

Chapter 1

Getting Acquainted with Easy Media Creator 8

In This Chapter

- ▶ Getting familiar with the Roxio Media Creator Home
 - ▶ Overview of the Applications you can launch from Home
 - ▶ A quick look at the Tools you can use at Home
 - ▶ Exploring the Utilities available to you from Home
-

First things first: Before you can use your newly installed Roxio Easy Media Creator 8 suite to go off and create a copy of your favorite Coldplay audio CD or to burn a DVD of the family's most recent outing in the Adirondacks, you're going to need to know your way around the program. As you're about to discover, there's very little that Roxio Easy Media Creator 8 can't do when it comes to dealing with all the many types of digital media that are apt to come your way.

Better yet, not only is this baby versatile, but it's as good as its name. The Roxio Easy Media Creator 8 suite offers you consistently easy ways to complete all of your media projects — from ripping, arranging, and burning your own copies of your favorite CDs to finally organizing and tagging those gazillions of digital photos you've dumped into nondescript folders all over your computer's hard disk.

The only catch (oh, there's always a catch) is that in order for the Easy Media Creator 8 to be as multitalented as it is, the good engineers at Sonic Solutions had to carve the program up into dozens of different little specialized programs and utilities that taken in at once can be a bit overwhelming (to say the least). This is where Chapter 1 comes in: Here you not only get a much needed overview of the many individual and specialized components now at your fingertips but a good feel for the Roxio Media Creator Home that ties them all together. Once you get your bearings in this all important hub, you're ready to see what this program can really do by looking at each of the individual components.

Welcome to the Roxio Media Creator Home



When you install the Roxio Easy Media Creator 8 suite on your computer's hard disk, the Windows Installer automatically puts a Roxio Media Creator Home 8 shortcut on the Windows desktop. To open the Roxio Media Creator Home, you simply locate this shortcut icon (shown in the left margin of this paragraph) and double-click it.

Figure 1-1 shows the Welcome screen of the Roxio Media Creator Home window (also known as Easy Media Creator Central) that appears after you double-click this desktop shortcut. As you can see in this figure, the Welcome screen of the Home window that forms the hub of the Roxio Easy Media Creator 8 suite is divided into four distinct areas:

- ✔ **Menu bar:** Contains the four menus, File, Tools, View, and Help, which you can use to launch and save new media projects, access any of the Media Creator tools, change the size and appearance of the Home window, and get help on using Home
- ✔ **Project List:** Lists the categories of projects available in the Easy Media Creator 8 suite — to expand a category to display a list of all its particular projects, click the link attached to the category name or click the tab button to the right of the name (the one with downward-pointing triangle)

Figure 1-1:
The Roxio Media Creator Home offers a hub tying together the program's many components.



- ✔ **Project Window:** Displays a list of links for specific tasks or apps associated with the project you've selected in the Project List pane or, in some cases, lists the steps necessary to complete a particular task (such as to back up or copy a disc)
- ✔ **Control Panel:** This area is divided into three sections: the Media Information Display, which shows a visual representation of the disc or drive designated as the destination for your project; the Input Area, which displays a drop-down menu for selecting the recorder to use for your project, a display showing the recording progress of the project, or audio and video playback controls; and the Action Area, which displays an Options button for displaying a list of options associated with your project, or controls that enable you to start or stop the project.

Note that you can save space in the Roxio Media Creator Home by condensing the Project List pane so that it displays only icons. To do this, click the Hide Project Pane button or choose View⇨Hide Project Pane on the Roxio Media Creator Home Menu bar. To expand the Project List so that it again displays both icons and category labels, click the Show Project Pane button (or choose View⇨Show Project Pane).

Figure 1-2 shows the Easy Media Creator 8 Home window after condensing the Project List pane and selecting the Audio CD project. Note that Project Window now displays instructions on how to proceed in creating an audio CD for a typical CD player and that the Action Area now contains a Continue button that you click after selecting the recorder to use in the Input Area, inserting the blank CD disc, and adding the audio files to be burned onto the new CD.

If you have a great need for open space on the Windows desktop (as you might when dragging and dropping files from open folder windows that you want use in your current project) you can reduce the entire Easy Media Creator window to a bare bones minimum. To do this, click the Switch to Mini Mode button or choose View⇨Mini Mode on the window's menu bar.

Figure 1-3 shows the Roxio Media Creator Home window shown in Figure 1-2 after clicking the Switch to Mini Mode button. Note that even when the Home window is in mini mode, you can still go about the business of adding the audio files for the new CD, while at the same time keeping free most of the desktop for displaying the contents of other open windows.



To make it easy to open the Roxio Media Creator Home, you can add this Roxio Easy Media Creator 8 shortcut to the Windows Quick Launch toolbar by dragging its icon to this bar and dropping it at the place on this toolbar that immediately follows the Start button on the Windows taskbar.

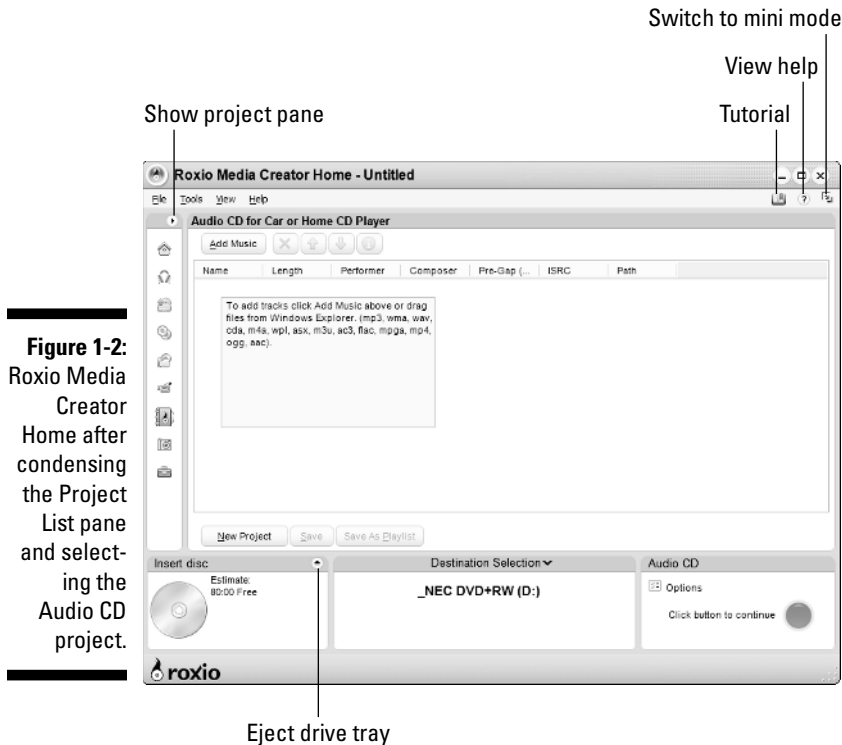


Figure 1-2: Roxio Media Creator Home after condensing the Project List pane and selecting the Audio CD project.

If you're like me and are apt to become a really serious user of Easy Media Creator, you may also want to fix the Roxio Media Creator Home option on the Windows Start menu (provided that you don't run Windows in Classic mode). To do this, you follow these steps:

1. Double-click the Roxio Media Creator Home8 shortcut on the desktop.

If you don't have an Roxio Media Creator Home8 shortcut on your desktop, you can click the Start button on the Windows taskbar, mouse over the All Programs option on the Start menu, the Roxio Easy Media Creator 8 option on the All Programs menu, and then click the Roxio Media Creator Home option on the Roxio Easy Media Creator 8 submenu.

