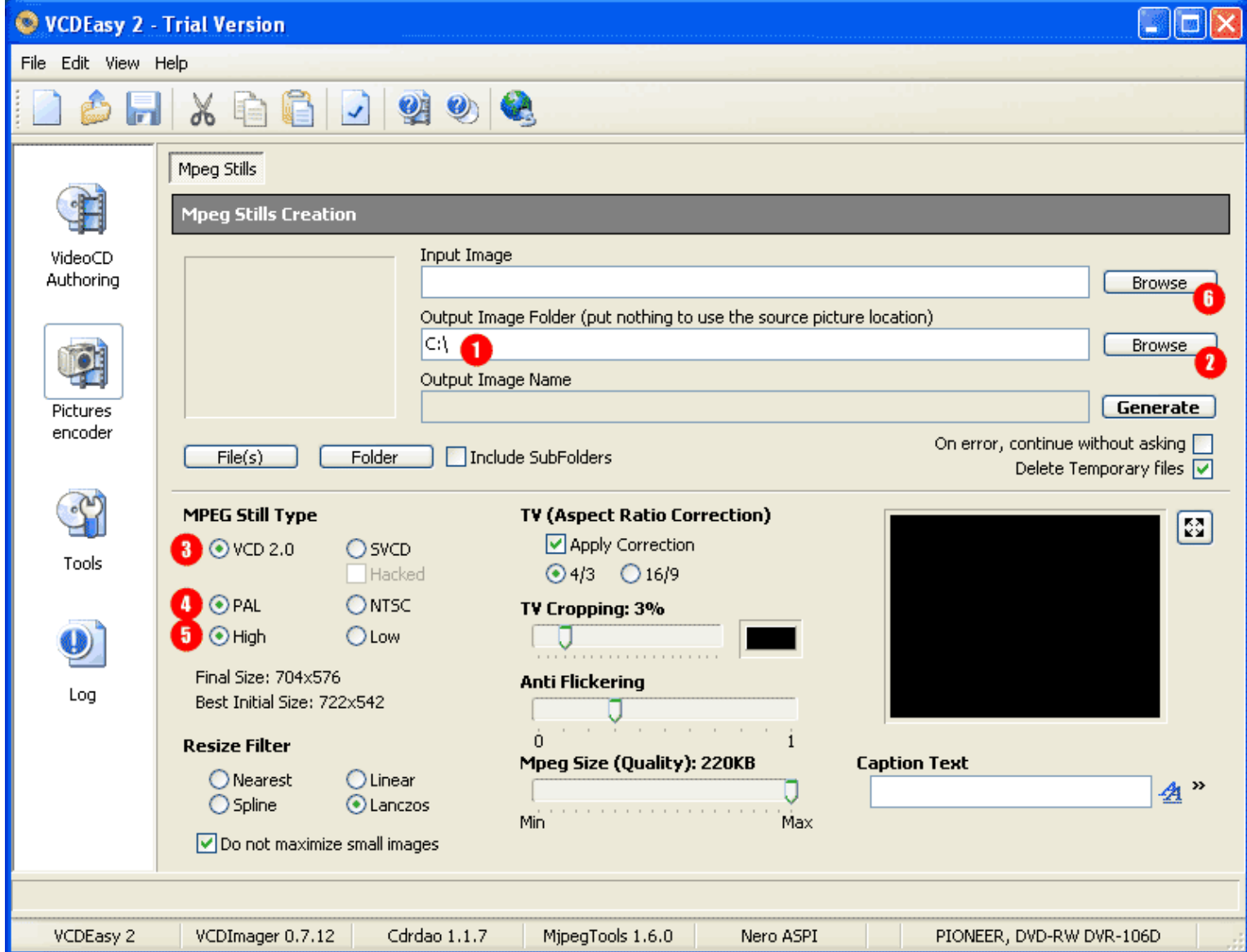
Do not worry if you have some of the following messages, they are all related to the burning part of VCDEasy and this guide will tell you what to do if you currently can not burn with VCDEasy. We also have some [guides](#) on how to solve the corresponding issues.



A noter que ces messages d'erreur (concernant la couche ASPI) n'existe plus si vous utilisez VCDEasy 2 sous Windows NT/2000/XP, car une couche ASPI n'est maintenant plus nécessaire sur ces Windows.

First, let's create a MPEG picture:

Go to the MPEG Stills (pictures) creation page: click on the "Pictures encoder" icon (in the Outlook like toolbar on the left)



- 1 Here is the location (1) where VCDEasy will generate the MPEG picture file(s). Use the "Browse" button (2) to change this location.

Remember this location, you will need this information later.

- 3 Select the type of MPEG still you want to create/test... Choose **VCD** or **SVCD** according to what you want to test on your home DVD player.

Remember this choice, you will need this information later.

- 4 Select here your TV system.

NTSC is a format for use primarily in **North America**
PAL is a format for use primarily in **Europe and Asia**

If you make the bad choice, the video/pictures will be displayed in black and white on your TV!

