Types of Removable Disks

Type of Disk	Holds	Plays on	Make using
CD-R (R = Recordable)	700 MBytes of mixed files Not erasable once burned	Any CD drive, most new DVD players (for music and photos)	CD burner with CD-R blanks
CD-RW (RW = ReWritable)	700 MBytes of mixed files Erasable and reusable	***Only*** on CD-RW drives (***not*** on regular CD drives)	CD burner with CD-RW blanks
Audio (music) CD	about 1 hour. 20-25 songs	Any CD-player, most DVD players, boombox, car CD player, computer CD drive	CD burner with CD-R blanks (*not* CD-RW)
MP3 disk (music or audio book)	10-20 hours of audio 200 - 250 songs in MP3 format.	MP3 players, recent DVD players, some new car CD players, computer CD drive	CD burner with CD-R blanks (*not* CD-RW)
Photo (JPEG) disk	About 350 photos (3 megapixels each)	Most recent DVD players, computer CD drive	CD burner with CD-R blanks
Data disk	700 MBytes of mixed files	Computer CD drive	CD burner with CD-R blanks
VCD (Video CD) or **SVCD** (Super Video CD)	About 1 hour of video (SVCD has better quality than VDC)	Most recent DVD players, some computer CD drives (with updated drivers)	CD burner with CD-R blanks
DVD (Digital Video Disk)	3+ hours of high quality video and sound	Any DVD player, computer DVD drive	DVD burner with DVD-R or +R blanks
DVD-R data disk	4.7 GBytes of mixed files (9 GBytes if double-layer)	Computer DVD drive	DVD burner with DVD-R or +R blanks

Note: When a flash drive or a digital camera's memory card is plugged into your computer, it's automatically added to the list of drives in **My Computer** as a "Removable Disk". It's not really a disk, of course, but it acts like one as far as the computer is concerned.

About how many photos can you fit on your disk?

The short answer: *a lot!*

	Free space available on your disk or memory card (Gigabytes)							CD-R	DVD-R
	1	**2**	**5**	**10**	**20**	**50**	**100**	0.7 MBytes	4.5 GBytes (single layer)
Digital photos* (2 Mpixels)	1000	2000	5000	10000	20000	50000	100000	700	4000
Digital photos* (3 Mpixels)	700	1500	3500	7000	15000	35000	70000	500	3000
Digital photos* (4 Mpixels)	500	1000	2500	5000	2000	25000	50000	400	2000
MP3 song (3 min.)	300	600	1500	3000	6000	15000	30000	200	1400
Typed letters (2 pages)	100000	200000	500000	1000000	2000000	5000000	10000000	70000	350000

* for photos in JPG format (photos in RAW or TIF format take *much* more space).

To find out how much space is left on your hard drive, open **My Computers**, pull down the **View** menu and select **Details**. Look at the entry for the **C:** drive (that's your hard drive) and look at the **Free Space** column. Or you can right-click on the **C:** drive icon and select **Properties**. Same works for any other drive, including removable drives such as flash drives and memory cards.

Note: Flash drives (small portable USB storage devices) and memory cards for digital cameras and MP3 players are available in sizes up to 2 GBytes (= 2000 MBytes) as of early 2007. These can hold hundreds of digital photos.

Doing the math: 1 Kbyte (Kilobyte) = 1000 bytes (not enough to hold squat)
1 Mbyte (Megabyte) = 1000 Kbytes (only enough to hold one small digital photo)
1 Gbyte (Gigabyte) = 1000 Mbyte (enough to hold hundreds of digital photos)
1 Tbyte (Terabyte) = 1000 GByte (enough to hold hundreds of thousands of digital photos)

Add more storage capacity. The easiest way to add large amounts of storage for digital photos is to get an external add-on hard drive that connects to your computer with a USB cable. They are very easy to hook up and use - no software is needed. You can get 100-500 Gigabyte drives for about $0.25 - $1 per Gigabyte from places such as CompUSA and other consumer eectroncs stores. External CD and DVD burners can also be purchased if your computer does not have one built-in.