The Welcome screen of the Roxio Easy Media Creator Home window shown in Figure 1-1 then opens.

2. Click the Start button on the Windows taskbar to open the Start menu.

The Roxio Media Creator Home option sporting the famous Roxio logo (a disc with what appears to be a shark fin coming out the top of it) now appears on the left side of the Windows Start menu.

3. Right-click the Roxio Media Creator Home option to open its shortcut menu and then click the Pin to Start Menu option on this menu.

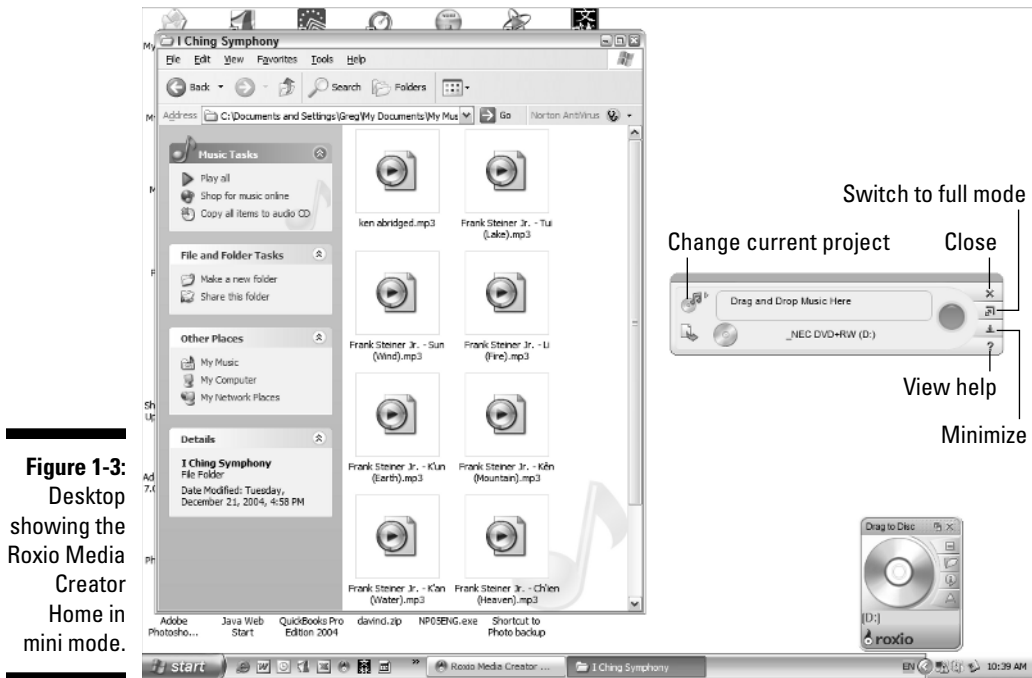


Figure 1-3:
Desktop
showing the
Roxio Media
Creator
Home in
mini mode.

As soon as you click the Pin to Start Menu option, Windows moves the Roxio Media Creator Home option to the upper area of the left side of the Start menu (under such Start menu stalwarts as the Internet Explorer and Outlook Express). If you later decide that you don't need this option to be a permanent part of the Start menu, you can remove it by right-clicking the option and then clicking the Unpin from Start Menu option on its shortcut menu.

Attending to the Tasks at Hand

The Most Frequent Tasks links on the right side of the Welcome screen in the Roxio Media Creator Home window (refer to Figure 1-1) give you immediate access to many of the most common tasks, such as creating audio CDs, copying and erasing discs, creating DVDs, and performing file backups. Clicking the link associated with a particular task temporarily opens the appropriate application in the Project Window of the Roxio Creator 8 Home window. The beauty of the More Frequent Tasks section in the Welcome screen of the Home window is that you don't have to give a second thought as to which Easy Media Creator application to use in order to get done the project you have in mind.

The only problem is that the tasks listed in the Most Frequent Tasks section represent only the most common disc-related things that you can do with

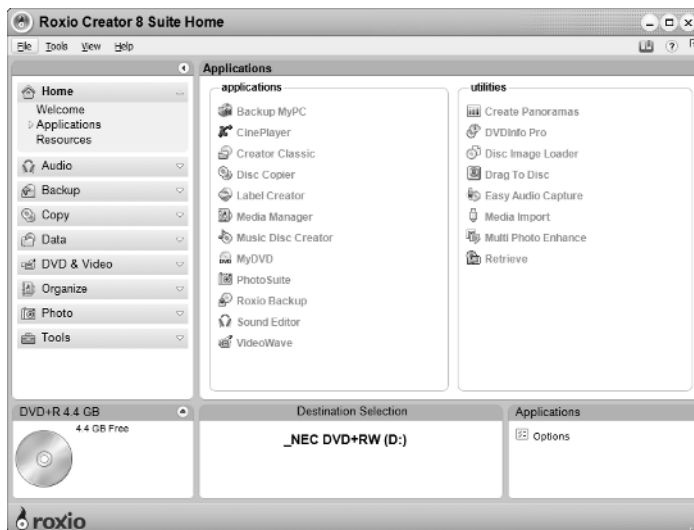
Roxio Easy Media Creator 8. Although you can rely on this section for most of your media backup and data disc projects, be aware that there's much more to the Easy Media Creator 8 suite than still pictures. Therefore, you will also definitely want to become well-acquainted with the additional tasks and tools offered on the other tabs in the Project List pane.

So Many Apps, So Little Time

As soon as you click the Applications link located immediately beneath Welcome on the Home tab of the Project List pane in the Roxio Media Creator Home window, the Project Window name changes to Applications. The Applications Project Window gives a full listing of all the standalone applications included in the suite in a column on the left and a bunch of neat utilities in a column on the right (see Figure 1-4).

The following sections give you a brief introduction to each of the components that you can load by clicking its Applications or Utilities link in the Applications Project Window of the Roxio Media Creator Home. Use this information to get a quick overview of the capabilities and functions of each of Roxio Easy Media Creator 8 applications and utilities.

Figure 1-4:
The Applications Project Window of the Roxio Media Creator Home showing all the available apps and utilities.



Would you please Backup MyPC

Backup MyPC is a super utility that enables you to make disc backups of all the files and folders on your computer. It also gives the ability to restore

these files and folders in case their data becomes corrupted so that you're no longer able to open them.

In addition to creating these kinds of complete or partial backups of your data files, you can use Backup MyPC to create a set of disaster recovery discs that you can use in case of a hard disk failure or crash.

Figure 1-5 shows the Backup MyPC window as it first appears when you launch this program by clicking the Backup MyPC link in the Applications Project Window of the Roxio Media Creator Home.



Figure 1-5: Backup MyPC enables you to create a complete disc backup of all the files on your computer.

Playing around with CinePlayer

CinePlayer is a full-fledged DVD player for your computer (one that you may well end up preferring to the Windows Media Player). You can use this program to play all the DVD movies that you create and burn to disc with the MyDVD program in the Creator 8 suite as well as professionally produced DVDs that you rent or purchase.

The heart of the CinePlayer is the Sonic CinePlayer Control Panel shown in Figure 1-6. Note that this panel often disappears behind the CinePlayer window where the DVD's video appears as soon you pop the disc you want to play into your computer's CD/DVD drive. To re-display CinePlayer Control Panel when the CinePlayer window is less than full screen, click the Sonic CinePlayer Control Panel button on the Windows taskbar. When the CinePlayer window is full-screen, press Alt+Tab until the CinePlayer Control Panel appears on top of the CinePlayer window.