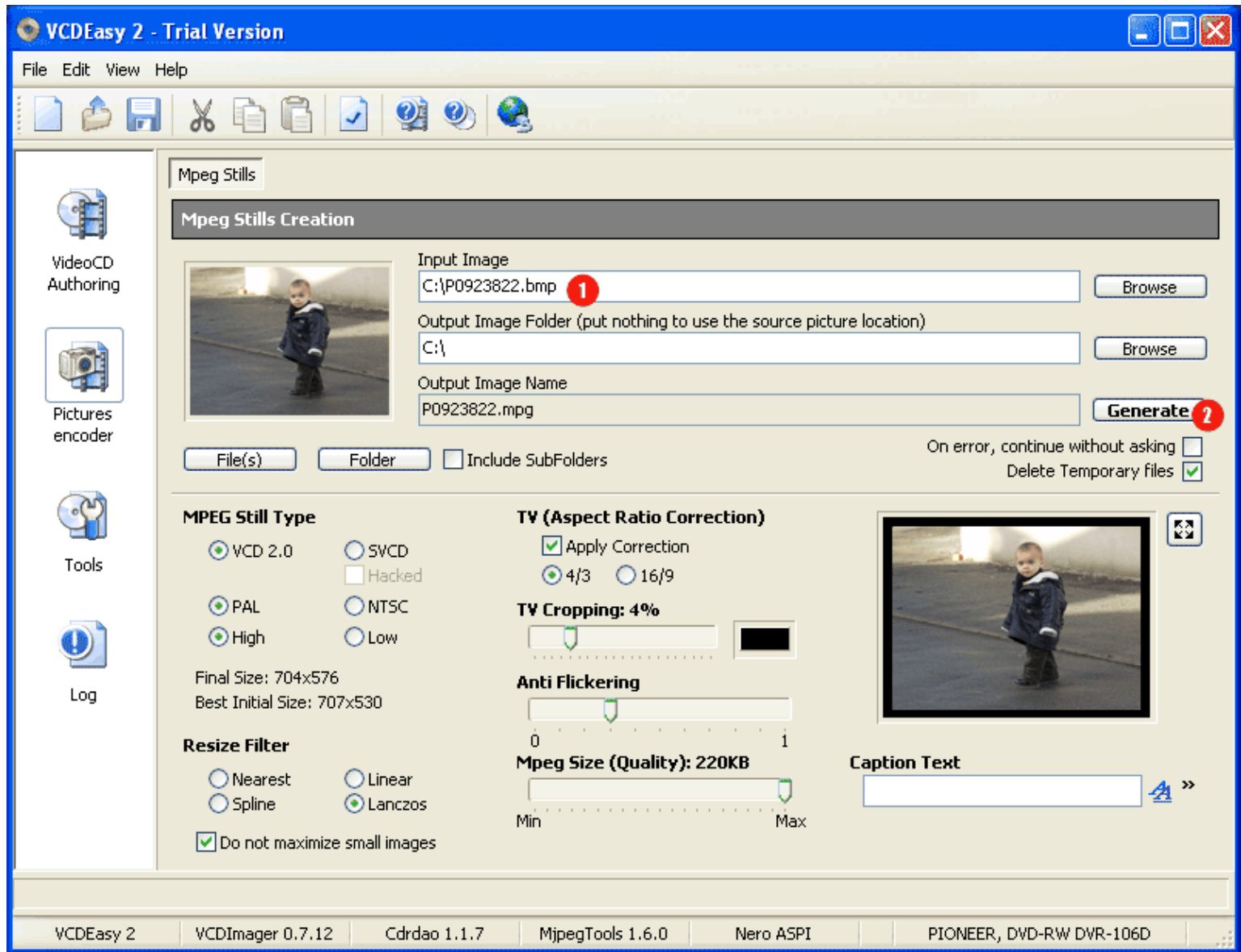
- 5 Select High (for High Resolution) there.

If the VideoCD you will create won't work on your home player, you can later try Low (for Low Resolution)... as your player may not support High Resolution MPEG Stills.

Let the other settings as they are on the picture (or just select 16/9 instead of 4/3 if your TV is 16/9).

Now click on "Browse" button (6) in order to select the picture VCDEasy will encode to MPEG.

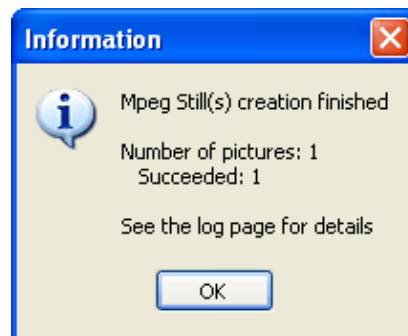
Once you selected a picture, you should see it in VCDEasy:



1 This is the filename of the picture you selected

2 Click on the "Generate" button to generate the MPEG still file

Finally, you should have this success message:

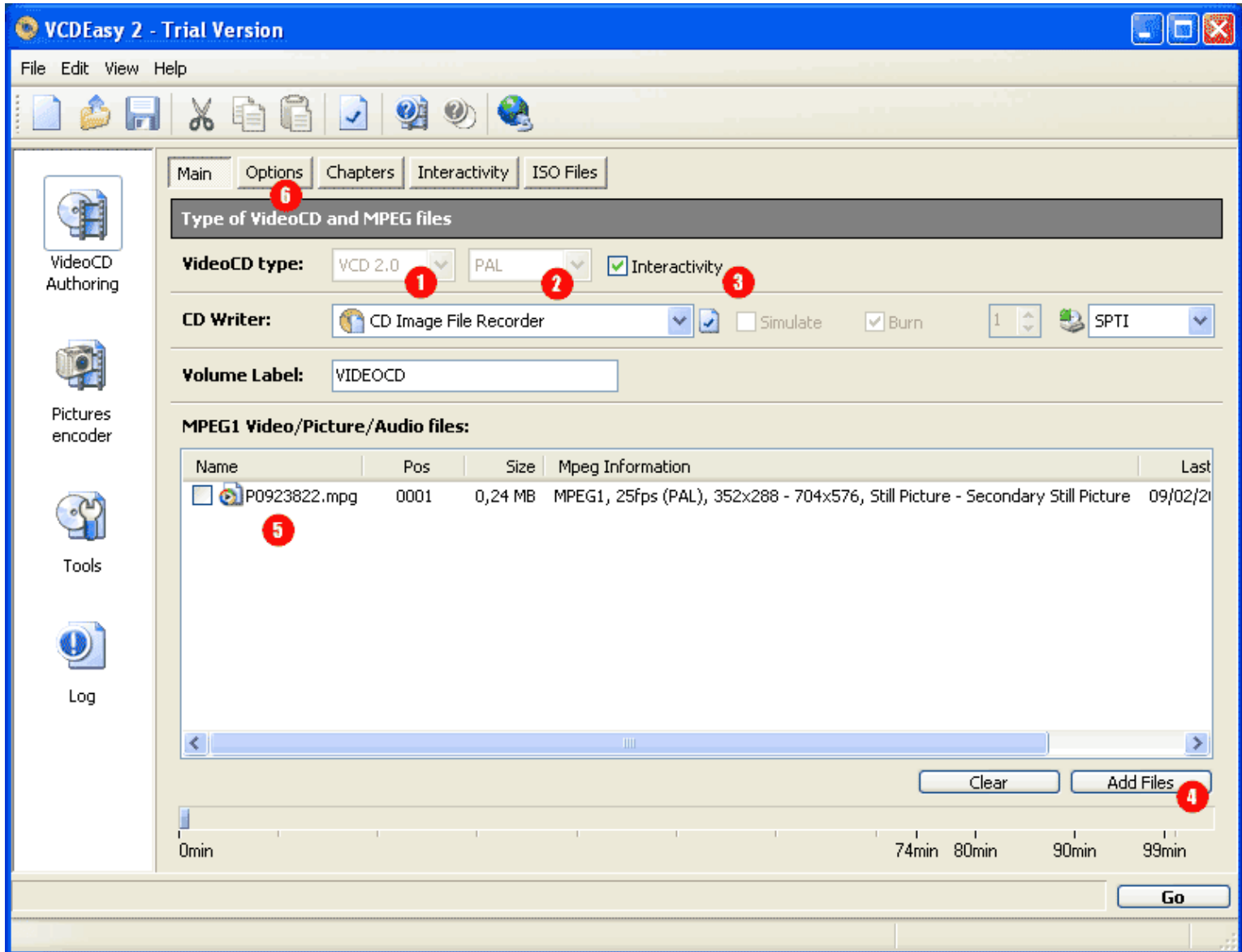


Now, let's author a new VideoCD.

Go back to the "Main" page:



Do not worry if you can not see your CD writer in the CD devices list, a solution for that case is explained later in this guide. Currently, let's focus on the projet itself:



- 1 Select the type of VideoCD you want to create/test.
Choose **VCD 2.0** if you chose **VCD** in the **MPEG Stills** page
Choose **SVCD 1.0** if you chose **SVCD** in the **MPEG Stills** page

- 2 Select here your TV system.
NTSC is a format for use primarily in **North America**
PAL is a format for use primarily in **Europe and Asia**
Remember the choice you made in the MPEG Stills page

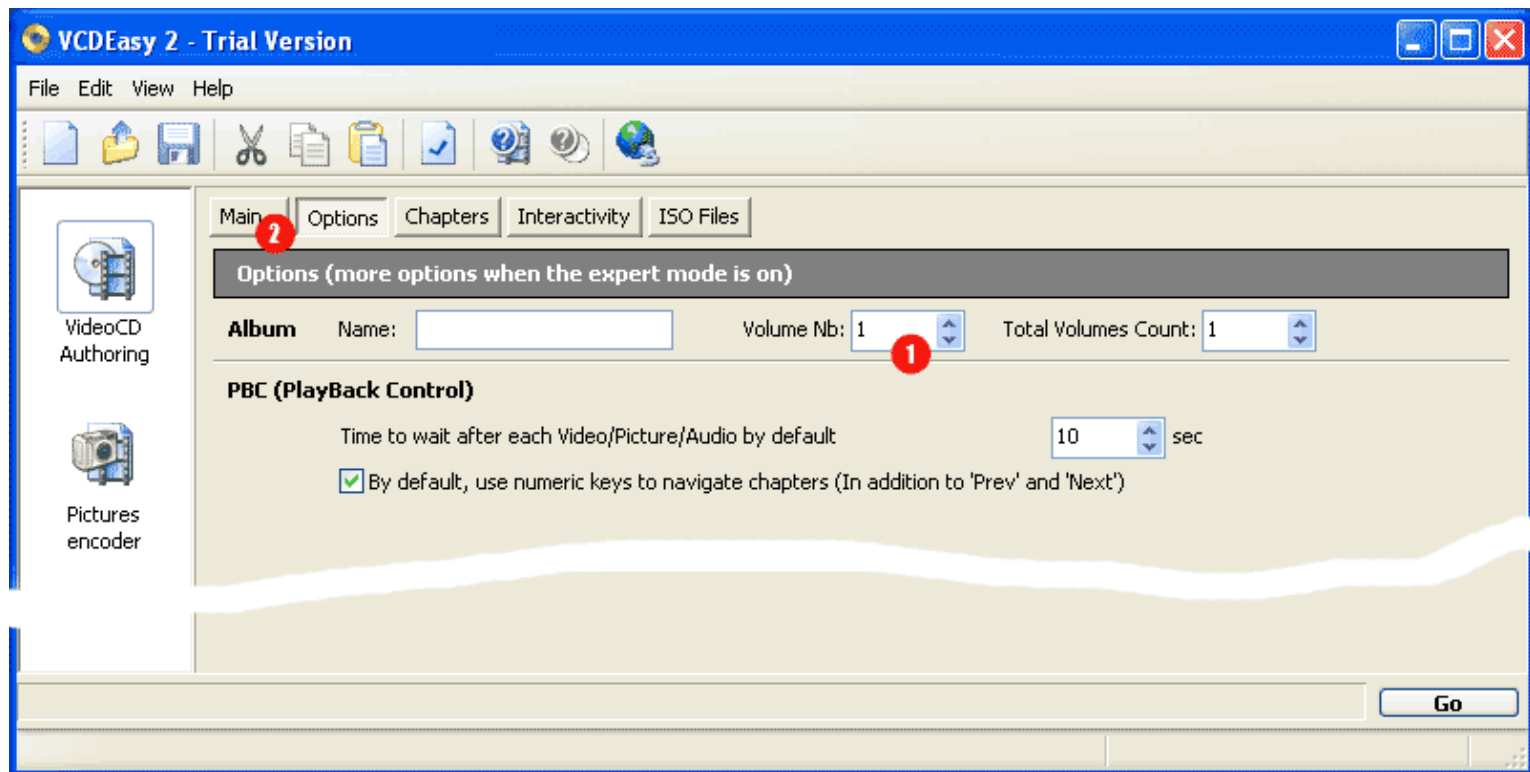
- 3 **Important!** "Interactivity" must be selected when the VideoCD you author contains some MPEG Stills (MPEG Pictures).
In VideoCD terms, this is called "PBC" or "PlayBack Control". In testing the VideoCD you are currently creating, you will know if your home DVD player support the PBC fonctionnality

- 4 Use this "Add files" button to add to the project the MPEG still file you created previously. (Remember the " Here is the location where VCDEasy will generate the MPEG picture file" above)

5 Once added to the project, you should see your MPEG picture here

6 Click on "Options"

The (simplified / non expert) "Option" page:



Set a 10 sec delay in (1)... Your picture will be displayed 10 seconds on your TV.