Figure 1-6:
The
CinePlayer
Control
Panel man-
ages all
aspects of
playing your
own or
commercial
DVD discs.



When the CinePlayer Control Panel first opens, the side panel containing the cursor and numeric pad is not displayed. To display this side panel, which you then can use to select DVD menu items, you need to click the Expand/Collapse Panel button (the one on the right side with the double vertical bar). If you don't display this side panel, you can select items from the menu that is currently displayed in the CinePlayer window by clicking the item (something you certainly can't do when viewing the DVD on a standalone player).

The playback controls on the CinePlayer Control Panel are standard with the exception of the Jump To button, which when clicked displays a submenu that enables you go to a particular place in the DVD either by selecting its chapter (assuming that the DVD uses chapters) or its timecode.

To open a movie that you created with VideoWave (see Chapter 10) or a DVD project that you created with MyDVD (see Chapter 11), click the Open Disc or File button and then select either the Browse for File to find the movie file or the DVD project file on your computer's hard disk. To edit a DVD project that you created with MyDVD and burned to disc after viewing it in CinePlayer, you click the Edit OpenDVD disc (meaning one that to which you have full editing rights).



If you're viewing a commercially produced DVD that supports subtitles (either in English or another language such as Spanish), you can display them in the CinePlayer window. Click the Other DVD Options button, click the Choose Subpicture option on the pop-up menu, and then select the language, English (United States) or Spanish (Traditional Sort), on the Subpicture submenu.



Keep in mind that you can capture key frames (the ones that are clear and not part of a scene transition) in bitmap graphic files in CinePlayer. Simply click the Play/Pause button to pause the video at the frame you want to capture as a still image before you click the Capture Video Frame button. As soon

as you click this button, CinePlayer captures the image in a bitmap file (indicated by the rather loud click). The first time you save an image from a DVD, a Browse for Folder dialog box appears, enabling you to designate the folder and drive where all movie stills are to be saved. This is followed by a Media Name dialog box in which you can enter a descriptive name (usually the name of the film you're watching). CinePlayer then creates the filename for the bitmap images you capture by appending the descriptive name to the frame's timecode.

The comforts of Creator Classic

Creator Classic is the application you use primarily to assemble and burn your audio and data CDs. The Creator Classic window is divided into four major areas:

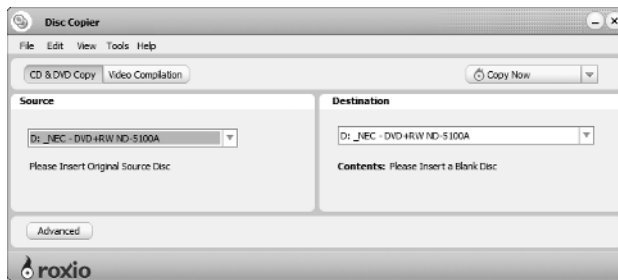
- ✔ **Projects** where you choose between creating a Data Disc (one consisting only of data files), Multimedia Disc (one that combines data files and other media such as music or graphics files), or Bootable Disc (one that contains enough of the Windows operating system that you can use it to boot from one of your computer's drives)
- ✔ **Other Tasks** where you can launch programs to make other types of data discs (CD Extra Disc Creator or Backup Projects), burn a CD or DVD from an image of the disc stored on one of your computer's drives (Burn From Disc Image File), get information and check the status on your computer's recorder (Disc and Device Utility), or start the Express Labeler (Make a Disc Label) to create a label for your CD or DVD
- ✔ **Select Source** where you locate and select the files you want to copy to data or audio CD
- ✔ **Data Disc Project** which displays the name of your disc as well as all the files you've added for burning onto the CD

Whereas you can use Disc Copier (discussed in the section immediately following) to make a copy of an existing audio or data CD or DVD, you use Creator Classic to actually put together and burn your data CDs or DVDs. You use Creator Classic when you want to make backups or archive data files on your disk. See Chapters 3, 5, and 6 for specific information and examples on using Creator Classic to assemble and burn audio and data CDs.

Copying discs with Disc Copier

As the name says, Disc Copier is the application you use when you need to make a copy of an unprotected CD or DVD. When you click the Disc Copier link in the Applications Projects Window in the Roxio Media Creator Home, the program opens the window shown in Figure 1-7. Or, I should say, this window opens after you dismiss an alert dialog box reminding you that you should use the Disc Copier component only to make copies of digital media for which you have the clear legal right to make copies. Knowing that none of you would ever do anything like that, you can click the Don't Show Me This Again check box before you click OK to close this alert dialog box (for once and all).

Figure 1-7: Disc Copier makes it easy to copy audio or data CDs and DVDs.

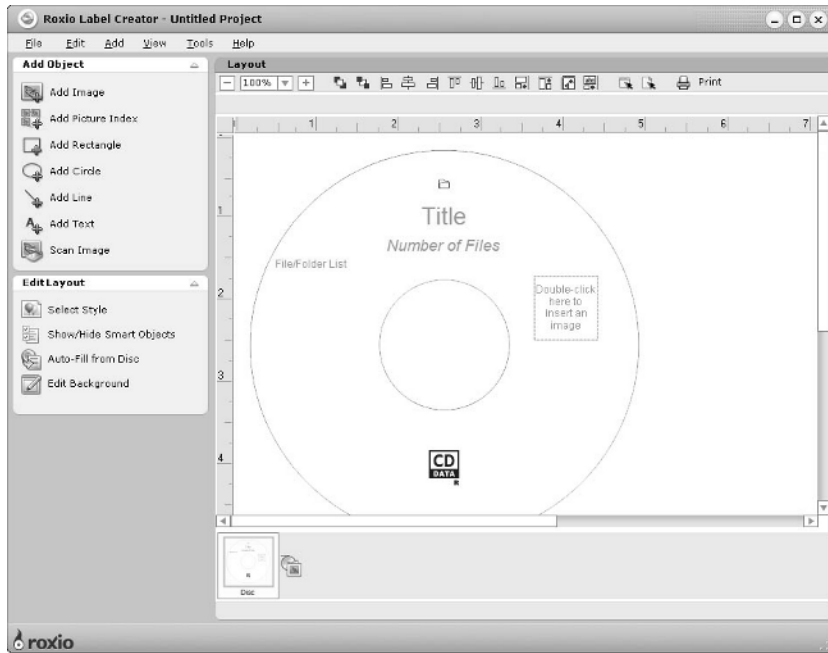


You can use Disc Copier to copy an audio or data CD or DVD (usually one that you've created with Roxio's MyDVD, since almost every single commercial movie on DVD that you rent or purchase is copy-protected and can't be copied with Disc Copier). You can also use it to create a compilation of different movies from different sources. As you can see in Figure 1-1, all you need to do to copy one of these discs is to specify the source and destination drive. The great thing is, if your situation is like mine and you have only one CD or DVD drive on your computer system, you can still use Disc Copier to copy your audio, data, or video discs (see Chapters 3 and 5 for steps with concrete examples of how you use Disc Copier to copy audio and data CDs).

Lauding the Label Creator

You use the Label Creator link in the Applications Project Window of the Roxio Media Creator Home to launch the Roxio Label Creator. This application enables you to design and print labels for the CD and DVD discs that you burn with the other Roxio Easy Media Creator applications. The Label Creator makes quick work of designing both disc labels and the inserts for their jewel cases. Figure 1-8 shows the Roxio Label Creator window as it first opens. Note that you open this window not only from Applications Project Window but also by clicking a Create Label button in the final dialog box when burning CD and DVD discs (see Chapters 5 and 12 for details).