This simple VideoCD project is finished, save it using the "File" / "Save" menu, and go back to the "Main" page (2)

Let's now burn the VideoCD to a CD-R(W).



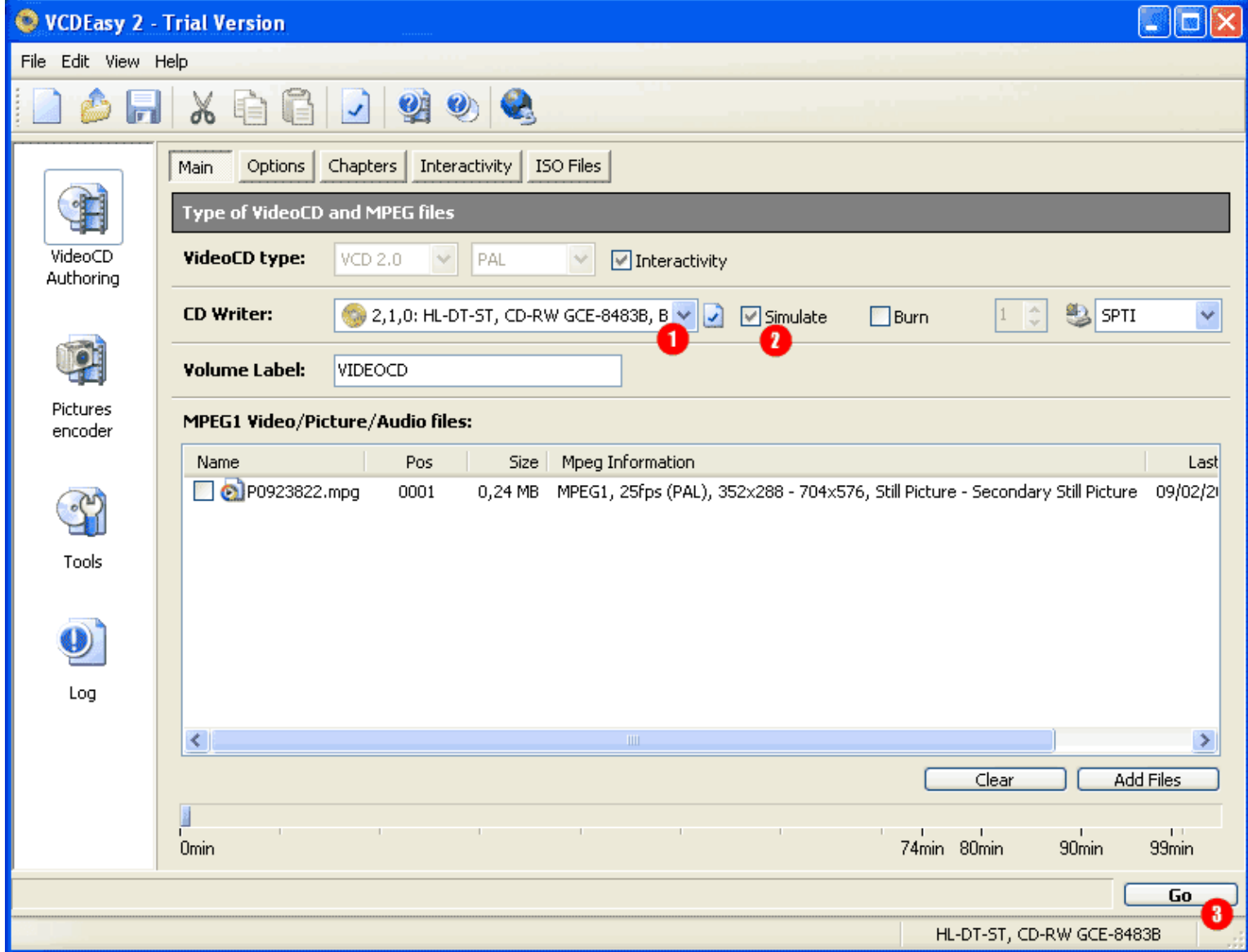
To start with, you should use a CD-RW, i.e a rewritable CD.

Do not use a DVD-R(W)! A VideoCD can not work on such discs... such are the VideoCD specifications. You can only use a CD-R or a CD-RW.

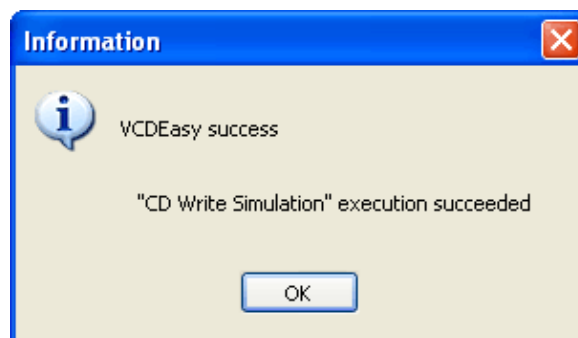
On the "Main" page, **if you do not see your CD writer**, then select "CD Image File Recorder" and go to the "Burn with another application" section below.