Figure 1-8:
Label
Creator
enables you
to design
and print
disc labels
and jewel
case inserts
for your CD
and DVD
projects.



The Label Creator window is divided into three panes:

- ✓ **Add Object** with the tools for adding or drawing images that you want to include in your label project
- ✓ **Edit Layout** with tools for selecting one of the ready-made label styles for your disc label or assigning it a new color or background image or to automatically add album information in the case of labels for copies of commercially produced audio CDs
- ✓ **Layout** pane for previewing the contents of your disc label or jewel case insert (the front and back printed cards that go inside the clear plastic case that holds the disc), while at the same time enabling you to edit these contents

For detailed information on using the Roxio Label Creator to design and print labels for any of your CD or DVD discs, see Chapter 9.

Media Manager at your service

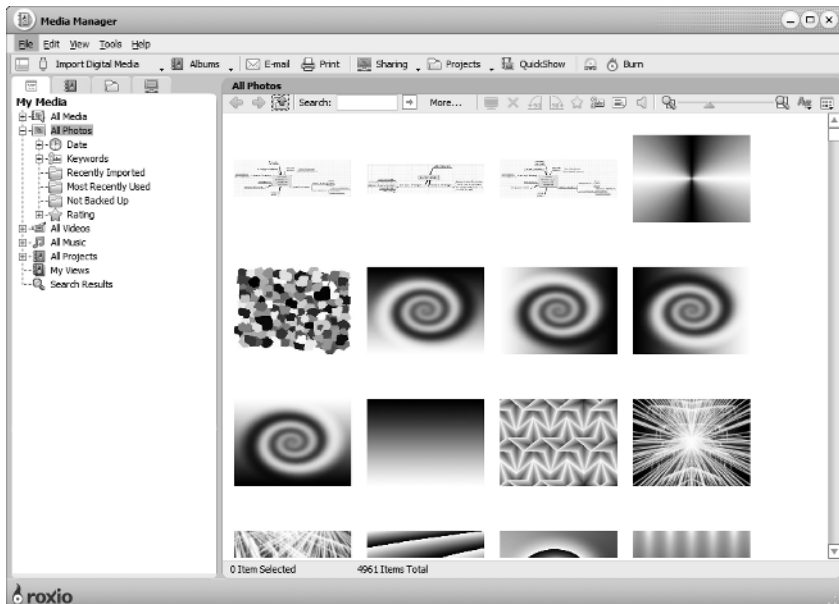
You use the Media Manager to organize the many types of media files (video clips, still images, audio, and video projects) that you use in the CD and DVD projects you create. This handy-dandy little program enables you to keep tabs on particular media files through the use of *albums*, special Easy Media

Creator files that associate selected media files together regardless of where these files are actually physically located on your computer system. Because albums reference to the media files you want to associate as a group, you don't have to go through all the trouble of copying or moving the files into a single folder. You can also use the Media Manager to peruse your media files, tag them with keywords for easy searching, as well as backing these files up by burning them onto CD or DVD discs.

Figure 1-9 shows the Media Manager window that appears when you launch the program by clicking the Media Manager link on the Applications Project Window or the Organize link on the Organize tab of the Project List in the Roxio Media Creator Home.

Deceptively simple at first glance, this window is made up of only two panes. On the left, you see a pane named My Media, My Albums, Folders, or My MediaSpace (UpnP), depending on which type of media container you select. This pane enables you to select any drive or folder on your system. On the right, you find a pane with the name of the selected media type, album, drive or folder that displays all the folders and files within that particular type of container. You do the rest of the organizing magic with the buttons at both the top of the Media Manager window and these panes (see Chapter 4 for details).

Figure 1-9:
Use the Media Manager tool to organize, view, and search the many types of media files you use in your CD and DVD projects.



Audio discs that are music to your ears

You use the new Roxio Easy Media Creator 8 Music Disc Creator to build and burn audio CDs and DVDs. The music you include in your audio projects can come from tracks of commercial audio CDs that you've purchased as well as audio files that you've recorded yourself. Audio discs that you create with this nifty application can be saved in any of the popular audio file formats including the standard WMA and the ever popular MP3.

Figure 1-10 shows the Music Disc Creator program window that opens when you click the Music Disc Creator link in the Applications Project Window of the Roxio Media Creator Home window. The Music Disc Creator window is divided into the following panes:

- ✔ **Project Type** where you choose between creating a standard audio CD, MP3/WMA disc, and a DVD music disc
- ✔ **Add to Project** where you can add music files to your audio disc project, including tracks from pre-recorded audio CDs or imported from other audio CD or DVD discs, as well as record audio files for the project
- ✔ **Audio CD – Untitled Project** which shows the name of your audio project along with the tracks in the order in which they will be burned on the new CD or DVD disc

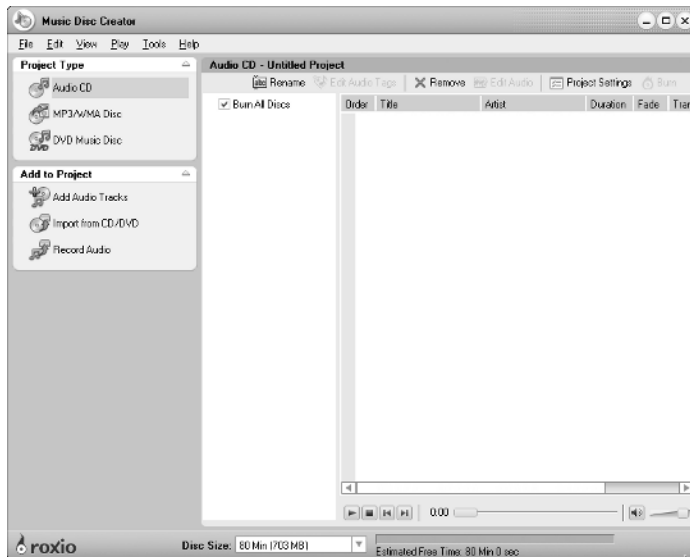


Figure 1-10: Use Music Disc Creator to burn music CDs and DVDs in popular formats including WMA and MP3.

Easy multimedia projects thanks to MyDVD

MyDVD is the application that you use to assemble and burn multimedia projects on DVD discs. Multimedia projects are those that can combine more than one type of media, including video clips, still photo images, text, and audio tracks. You can use MyDVD to quickly and easily convert your digital home movies into menu-driven productions that you can play on a computer DVD drive or a standalone DVD player attached to your TV. You can also use MyDVD to assemble your digital photo collections into slideshows that, when burned onto a DVD disc, can be played in the selfsame computer DVD drives or standalone DVD players.

Figure 1-11 shows the program window that first opens after you click the MyDVD link in the Applications Project Window launch or click the Create DVD link on the DVD & Video tab in the Project List pane of the Roxio Media Creator Home window. The MyDVD 8 window, as you can see in Figure 1-13, is divided into the following four panes:

- ✔ **Menu Tasks** where you add movies or slideshows you've already created in the Easy Media Creator 8 suite as menu items or capture and import video clips, music, or graphics for your DVD project
- ✔ **Edit** where you can edit a movie or split it into individual chapters as well as specify a visual theme for the project's menu screens (including layout and labeling of the menu buttons), select a photo or video to use as the background of all menu screens, or add music or sound effects to play whenever the project's menu screens are displayed on the screen
- ✔ **Project view** which visually represents the hierarchy and layout of your DVD project
- ✔ **Preview** which shows you the layout of the menu items and the background of the main menu of your DVD project and where you can edit any of the menu titles

MyDVD is possibly the most versatile application in the entire Easy Media Creator suite. Because you can combine all types of media (video, still images, text, and audio) as you want, this is the place where you can be really creative. In no time, you'll be creating personalized and professional-looking multimedia projects that you can share with all your friends and family who have access to either a DVD drive in their computers or a standalone DVD player. See Chapters 9, 10, and 11 for details on using the MyDVD to create your own DVD projects.