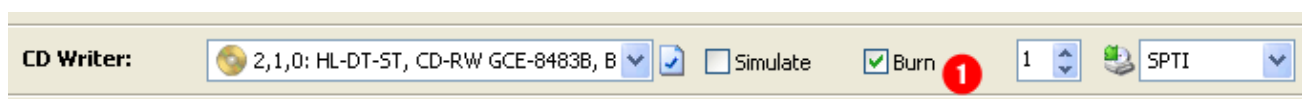
Otherwise, select your CD writer in the CD devices list (1), and choose "Simulate" (2):



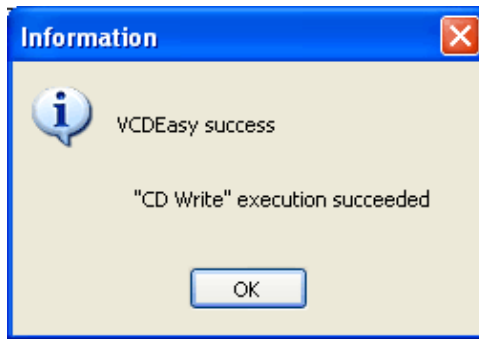
Now, click on the "Go" button (3)... finally, you should have this (simulation) success message:



Eject your CD-RW and put it again in the CD writer (doing so will force the CD writer to refresh its status about the inserted disc). Then choose "Burn" (1)



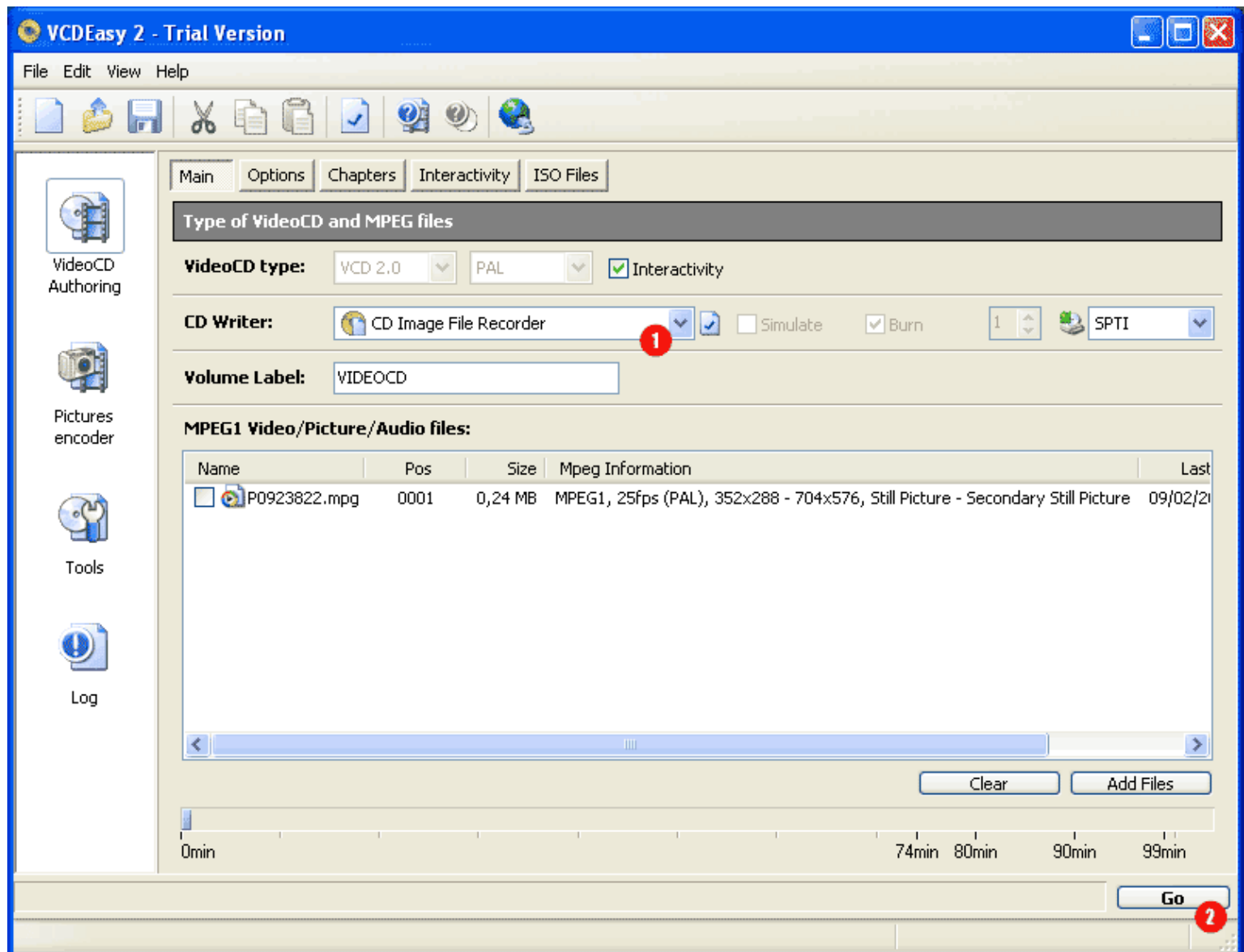
Click on the "Go" button again... finally, you should have this (write) success message:



Go now directly to the **"Final step... test on the home DVD player..."** section of this guide, i.e you do not need to read the next section.