Figure 1-11: Use MyDVD to assemble photo slideshows, video clips, and the like into multimedia presentations burned to a DVD disc.



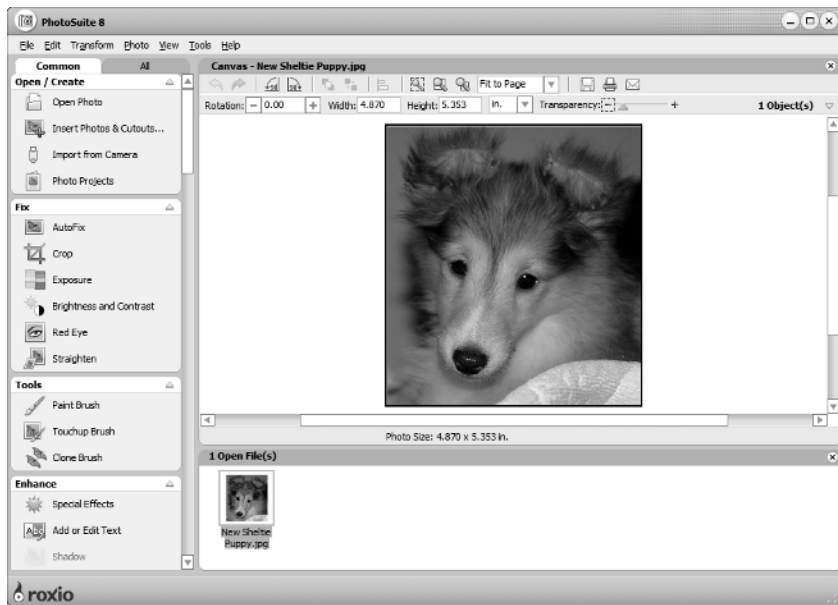
Picture it in PhotoSuite

Photo Suite is the application that you use to organize, edit, and share the digital photos that you take. You can use this component to enhance the photos, organize them into albums, use them in creating projects like greeting cards and calendars, as well as easily share them with friends and family. Figure 1-12 shows you the PhotoSuite window after launching this program by clicking the PhotoSuite link in the Applications Project Window or the Fix & Enhance link on the Photo tab in the Project List of the Roxio Media Creator Home and opening a photo to edit.

As you can see in this figure, the startup window for PhotoSuite is divided into three panes:

- ✓ A task pane along the left edge containing a **Common** tab and an **All** tab, both of which are subdivided into Open/Create, Fix, Tools, and Enhance panes that contain the common options for editing your digital photos and starting new photo projects
- ✓ **Canvas** pane on the upper right where the photo you're currently editing appears
- ✓ **Open File(s)** pane directly below it showing thumbnails of the all the photos you have open. The Common and All tabs are both.

Figure 1-12:
Use PhotoSuite to correct and enhance digital photos as well as share them with family and friends.



Note that the Canvas pane on the right side of the PhotoSuite window gives you general information about the digital photo you're currently editing, including its rotation, width, and height. It also contains controls for zooming in and out on the photo, changing its orientation, saving, printing, and e-mailing the edited photo. See Chapter 8 for detailed information on using all the PhotoSuite options.

Getting Secure with Roxio Backup

Roxio Backup enables you to create CD and DVD data file projects that back up certain folders and files on your computer system. This versatile little tool not only enables you to make one-time backups of important files but also to schedule regular backups for important files and to do incremental backups that include only files modified since your last backup.

Figure 1-13 shows the Roxio Backup window that appears when you first launch this applet either by clicking the Roxio Backup link in the Applications Project Window or the File Backup link on the Backup tab in the Project List pane of the Roxio Media Creator Home. The Roxio Backup window is divided into three panes:

- **Backup Tasks** to create a new backup project, refresh the list of files to be backed up, or to display a report showing the history of backups made using the current backup project

- ✓ **Other Tasks** to open the Disc and Device Utility where you can select the device to use in making the backup (usually your CD or DVD drive) and to launch Express Labeler, a special quick version of the Label Creator application
- ✓ **Backup Projects** that displays the name of the backup project as well as the files you want copied as part of the backup

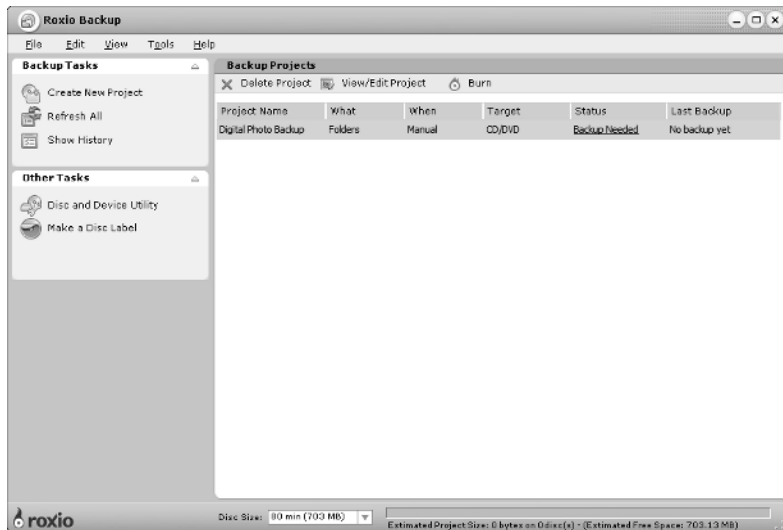


Figure 1-13: Use Backup to back up important files on CD or DVD data discs.

Saying hello to Sound Editor

You can use the Sound Editor tool to edit or enhance the audio recordings you make with such tools as Easy Audio Capture and the LP and Tape Assistant (covered later in this chapter) and convert them to any of the supported digital audio file formats, including MP3, WAV, OGG, and WMA (see Chapter 2 to find out what in the world all these acronyms stand for).

Figure 1-14 shows you the Sound Editor window that appears when you launch this utility by clicking the Sound Editor link in the Applications Project Window of the Roxio Media Creator Home and after opening an MP3 audio file for editing. As you can see in this figure, the Sound Editor interface represents the audio file graphically with a sort of waveform readout (reminiscent of a snapshot of an oscilloscope display). This waveform displays the relative amplitude of the sound for the left and right channels (marked L and R) of the audio file.