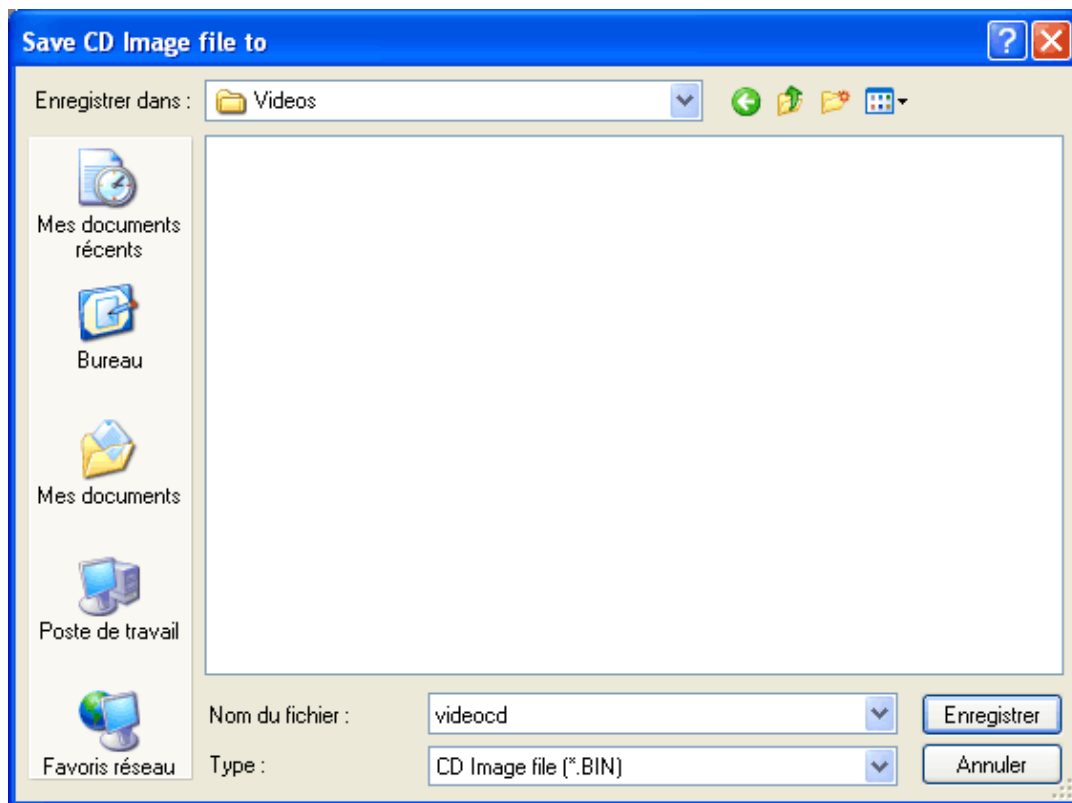
Burn with another application

If you can not see/select your CD writer, then select **"CD Image File Recorder"** (1). In selecting it, VCDEasy will output a CD image file. A CD image file is an entire copy of a CD, but stored on a hard disk as a big file. This file is "ready to be burnt" by many burning application (like Nero Burning Rom, CdrWin...).



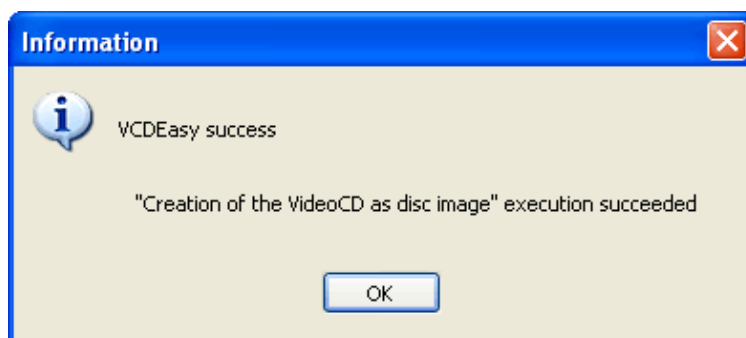
then click on the "Go" button (2).

VCDEasy will then ask you the name and the location for the CD images files VCDEasy will generate:



Remember this location/name, you will need it when you will perform the burning using another burning application

and then the CD Image file creation process occurs... ending with :



You created a VideoCD as a "ready to be burn" CD image file ("CUE/BIN" format). **So now, all you have to do is to use a burning application able to burn "BIN/CUE" CD image files. We recommend Nero Burning Rom 6 or CdrWin. Both exists in trial versions:**

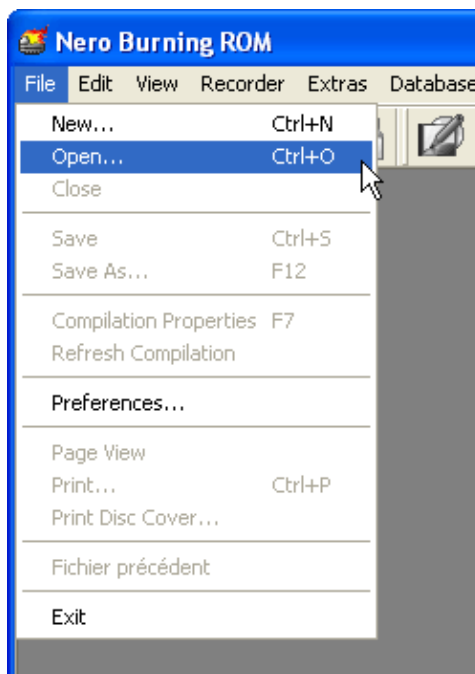
CdrWin: www.goldenhawk.com (the limitation of the trial version is a burning speed at 1x)

Nero: www.nero.com (the limitation of the trial version is an expiration after 30 days)

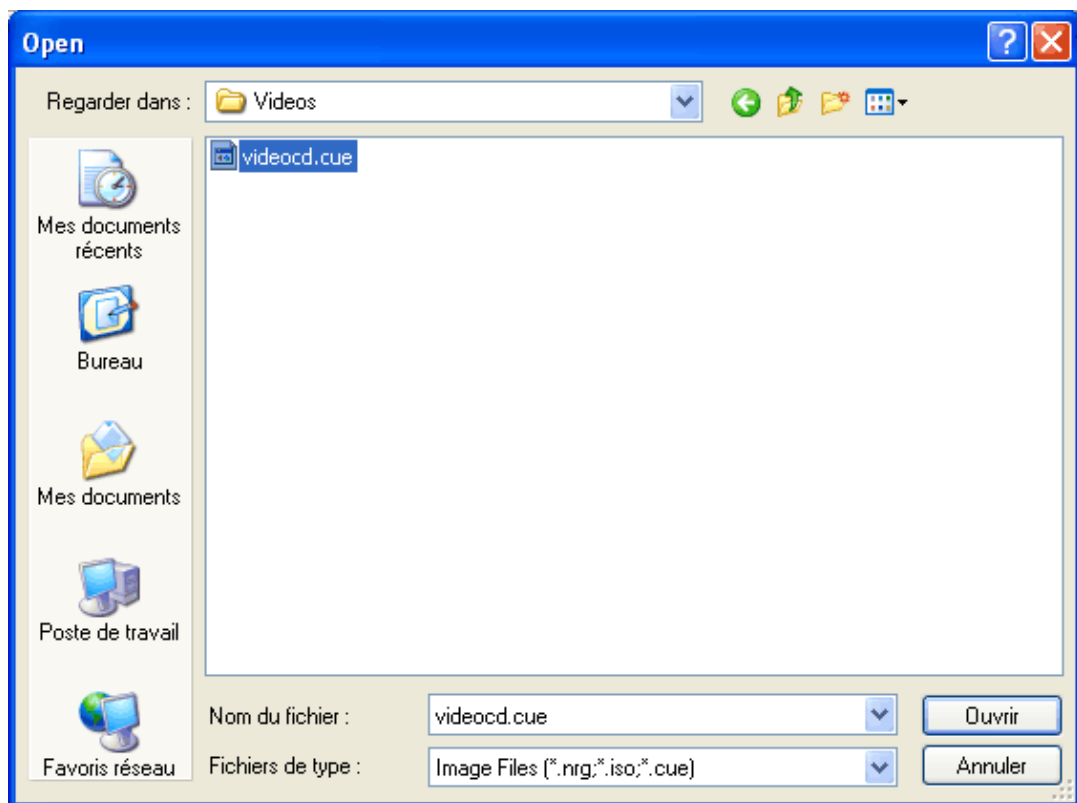
Below are the procedures for Nero Burning Rom, and for CdrWin:

Nero (I used **Nero Burning Rom v6.3.0.2** here, but it work fine also with Nero 5.5.10.28 for example)

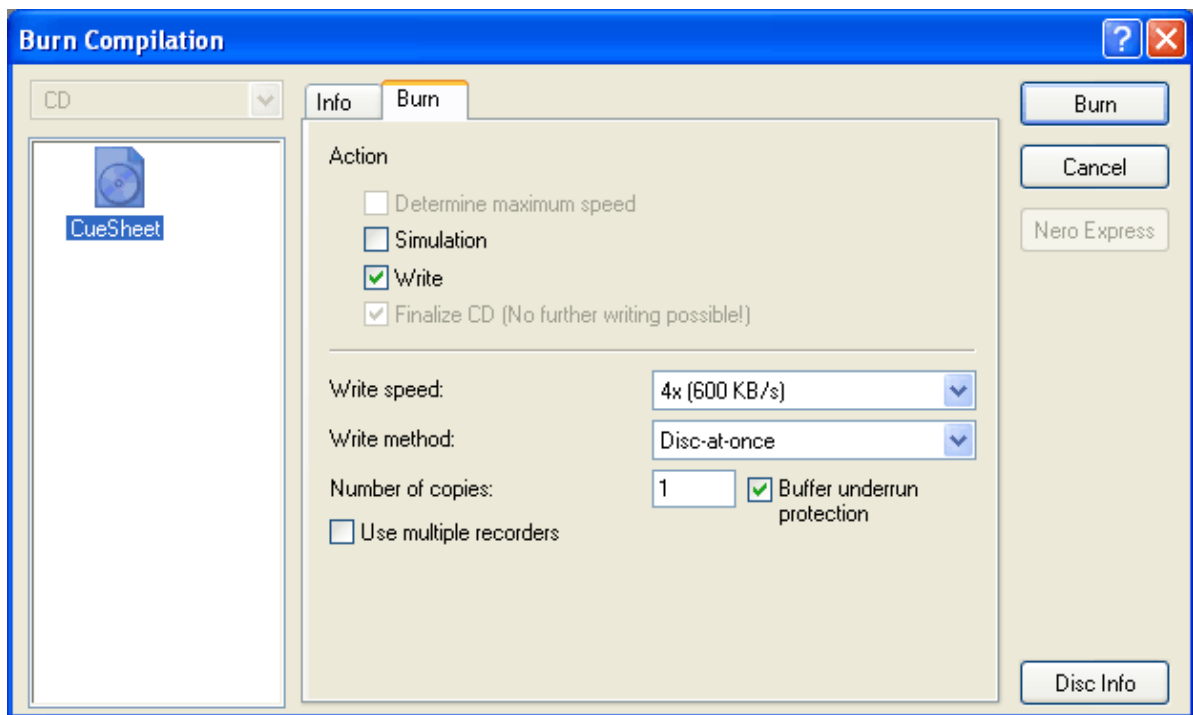
Start Nero... then "File"/"Open..."



Select the CUE file VCDEasy generated previously (you may have to change the "File Type" at the bottom of the open file dialog in order for you to be able to select .cue files):



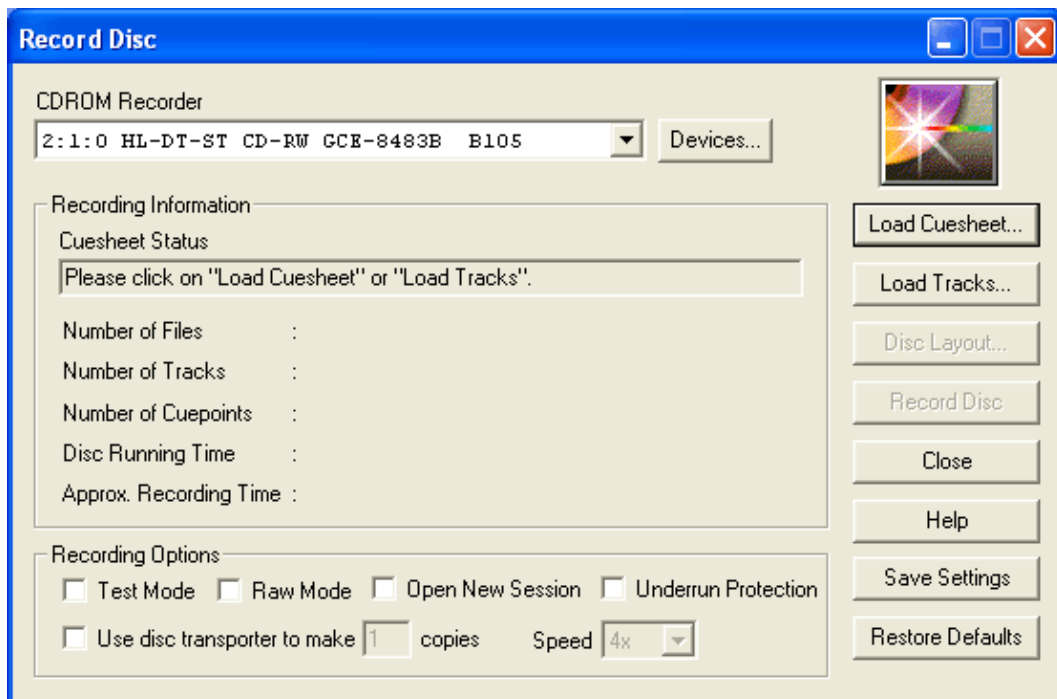
It is a good idea to burn at low speed (2x or 4x) for some home DVD players (but it is not always true... some CD writers burn in a better way at high speed... you will have to try if you have troubles...)
Select "Disc At Once" as "Write Method", if you can