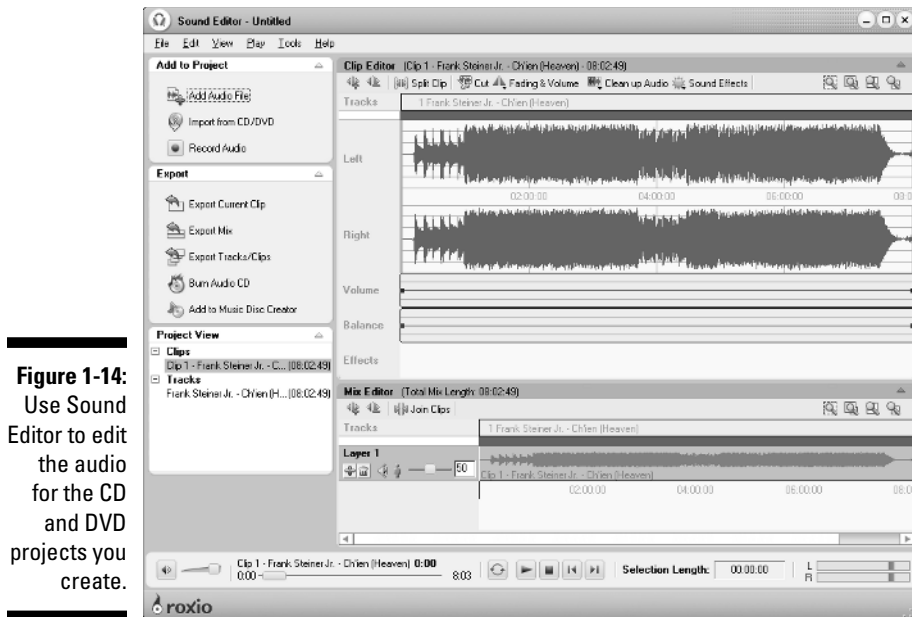


Figure 1-14: Use Sound Editor to edit the audio for the CD and DVD projects you create.

You can then use the controls at the bottom of the Sound Editor to play back all of or any part of the audio track. You can also use the zoom controls located immediately above the waveform display to magnify portions of the audio's waveform display or zoom out on it so that more of the entire track is shown in the Sound Editor. See Chapter 5 for details on using the Sound Editor to edit the audio files that you burn to CD or use in your DVD projects.

Riding the VideoWave

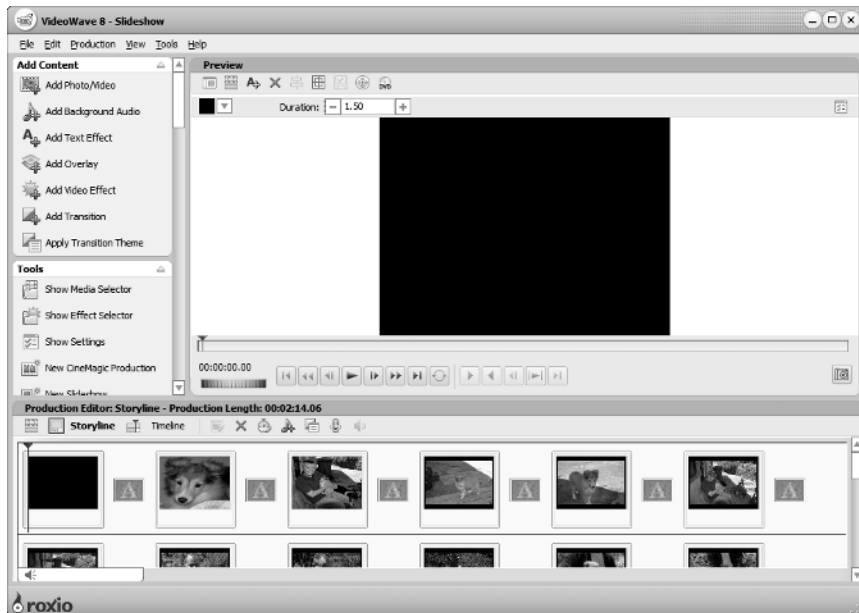
VideoWave is the application that you use to assemble and edit video projects (referred to in the Roxio documentation as *productions*) that can include video clips, still images, and audio. After assembling and editing a production in VideoWave, you can either add it to a DVD project that you're making in MyDVD or use MyDVD to burn it onto a DVD (see "Easy multimedia projects thanks to MyDVD" that precedes this section).

Figure 1-15 shows you the VideoWave 8 window that appears after launching the program by clicking the VideoWave link in the Applications Project Window of the Roxio Media Creator Home and opening an existing slideshow to edit (you must designate whether to create a new production or edit an

existing one as part of the program startup). When you open the VideoWave 8 window to create a new production or edit an existing one, it is divided into the four major panes shown in this figure:

- ✓ **Add Content** where you add the photos or video clips you want included in the production as well as select among the various effects and transitions you want to use
- ✓ **Tools** which includes tools for selecting new media and to include in the production and effects to apply as well as to launch a CineMagic Production or New Slideshow built with the Slideshow Assistant (see description in the bullet list immediately following this one)
- ✓ **Preview** where you can preview how the your production will play as you create and edit it
- ✓ **Production Editor: Storyline** displaying a storyboard view of the video production, showing all the individual video clips and stills with any in-between transitions in the order in which they will play in the final production (this pane can also display the production in a Timeline view which shows the timing of each element in the production along with any audio or narration track that you've added)

Figure 1-15:
Use VideoWave to assemble video clips, still images, and audio into productions that you incorporate into DVD projects or burn directly onto DVD discs.



Personally, I find that VideoWave interface is one of the easiest and most straightforward for editing video that I've run across. I'm sure that with just a little experience using this beauty, you're going to *love* video editing. If, however, you're a complete newbie to video editing and are the least bit intimidated about producing your own videos, you'll be glad to know that VideoWave includes two new components designed to make video editing nearly foolproof:

- ✓ **CineMagic**, which automatically edits your video production by trimming your video clips and adjusting the tempo of the audio to fit the flow and transitions you use (perfect for making MTV-type videos)
- ✓ **Slideshow Assistant**, which uses a Wizard-type interface, providing step-by-step guidance through assembling the various elements in a new slideshow production including transitions and background music

Starting your video-editing career with CineMagic and the Slideshow Assistant is a perfect way to become familiar with the VideoWave interface and its capabilities. From there, you can quickly move on to video editing on your own right using the Storyline and Timeline views. See Chapter 11 for complete details on using all aspects of VideoWave.



Although you normally launch VideoWave from the Roxio Media Creator Home, you can also launch VideoWave directly from within the MyDVD application when you need to do some advanced editing on a video production created earlier with VideoWave that you've imported into the Video Project you're currently working on or to do similar editing to the contents of a new title that you added to DVD project. Suffice it to say that knowing how to use VideoWave goes a long way in mastering the video end of the Easy Media Creator suite.

Utilities Perfect for Particular Media Needs

In addition to all the nifty programs listed in its Applications list, the Applications Project Window of the Roxio Media Creator Home also includes a Utilities list that provides the following useful tools:

- ✓ **Create Panoramas** to launch the Panorama Assistant that enables you to stitch together a sequence of photos into a single panoramic picture (see Chapter 6 for details)

- ✔ **DVDInfo Pro** to use Roxio DVDInfo Pro to get all sorts of information about the capacities of your computer's DVD drive as well as information on those of a DVD disc that you want to use in the burning of your Roxio media projects
- ✔ **Disc Image Loader** to create a virtual drive on your computer into which you can load disc image files containing audio or video data culled from different physical discs, thus enabling you to play or to back up the data without having to do any disc swapping (see Chapter 3 for details)
- ✔ **Drag To Disc** to copy data and media files onto the CD or DVD disc in your computer's CD/DVD drive by simply dragging them to the program's icon (see "Instant data copying thanks to Drag to Disc" in the section that follows immediately for details)
- ✔ **Easy Audio Capture** for recording audio with your computer's sound card either externally using some sort of microphone or internally using a program such as the Windows Media Player that plays audio on your computer (see Chapter 7 for details)
- ✔ **Media Import** to launch Roxio Media Import which enables you to capture photo, video, and audio clips for your Roxio media projects (see "The importance of Media Import" later in this chapter for details)
- ✔ **Multi Photo Enhance** for doing group editing on a bunch of digital photos that all require the same types of fixes and enhancements (see Chapter 6 for details)
- ✔ **Retrieve** for recovering data files from a multi-disc CD or DVD data project where the data from some files can be split across more than one disc (see Chapter 3 for details)