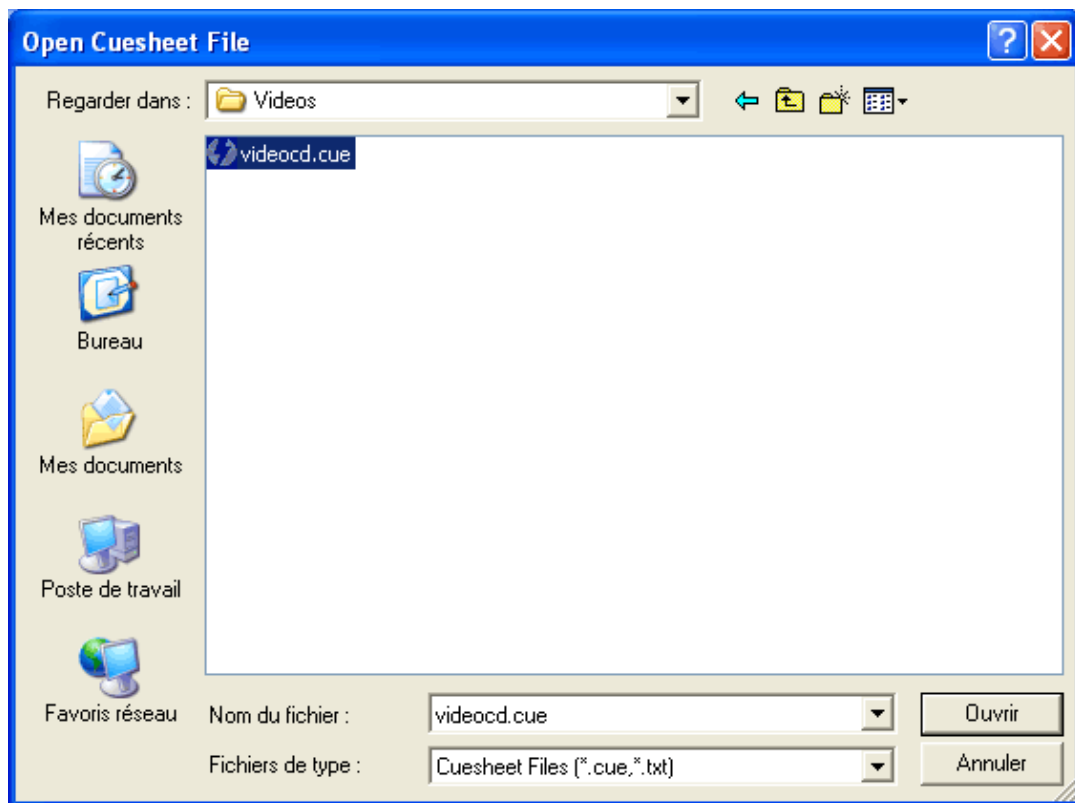
Finally, click on the "Burn" button

CdrWin (I used **CdrWin v4.0A** here, I also tested successfully with **CdrWin v3.8G** and **CdrWin v3.9D**)

Start CdrWin, and click on the "Record Disc" item.



Click on "Load Cuesheet" and then select the CUE file VCDEasy generated previously:



Finally, click on "Start Recording".



Note that if you did not pay for CdrWin but use a serial number or a key generator found on the web... there is a great chance that you will create coasters!... Most of the serial numbers for CdrWin available on the web seem to be valid but are not at final... and instead of saying "Bad Serial Number", CdrWin will sometimes create coasters...

Final step... test on the home DVD player...

Put the VideoCD in your home DVD player...

1) **If you can see your picture...**

your home DVD player is able to play VCD 2.0 (or SVCD 1.0 depending of what you have done) AND your player supports the Play Back Control (i.e you can use the "Interactivity" features in VCDEasy: menu, Audio VCD, PhotoVCD, user based navigation, ...)

... You will be able to do great things with VCDEasy!

2) **If you can not see your picture but see the following picture:**



VCD 2.0 player required
Please turn on PBC to show photos

or



SVCD player required
Please turn on PBC to show photos

your home DVD player is able to play VCD 2.0 (or SVCD 1.0 depending of what you have done), **but**

or you need to activate its Play Back Control support (see the documentation of your DVD Player),

or your player does not support the Play Back Control (in this case, you will be able to make video only VideoCDs... i.e with no pictures and no user based navigation [except fast forward, fast backward and maybe chapters])

You will be able to do great things with VCDEasy, but you won't benefit from all its features

3) **If your home DVD player refuses to display something...**

if you burnt on a CD-RW, try with a CD-R [or the opposite]
if you created a VCD 2.0, try with a SVCD 1.0 [or the opposite]

if your home DVD player does not play both VCD 2.0 and SVCD 1.0, whether on a CD-R or a CD-RW... it sounds not good... You should take a look at the [DVD Players database](#) to learn more about your player... it may simply not support the VideoCDs, or you may have to unlock something.

If VCDEasy is useful for you... you also should take a look at all the [other guides](#) to learn more how to use VCDEasy.

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