Instant data copying thanks to Drag to Disc

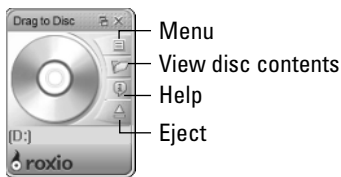
Drag to Disc is one of the neatest yet simplest applications in the Easy Media Creator suite. You can use this nifty program to make CD or DVD backups or archives of data files on your hard disk or network simply by dragging their folder or file icons on the Windows desktop and dropping them on the Drag to Disc icon (shown in Figure 1-16). The Drag-to-Disc application is great because it automatically does any formatting for the data CD or DVD as needed to accommodate the files that you add.



To display the Drag to Disc icon on your Windows desktop, click the Drag To Disc link in the Utilities column of the Applications Project area in the Roxio Media Creator Home window or click the Drag to Disc icon (shown in the left margin of this paragraph) that appears in the Systems Tray on the right side of the Windows taskbar immediately to the left of the clock. For details on making quick data backups and archives with Drag to Disc, see Chapter 3.

Figure 1-16:

Use the Drag to Disc icon on your Windows desktop to make quick, one-time backups of file data.

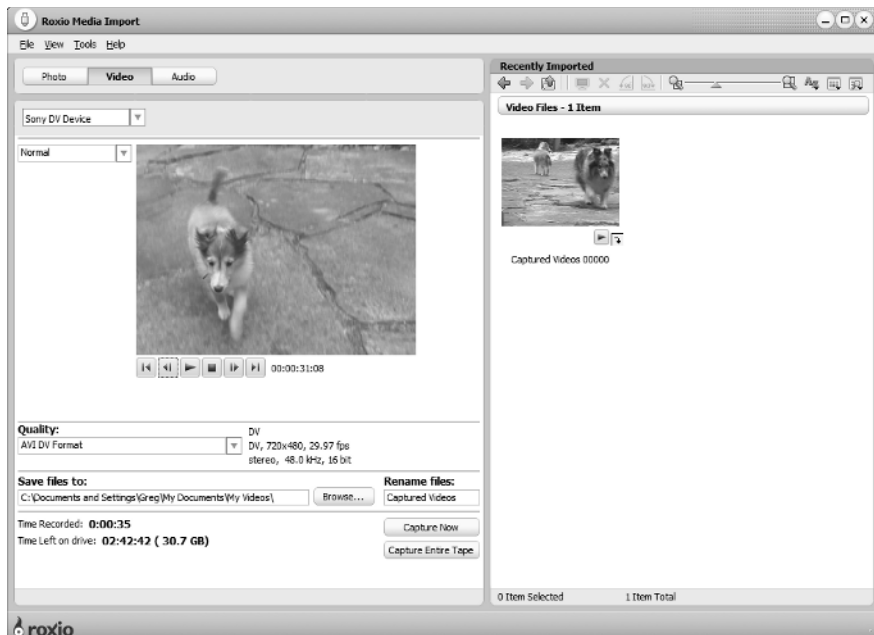


The importance of Media Import

As the name suggests, you use the Media Import to bring in media files from various devices such as a digital photo camera, video camera, scanner, and microphone that's connected to your computer system. You can also use Media Import to capture media files from CD or DVD discs (which aren't copy protected and to which you have the right to make copies) loaded into the CD or DVD drive built into your computer.

Figure 1-17 shows the Roxio Media Import window as it appears when I launch the program by clicking the Media Import link in the Utilities column of the Applications Project Window in the Roxio Media Creator Home window and then select the Video tab when my Sony digital video camera is connected to my PC. Your Capture window will undoubtedly differ depending on the actual devices you have connected to your computer. As you can see, this window contains the controls for capturing a video clip directly from the connected video camera on the left with a listing of the clips recently imported on the right. See Chapter 10 for details on using Media Import to capture various types of media files for your Roxio Easy Media Creator 8 projects.

Figure 1-17:
Media Import enables you to import media files from the various devices connected to your computer.



Help Is on the Way!

The best place to go for online help on using any of the nifty applications and utilities outlined so far in this chapter is the Help menu of the Roxio Media Creator Home. The Help menu in this window contains the following options:

- ✓ **Help** to open the Roxio Help Center where you can get help on the Roxio Media Creator Home and doing media projects from it as well as on particular apps and utilities included in the suite
- ✓ **Tutorial** to open a local Web page in your Web browser with links to particular step-by-step tutorials on topics such as Start a New Project and Import Photos from Your Camera
- ✓ **Media Guide** to open a local Web page in your Web browser with information on the recommended media to use when undertaking a particular media project such as creating an audio CD, a backup data disc, or a video DVD
- ✓ **Gracenote – Your Source for Music Information** to connect to the Internet and open in your Web browser the Home page of the Gracenote Web site where you can search its enormous online music database

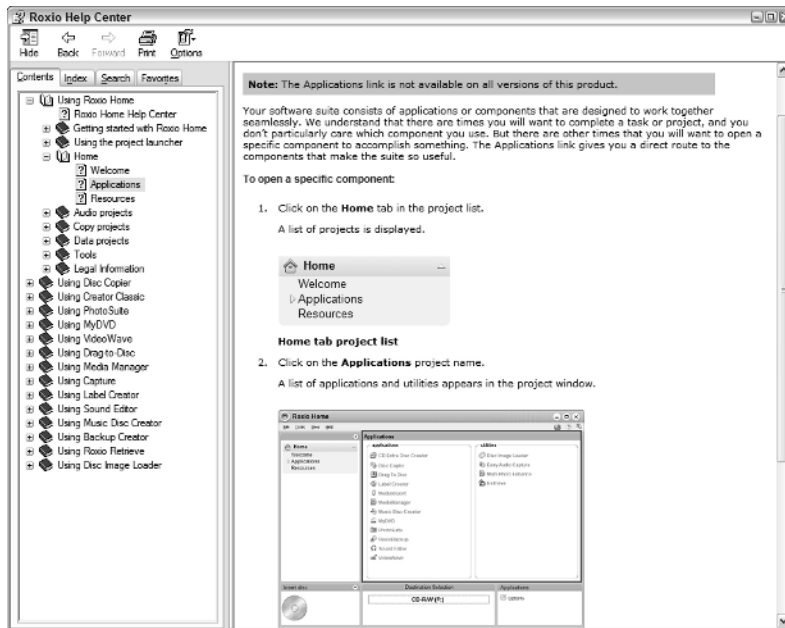
(consisting of almost 4 million CDs and more than 50 million songs) for all kinds of information about your favorite artist or track

- ✔ **Technical Support on the Web** to connect to the Internet and open in your Web browser a Sonic Web page from which you can get technical tips and seek direct help for any snafus you happen to run into when running the Roxio Easy Media Creator 8 suite
- ✔ **Sonic Store** to connect to the Internet and open in your Web browser a Sonic Web page from which you can purchase upgrades to any product from Sonic Solutions or disc labels to use in your Roxio media projects
- ✔ **Check for Updates** to connect to the Internet and open in your Web browser a Sonic Web page which checks for and downloads any updates to your version of the Roxio Easy Media Creator 8 suite
- ✔ **About This Software** to open a window with information about the specific version of the Roxio Easy Media Creator 8 suite installed on your computer

Using the Roxio Help Center

Figure 1-18 shows the Roxio Help Center window. As you can see from this figure, the Roxio Help Center presents its information in a standard Windows Help window with its Contents, Index, Search, and Favorites tabs in a pane on the left and the text of the currently selected help topic displayed on the right.

Figure 1-18:
The Roxio Help Center is the place to go for help on Home or any of the suite's modules.





Note that you can quickly open the Help Center from the Roxio Media Creator Home window by clicking the Help button (the one with the question mark immediately beneath Maximize button in the upper-right corner of the Home window) or by simply pressing F1 when this window is active.

The easiest way to get to general help on the use of any of the suite's modules is from the Contents tab. This tab contains a list of Using topics that comprise all the suite's modules from Using Roxio Home all the way to Using Disc Image Loader (with all applications outlined earlier in this chapter in between). In addition, when you expand the Using Roxio Home topic at the top of the Contents tab (by clicking the plus-sign button to the immediate left of its book icon), you find project-specific help subtopics with loads of good information on making specific types of Audio, Copy, and Data projects.

Getting application-specific help

In addition to the help available in the Roxio Media Creator Home, each of the individual apps included in the suite such as Creator Classic, PhotoSuite, MyDVD, and the like offer their own application-specific help in two forms:

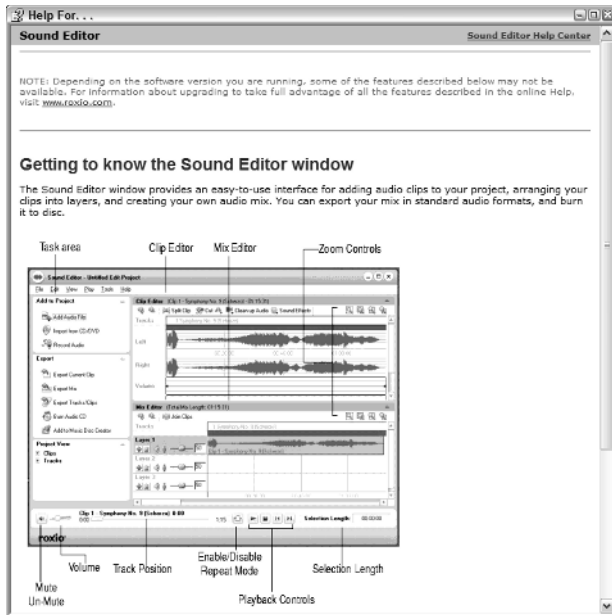
- ✓ **Help for this Window** (the first item on the particular program window's Help menu or opened by pressing F1) that acquaints you with the particular module's interface
- ✓ **Help Center** for the specific module you're using (the second item on the module's Help menu) that contains help topics on how to use the particular module's features

Figure 1-19 shows you the Help For the Sound Editor window that opens when you choose Help⇨Help for this Window on the Sound Editor menu bar or press F1 when the Sound Editor program window is active. As you can see, this particular help window contains callouts for the Sound Editor window that enable you to identify its major areas and controls.

Figure 1-20 shows you the Sound Editor Help Center window that opens when you choose Help⇨Sound Editor Help Center on the Sound Editor's menu bar. The left pane of this help center is arranged as a standard Windows help window with its Contents, Index, Search, and Favorites tabs. The right pane contains a list of links to get general information about Sound Editor and its basic functions as well as links to online resources.

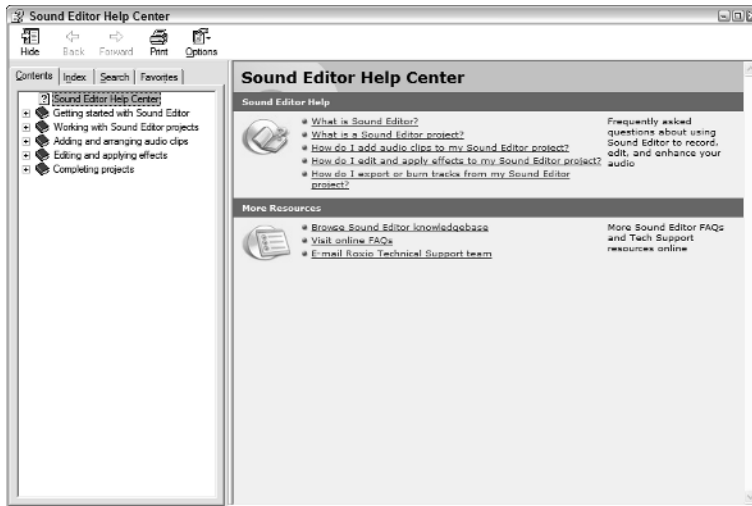
To get information particular things that Sound Editor can do and specifically how specific features work, start by perusing the general topics on the Contents tab. When you find a general topic that might contain information of interest, click its name or closed-book icon to display a list of links to its subtopics in the pane on the right. Then, when you locate a subtopic of interest, click its individual link to replace the list in the right pane with a display of its specific help information.

Figure 1-19: The Help for the Sound Editor window helps you quickly identify the parts of the Sound Editor window.



You can also expand any of the general help topics in the left pane of the General tab by clicking the plus-sign button right before the closed-book icon. When you do this, the closed-book icon becomes an open-book icon and a list of related subtopics appears under the name of the general one. To display the help information for any of these subtopics in the right pane of the Help center, you have only to click its name in the left pane.

Figure 1-20: The Sound Editor Center window gives you loads of information on how to use the Sound Editor's many features.



If you know the name of the feature with which you want help, click the Index tab and then type the first few letters of the feature's name. The index will immediately jump to the topics that start with those letters. To display information on a particular feature in the right pane of the Help center, click its feature name in the Index pane on the left.

If you know what you want to do in a particular application or tool but don't know the name of the feature that is used in accomplishing the task, you might find the Search tab to be of more help. After clicking the Search tab in the left pane of the Help Center window, type in the word or phrase that describes the task you want to accomplish and then press Enter or click the List Topics button to begin the search. The Help Center then displays all the topics that contain the word or phrase you just searched for. To display a particular help topic in the right pane of the Help Center window, double-click its name or click it and then click the Display button.

If in your searches you come across a particularly useful help topic to which you are likely to refer on more than one occasion, you can mark the topic as a favorite and then display its information again quickly by selecting it from the Favorites tab. To do this, after you've located the really useful topic on the Contents, Index, or Search and have displayed its information in the right pane of the Help Center window, click the Favorites tab and then click the Add button at the bottom of the left pane (this button appears right below the name of the displayed topic in the Current Topic text box).

After adding a topic to the Favorites tab, you can redisplay its help information by selecting the tab and then either double-clicking its name in the Topics list box or clicking its name followed by the Display button.

To print a copy of the help topic displayed in the right pane of the Help Center window, click the Print button on the very first toolbar displayed at the top of the Help Center window and then click OK in the Print dialog box. To copy the displayed help topic or step-by-step instructions into a document in another Windows program, drag through the text in the right pane of the Help Center window with the I-beam pointer to select all the text you want to copy. Then press Ctrl+C to copy the selected text to the Windows Clipboard, switch to the document in the other program, click the insertion point at the place where you want the help text copied, and then press Ctrl+V to insert the help text into the document at the insertion point.

